

**Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation
Matrimonial Real Property Law Committee
Council Chambers
Tuesday, March 23, 2021**

MINUTES OF MEETING

- PRESENT:** Shelley Cornelius, Tina Hill, Teena Millette, Gail Nadjiwon,Carolynn Wright (by Zoom),
Nuala Robinson (recorder)
- REGRETS:** Barney Keeshig
- GUESTS:** James Buchan and Patrick Nadjiwon (both by Zoom)
- OPENING:** Carolynn Wright called the meeting to order 9:45 am. Gail Nadjiwon offered an opening prayer.

1. AGENDA

The Agenda was briefly reviewed. New item 9, Incentive Idea, was added.

Moved by Teena Millette

Seconded by Tina Hill

THAT the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation Matrimonial Real Property Law Committee hereby approve of the agenda as revised.

CARRIED unanimously.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2021

The minutes of March 9, 2021 were reviewed. Teena reached out to her mother and she indicated the files on the Alternative Justice should be available at the band office. There are apparently several boxes of information. Check with Lesley Shoefly. Check with RCMP for training.

Moved by Gail Nadjiwon

Seconded by Shelley Cornelius

THAT the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation MRP Committee hereby approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting.

CARRIED unanimously.

3. SURVEYS

Nuala Robinson reported that she has received two more surveys through the Survey Monkey link. One was a single submission of part one and the other was in fact all four surveys filled out by one person.

4. REQUEST FOR MEMBER LIST & MAILOUT TO ALL MEMBERS

Larissa Johnston and Iris Ashkewe are prepared for Council approval of our request for the mailing labels. Nuala has been researching the costs for envelopes, return envelopes, postage and return postage, printing of the surveys, and mailing of incentives to individuals who complete the surveys. Shelley Cornelius will provide Nuala with the name of an individual to contact about printing the surveys, and Nuala will also obtain a third quote and send these around.

The next step is to send a package to all members which includes all four surveys, a brochure, and a cover letter. The cover letter was reviewed and several changes were suggested. Nuala will re-work the cover letter and send around to committee members by email for discussion. There was general agreement that the letter should be shorter and in a larger font.

Nuala suggested a date of May 5th be set up, and mention included in the cover letter for members to attend a Zoom meeting where they can ask any questions they may have. She has spoken with Michael Johnston about how best to approach this and determined that an “open house” format would probably work best with the Zoom open all day (and possibly into the evening) so that people can participate at a time that suits them.

Committee members suggested the Zoom be set up with three time slots, being 10:00 am to noon, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, and 5:00 to 7:00 pm in order for there to be breaks in between for Nuala. The committee members will also select time slots where they can attend and participate in the Zoom as an additional resource. The cover letter will request that members contact the MRP office to pre-register for a designated time and receive the Zoom link.

Moved by Tina Hill

Seconded by Shelley Cornelius

THAT the following recommendation be submitted to Council for consideration:

RECOMMENDATION 1

THAT the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation Band Council agree to release off-reserve (18 years and up) band member addresses to the Chippewas of Nawash MRP Coordinator for the purpose of an MRP mail out;

AND THAT the addresses only be provided on mailing labels for this purpose.

CARRIED unanimously.

5. COPYRIGHT

Mr. James Buchan joined the meeting. Mr. Buchan is a lawyer from Toronto specializing in copyright law. After introductions, Mr. Buchan clarified the difference between “copyright” and “trademark”. A copyright protects the interest of authors in their creative works. A trademark distinguishes a product or service. In our case the mark distinguishes the services related to the MRP program of the Chippewas of Nawash. Having a trademark would prevent others from using our mark unless approved or licensed to do so as we would be registered with the government as having exclusive right to use the mark.

Mr. Buchan described the process as follows:

1. A legal search would be conducted (fee approx. \$1,000) to determine that our mark is unique
2. Apply to the government for a trademark (application fee approx. \$300)
3. Final registration fee paid to the government (registration fee approx. \$250)

He indicated the legal search would take approximately two weeks to complete. The process for trademark takes about two years at the moment as the government is severely limited in the work they can do due to covid restrictions.

In the meantime, while we wait for government approval of our trademark application, we can still make, distribute, and possibly sell, items with the logo on them.

Mr. Buchan requested that Nuala provide him with the original artwork that inspired the design, links to the website where it was sourced, and a copy of our logo. He indicated that his fee for the work would be approximately \$500. He will provide a written, itemized quote to Nuala for council's consideration.

Moved by Gail Nadjiwon

Second by Teena Millette

THAT the following recommendation be submitted to Council for consideration:

RECOMMENDATION 2

THAT the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation Band Council retain Mr. James Buchan to assist with the trademark of the MRP logo.

CARRIED unanimously.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1. Statement of Cash Flow and Budget Expenditure Report

Nuala Robinson highlighted the statement of cash flow and the budget expenditure report. She indicated that she and John Ramage had gone over the figures together. John made several general ledger entries at her request to change some of the items from one line to another and in a couple of cases, to remove charges that don't belong to the MRP program. There are only a few items to be added for March, including Nuala's salary and expenses to March 31st and the charges to the program for photocopies throughout the year.

6.2. Funding – Category 1

Nuala indicated that she contacted the COE/NALMA to ask how married we were to the exact figures in the funding proposal. The reason she reached out is that our actual meeting expenses are almost \$2,200 less than we had projected, mostly due to Covid restrictions and shut-down. She indicated we are planning a mailout to all members (on and off reserve) to take place in April and the printing and postage projections in our Funding Proposal are substantially less than the actuals she has determined.

We had initially projected \$3,700 in expenses, but the actual will be somewhere between \$6,000 and \$7,000. Nuala asked if we could allocate the anticipated surplus from meeting expenses over to printing and postage. She also noted we will also have a \$250 difference in IT and software simply because the communications manager created and maintains our web as part of his regular duties for which he receives a salary. There will not be an invoice to the MRP program for this work. She asked about reallocating this amount as well.

A quick rundown of the expenses related to the Category 1 funding is as follows:

	Estimated	Actual	Requested	Difference	Reallocation Request	New Allocation Totals
MRP Coordinator salary for the stated 9 weeks		10,878.75	9,750.00	-1,128.75		9,750.00
Meeting expenses total to date		8,163.73	10,350.00	2,186.27	-2,186.27	8,163.73
IT Services & Software		947.17	1,200.00	252.83	-252.83	947.17
Printing surveys	2,800.00					
Envelopes for mailout	420.00					
Envelopes for thank you gifts	200.00					
Postage for mailout	2,100.00					
Postage for thank you gifts	600.00					
Total Printing & Postage		6,120.00	3,700.00	-2,420.00	2,439.10	6,139.10
GRAND TOTAL		26,109.65	25,000.00	-1,109.65		25,000.00

Nuala noted that the projected printing and postage cost of \$6,200 is still only an estimate at this point, but she has done a lot of investigating on prices and the revised estimates are a lot more realistic after receiving some quotes.

Nuala received a reply from the COE that we may reallocate these funds as described.

6.3. Funding Proposal – Category 2

Nuala distributed a draft application to COE/NALMA for funding in Category 2. She noted that once we start receiving feedback via the surveys, the committee should plan to review the replies and plan to start the rough outline of the first draft of the MRP law with lawyer Patrick Nadjiwan. Category 2 funding is targeted to supporting the Development of Laws: Legal Fees and Consultation with Community. Committee members were asked to review this document for discussion at the April meeting. The funding proposal should be prepared for approval at the April Council day 3 or day 4 meeting.

6.4. Proposed Budget 2021-2022

A draft proposed budget for 2021-2022 was prepared and distributed by Nuala. She reported that of the \$143,816 approved for last year, \$53,401.60 was used up in expenses including her salary, expenses associated with setup of the MRP office, Committee meetings, events, and purchase of incentives. Of the remaining \$90,414.85, a total of \$6,139.10 is part of the Category 1 funding that will be used on copying and postage for the mailout. Category 2 funding will be applied for and will increase that amount to \$115,414.85. After some fine-tuning and adjustment of amounts, the committee was happy with the proposed budget. Gail suggested that the Statement of Cash Flow and the Budget Expenditure Report also be submitted to Council. It was pointed out that they will have the budget and any questions they have can be answered with more detail, rather than providing all the extra detail ahead of time when they have a large package to read already.

Nuala recommended that the group apply to Coldwater for funding. The rationale is that her salary and legal fees connected to drafting the first draft of the law will likely use up the majority of the current available funds. It is anticipated that the first draft will be either (1) mailed out to

all members for comment and then sent back to lawyer for re-drafting; or (2) mailed out to all members in preparation for voting. Nuala feels that there will likely be a second draft created and distributed. This will bring the timing into spring of 2022, at which point the current funds would run out.

Carolynn Wright suggested that Nuala attend the Supervisor's meeting on Wednesday, March 24th as there will be discussion with respect to Coldwater on the agenda. Shelley will ensure Nuala is invited to the meeting.

Moved by Teena Millette

Seconded by Shelley Cornelius

THAT the following recommendation be submitted to Council for consideration:

RECOMMENDATION 3

THAT the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation hereby approve the proposed budget for the 2021/22 fiscal year for the Matrimonial Real Property Law program.

5 For

0 Opposed

1 Abstain (Gail Nadjiwon feels the cash flow statement should also be submitted to Council.)

CARRIED.

7. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Nuala Robinson indicated that she had asked RAM Promotional for some pricing on the banners, flags, and signs. Nuala asked that the plan be reviewed by committee members for discussion at the next meeting.

8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Deferred. Nuala had some emails with the Centre of Excellence about training and they replied that they have just finished creating a tool for this. It was tested by an Ontario First Nation and Kathy from the COE will reach out to see if they would be willing to share their experiences.

9. INCENTIVE IDEA

Gail Nadjiwon showed a colouring book with a story and artwork on each page. She proposed that we may be interested in purchasing some for use as incentives. There was also some discussion on perhaps creating our own book.

10. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 13 at 9:30 a.m. to noon

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Tina Hill moved that the meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm.