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RAINY RIVER FIRST NATIONS Chief & Council Business Meeting

Sept. 6, 2023

Boardroom

8:30AM-6PM

**PRESENT:**

Chief Marcel Medicine-Horton Councillor Kim Detweiler

Councillor Dorothy Huitikka Councillor Robert Bombay

Councillor Karen Oster-Bombay Councillor Cassandra Kaysaywaysemat

**OTHER:**

Tim Grover: Minutes

Wayne Strachan: MOA

**Opening**

*9:09AM: Meeting was opened.*

**Discussion**

**Problems with dogs not being tied up on Community.**

K. Oster-Bombay volunteers to be the community dogcatcher until the position is filled.

**ACTION # 2023- 09-06-001**

**Make a poster for Newsletter and Facebook page for dogcatcher and post the dog by-laws.**

W. Strachan

**Health Crisis**

Chief M. Medicine-Horton has asked J. Hunter-Connon to roll through applications through the trust for band members’ medical needs.

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-002**

**Talk with J. Hunter-Connon to start an Action Plan for Health Crisis Budget.**

W. Strachan

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-003**

**Post invitation to band members to community meeting in Facebook and Newsletter.**

T. Grover

**MOTION # 2023- 08-24-003**

**Accept Agenda with additions.**

Moved by: K. Oster-Bombay

Seconded by: K. Detweiler

**ALL IN FAVOUR/PASSED**

**MOTION # 2023- 08-24-004**

**Accept Previous meeting minutes with revisions.**

Moved by: K. Detweiler

Seconded by: D. Huitikka

**ALL IN FAVOUR/PASSED**

**MOA Monthly Report.**

**Manager Reports**

**Addictions:**

Addiction Treatment and Recovery Services August Report

Department staff remain busy answering needs of our on-reserve and off-reserve band members.

* Presently going through staff change-over. We have lost 2 F/T staff within our department and will be looking to fill these vacant positions ASAP.
* Presently have a caseload of 12 clients who access personal counselling within our department.
* Presently have 1 member in residential treatment, 5 in Transitional housing off-reserve and 3 in on reserve Transitional Housing.
* Our efforts with building an Outreach Team in Winnipeg were realized. We now have 2 outreach support worker providing services to our band members residing in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and outlying areas.
* We also continue to build on our relationship with Bruce Oake Centre and are presently looking at potentially building a tri-party relationship to offer Sober Living/Transitional Housing in Winnipeg for our members and graduates of residential treatment facilities. This tri party arrangement is between RRFNs- Bruce Oake Centre- Zibi.
* Our department has been asked to provide a presentation to the community of Big Grassy. We will be meeting with their representatives on September 1, 2023, at 10:30 am tentatively.
* We continue to build our on existing partnerships with NWHU, RAAM clinic, Tribal Health, Detox and Treatment Centres across Canada and into the United States.
* We conducted our Outreach BBQ in Fort Frances on August 24, 2023. We continue to see the benefits of these efforts in building key relationships with organizations participating in these events.
* At our last BBQ which took place at the Nugget in Fort Frances, we had approximately 25 people come to share in conversation, seek info packages, collect Harm Reduction supplies, and eat. The remaining food was donated to the Family Centre in Fort Frances.

**Harvest Camps**:

* Sept 19-22
* Sept 26-29
* Oct. 10- TBD
* Nov. – TBD

16 people per camp. 4 cabins at Timber Wolf Lodge. All can contact D. McMahon to set up attending one of the hunts. Sept. hunts are out to the membership.

**Membership**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Emails incoming 70 | Phone Calls incoming 74 | In office inquiries 6 | Office training 1 |
| Membership Application inquiries 26 | Solar Inquiries 28 | Solar requisitions 7 | Other inquiries 13 |
| Mtgs with staff & CC 9 | Mail (solar cheques) 8 | ISC 4 | Membership inquiries 3 |

* Transcribing of Minutes – July 31, 2023 – RRFNs Membership Committee
* Call for applications for 4 on-Reserve Membership Committee Members
* Training – Excel – attend when time is available.
* Constant review and updating of files.
* Staff away from office – 7 days this month – Stat Holiday, Office Closure, Sick Day, Holidays, Personal Day (Dr’s Appts Thunder Bay)

**Ontario Works**

**O**ntario Works Program: Intake – 2 clients

* Issued monthly welfare cheques to 29 Ontario Works Clients
* Issued Supplier cheques on behalf of 5 clients.
* Transitional Child Benefit – Assist 2 clients.
* Prepare monthly subsidy claims.
* Maintain contact with clients to ensure their needs are being met. Provide cell phone reimbursements.
* Issued monthly welfare to 3 Temporary Care Agreement clients.
* Meal incentives – CPP Required work and provided 2 clients to help them out.
* Work with other programs I.e., Jordan’s principle, CCP and Addictions
* Finalize Budget submissions.
* Scheduled a September 6th meeting with Program Supervisor Ahnika to review program reporting requirements.
* Contact made with ISC staff to complete NORR for social programs.

Day Care:

* Work with Country View Day care to pay invoices and prepare Childcare report for the Ministry.
* Work with Jordan’s Principle coordinator to secure seat at Donal Young School for client.
* Issue letters of support for families wish to enroll their child at DYS Day Care

Funerals:

* Assisted 2 families finalize Funeral Arrangements
* Issue payout for 4 funerals based on the actual expenditures.

**Employment and Training**

Training Programs.

* Boater Safety Course: there are 6 interested. This is an online course that can be done at any time. The OW laptops have been set up with the capacity to print and I will set up a date and time. Need to identify where the funding for this will come from. $59.95 x 6 = $359.70.
* Safe Start Driving Program; my application to the RRFN Trust for $11,285.00 RRFN Contribution (Shooniyaa funds) $4,485.00 for a total of $15,770.00 has been approved. This program is for 6 Members. The budget includes additional funds for extra in-car training, extra driving time where the instructor transports the participants to and from the community for their private in-car lessons. I have talked to B. Calder at Seven Generations, and he is putting together tentative dates for the program.
* G1 Permit Program; I now have a minimum of 6 participants for this program. Seven Generations will have an instructor work through the handbook with them (approximately 14 hours). I am awaiting dates and will use Shooniyaa funds and apply to the Trust for the fees. It is under the $2,500.00 threshold.
* Canadian Firearm Safety Course: we did not have the minimum 12 people to have this course take place here. Fortunately, the Health Access Centre was offering this course and I was able to have 3 of the 4 people interested people take it there. The 4th person could not attend due to a scheduling conflict. The fees were covered by the Health Access Centre.
* Crusher Training Program: H. McQuaker had an operator start sorting and breaking up the oversize rock on August 30th. My application to the RRFN Trust for the $45,000.00 for this was approved. The operator will be at the quarry for 10 days.

I have received the quote from NORCAT for the instruction and equipment rental for the 4-week program. I have also contacted local contractors for pricing, waiting to hear back from Veert and Moncrief can’t supply rental crushers.

**Other Projects**

* Training Centre: I have applied to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for $119,200.00 for renovations to the Resource Centre. I was told that notification on the application will be in mid-late September.

I have started to look for the furniture and equipment for the Training Centre in anticipation of receiving funding. If we receive the funding, I will apply to the RRFN Trust for additional funds for equipment and to cover the cost of some renovations not included in the Trillium application such as the kitchen and new siding. Additional funds may also be needed if there are price increases.

J. Amar has applied to an outside source for approximately $11,000.00 for furniture. I will use these funds to apply to the Trust for increased funding to cover the cost of the furniture.

* Long Term Care Home: our financial review went well and once the public consultation closed at the end of June the Ministry was to review that and if it was satisfactory, we will receive approval. We have been informed that our project is now waiting for the Minister’s approval. To hopefully speed this process up a letter was sent to Minister Rickford from the Chief updating him on our project with the hope that he will contact Minister Calandra or his office.

Once we receive this next approval, we are set to receive a planning and development grant of $250,000. Hopefully we can use these funds as our contribution for RRFN Trust applications for further site development, clearing and infrastructure.

I am working to try and have as much preparation for the lot done this year as possible and am waiting for an updated quote from TBT to include a survey of the topography as requested by Form Studio Architects. If Council would approve the cost of the survey, we could have it done this year and maybe some site clearing. If we wait for the grant this could be delayed until next year.

* Daycare Project: Form Studio has provided updated blocking options. I still have Shooniyaa IELCC funds from 2020-2021 (almost $50,000) and 2021-2022, 2022-2023 funds available. I would like to prepare the building site as much as possible this year and work on the design.

I can use the funds to pay for new separate water and sewer lines and once I receive the quote from Public Works, I can submit my updated work plan to Shooniyaa and get this started.

Funding still needs to be sourced for construction and operations. On June 28th the PM announced the establishment of the Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund which will provide an additional $625M – funding the cost of physical infrastructure. I need to find a contact for this funding.

On August 15th I had a Teams meeting with Lina Davidson and Marnie Tarzia from the Ministry of Education. They said that the province has no funds for on-reserve childcare, however we can still submit a request. Lina has flagged our community as needing childcare in the community or a different approach. I will continue to work on what we can submit to the province.

* Decorating the administration building; I have submitted some ideas and I’m awaiting approval of the budget. I have met with C. Oster about the original artwork, and she will price piece by piece. It will look good!

Meetings.

August 2nd: met with W. Strachan and P. Morriseau about Back on Track.

August 2nd: helped a member with cover letters and online job applications.

August 2nd: attended a Growcer AMA webinar, forwarded to me by June.

August 3rd: additional check-in meeting re: LTC and Daycare.

August 9th: monthly meeting with the Ministry re: LTC.

August 10th: bi-weekly check-in meeting re: LTC and Daycare.

August 11th: Teams meeting with Ledcor, catch up meeting.

August 15th: Teams meeting with Ministry of Education re: Daycare.  
August 15th: staff meeting, had to leave early to attend New Gold meeting.

August 15th: meeting at New Gold, RRFN Member requested representation.

August 16th: meeting with C. Oster re: artwork.

August 17th: Teams meeting with 807 Management re: letter to Minister Rickford.

August 21st: Managers meeting.

August 24th: bi-weekly check-in meeting re: LTC and Daycare.

August 31st: Teams call with Ledcor, catch up meeting.

August 31st: met with C. Jourdain at the old Resource Centre to check for water under the building and discuss renovations and how to start clearing out the space.

**Community Health:**

LONG DISTANCE MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION:

We assisted twelve (12) members – 6 on reserve, 3 off reserve, 3 on reserve not registered with RRFN - with their long distance medical appointments for the month of August at a total cost of $3605.45. It is important to note that the total monthly amount varies and is based on the number of clients, nature of appointment (emergency, admission into hospital, etc). We do not receive funding for long distance medical transportation. These funds are recouped by monthly reimbursements to NIHB once confirmations of attendance have been conducted and/or submitted by the client. If a client does not attend their appointment, RRFN cannot submit for reimbursement of those funds.

REPORTS:

**Medical Van Tracking:**

P1 reports are in the process of being inputted and will be completed by the report’s due date of October. All of 21/22 reports – tracking, financial and activity – have been submitted and accepted. The 22/23 reports have been submitted and acknowledged since we do not have the audit yet completed. 23/24 data entry for P1 tracking has been started and will be submitted by the report due date of October, if financials are available.

**Home and Community Care:**

* All reports are completed and submitted.
* We have 2 people receiving homemaking and 1 homemaker.
* Seniors Enhancement HCC (MOLTC)
  + $12, 000.99 (medical equipment, scooters & accessories) – 2 off reserve, and 2 on reserve.
  + We have not received the August billing for the PSW that we contract through Giishkaandago’Ikwe.

**MEETING REPORTS:**

No meetings to report. GHAC does not meet during the summer. Next scheduled meeting is September 20th. I will provide a brief with my September report.

**BUDGET SUMMARY:**

All budgets appear to be on track.

**IT**

* Has acquired the Bell quotes for the Mounds. They are signed and a work order is moving forward to get this started.
* We will be going to an automated answering service in the band office. This will enable prospective callers to call an extension and not have Leann do it all the time.

**Ontario Works – Social Services**

Ontario Works Program:

* Intake – 2 clients
* Issued monthly welfare cheques to 29 Ontario Works Clients
* Issued Supplier cheques on behalf of 5 clients.
* Transitional Child Benefit – Assist 2 clients.
* Prepare monthly subsidy claims.
* Maintain contact with clients to ensure their needs are being met. Provide cell phone reimbursements.
* Issued monthly welfare to 3 Temporary Care Agreement clients.
* Meal incentives – CPP Required work and provided 2 clients to help them out.
* Work with other programs I.e., Jordan’s principle, CCP and Addictions
* Finalize Budget submissions.
* Scheduled a September 6th meeting with Program Supervisor Ahnika to review program reporting requirements.
* Contact made with ISC staff to complete NORR for social programs.

Day Care:

* Work with Country View Day care to pay invoices and prepare Childcare report for the Ministry.
* Work with Jordan’s Principle coordinator to secure seat at Donal Young School for client.
* Issue letters of support for families wish to enroll their child at DYS Day Care

Funerals:

* Assisted 2 families finalize Funeral Arrangements
* Issue payout for 4 funerals based on the actual expenditures.

**Public Works Department**

* WTP – tender stage – decision needs to be made on financial problems.
* RHI units getting closer to move in stage.

**Community Care Program:**

Stats have increased for the month of August 2023; we now have 16 additional children added to our existing case load. We have had no case closures.

We have 4 job positions that need to be filled as they have been open for quite some time now. 1 plus year old positions that need to be filled. We are in dire need of a Family worker, childcare, Addiction Worker, Youth Worker. Full staff complement will help with delivering service to our families.

Fall Audit will start Oct 2, 2023, staff will be preparing for audits for child file/parent file/caregivers/youth.

The wage parity deadline is coming up on September 30, 2023. This needs to be addressed before the deadline of Sept 30, 2023. MOA, CFO, Finance Officer, HR need to meet with CCP to collectively complete report.

This month we took advantage of our trainers and went on a boat & fishing cruise for the day. Self-care is important with our work in Child Welfare. Our appreciation goes to McTavish Treatment Centre/WFS.

After newsletter submission, we have had only 2 band members interested in Advisory Committee. This ad will continue to go out to community band members. We are still waiting for someone to join the group.

The Service Agreement has been signed between WFS and RRFNS. Will need to meet with Finance to discuss budgetary needs.

We thank other departments for helping CCP with odd jobs. Miigwech to OW for lending us workers to help with garbage disposal and cleaning our vehicles.

Collaborated with other Lawyers, WFS Lawyer. The circle meeting was very beneficial.

ONCALL STATS have also increased. It jumped to 48 calls with 5 investigations. RRFNS CCP is one of the highest in the district. We presently only have 2 on-call workers. The rest are no longer interested since the weekly pay went down to $ 400.00 per week. Stat report is done by WFS.

**STATS:**

Child in Care: 14 children, LONG TERM

Child over age 18 years: 5 YOUTH, 3 youth plans

Family Preservation: 3 families, 5 children

Caregivers: 13 approved caregiver homes, 3 additional homes need to complete caregiver screening/ process. The CCP is advertising in Community Newsletter for Caregivers to open their homes.

Case Aid: 4 families, 6 children, Staff Training, Administration, filing, on call.

Family counselling: 2 youth for treatment, 1 for ODSP referral package, 5 families, 7 children

Family: 5 parents,

Other Agencies: Kenora Agency, Dilico, AAFS Whitefish,

ONCALL: the two staff remaining will be looking for more people that are interested in doing ONCALL.

Next month we will be following Ministry requirements and completing a 6-month review for our caseload. Case Aid will be organizing this event.

All CCP staff will be in attendance as well as: WFS, Board member Karen Bombay Oster, MOA

The Advisory Committee hopefully will join our next 6-month review in March 2024.

Community Wellness

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAME OF PROGRAM** | **DATE** | **Result** | **ATTENDANCE** |
| SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING | 3, AUG | Done | RRFN Staff |
| EMO FAIR TICKETS DISTRIBUTION (150) | 14,14 AUG | Done | 150 |
| COHI Dental Visit (Dental care for kids) | 16 AUG | Done | 1 |
| KIDS COOKING | 17 AUG | DONE | 7 |
| MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID | 21 AUG | DONE | 12 |
| KIDS' FISHING DAY CAMP | 22 AUG | DONE | 7 |
| SENIORS FISHING DAY CAMP | 23 AUG | DONE | 3 |
| BACK TO SCHOOL COOKING WITH KIDS | 29 AUG | DONE | 14 |
| EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE |  | DONE | 2 |

**MOA**

* Have investigated other First Nation procurement policies.
* Waste Management Study – Blue Box Transition – Landfill/Recycling Worker (on going)

Working with Urban Systems.

* Church/Funeral Building w/Kitchen – will arrange to meet with elders regarding this.
* Climate Change Education – solar opportunities, energy saving opportunities (Kleen Energy) – save members money – greener community. – on going
* Golf Day in September – took place September 1st.
* Landscaping around Band Office – A49 – waiting on Rob Froese
* Baseball Wind Up – I will contact Kevin Gemmill
* State of the Art Gym or renovation of current one – will speak top Ruthann once she starts Sept 14th.
* Hatchery – working with NICFI to finalize application for prep work to be begin.
* What do you think of shutting down and locking the doors to the band office from 12-1 pm? Allows for Leann to go home for lunch and no one to have to fill her role during that time. Departments can still operate through 12-1 but by appointment only and will have to meet there client etc. at the door to let them in. In our automated answering service, we could have the working hours of the band office listed.
* \*Note – during luncheons or special events we would have someone still man the reception on these days.

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-005**

**Get BCR from N. Cochrane-Grover for Bell brush clearing.**

T. Grover

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-006**

**Get T. Friesen in on Judson Property planning**

W. Strachan

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-007**

**See if R. Brown can do Christmas party in Winnipeg.**

W. Strachan

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-008**

**Talk with OW workers to see if cell phones are needed.**

W. Strachan

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-009**

**Set up meeting with H. McQuaker about pow-wow grounds.**

W. Strachan

**MOTION # 2023-09-06-010**

**Need new quote from TBT to cover topography. Old quote was $18,150.**

Moved by: K. Oster-Bombay

Seconded by: R. Bombay

**ALL IN FAVOUR/PASSED**

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-011**

**Talk to T. Oshie-Horton about funds available for Daycare Project.**

W. Strachan

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-012**

**Look into Life Alert Program with J. Hunter-Connon**

W. Strachan

**MOTION # 2023-09-06-013**

**Accept R. Kellar for Historical Centre Manager @ $75K/Year.**

Moved by: M. Medicine-Horton

Seconded by: K. Detweiler

**ALL IN FAVOUR/PASSED**

**MOTION # 2023-09-06-014**

**Accept R. Hudon for Historical Centre Programming Coordinator @ $60K/Year.**

Moved by: M. Medicine-Horton

Seconded by: R. Bombay

**ALL IN FAVOUR/PASSED**

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-015**

**Have C. McNab speak to J. Leonard once R. Kellar starts her position to inform him that his position has ended.**

W. Strachan

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-016**

**Look into hiring Short-Term HR Recruiter**

W. Strachan

**In-Camera**

Starts @ 11:20

Ends @ 11:45

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-017**

**Talk with H. Broadbent to get more information on her proposal.**

W. Strachan

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-018**

**Talk with elders A. Hunter or M. Bombay about when to do the Fall Feast.**

M. Medicine-Horton

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-019**

**Find T. Friesen’s last contract.**

T. Grover

**DISCUSSION**

Quite a few Community Members are wondering why they can’t get free passage across the International Bridge.

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-020**

**Bring the topic of free passage across International Bridge to Aazhogaan Board.**

C. Kaysaywaysemat

**MOTION # 2023-09-06-021**

**Aazhogaan Employees entitled to Economic Wage Increase.**

Moved by: M. Medicine-Horton

Seconded by: K. Oster-Bombay

**ALL IN FAVOUR/PASSED**

**Highbury Project**

**Tabled**

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-022**

**Schedule meeting with H. Hampton to see if HE’S WILLING TO CHANGE PARAMETERS OF CONTRACT.**

M. Medicine-Horton

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-023**

**Extend invitation to J. Amar and T. Friesen to join meeting with H. Hampton on Sept. 18.**

T. Grover

**Website Contract with C. McMahon**

C. McMahon’s contract already calls for an IT trainee. Post the job again.

**MOTION # 2023-09-06-024**

**Move forward with C. McMahon’s Web Design.**

Moved by: C. Kaysaywaysemat

Seconded by: K. Oster-Bombay

**Tabled**

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-025**

**Find a concrete budget for C. McMahon’s Web Design**

W. Strachan

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-026**

**Have a talk with Seven Gens about any minute taking classes they may offer.**

W. Strachan

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-027**

**Make a poster for Newsletter looking for any Community Members willing to take Meeting Minutes.**

T. Grover

**Bruce Oake Fundraiser**

K. Kellar and W. Strachan to go to the Fundraiser. There will be a poster put in the Newsletter for any Community Members wanting to join. There are 7 tickets still available.

**150th Treaty Three Canoe Trip Follow-up**

Chief and Council would like to hear from the participants; how the trip was for them, did they have a good experience, etc. J. Leonard and J. Richard have the contacts and are making a questionnaire. Will there be a celebration for them, and if so, when? It has been suggested to have a plaque made for LakeLife and one for the Band Office as well.

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-028**

**Talk with J. Richard about having a celebration for the participants of canoe trip on Thanksgiving weekend.**

W. Strachan

**Discussion**

We would like to see Community Celebrations in the newsletter. Photo’s and a little write-up.

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-029**

**Talk to C. McNab about Communications Officer.**

W. Strachan

**Funeral Protocol**

If funeral is being held on-reserve, then the office will be closed out of respect for the family of the deceased. Also, will donate food to the family.

**ACTION # 2023-09-06-030**

**Have P. Morriseau make pamphlet regarding funeral policy.**

W. Strachan

**MOTION # 2023-09-06-030**

**Send out mail to all Members with stamped return envelope to update our membership addresses.**

Moved by: K. Detweiler

Seconded by: R. Bombay

**ALL IN FAVOUR/PASSED**

**MOTION # 2023-09-06-030**

**In-Camera request by Band Members.**

Band members may request in-camera in C&C Business Meetings and Community Meetings if they give 2 weeks notice and if the topic of discussion is considered to need In-Camera Meeting.

Moved by: M. Medicine-Horton

Seconded by: K. Detweiler

**ALL IN FAVOUR/PASSED**

**Discussion**

**Starlink**

So far, only 30 Starlink Receivers have been installed. Talk with C. Denby at Seven Gens to see if he can get the Community 70 more.

**MOTION # 2023-09-06-031**

**Motion to Adjourn Meeting**

Moved by: R. Bombay

Seconded by: M. Medicine-Horton

**ALL IN FAVOUR/PASSED**

The minutes dated **Sept. 6** **, 2023**, have been reviewed and approved at a duly convened meeting dated: Date signed:

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|  | | Chief Marcel Medicine-Horton | | | |  | |
|  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
|  | Councillor Kim Detweiler | |  |  | Councillor Karen Oster-Bombay | |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
|  | Councillor Dorothy Huitikka | |  |  | Councillor Robert Bombay | |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
|  | Councillor Cassandra Kaysaywaysemat | |  |  |  | |  |