**BIG GRASSY FIRST NATION**

**MEETING AGENDA**

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| **Big Grassy Elders Advisory Council (regular meeting)** |

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| **Date** | **February 17 2015** |
| **Time** | **10:00 a.m.** |
| **Location** | **BGRFN Community Hall – 403 Anishinabe Way** |

**Meeting Chair or Facilitator:**

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| **Facilitator: Romeo Duguay****Daryl Archie Special Assistant to Elders Advisory Council**  |

**Invited/Expected Attendees:**

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| **Elders Advisory Council - Chief and Council – Community members / Department of Oceans and Fisheries Representatives, New Gold representatives Mark and Mark (AMEC), community members Tanis, Jeff.** |

**Smudge: Robert Archie/**

**Opening Prayer: Robert Archie**

**Call to Order: 10:20 a.m.**

**Approval of Minutes: January 20/2015 Moved by: Stanley Second: Bella (Carried)**

**Roll Call: Robert A., Geraldine A., Albert C., Stanley J., Leonard M, Patsy T.,**

**Bessie, Marcel, Bill Morrison, Brian Major, Bella Andy.**

**Reading of Agenda for: February 17, 2015**

**Additions to Agenda:**

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| **Agenda Items:** | **Time Allowance** |
| **(Anticipating Federal Department of Oceans and Fisheries to make a presentation on New Gold water quality compliance requirements) At this meeting – presentation will take approximately 1 hour with a question and answer period. Romeo awaiting a presentation agenda and confirmation from the Department.****Under the Fisheries Act- An offset plan has to be approved from the proposal from New Gold. (Andrea Doherty and new Gold personnel Mark and )****Andrea to give an over view of the Mine project. Design of the plan and mitigation measures and contingencies. Good turn out of Elders and even had some community members attend.** | **1.5 Hour** |
| **Request from Pegamigaabo School for Elders assistance with unruly students****One elder commented that “the seed is born in the home”. The role modelling should be from the home. If you teach the kids it gets broken down when they get home. It would appear that any discipline given at the school is disputed by the parents. As a result of a small group teachers can’t do their jobs. One Elder is familiar with the school environment. Going there once is not going to solve anything. More frequent visits are required to resolve the disrespect. Also teach the teachers on how to discipline the children and react to various situations. It’s in the approach and delivery of the message. (discipline does not appear to work) Brian will lead a new approach but has to work with the teachers first. Looking at a few times per week at the school. One of the ways to resolve the problem is to meet with the parents and then the students. Emphasis was placed on the 7 Grandfather teachings. We have to open the children’s eyes to new ideas. The aggressive nature of children is often derived from their home life and the way their parents view life. The Elders are here to teach the people. The parents have to be included in the strategy. Suggestion for a special meeting between the parents and elders. One of the problems is the language barrier. Elders can express themselves better in their own language. Elders will not do the work, they will guide the strategy. Discipline with love and respect. Brian Major, Stanley Jack, (one elder spoke in her language to the group) Need changes in attitudes on the part of managers and how they deal with their people and give the proper direction. Leadership and managers along with the community members must communicate consistently. Robert talked about this at the “swearing in ceremony” of the new Leadership. There is a time to stop talking about it and start taking action. Robert supports the working group. Angela came in during our meeting and provided some background to the school issue.** **ADDENDUM TO MINUTES: As transcribed by Daryl (from Ojibway)**Elder #1* Some parents have no respect for Elders
* Need to work with parents and students
* Maybe 2 or 3 times a week have an elder/speaker attend the school
* Have a committee meet together, parents meet to talk
* Keep and open mind and listen to people
* Need to talk about the 7 teachings
* Chief and Council need to consult each and the people. If they don’t do that, that’s when things start to fall apart. He spoke about this at the Chief and Council induction ceremony
* In my opinion it is not the white people that is the problem, we have to work together to get things done
* We have to start taking action, not just talk about things
* If we lived the way the Ojibway lived before, we’d be able to change things.
* Elder #2:
* There is a language barrier between the students and elders
* The students and parents don’t understand the Ojibway language
* Children get their attitudes from parents

Elder #3:* If we say something in Ojibway to English it loses some of it’s meaning
* The Elders not in attendance should be informed of what we are talking about

Elder #4:* Thinks that the reason the school isn’t working is because of the white teachers
* Elders not listened to by these teachers
* The Band Office is not working because of the white people there
* The old man(Moses Tom) said things are not working because they (Elders) are not listened to
* They’re sticking up for each other is why there is nothing done.
* We need to help the children
* Chief and Council don’t listen either
 | **1.5 hours** |
| **Request from Council to review and discuss the Customary Care Program (Guidance?) There were some changes made to this program some time back. When it was turned over to the Band. It is now community owned but perhaps not necessarily the way the community wants it to run. The Elders want to know what is at issue? Program appears to be lacking in some respects, more work is needed in the family consultations and care givers. What do the family services committee want to see from this intervention? Is training for the family services committee required?**  |  |

**Next meeting: March 03, 2015 (Bessie’s Birthday)**

**Adjournment: 1 p.m.**