Round 4

Meeting 4

Little Grand Rapids First Nation

MANITOBA East Side Road AUTHORITY

Room 200, 155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8
Phone: (204) 945-4900
Toll-Free: 1-866-356-6355
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LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS FIRST NATION COMMUNITY MEETING
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) – Valued Environmental Component (VEC) Discussion

Date: March 19, 2014

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: Little Grand Rapids Band Hall

In Attendance: ESRA Project Team
Jaime Clarke, Wendy Botkin, Ronuk Modha

AMEC
Kerri-Lyn Szwaluk

Dillon
Graeme Loeppky

Little Grand Rapids Translator
Clifton Keeper

Registered LGR FN Community Attendees:
Donna Dumas, Arnold Keeper, Mervin Baptiste, Alvin Bushie, George Baptiste, Jack P Baptiste, Leonard Bushie, Eugene Keeper(?), Logan Leveque, Freddie Bushie, Lazarus Leveque, Henry T. Owen, Debbie Bushie(?), Waylon Owen, Marlene Celez(?) – Community Justice of the Peace, David Green, Brenda Keeper, Allan Hanslip

Training sign-up sheet:
Errol Keeper, Richard Leveque, Ryan Leveque, Mervin Baptiste, Arnold Keeper, Jack Paul Baptiste, George Baptiste, Alvin Bushie, Henry T. Owen, Andrew Keeper, Freddie Bushie, Will Keeper, Donna Bushie, Kristen Bushie, Blair Owen, Andrew Keeper, Errol Keeper(?), Silas Keeper (?)

Summary:

A Public Open House was held in Little Grand Rapids (LGR) First Nation on March 19, 2014 as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the P7a Pioneer Road Project (the project), connecting LGR and Pauingassi First Nations to the LGR Airport. The project consists of 29 km of pioneer road (on provincial Crown lands), and on-reserve access roads to connect to the pioneer road (6.5 km on LGR, 1.2 km on Pauingassi).

The purpose of this public open house was to confirm the focus of the EIA, and also to communicate project details with Little Grand Rapids community members.

Attendees

The event was attended by approximately 18 local residents.

Advertising

The Public Open House was organized in cooperation with the Chief and Council and was advertised prior to the event through notices posted in prominent locations within the community. The event was also promoted on the local community radio station, leading up to and during the Public Open House.

Public Open House

The Manitoba East Side Road Authority (ESRA) posted maps and photos around the band hall for community members to view on their own before and after the presentation provided by ESRA. The boards showed maps of the proposed alignment on LGR FN, and provided information on the Root Creek and Family-Fishing Lakes channel crossings. The boards for the crossings showed photos of an Acrow panel bridge as an example of the temporary crossing that will be installed until more permanent structures are installed to replace the Acrow panel bridges in approximately 25 years. The boards also provided information about why the proposed alignment was chosen. Five boards were presented indicating which Valued Environmental Components (VECs) had already been identified for the EIA. This gave community members an opportunity to add other more specific important environmental features for consideration in the EIA. Community members were also invited to write directly on a trail map to provide information on the community`s current use of trails in the project area. ESRA staff members and consultants were positioned at boards to further discuss the project and answer questions community members raised.

Handouts: ESRA provided its newsletter; ESRA calendar; a flowchart showing the steps to select, design, and construct an all-season road; and job-registration form (extra copies of these were made during the afternoon due to the level of interest from community members) as handouts. As a result of a high number of community members indicating an interest in training opportunities for the project, an additional sign-in sheet was improvised to identify those people interested in training.

Refreshments: Coffee, bottled water, fruit and vegetable snacks were provided by ESRA and were available throughout the afternoon.

ESRA Presentation

ESRA presentation began approximately at 1:30 pm, with translation provided by Clifton Keeper.

ESRA presented:

- Brief overview description of Project P7a and required project environmental approvals (Manitoba Environment Act licence; Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC) approval) before construction.
- Road alignment near LGR and major water crossings (Root Creek and Channel between Family and Fishing Lake), including photos of Acrow panel bridge and more permanent bridge structures.
- Brief overview of ESRA's ongoing engagement with LGR, with description of proposed engagement and meetings with LGR throughout EIA phase (noted that ESRA met with elders in the morning, identified proposed meetings in April and May to discuss effects and EIA review, invitation for their feedback today to identify environmental factors important to LGR).
- Drawing illustrating basic EIA concept (effects to key factors occur during interactions between project and environment).

- Steps to select, design and construct an all-season road, and indication of current status along this schematic drawing (In process – final road alignment selected and meeting input on the EA).
- Evaluation Factors (or VECs) already selected with supporting background studies for inclusion in the EIA (Vegetation and soils, wildlife, aquatics, heritage resources and Traditional Knowledge (TK)).
- A short video of the East Side Road Transportation Initiative highlighting the all-season road project, winter road improvements, and jobs, training and economic opportunities for communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg

Public Comments & Questions

Questions were asked during the presentation, and later in one-on-one discussions with ESRA staff and consultants.

1) When is construction expected to start?

   If we get all of our environmental approvals, we would like to start work next fall. We will not begin construction until the approvals are in place.

2) What do you mean by going full speed ahead?

   If we get environmental approvals, we would like to start construction work next fall. We will not begin construction until the approvals are in place

3) Who can the First Nation partner with?

   This will be the decision of the First Nation. However under our Community Benefit Agreements (CBA), ESRA has the right to approve all joint venture agreements (to safeguard the interests of the First Nation).

4) Who will be doing the work on Reserve?

   On-Reserve work may be undertaken differently than off-reserve work which is usually undertaken under a CBA. This will largely depend on federal approvals and funding.

5) When is training anticipated to start?

   At this time no training is scheduled. However, if environmental approvals are received and construction is scheduled to start next fall, there is a good possibility that training will precede the work. ESRA will work in collaboration with the community on scheduling training.

6) For the initial construction work, what type of equipment will be required?

   Initially, clearing work will be undertaken which will precede road construction.

7) Have any joint venture partnerships been signed between LGR and Pauingassi?

A joint venture agreement has been signed between Bloodvein, LGR and Pauingassi to undertake work collaboratively. No work is underway at this time under this arrangement as we are still waiting for the environmental approvals

8) Where can I register for work and training?

   Provided a Job Registration form and directed to the website.

9) Concern: Chief & Council provide recommendations for which community members receive training for project jobs. Women are not chosen.

   Will take concern back to ESRA training coordination staff.

Feedback

The following summarizes the feedback that was provided by the community members that were present at the Public Open House:

- No concerns identified with the route or proposed environmental review process.
- Some specific species, plants, special sites added to VEC posters (see below). No disagreement or concern expressed over VECs already under consideration.
- Suckers spawn upstream of the bridge site closest to Root Lake.
- There are walleye in Root Creek just south of Douglas Lake.
- Beaver dams are present along Root Creek between Root Lake and Douglas Lake
- Root Creek is navigated by canoes with 4hp motors.
- The bridge site closest to Root Lake is not navigable due to the rapids. The community members always portage at this site no matter what the water elevations are at.
- The water levels vary significantly on Root Creek. Some years in spring it is low and you can walk across Root Creek just upstream of the rapids. Some years in spring the water levels are higher and you cannot walk across Root Creek. Note for ESRA`s design engineer consultants - they need to confirm ranges of potential water elevations from hydraulic analysis with the community members.
- At the bridge site closest to Root Lake, canoes use both the east and west portages in summer. Snowmobiles use the east portage in winter to access Douglas Lake.
- There are plants that moose have been known to eat that are located on the west bank of Root Creek downstream of the bridge site closest to Root Lake.
- There is an existing camp site located on west bank of Root Creek where Root Creek enters Root Lake.
- Walleye fishing occurs on the south shore of Douglas Lake on the east side of Douglas Lake (close to where Douglas Lake enters into Root Creek).

The following outlines comments that were provided on the Valued Environmental Components Boards shown at the Public Open House:

1). Vegetation Valued Environmental Components

Medicinal plants that were identified as being important to the community members that attended the Public Open House, included: sage, sweetgrass and wecase (bear root). Food plants that were identified as being important to community members at the Public Open House included blueberries, strawberries and raspberries.

2). Wildlife Valued Environmental Components

Community members at the Public Open House identified the following wildlife as being important to them: birds of prey including eagles, osprey, owls, hawks; waterfowl including mallards, geese, divers and loons; songbirds including whooperwhil, robins, chick-a-dee, yellow birds, whisky jack, bluebirds; moose; and frogs, turtles and snakes. One community member also indicated that caribou had not been seen in a long time, approximately 30 to 40 years.

3). Aquatic Valued Environmental Components

Fish species that were identified as being important to community members at the Public Open House, included: walleye, pike, saugers, whitefish, perch and suckers. One community member indicated that sturgeon used to be an important fish species and that it has not been seen for at least 30 to 40 years.

4). Heritage, Cultural and Traditional Valued Environmental Components

Community members present at the Public Open House identified the following as being culturally and traditionally important to them: trapping of beaver, fox, otters, martin, lynx, minks, fisher, muskrat, wolverine, wolf; fishing for pickerel, sauger, whitefish, northern pike, suckers; hunting for moose, mallards, geese, deer, partridge, rabbits; travel routes near Root Creek; and a cultural/spiritual site that is located in proximity of the MTS communication tower.

Attachments

- Notices and Advertisements
- Copy of Presentation
- Copy of Boards (including handwritten comments)
- Photos
- Signed registration forms
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation Elders Meeting (March 19, 2104): Notes

Meeting Notice

COMMUNITY MEETING

WHEN: ***Wednesday, March 19, 2014***
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
WHERE: ***Band Hall,***
Little Grand Rapids First Nation

The East Side Road Authority (ESRA) is hosting a community meeting to provide an update on the All Season Road Project and the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Information at this meeting will include an overview on what an Environmental Impact Assessment is and why it is required for the Project. ESRA will be looking for feedback from Little Grand Rapids on the Project and what the Environmental Impact Assessment should focus on.

Everybody is invited to attend.

For more information, please visit www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca or contact Cindy McKay, ESRA Aboriginal Relations and Economic Development Officer, at toll-free1-866-356-6355.

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Manitoba

Presentation

MANITOBA East Side Road AUTHORITY

Little Grand Rapids to Little Grand Rapids Airport to Pauingassi First Nation All Season Road Project (P7a)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Presentation to
Little Grand Rapids First Nation

March 19, 2014

MANITOBA East Side Road AUTHORITY

Description of Project P7a

A) 29 km of Pioneer Road joining LGR to the Airport and Pauingassi
- Road will provide year-round access
- Over time the Pioneer Road will be improved to ASR standards

Two major water crossings:
- Root Creek
- Channel between Family and Fishing lakes

* requires a *Manitoba Environment Act* license before construction can occur

B) On Reserve Access Roads
- 6.5 km on Little Grand Rapids FN
- 1.2 km access road on Pauingassi FN

* require approval under Canadian Environmental Assessment Act through AANDC before construction can occur

P7a All Season Road Alignment near Little Grand Rapids

Water Crossing – Root Creek

View (looking east) of he crossing site

Log rollers at Root Creek

Acrow panel bridge installation - Mainland River near Wasagamack First Nation

In 25 years the bridge crossing will be similar to the bridge crossing at Wanipigow River (above)

Water Crossing – Channel between Family and Fishing Lakes

View (looking west) of the crossing site

Acrow panel bridge installation - Red Sucker River

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Engaging Little Grand Rapids in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Meetings with LGR Community

- Since 2009 ESRA has met with LGR community and leadership to discuss the project and select the best road location
- Today we are at the next stage – the EIA

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•Review the Project
•What items important to LGR?

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Meeting 2
•Review the Project
•What possible environmental effects?
•What can be done about them?

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Meeting 3
•Review the Project
•Confirm the outcome and findings with LGR?

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Submit the EIAs for Manitoba & ANNDC Approval

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What is Environmental Assessment?

Steps to Select, Design & Construct an All Season Road

Complete

Steps to Select, Design & Construct an All Season Road

Steps to Select, Design & Construct an All Season Road

East Side Road AUTHORITY

Steps to Select, Design & Construct an All Season Road

East Side Road AUTHORITY

Steps to Select, Design & Construct an All Season Road

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Evaluation Factors for the Environmental Impact Assessment

Vegetation and Soils

- Vegetation and soil surveys conducted
- Identified potential effects

Wildlife

- Wildlife monitoring surveys conducted
- Effects on wildlife species described

Aquatics

- Aquatic environmental study completed
- Fish and fish habitats described
- Environmental effects identified

Heritage Resources and Traditional Knowledge

- Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) conducted to identify heritage resources
- Traditional Knowledge workshops held in December 2013 with community

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See You Again Soon!

We are here today to make sure:

- you are informed about the project and the environmental assessment
- we hear from you about what you value, so that the environmental assessment is focused on the right factors

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See You Again Soon!

We will be back to meet with you to discuss the following:

- **Mid April 2014:** To review potential effects of the project and identify how these effects may be addressed
- **Mid May 2014:** To confirm findings of the environmental assessment with the community

Thank you for your participation!

East Side Road AUTHORITY

- East Side Video

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Contact Information

The East Side Road Authority

Phone:(204) 945-4900
Toll-Free 1-866-356-6355
Fax: (204) 948-2462

www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca

Boards

(including photos of handwritten comments)

Can you confirm if the travel routes are still being used?
N
Pauingassi FN
Boat
Canoe
Canoe and snowmobile
Foot
Foot and snowmobile
Portage
Snowmobile
Tractor Road (no longer used)
Vehicle
All-Season Road Between Pauingassi and Little Grand Rapids FNs
2013/14 Manitoba Winter Road
First Nation Reserve Land
Fishing Lake
Family Lake
Douglas Lake
Root Lake
Little Grand Rapids FN
0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres
MANITOBA
Floodway & East Side Road AUTHORITY
January 2014

Project 7a

Pauingassi and Little Grand Rapids Intercommunity Connection

- Refined 2 January 2014 Alignment and
Manitoba Winter Roads Planned for 2013/14 -

Exploratory Clearing

10 meter wide clearing

Timber stockpile

Debris burning

Description

- 10 m wide clearing
- Tree roots remain
- Timber is available for community use

Purpose

- Allow access for geotechnical drilling to help confirm location of road.

Timing

- Occurs during the road design phase

Methods

- combination of equipment and hand clearing
- drill rig on skids drills 3 to 4 meters deep every 100 m

What should the Environmental Impact Assessment focus on?

Endangered Species

Medicinal Plants
Which ones?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

What are the Important Environmental Features to YOU?

(Valued Environmental Components)

Food Plants- Which ones?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Are there plants of great importance and why?

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What should the Environmental Impact Assessment focus on?

Furbearers – which ones?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Moose

Waterfowl – which ones?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Caribou

Songbirds – which ones?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Birds of Prey – which ones?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

What are the Important Environmental Features to YOU?

(Valued Environmental Components)

Frogs
Turtles
Snakes

What wildlife is of great importance and why?

What should the Environmental Impact Assessment focus on?

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What should the Environmental Impact Assessment focus on?

Hunting

Travel Routes

Archaeological Sites

Community Use Sites

Fishing

Cultural Sites

What are the Important Environmental Features to YOU?
(Valued Environmental Components)

Trapping

Sensitive Environment Sites

What areas and activities are of great importance and why?

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P7a All Season Road Alignment near Little Grand Rapids

Water Crossing – Channel between Family and Fishing Lakes

View (looking west) of the crossing site

Acrow panel bridge installation - Red Sucker River

In 25 years the bridge crossing will be similar to the bridge crossing at Wanipigow River (above)

East Side Road AUTHORITY

Water Crossing – Root Creek

View (looking east) of the crossing site

Log rollers at Root Creek

Acrow panel bridge installation - Mainland River near Wasagamack First Nation

In 25 years the bridge crossing will be similar to the bridge crossing at Wanipigow River (above)

What is Environmental Assessment?

N
Pauingassi FN
Winship Lake
Fishing Lake
Maman Lake
Family Lake
Douglas Lake
Root Creek
Root Lake
Little Grand Rapids FN
Water Crossing - Bridge
Water Crossing - Culvert
All-Season Road Alignment Between Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi First Nations
2013/14 Manitoba Winter Road
First Nation Reserve Land
Airport
MANITOBA
Floodway & East Side Road
AUTHORITY
January 2014
0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

Douglas Lake
N
Creek
Root
Little Grand Rapids First Nation
Portages shown in red
Root Lake
All-Season Road Alignment Between Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi First Nations
60m Clearing Corridor Along All-Season Road Alignment Between Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi First Nations
First Nation Reserve Land
2013/14 Manitoba Winter Road
Airport
MANITOBA Floodway & East Side Road AUTHORITY
January 2014
0
0.25
0.5
1 Kilometres
Pauingassi First Nation
Fishing Lake
Area shown in main map frame
Family Lake
Little Grand Rapids First Nation

Root Creek Crossing

Location of possible crossing sites

Old Proposed Crossing Site

New Proposed Crossing Site

Former Proposed Crossing Site

PROS: Away from the rapids

CONS: Larger disturbance to the environment

- Longer crossing – possible in water pier
- Poor terrain on north side - swamp material
- Parallels the portage – impeding movement
- Longer road network
- For Construction - more difficult to construct further from staging areas for boat/snowmobile access

New Proposed Crossing Site

PROS: Less disturbance to the environment

- Short crossing - clear span
- rock on both sides for constructability,
- crosses portage at 90 degrees,
- shorter road network,
- For Construction - closer to potential staging area for boat/snowmobile access,

CONS: Bridge over rapids

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Right of Way Clearing

60 meter wide clearing

Hyro Ax

Skidder

Timber Stockpile

Description

- Approximately 60 m wide clearing
- Tree roots removed
- Timber is available for community use

Purpose

- Right of Way cleared for road and ditch construction
- Provides clear line of site for drivers

Timing

- Occurs following the road design phase and after the environmental assessment

Methods

- combination of equipment and hand clearing
- debris disposal

Community Input Boards: Environmental Features (with handwritten comments)

Photo(s) are property of the East Side Road Authority (W.Botkin)

Areas and Activities

Travel Routes

Root Creek

Cultural Sites

approx: ½ km north of band hall at MTS communication tower is a thunderbird's nest

Aquatic Features

Wildlife

East Side Road
AUTHORITY
What should the Environmental Impact Assessment focus on?
Furbearers – which ones?
Moose
Waterfowl – which ones?
Caribou
Songbirds – which ones?
Birds of Prey – which ones?
What are the Important Environmental Features to YOU?
(Valued Environmental Components)
Frogs
Turtles
Snakes
What wildlife is of great importance and why?

Birds of Prey – which ones?
EAGLES
Osprey
OWLS
HAWKS

Waterfowl – which ones?
mallards
Geese
divers
Loon
crows & raven

Songbirds – which ones?
whiporwhil
Robins
Chicka-a-dee
(yellow birds)
whiskey jack
(blue birds)

Moose

Caribou
(not seen in a long time)
~30-40 yrs.

Plants

East Side Road
AUTHORITY
What should the Environmental Impact Assessment focus on?
Endangered Species
Medicinal Plants-Which ones?
What are the Important Environmental Features to YOU?
(Valued Environmental Components)
Food Plants- Which ones?
Are there plants of great importance and why?

Medicinal Plants-Which ones?
Sage, sweetgrass Necase (bearroot)

Food Plants- Which ones?
Blueberries Strawberries
Raspberries

Community Input Board: Travel Routes (with Handwritten Comments)

Photo(s) are property of the East Side Road Authority (W. Botkin)

Douglas Lake
current
motorized boat
use all
currently
(skidoo in winter)
(canoe's motorized
boats in summer
fall & spring)
moose
- specific
plant
that moose
like grows
here

current
current
old
current
current
skiing
feet!

Root Lake
Little Grand Rapids FN
old
fish
fish net.
fishing
current
5400 feet.

boat
drop in June
fishing spring summer
old
old.
current
current
current

Photos

Photos – Little Grand Rapids Community Meeting – March 19, 2014

Photo(s) taken with permission, are property of the East Side Road Authority (R. Modha)

Near the community of Little Grand Rapids

Hall set-up during presentation: Jaime Clarke (ESRA) at computer

Community members during presentation: Wendy Botkin presenter, Clifton Keeper translator

Community members examining poster boards; registration table at hall entrance; K. Szwaluk (AMEC)

Consultant, Translator, ESRA staff & community members at poster boards following presentation.

Community members at Poster Boards following presentation

Graeme Loeppky (Dillon) with community members following presentation

Graeme Loeppky (Dillon) and community members at water crossing poster board

Community members at Travel Route map

Community members with J. Clarke (ESRA)

Community member writing on poster board

Elders Meeting: Notes

MANITOBA East Side Road AUTHORITY

Room 200, 155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8
Phone: (204) 945-4900
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Fax: (204) 948-2462

LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS FIRST NATION ELDERS MEETING

Date: March 19, 2014

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Little Grand Rapids (LGR) First Nation Band Office

In Attendance: ESRA Project Team
Wendy Botkin, Jaime Clarke

LGR First Nation Elders:
Joseph Leveque, Sally Eischen, Clifford Keeper, Louie Keeper, Clarence Keeper, Blanche ?, Mildred Bushie (arrived late)

LGR First Nation Translator:
Clifton Keeper

Summary

Prior to the Public Open House in Little Grand Rapids First Nation (LGR) on March 19, 2014, the East Side Road Authority (ESRA) met with local elders from the community to discuss and obtain input on the P7a project. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the elders about the project and the environmental impact assessment (EIA), and to identify environmental factors that the elders consider are important. During the meeting, ESRA staff met with seven local elders, who provided valuable input on the planned project.

Elders Meeting

At the beginning of the meeting an elder said an opening prayer, which was then followed by a presentation of tobacco from ESRA to each of the elders. During the meeting, ESRA staff provided a brief introduction of the EIA process and presented five boards that were going to be of the used as part of the Public Open House later that day. The boards were:

1) FN Reserve Land Map,
2) Channel between Family and Fishing Lakes Water Crossing,
3) Root Creek Water Crossing,
4) What is Environmental Assessment, and
5) Valued Environmental Component (Plants) board.

Information discussed is summarized:

- The federal (AANDC) and provincial (MB Conservation) governments both require specific information to be included in the EIA
- The project consists of 29 km of pioneer road (on provincial crown lands) and on-reserve access roads to connect to the pioneer road (6.5 km on LGR, 1.2 km on Pauingassi)

- An elder shared that the federal provincial boundary is clearly marked on the north east corner of the road and can be seen by air
- An elder questioned why ESRA hasn't taken the elders to the exploratory clearing works that are required for geotechnical investigations
- They agreed they want to be updated regularly
- There was some discussion in Ojibwe on the differences in road planning & construction practices between MB and Ontario
- An elder suggested that we should go ahead and build the access roads as it would benefit the community in the future regardless of the possible impact of development
- The elders were concerned with crossing Root Creek as water levels fluctuate greatly over the seasons and from year to year.
- The only sturgeon caught in the area was around Shining Falls approximately 30-40 years ago
- ESRA explained the concepts of environmental effects, mitigation, and valued environment components (environmental factors)
- Some environmental factors are automatically looked at (for the EIA) because of regulations, others factors may be important to community that we wouldn't necessarily look at or know about and need the community to identify these factors. This is one of the purposes of the Public Open House.
- One elder identified bear root as an important plant to the community
- ESRA asked what other locations (outside of LGR FN) would be best to host future public meetings for the EIA. The elders suggested Winnipeg, because majority of LGR members not living on reserve reside there.
- Elders agree with the road project and ESRA's process. They requested a copy of the PowerPoint presentation that was to be delivered that afternoon in the community meeting.

Refreshments

Coffee, bottled water, fruit and vegetable snacks, and lunch (sandwiches) were provided by ESRA.

Feedback

Elders supported the all-season road project but also wanted to ensure that the project was carried out in a manner that protects the environment.

Slides presented at Little Grand Rapids Elders' Meeting: March 19, 2014

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P7a All Season Road Alignment near Little Grand Rapids

East Side Road AUTHORITY

Water Crossing – Channel between Family and Fishing Lakes

View (looking west) of the crossing site

Acrow panel bridge installation - Red Sucker River

In 25 years the bridge crossing will be similar to the bridge crossing at Wanipigow River (above)

East Side Road AUTHORITY

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East Side Road AUTHORITY

What is Environmental Assessment?

This slide was presented as an example of the slides that were going to be shown to the community to get feedback on important environmental features (Valued Environmental Components)

Meeting 4

Pauingassi First Nation

MANITOBA East Side Road AUTHORITY

Room 200, 155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8
Phone: (204) 945-4900
Toll-Free: 1-866-356-6355
Fax: (204) 948-2462

PAUINGASSI FIRST NATION COMMUNITY MEETING
Environmental Assessment (EA) - VEC DISCUSSION

Date: April 9, 2014

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: Pauingassi Band Hall

In Attendance:

ESRA Project Team
Leanne Shewchuk, Jaime Clarke, Ronuk Modha, Todd Martin
AMEC
Vince Kuzdak
Dillon
Graeme Loeppky

Registered PG FN Community Attendees:
Joe Owen (Community Coordinator), Albert W. Pascal (Translator), Solomon Pascal, Mike Keeper, Shortie Owens, Hilda Pascal, Lorne Owens, Roddi Owen, Howard McKay, Maggie Owen, Mary Anne Owens, , Allan Owens, Edna Keeper, Kerry Keeper, Jason Suggashe, T. Crow, Eve Owens, Allister Crow, Bernard Owens, Gilbert Keeper, Elsie Crow, Jerrold Owen, Lawrence Pascal, Sheldon Keeper, Wilford Owens, Darren Crow

Summary:

A Public Open House was held in Pauingassi First Nation on April 9, 2014 as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the P7A project, consisting of 29 km of pioneer road (on provincial crown lands) and on-reserve access roads to connect to the all season road (1.2 km on Pauingassi, 6.5 km on LGR).

The purpose of this public open house was to confirm the focus of the Environmental Impact Assessment required for the P7a All Season Road Project connecting Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi First Nations to the Little Grand Rapids Airport, and also to communicate project details with Pauingassi community members.

Attendees

The event was attended by approximately 26 local residents.

Advertising

The Public Open House was organized in cooperation with the Chief and Council and was advertised prior to the event through notices posted in prominent locations within the community. The event was also promoted on the local community radio station, leading up to and during the event.

Public Open House

Manitoba Floodway and East Side Road Authority (ESRA) posted maps and photos around the band hall for community members to view on their own before and after the presentation provided by ESRA. The boards showed maps of the proposed alignment on Pauingassi FN, the Root Creek crossing, and Family-Fishing Lakes channel crossings. The boards for the two crossings showed photos of an Acrow panel bridge as an example of the temporary crossing that will be installed until more permanent structures are installed to replace the Acrow panel bridges in approximately 25 years. The boards also provided information about why the proposed alignment was chosen. In particular 5 boards indicated which Valued Environmental Components (VEC) had already been identified for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), but gave community members an opportunity to add other more specific important environmental features for consideration in the EA. Community members were also invited to write directly on a trail map to provide information on current trail use in the project area. ESRA staff members and consultants were positioned at boards to further discuss the project and answer questions community members raised.

Handouts: ESRA provided their newsletter; ESRA calendar, flowchart showing the steps to select, design, and construct an all-season road; construction activity manuals; and job-registration forms as handouts.

Refreshments: Coffee, bottled water, fruit and vegetable snacks were provided by ESRA and available throughout the afternoon.

ESRA PowerPoint Presentation

ESRA presentation began approximately at 1:30 pm, with any required translation provided by Albert W. Pascal and Joe Owen.

ESRA presented:

- Brief overview description of Project P7a and required project environmental approvals (MB Environment Act licence; AANDC approval) before construction.
- Road alignment near Pauingassi -
- Brief overview of ESRA ongoing engagement with Pauingassi, with description of proposed engagement and meetings with Pauingassi through EIA phase (noted that met with elders in am, identified proposed meetings in April and May to discuss effects and EIA review, invitation for their feedback today to identify environmental factors important to Pauingassi).
- Drawing illustrating basic EIA concept (effects to key factors occur during interactions between project and environment).
- Steps to select, design and construction and ASR, and indication of current status along this schematic drawing (In process – final road alignment selected and input on the EA).
- Evaluation Factors already selected with supporting background studies for inclusion in the EIA (Vegetation and soils, wildlife, aquatics, heritage resources and Traditional Knowledge (TK).
- A short video of the East Side Road Transportation Initiative highlighting the all season road project, winter road improvements, and jobs, training and economic opportunities for communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg
  Dillon consultant provided brief overview of some construction aspects including: ROW clearing width, types of construction equipment, crossing type and locations, basic road design, possible mitigation for portaging/snowmobile crossings, ESRA training program, and EIA timelines.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

Comments and questions were asked during the presentation, and later in one-on-one discussions with ESRA staff and consultants.

1) Will there be any chemicals used during construction that could potentially impact the fish?

   The chemicals that may be used will be limited and there are regulations and rules governing how close they can be used to waterways.

2) Will you use Best Management Practices during construction?

   Yes, ESRA will be using Best Management practices throughout the project.

3) What are the expected impacts on animals?
   ESRA wants to limit the impact on animals and fish.That is the purpose of having this and future meetings, as part of the EIA process. Our preference is to plan and design the process in a way that minimizes the impact. ESRA will be presenting the predicted effects next meeting.

4) Will animals and fish that are impacted coming back?
   We anticipate that any impact will be short-term during construction and in most instances we anticipate the impact will be temporary. However, the EIA process and meeting with the community will help us to confirm this.

Feedback

The following summarizes the feedback that was provided by the community members that were present at the Public Open House:

- Only concern identified with the project and proposed environmental review process was with the schedule. Community members wanted to start construction right away so they could have the road built and available for use as soon as possible.
- Pauingassi indicated that they understand that there will be impacts from the road but that they want the road.
- Pauingassi also said that protection does not mean they want to shut down everything but that they want to protect the land from major projects that could harm the environment. Community members also commented on new technologies that are being used by the government to mitigate or reduce the impact of projects.
- Some specific species of plants and animals and special sites were added to VEC posters (see below). No disagreement or concern expressed over VECs already under consideration.
- Pauingassi understands that there are trees, medicinal plants, and wild berries that will be disturbed by the clearing but they know that the clearing will not be of large areas just along the right of way.
- Pauingassi has a concern that chemicals will get into the creeks and impact the fish and wildlife. ESRA stated that they have a specifications used in their contracts that include environmental

protection measures. An example of this is a required setback distance for refueling equipment away from waterbodies.

- Pauingassi is looking forward to having the road to be able to travel to the airport.
- Pauingassi does not want large industries like mining, forestry, or hydro, to come to their traditional territory
- Major activities in the area include hunting, trapping, and fishing.
- Animals that are hunted/trapped include moose, rabbit, beavers, mink, lynx, fisher, and fox.
- Fish species of importance include whitefish, walleye, northern pike, lake trout, tulibee, mariah (burbot), and sucker. The liver and eggs of the mariah are important to Pauingassi. There are no sturgeon or lake trout in Fishing Lake. Lake trout are in another lake to the east.
- Waterfowl of importance included geese, mallard, grouse and spruce grouse.
- Song birds of importance include the white throated sparrow and chickadee.
- Birds of prey include the owl and eagle.
- Archaeological sites include a site that was identified west of the community that was not in the right-of-way but the location was noted and will be used in the planning process
- Camping sites included a site that was identified but not in the vicinity of the road.
- Food plants include blueberries, chokecherries, saskatoons, raspberries, and pin cherries. There are about 10 plants in total that are used for food. Mushrooms are not used for food. Pauingassi used to harvest wild rice but they indicated that harvesting wild rice is not commonly practiced.
- Medicinal plants include:
  - mushroom (puff ball) for cuts,
  - blueberries, saskatoons and chokecherries
  - evergreen pine cones are boiled to cure diarrhea
  - Birch
  - Tree with orange berries in clumps. The tree grows about 5-6 ft tall. The bark is used for medicinal purposes. Mountain Ash (bark is used for medicinal purposes)
  - A type of waterlily is used to help bring swelling down (Could be smartweed or broad leaved water plantain?)
  - Wecase (also known as rat root)
  - Plant in the lake that grows a yellow cucumber like thing. The yellow cucumber grows under the water and then releases from the plant and floats on top of the water. (Could be small yellow pond lily)
- Design team to consider ramps in the roadway design where portage routes and snowmobile trails intersect the roadway.
- Pauingassi indicated that the boats used on Fishing Lake are typically 16 ft long and have 25 hp or 40 hp motors.
- Pauingassi indicated that the water levels can raise 4-5 ft in the spring. The raised water levels usually last approx. 2-3 weeks.

The following outlines comments that were provided on the Valued Environmental Components Boards shown at the Public Open House:

1). Vegetation Valued Environmental Components

Medicinal plants that were identified as being important to the community members that attended the Public Open House, included puffball, pine cones, birth trees, alder (bark), wecase (prolific in marshes under marshgrass), "Lynx stick" (Pysewstik) and "waterplant"[*]. Food plants that were identified as being important to community members at the Public Open House included blueberries, saskatoons, chokecherry, raspberry, cherry, birch tree (syrup) and wild rice.

2). Wildlife Valued Environmental Components

Community members at the Public Open House identified the following wildlife as being important to them: birds of prey (eagles); songbirds, including white throated sparrow, chick-a-dee, loon, hummingbirds; waterfowl including geese, mallards, grouse/spruce grouse; and furbearers including beaver, martin, mink, wolves, lynx, wolverine, fisher, muskrat, fox, otter, rabbit (food), weasel.

3). Aquatic Valued Environmental Components

Fish species that were identified as being important as food for community members at the Public Open House, included: whitefish, pickerel, northern pike, tulibee, white sucker (sucker eggs and flour also used for food), redhorse, burbot (liver used as a food source 50 years ago and eggs used for oil). Community members also indicated that there are no sturgeon in the project area.

4). Heritage, Cultural and Traditional Valued Environmental Components

Community members present at the Public Open House identified travel routes and a fishing camp site as being culturally and traditionally important to them.

Attachments

- Notices and Advertisements
- Copy of Presentation
- Copy of Boards
- Photos
- Signed registration forms

[*] May be the same as "lynx stick"

Meeting Notice

COMMUNITY MEETING

WHEN: ***Wednesday, April 9, 2014***
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
WHERE: ***Band Hall,***
Pauingassi First Nation

The East Side Road Authority (ESRA) is hosting a community meeting to provide an update on the All Season Road Project and the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Information at this meeting will include an overview on what an Environmental Impact Assessment is and why it is required for the Project. ESRA will be looking for feedback from Pauingassi on the Project and what the Environmental Impact Assessment should focus on.

Everybody is invited to attend.

For more information, please visit www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca or contact Cindy McKay, ESRA Aboriginal Relations and Economic Development Officer, at toll-free1-866-356-6355.

MANITOBA East Side Road AUTHORITY

Manitoba

Presentation

MANITOBA East Side Road AUTHORITY

Little Grand Rapids to Little Grand Rapids Airport to Pauingassi First Nation All Season Road Project (P7a)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Presentation to
Pauingassi First Nation

April 9, 2014

MANITOBA East Side Road AUTHORITY

Description of Project P7a

A) 29 km of Pioneer Road joining Pauingassi to the Airport to Little Grand Rapids

- Road will provide year-round access
- Over time the Pioneer Road will be improved to ASR standards

Two major water crossings:

- Root Creek
- Channel between Family and Fishing lakes

* requires a *Manitoba Environment Act* license before construction can occur

B) On Reserve Access Roads

- 1.2 km access road on Pauingassi FN
- 6.5 km on Little Grand Rapids FN

* require approval under Canadian Environmental Assessment Act through AANDC before construction can occur

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P7a All Season Road Alignment near Pauingassi

Engaging Pauingassi in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Meetings with Pauingassi Community

- Since 2009 ESRA has met with Pauingassi community and leadership to discuss the project and select the best road location
- Today we are at the next stage – the EIA

Engaging Pauingassi in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Meetings with Pauingassi Community

- Since 2009 ESRA has met with Pauingassi community and leadership to discuss the project and select the best road location
- Today we are at the next stage – the EIA

Today's Meeting
•Review the Project
•What items important to Pauingassi?

Engaging Pauingassi in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Meetings with Pauingassi Community

- Since 2009 ESRA has met with Pauingassi community and leadership to discuss the project and select the best road location
- Today we are at the next stage – the EIA

Today's Meeting
- Review the Project
- What items important to Pauingassi?

Send in Road proposals to Manitoba and AANDC

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Engaging Pauingassi in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Meetings with Pauingassi Community

- Since 2009 ESRA has met with Pauingassi community and leadership to discuss the project and select the best road location
- Today we are at the next stage – the EIA

Today's Meeting
- Review the Project
- What items important to Pauingassi?

Send in Road proposals to Manitoba and AANDC

Meeting 2
- Review the Project
- What possible environmental effects?
- What can be done about them?

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Engaging Pauingassi in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Meetings with Pauingassi Community

- Since 2009 ESRA has met with Pauingassi community and leadership to discuss the project and select the best road location
- Today we are at the next stage – the EIA

Today's Meeting
- Review the Project
- What items important to Pauingassi?

Send in Road proposals to Manitoba and AANDC

Meeting 2
- Review the Project
- What possible environmental effects?
- What can be done about them?

Meeting 3
- Review the Project
- What items important to Pauingassi?

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Engaging Pauingassi in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Meetings with Paunigassi Community

- Since 2009 ESRA has met with Pauingassi community and leadership to discuss the project and select the best road location
- Today we are at the next stage – the EIA

Today's Meeting
- Review the Project
- What items important to Pauingassi?

Send in Road proposals to Manitoba and AANDC

Meeting 2
- Review the Project
- What possible environmental effects?
- What can be done about them?

Meeting 3
- Review the Project
- What items important to Pauingassi?

Submit the EIAs for Manitoba & ANNDC Approval

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Engaging Pauingassi in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Meetings with Pauingassi Community

- Since 2009 ESRA has met with Pauingassi community and leadership to discuss the project and select the best road location
- Today we are at the next stage – the EIA

Today's Meeting
- Review the Project
- What items important to Pauingassi?

Send in Road proposals to Manitoba and AANDC

Meeting 2
- Review the Project
- What possible environmental effects?
- What can be done about them?

Meeting 3
- Review the Project
- What items important to Pauingassi?

Submit the EIAs for Manitoba & AANDC Approval

What is Environmental Assessment?

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Components of an Environmental Assessment (EA)

Steps to Select, Design & Construct an All Season Road

Complete

Steps to Select, Design & Construct an All Season Road

Almost Complete

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Steps to Select, Design & Construct an All Season Road

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Steps to Select, Design & Construct an All Season Road

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Steps to Select, Design & Construct an All Season Road

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Evaluation Factors for the Environmental Impact Assessment

Vegetation and Soils

- Vegetation and soil surveys conducted
- Identified potential effects

Wildlife

- Wildlife monitoring surveys conducted
- Effects on wildlife species described

Aquatics

- Aquatic environmental study completed
- Fish and fish habitats described
- Environmental effects identified

Heritage Resources and Traditional Knowledge

- Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) conducted to identify heritage resources
- Traditional Knowledge design workshops held in December 2013 with community

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See You Again Soon!

We are here today to make sure:

- you are informed about the project and the environmental assessment
- we hear from you about what you value, so that the environmental assessment is focused on the right factors

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See You Again Soon!

We will be back to meet with you to discuss the following:

- **End of April 2014:** To review potential effects of the project and identify how these effects may be addressed
- **Mid May 2014:** To confirm findings of the environmental assessment with the community

Thank you for your participation!

East Side Road AUTHORITY

- East Side Video

MANITOBA East Side Road AUTHORITY

Contact Information

The East Side Road Authority

Phone:(204) 945-4900
Toll-Free 1-866-356-6355
Fax: (204) 948-2462

www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca

Boards

(including photos of handwritten comments)

MANITOBA East Side Road AUTHORITY

Little Grand Rapids to Little Grand Rapids Airport to Pauingassi First Nation All Season Road Project (P7a)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Presentation to Pauingassi First Nation

April 9, 2014

Project 7a

Pauingassi and Little Grand Rapids Intercommunity Connection

- Refined March 2014 All-Season Road (ASR) Alignment -

Are These Routes Correct? Are They Still Used?

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Floodway & East Side Road AUTHORITY

28 March 2014

Map number

P7a-13

N
Pauingassi FN
Winship Lake
Fishing Lake
Maman Lake
Family Lake
Douglas Lake
Root Creek
Root Lake
Little Grand Rapids FN
Water Crossing - Bridge
Water Crossing - Culvert
All-Season Road Alignment Between Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi First Nations
2013/14 Manitoba Winter Road
First Nation Reserve Land
Airport
0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres
Manitoba Floodway & East Side Road Authority
28 March 2014
Map number
P7a-12

N
Pauingassi
First Nation
Fishing Lake
28 March 2014
Map number
P7a-14
Refined ASR Alignment
(March 2014)
2013/14 Manitoba Winter Road
First Nation Reserve Land
Airport
0
0.25
0.5
1 Kilometres
Pauingassi
First Nation
Area shown in
main map frame
Fishing Lake
Family
Lake
Douglas
Lake
Little Grand Rapids
First Nation

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P7a All Season Road Alignment near Pauingassi

Water Crossing – Channel between Family and Fishing Lakes

View (looking west) of the crossing site

Acrow panel bridge installation - Red Sucker River

In 25 years the bridge crossing will be similar to the bridge crossing at Wanipigow River (above)

Water Crossing – Root Creek

View (looking east) of the crossing site

Log rollers at Root Creek

Acrow panel bridge installation - Mainland River near Wasagamack First Nation

In 25 years the bridge crossing will be similar to the bridge crossing at Wanipigow River (above)

What is Environmental Assessment?

East Side Road AUTHORITY

What should the Environmental Impact Assessment focus on?

Endangered Species

Medicinal Plants-Which ones?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

What are the Important Environmental Features to YOU?

(Valued Environmental Components)

Food Plants- Which ones?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Are there plants of great importance and why?

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What should the Environmental Impact Assessment focus on?

Furbearers – which ones?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Moose

Waterfowl – which ones?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Caribou

Songbirds – which ones?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Birds of Prey – which ones?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

What are the Important Environmental Features to YOU?

(Valued Environmental Components)

Frogs
Turtles
Snakes

What wildlife is of great importance and why?

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What should the Environmental Impact Assessment focus on?

Fish Habitat & Connectivity

Fish Species - Which ones?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

What are the Important Environmental Features to YOU?

(Valued Environmental Components)

Water Quality

What aquatic features are of great importance and why?

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What should the Environmental Impact Assessment focus on?

What are the Important Environmental Features to YOU?
(Valued Environmental Components)

Hunting

Travel Routes

Archaeological Sites

Community Use Sites

Fishing

Cultural Sites

Trapping

Sensitive Environment Sites

What areas and activities are of great importance and why?

Right of Way Clearing

60 meter wide clearing

Hyro Ax

Skidder

Timber Stockpile

Description

- Approximately 60 m wide clearing
- Tree roots removed
- Timber is available for community use

Purpose

- Right of Way cleared for road and ditch construction
- Provides clear line of site for drivers

Timing

- Occurs following the road design phase and after the environmental assessment

Methods

- combination of equipment and hand clearing
- debris disposal

Exploratory Clearing

10 meter wide clearing

Timber stockpile

Debris burning

Description

- 10 m wide clearing
- Tree roots remain
- Timber is available for community use

Purpose

- Allow access for geotechnical drilling to help confirm location of road.

Timing

- Occurs during the road design phase

Methods

- combination of equipment and hand clearing
- drill rig on skids drills 3 to 4 meters deep every 100 m

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Environmental Impact Assessment focus on?

Fish Habitat & Connectivity

What are the Important Environmental Features to YOU?

(Valued Environmental Components)

Water Quality

Fish Species - Which ones?

Food- whitefish pickerel, northern pike, tulibee, white sucker, redhorse

-burbot- liver was used as food some 50 yrs ago, (+eggs) oil

-No sturgeon

food
-sucker eggs + flesh

What are the most important environmental features to you? Rank in order of importance and why?

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What should the Environmental Impact Assessment focus on?

What are the Important Environmental Features to YOU?
(Valued Environmental Components)

Furbearers – which ones?

- beaver
- mink
- lynx
- fisher
- fox
- Rabbit (food)
- martin
- wolves
- wolverine
- muskrat
- otter
- weasel

Moose

Waterfowl – which ones?

- geese
- mallards
- grouse/spruce grouse

Songbirds – which ones?

- white throated sparrow
- Chicka-dee
- Loon
- Humming Birds

Caribou

Birds of Prey – which ones?

- eagle

Frogs Turtles Snakes

What wildlife is of great importance and why?

Assessment focus on?

Endangered Species

What are the Important Environmental Features to YOU?

(Valued Environmental Components)

Medicinal Plants-Which ones?

puff ball
pine cones.
birch trees
alder - (bark.)
sweetgrass (prolific in marshes under marshgrass)
"Lynx stick" (Prickly stick)
"water plant"

Food Plants- Which ones?

blue berries.
Saskatoons.
chokecherry
raspberry
cherry
birch tree (syrup)
wild rice

Are there plants of great importance and why?

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What should the Environmental Impact Assessment focus on?

Hunting

Travel Routes

Protect navigation

Archaeological Sites

Community Use Sites

Fishing

Fishing comp sites (on TK map)

Cultural Sites

What are the Important Environmental Features to YOU?

(Valued Environmental Components)

Trapping

Sensitive Environment Sites

What areas and activities are

Photos

Photos – Pauingassi Community Meeting – April 9, 2014

Photo(s) taken with permission, are property of the East Side Road Authority (R. Modha)

Aerial view of Pauingassi from helicopter

Set-up at Band Hall. Sign-in and handouts at table at entrance.

Leanne Shewchuk (ESRA) – presentation to the elders. G. Loeppky (Dillon) taking notes at table.

Elders looking at calendars. L. Shewchuk arranging lunch at back of room. Joe Owen (Community Coordinator) at left.

Leanne Shewchuk, Joe Owen at elders meeting.

Presentation at community meeting in afternoon.

Leanne Shewchuk explaining poster boards

Todd Martin (ESRA), VinceKuzdak (Eagle Vision), L. Shewchuk (ESRA) listening to community feedback.

Vince Kuzdak and L. Shewchuk following presentation. G. Loeppky looking at boards with community members.

Leaving Pauingassi for the airport

Winter road out of Pauingassi to airport (view from helicopter).

Coming in to Little Grand Rapids airport.

Elders Meeting: Notes

MANITOBA
East Side Road
AUTHORITY

Room 200, 155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8
Phone: (204) 945-4900
Toll-Free: 1-866-356-6355
Fax: (204) 948-2462

PAUINGASSI FIRST NATION ELDERS MEETING

Date: April 9, 2014

Time: 11:00 am – 12:00

Location: Pauingassi First Nation Band Hall

In Attendance: ESRA Project Team
Leanne Shewchuk, Jaime Clarke, Todd Martin, Graeme Loeppky (Dillon), Vince Kuzdak (Eagle Vision)

Pauingassi First Nation Translator:
Albert Pascal

Pauingassi Elders

Summary

Prior to the Public Open House in Pauingassi First Nation (PFN) on April 9, 2014, the East Side Road Authority (ESRA) met with local elders from the community to discuss and obtain input on the P7a project. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the elders about the project and the environmental impact assessment (EIA), and to identify environmental factors that the elders consider to be important. ESRA staff met with local elders, who provided valuable input on the planned project.

Pauingassi understands that there will be effects from the road, and wants ESRA to minimize those effects. Nevertheless, the road is important to the community and they want the road.

Elders Meeting Detailed Notes

At the beginning of the meeting an elder said an opening prayer, which was then followed by a gift of organic tobacco from ESRA to each of the elders.

Dialogue:

- Pauingassi knows there will be some destruction of trees
- ESRA wants to minimize impacts and hear elders concerns

- Pauingassi expressed concerns for fish species they eat
- ESRA will design for fish passage, no chemicals will be used near the water, sediment and erosion control measures to protect fish and water quality will be used

- Pauingassi would like to know animal habitat preferences – what species like edge/disturbed habitats, so they will know what to expect.
- ESRA has wildlife consultants that have this information and will let Pauingassi know.

- Pauingassi noted that plants, fish, animals won't be displaced for good, and will return after construction
- ESRA tries to plan project so this happens

-

- Pauingassi realizes that destruction will occur along the route, they still have a lot of other resources, their resources are not limited, their costs will come down once they have access to an airport

- *Environmental Assessment Process:* ESRA has to submit the EIA to government. EIA requires 3 meetings, and no construction can begin prior to this or before government approves the EIA
- The EIA looks at what is the project, activities involved, resources used; what's happening in the environment, and what are the possible effects

- Pauingassi use moose, beaver, furbearers, and rabbit as food, and are very important to them.
- ESRA will look at possible effects and come talk to the community to see if they agree with ESRA

- Pauingassi understands ESRA will use mitigation measures, and want to minimize effects (meaning making effects less severe). They know the impacts, they want the road. Government wants Pauingassi to say how they'll manage resources, Pauingassi wants to tell government that they can manage their own resources.
- ESRA wants to make sure everyone (contractors etc) follows what we said that we are going do in the EIA

- Pauingassi noted that some people think that "protection" means we want to shut down everything, but that's not the case – they don't want to stop everything (like the road), but they don't want big development like hydro to come and dam up their lakes and rivers.
- ESRA asked what they should be protecting. Cultural sites like the one noted in the Family/Fishing lake area (as identified by LGR)
- Pauingassi – there is an area identified in the Heritage study but it is off the road

- *Important sites and environmental features:* ESRA – it's important to identify/share what's important to the community as sometimes borrow areas are needed outside the alignment and we want to avoid these areas
- Pauingassi – fishing sites are important
- ESRA we need to know travel routes identified in Design workshop are correct so we can accommodate them in the design
- Pauingassi – Lynx, beaver, mink, fisher are important, rabbit, fox, geese, mallard, grouse, spruce grouse, chickadee, sparrow. – they're a sign summer is coming– They used to feed chickadee brains to children to speed brain growth. Eagles are important.

- Pauingassi: Water levels rise in spring, usually lasts 2-3 weeks. No Sturgeon are found in the area. Trout are found to the east of Family and Fishing lakes *(not sure how far or if in Ontario)*
- Burbot (Mariah) livers are eaten, their eggs are eaten with flour)

- *Traditional medicine and plants:* Puff ball mushrooms are used on open wounds *(as coagulant?)*
- Evergreen pinecones are boiled and the concoction is drunk as an anti-diarrhea medicine
- Birch is used to speed up healing of mending bones
- Bark of small tree (tree has clumps of orange berries the size of marbles) is used as a medicine *(Mountain Ash?)*
- Wecase grows under moss in marshy areas is used as a medicine
- Lynx stic (pisew atic) sounds like peejeu-waatic – is a water plant that is a medicine, it grows on water, looks like a yellow cucumber that floats on the water and is beavers' food. The cucumber-like structure eventually releases from the root and floats to the top of the water.
- Pauingassi used to harvest wild rice, and still could