



## Monthly Report – RRFN Watershed Program

Submitted to:	Dean Wilson, RRFN MOA; RRFN Chief & Council; RRFN Communications
Month:	November 2016
Submitted by:	Kiley Shebagegit, RRFN Watershed Coordinator

### ACTIVITIES

-drove by Rediger/Klenk/Funck properties several times during the month; we are having trespassing issues during hunting season, no trespass signs are being vandalized and torn down; spoke to police, gave them permission to enter our properties to inspect, but they do not drive down Hwy. 602 very often; our members have letters granting permission to hunt on our properties and are to carry them on their person whenever out on RRFN purchased lands; police have advised to continue to put up signage and encourage members to report suspicious activity

-attended a workshop for the IJC Rule Curve Review; the IJC have formed a task force to look into the 2000 Rule Curves for Rainy and Namakan Lakes and determine whether changes should be implemented; the Rule Curves set the limitations for how water levels in Rainy and Namakan Lakes are managed by the dam operators; the workshop introduced a scientific model that predicts how the system will be affected by changes to the Rule Curves, and will aid in making the recommendations to the IJC; over 20 scientific studies have been done to assess changes between the 1970 and 2000 Rule Curves, and included studies on wild rice, lake sturgeon, loons, walleye, muskrat and other socio-economic factors, such as erosion, flooding and drought; I volunteered to sit on a Rainy River sub-committee, which is looking at ways to lessen impacts of water level management on Rainy River, which was not a factor in the 1970 or 2000 Rule Curves

-completed the Final Expenditure report for the Watershed Program's New Relationship Fund funding

-requested a Community Environmental Update from New Gold; community dinner and presentation set up for Dec. 1; booked gym and arranged for a caterer for dinner

-attended Environmental Management training put on by the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association in Toronto, Nov. 14-18 (please see attached Training Report for more information)

-met with Tracy to come up with a plan for RRFN/NFN's independent monitoring program for New Gold; we have gone through the summary provided by New Gold, and intend to complete the same monitoring for water and air quality, and to stagger deer tissue sampling (New Gold will be collecting samples in 2016 & 2017, and then every 4 years after that; our monitoring program will also collect every 4 years, but staggered with New Gold's program so that samples are collected every 4 years); we will present this plan to NFN at our next Environmental Committee meeting to ensure we have not missed anything they wish to have included, and then we will seek quotes and funding for the program; in order to ensure that this program is truly independent, we do not wish to seek any funding from New Gold for this initiative

-met with Dalles FN, OMNRF Fort Frances and OMNRF Kenora at Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung to discuss Dalles Lake Sturgeon Restoration project; this meeting focused on catching fish and telemetry tagging strategy for spring 2017; RRFN will catch 12 adult fish and surgeries to implant telemetry tags will be completed in the RRFN hatchery to allow for any necessary healing in the controlled environment; originally, MNRF Kenora suggested to Dalles that they ask to move 50 fish, but we refused to consent to that, and agreed to 12 fish only on the condition that they include telemetry in order to track the fish' survival and movement; the next meeting will cover the strategy for transporting the fish from RRFN to DFN, and will be held on December 20 in DFN; Jim, Joe and Wilson were also at the Nov. meeting

#### **MEETINGS/TRAINING**

November 2, 2016 – IJC Rule Curve Review Workshop (Rainy River Community College)

November 8, 2016 – RRFN Social Services Committee meeting (RRFN Resource Centre)

November 14-18, 2016 – NALMA Environmental Monitoring Training (Toronto, ON)

November 24, 2016 – New Gold Env. Monitoring Committee (Kiley & Tracy in attendance)

November 30, 2016 – Dalles Sturgeon Recovery meeting (Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung)



## Training Report – RRFN Watershed Program

Submitted to:	Dean Wilson, RRFN MOA; RRFN Chief & Council; RRFN HR Dept.
Training:	NALMA Environmental Management Training
Location & Date:	Toronto, ON; November 15-19, 2016
Submitted by:	Kiley Shebagegit, RRFN Watershed Coordinator

I had the opportunity to take Environmental Management Training offered by the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association (NALMA). NALMA is offering a series of training courses through late 2016 and early 2017 free of charge to their member communities, which RRFN is through our membership with the Ontario Aboriginal Lands Association. On top of the free training, NALMA also provides up to \$2500 sponsorship for travel, meals and accommodations, so this training course was 100% covered by NALMA sponsorship.

NALMA developed an *“Environmental Management Toolkit”*, and this training was the first time they have taught the content of this toolkit. The toolkit provides the background needed, and suggest a step-by-step process for developing an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for First Nations. This included an overview of environmental legislation that applicable on reserve, INAC environmental review processes for development and examples of provincial and municipal environmental processes that some First Nations have adopted as their own. The toolkit also suggests a flow chart process for developing an EMP, and provides details of tasks involved with each stage of the flow chart. The process incorporates community engagement through the assembly of an *“EMP Team”*, and also through community meetings and updates during the course of the EMP development. It also suggests that C&C and upper management should be key to the development of the plan, and suggests roles for each.

The toolkit provides templates to assist in EMP development, including a chart for ranking environmental priorities and an Environmental Management Journal. There is also a lengthy list of resources included in the toolkit (ie: examples of FN EMPs, list of all applicable acts and legislation, bio-physical surveys and TEK studies, landfill and wastewater info, etc.), and all of the resources listed in the toolkit were provided on a USB key to all training participants.

I found this training to be very beneficial. The process is very similar to what we are doing to develop the Land Use Plan, so I think it would work here very well. We had previously developed a Sustainability Plan, so rather than starting an EMP planning process from the bottom, I think I would review that plan and see what could be worked in to an EMP. I think the toolkit developed by NALMA will be very useful in developing an EMP for RRFN.