

Proposal to designate the Pauingassi Traditional Use Planning Area and approve the Naamiwan – The Land of Fair Wind Lands Management Plan: **Report on Consultation**

Contents

Overview	1
Aboriginal, Stakeholder and Public Consultation Efforts.....	2
Newspaper Advertisement	2
Open House/ Public Meeting.....	2
Electronic Registry	2
Direct Mail-Out	3
Summary of Comments and Responses	4
Recommended Action	5

Overview

Pauingassi First Nation requested the designation of a planning area and provided a draft management plan, the “Naamiwan – The Land of Fair Wind Lands Management Plan” for approval under *The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act* (“the Act”) on January 19, 2010 and April 4, 2012, respectively.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship is responsible for administration of the Act and receives requests from First Nations and Aboriginal communities to designate planning areas by regulation and approve management plans by order in council under the Act.

Under the Act, at least 90 days before an area is designated as a planning area by regulation and before an order is made approving a proposed management plan, an opportunity must be provided to First Nations, aboriginal communities, stakeholders and the public to review and comment on the proposal. The 90-day review period was initiated on June 9, 2012 and closed on September 7, 2012.

On October 10, 2012, Pauingassi First Nation requested that the proposed Plan be revised to include a prohibition on peat mining in 95% of the Planning Area.

Notice of the Plan revision and of a 30-day extension of the review period was provided on November 14, 2012. The closing date for comments was December 14, 2012.

All comments received during the 90-day and 30-day review periods have been addressed.

Aboriginal, Stakeholder and Public Consultation Efforts

A variety of consultation methods were employed to ensure that First Nations, Aboriginal communities, stakeholders and the public were provided with a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on the proposal, including: newspaper advertisements, a public meeting / open house, mailouts and an electronic registry.

Newspaper Advertisement

A newspaper advertisement was placed in 6 local daily, weekly or monthly publications to inform Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders and the public of:

- (1) the date and location of the public meeting where the proposal and representatives from both Pauingassi First Nation and the Government of Manitoba would be present to address any questions or concerns;
- (2) the online registry where the proposed management plan, regulation and comment sheet could be obtained; and
- (3) where written comments could be submitted by mail or electronically, and contact information for Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship representatives.

The proposal was advertised in the following paper media:

The Winnipeg Free Press	June 9, 2012
The Lac du Bonnet Leader	June 7, 2012
Grassroots News	June 5, 2012
The Winnipeg River Echo	June 6, 2012
The Clipper Weekly	June 4, 2012
The Pinawa Life Newsletter	June, 2012

Open House/ Public Meeting

An Open House / public meeting was held on June 19, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the South East Resource Development Council located at 360 Broadway in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Representatives from the Government of Manitoba and the Pauingassi First Nation were in attendance to present the proposal and address any questions, comments or concerns.

Approximately 40 people attended the Open House, with representation from First Nations, tribal councils, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, the tourism sector, the governments of Manitoba and Ontario and the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation.

Electronic Registry

An electronic public registry was established on the Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship Lands Branch website:

http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/lands_branch/public_registry.html, also accessible via a link from the Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship main website: www.manitoba.ca/conservation).

The website provides the following information:

The screenshot shows the website header with the title "Conservation and Water Stewardship" and a "Printer Friendly" link. Below the header is a navigation breadcrumb: "Gov Home > Conservation and Water Stewardship > Lands". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is a green sidebar with the heading "Get Started Here" and a list of menu items: "Home Page", "Land Management and Planning", "Off-Road Vehicle Events on Crown Land", "East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act" (expanded to show "Summary of the Act", "Principles of the Act", "East Side Planning Registry", and "Approved Plans"), "Crown Land and Aboriginal Land Programs", "Manitoba Geographic Names Program", and "First Come, First Served Cottaging Program". The right column has the heading "Public Registry" and lists links for the "East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act" in English (html), Ojibwe (pdf, 34 kb), Cree (pdf, 46 kb), Ojibwe (pdf, 38 kb), Regulation Amendment (pdf, 35kb), and Boundary Map (pdf, 2 mb). Below this is the section "Traditional Use Planning Area Proposals:" with a sub-heading "4. The Land of Fair Wind (Pauingassi):". This section lists links for "Proposed Regulation (English) (French) (pdf, 27 kb)", "Boundary Map (pdf, 195 kb)", "Management Plan (pdf, 1.4 mb)", "Summary Plan (pdf, 891 kb)", and "Comment Sheet (pdf, 53 kb)". At the bottom of this section is a public meeting notice link and a paragraph of text explaining that the website is collecting personal information and comments under the authority of the East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act, and that the information will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Direct Mail-Out

On June 12, 2012, a direct mail out was sent to First Nations, Aboriginal communities and stakeholders. As a principle of Aboriginal consultation and public participation, a follow-up mail out was sent on November 14, 2012 to inform recipients of the revisions to the proposal and to provide for an opportunity to comment on those revisions.

Recipients of the mail outs were:

1. Berens River First Nation
2. Black River First Nation
3. Bloodvein First Nation
4. Bunibonibee Cree Nation
5. Garden Hill First Nation
6. God's Lake First Nation
7. Hollow Water First Nation
8. Little Grand Rapids First Nation
9. Manto Sipi Cree Nation
10. Norway House Cree Nation
11. Poplar River First Nation
12. Red Sucker Lake First Nation

13. St. Theresa Point First Nation
14. Wasagamack First Nation
15. Pikangikum First Nation (Ontario)
16. Manitoba Métis Federation
17. Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association
18. Manitoba Model Forest Inc.
19. Manitoba Wildlife Federation
20. Manitoba Cottagers Association
21. Manitoba Trappers Association
22. Mining Association of Manitoba Inc.
23. Manitoba Prospectors and Developers Association Inc.
24. Manitoba-Saskatchewan Prospectors and Developers Association
25. Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada
26. East Side Road Authority Engineering and Construction
27. Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
28. Southern Chiefs Organization
29. Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak
30. Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin
31. Association of Manitoba Municipalities
32. Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation
33. Norway House Community
34. Town of Bissett
35. Berens River Community
36. Island Lake Community
37. Manigotagon Community
38. Matheson Island Community
39. Incorporated Community of Seymourville
40. Aghaming Community
41. Loon Straits Community
42. Princess Harbour Community
43. Sunterra Horticulture Canada

The Pauingassi First Nation Chief and Council and Lands Coordinator were copied on the letters.

Summary of Comments and Responses

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (June 14, 2012)

Requested a copy of the proposed management plan.

Disposition:

Provided the link to the public registry where the plan could be obtained. Also provided information about the public meeting scheduled for June 19, 2012.

Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association (June 15, 2012 and November 23, 2012); and Jackson's Lodge (June 19, 2012)

Inquired as to whether the plan would have an affect on existing lodge operations.

Disposition:

Assured the association and lodge operator that existing uses of Crown land and resources in the proposed planning area would not be affected by regulations under *The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act*. Also explained that once an approved management plan is in place, all decisions being contemplated by the provincial government respecting the allocation, disposition or use of Crown land and Crown resources in the planning area must be generally consistent with the approved plan for that area, and furthermore, that the Act does not preclude a review of the legitimacy of permitting decisions made in the past, in the same way that those decisions can now be reviewed.

Helios Hernandez (June 19, 2012)

Suggested that area calculations be included in the plan for each of the proposed land use areas.

Disposition:

Table 1: Summary of the Naamiwan – The Land of Fair Wind Lands Management Plan Land Use Areas was added to Section 7.

Canadian Boreal Initiative (August 1, 2012, December 11, 2012 and December 14, 2012)

Provided some suggested editorial changes to the plan. Expressed support for the following plan commitments:

- Legislative protection of the majority of the planning area from industrial development while respecting Pauingassi's cultural history and meeting community access and resource needs
- Implementing the plan by the Pauingassi Stewardship Board, through a management system guided by traditional values and knowledge, ancestral teaching methods and science-based approaches
- Development of a trapping council to provide oversight and guidance to trappers
- Protection of species at risk including woodland caribou, wolverine and sturgeon
- Maintenance of ecological processes which are key for the long-term preservation of the boreal ecosystem's integrity
- Support culturally and environmentally appropriate recreation and tourism opportunities
- Protection of waterways and water bodies from large scale development and pollution

Disposition:

All of the proposed editorial changes were incorporated into the final plan. The Director of Lands Branch, on behalf of the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship, responded to CBI in writing, acknowledging their letters and indicating that CBI's comments have been considered and documented in the record of consultation.

Recommended Action

All comments received on the proposal have been addressed. It is recommended that the proposal to designate the Pauingassi Traditional Use Planning Area and implement the Naamiwan – The Land of Fair Wind Lands Management Plan under *The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act* be approved.