

Senate Meeting Minutes

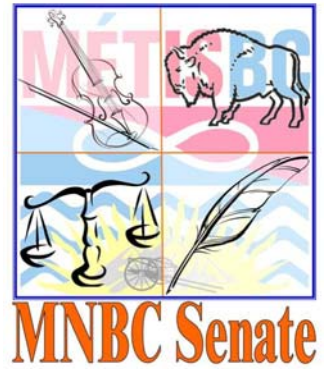
Kelowna, B.C., April 20-23, 2009
Best Western, Art Gallery Room

Senators Present: Ron Snider, Alan Edkins, Bob Adams, Bill Thibeault and Margaret Penner.

Regrets: Philip Gladue and Gerald Pope

Administrative Assistance: Dean Trumbley, Interim Senate Clerk
Gary Ducommun, Director of Natural Resources

Guest: MNBC Minister of Justice Annette Maurice



April 20, 2009

1. Call to order, 9:12 hr
2. Opening prayer –conducted by Senator Adams
3. Agenda: Move item 14 (ACT NOW) to #4, add item on Grand Forks discussion

Motion: To accept the agenda as amended.

Moved by: Senator Adams

Seconded by: Senator Snider

Carried

4. ACT Now

MNBC had some funds left over from ACT NOW allocation and contacted the Interim Senate Clerk. Interim Senate Clerk submitted a proposal for Senate and BCMANR, based on physical activities for both parties, for purchase of sporting gear. Part of proposal is to have an activity at each meeting and for members to be otherwise involved in physical activity. Sports packages received, and were handed out to attendees at meeting. Thank you to Interim Senate Clerk Trumbley for taking the initiative and prompt action to obtain the sports gear.

5. Senate Chambers Discussion

Confidential until announced by MNBC. Announcement expected in near future, likely by June. Funding received from MARR, as well as some assistance from Enbridge and EnCana. Plan to use for purchase of vacant school facility in Abbotsford, as well as use some funding for renovations. Facility is about 4200 sq ft on 14 ha site, would be suitable for hosting AGM and MNGA, as well use for training/education.

Plan to propose to CEO, at Senate meeting Thursday, that the Senate donates annual funding to MNBC, and have a permanent Senate chamber, designed to suit the Senate at the facility. Area would have office for Clerk, area to store regalia for Senate, as well as a permanent Chamber for the Senate.

6. Minister for Senate, Minister Maurice

As Minister of Justice, Minister Maurice is the Minister for the Senate. With that, she can provide a voice for Senate matters at Directors Table, while keeping the Senate itself outside the political process. Another aspect of immediate assistance is with the Senate concerns on communication with the MNBC office, often with communication there appears to be a lack of response or acknowledgement of items sent to the office. Duties of Minister are outlined in Section 4.3 and in Annex 1 of the Senate Policies and Procedures, Version 3.0

7. Natural Resource Management Training

Director of Natural Resources Gary Ducommun provided background on the BCMANR process provides better understanding for when natural resource appeals come to the Senate in future. Want to set up a two day session in future with BCMANR and Senate to review the process thoroughly. Discussion on possibility of fitting in with planned Senate retreat at Nicklen Lake, date for that retreat not yet established.

At this point, Senate is not expecting natural resource appeals this year, so could use funds for training. With the appeals, do have expertise (RP Bio with Interim Senate Clerk Trumbley and Director Ducommun), as well as traditional use information, and knowledge specific to some areas and species.

Interim Clerk Trumbley provided a presentation on Mule Deer that provided an excellent background on wildlife management and related intricacies.

***Motion:** That the Senate take the TRACK training, in conjunction with a meeting with the Captain's Assembly at a future date.*

***Moved by:** Senator Penner*

***Seconded by:** Senator Adams*

Carried

8. Budget 09/10

Budget is basically 95% assured at this point. Total approximately \$210,000.00. Provides funding for Senate database and for Senate Clerk position. From TSN receive same funds as last fiscal, approximately \$50,000. From Multi-Lateral funding, will have about \$61,000 for Clerk, cover salary and benefits, \$60,000 for development of database, UBC has agreed to work with MNBC on database development. Database will have programmed in timelines for process, as well as secure log-in for Senators and other users. UBC will also provide training for Senators on use of database. Funding also for laptops for each Senator.

For sittings for Senate this year, plan one with BCMANR Captains' Assembly or possibly a natural resource appeal if one comes forward. Have three sittings for citizenship appeals, budget provides for full Senate at sitting. Have been hearing some concerns that citizenship appeals should be full Senate, concerns from citizens on a small body of Senate (Tribunal) making major decisions.

9. Case Docket Update

To be part of work this coming week. Primarily standard appeal cases, one Central Registry appeal, but not on issue of community acceptance. Concern on the cost of citizenship cards is going from \$10 to \$20, and issue is concern on timing of increase with application timing by citizen. Individual applied prior to effective date of policy change on card pricing. MNBC does not have a policy or procedure dealing with the matter, so the item comes to the Senate for a determination.

10. Meeting Minute Approvals

Approval of the March 22/23 ad hoc minutes moved to next sitting. Discussion on need for minutes, or should we omit them. Should be part of records for Senate.

***Motion:** That the Senate approve the minutes of the conference call of June 24, 2008 and the meetings of July 31-August 2, 2008 September 26-28, 2008 and January 23-25, 2009.*

***Moved by:** Senator Penner*

***Seconded by:** Senator Adams*

Carried

11. Personal Information and Protection of Privacy

Waiting for information, table to next sitting of Senate.

12. Draft Policies and Procedures

Former version (2.3) not as well structured as would like, mix of general procedures and jurisdictional issues throughout document, such that it was fragmented in presentation, and confusing to read. There is still some work to do in future, but the reorganized version provides a more solid framework as the basis for refining.

Motion: *That the Senate accept version 3 of the Senate Policies and Procedures as amended from discussion.*

Moved by: Senator Snider

Seconded by: Senator Adams

Carried

ROD – 001 – *Interim Senate Clerk will look into provision of ceremonial kit for each Senator to have for meetings.*

ROD – 002 – *Once have permanent Senate Clerk position, asks Clerk to contact all communities in regard to times of general meetings so that Senators can plan on attendance.*

Motion: *That the MNBC Senate crest be added to the Senator vests. All the Senators are to bring vest to next quarterly sitting.*

Moved by: Senator Adams

Seconded by: Senator Penner

Carried

13. Endorsement Sheet for Decisions

Form is generic, fairly simple to use and file. Form amended to show outcome of a decision, if a split vote, also to illustrate if a full Senate sitting, tribunal, etc. Plan on signing of form for all past decisions at next meeting, when all Senators to be present.

Motion: *That the Senate accepts the decision form as modified.*

Moved by: Senator Adams

Seconded by: Senator Penner

Carried

Next quarterly sitting to be in July in Vernon, plan on July 25/26 with travel days on July 24 and July 27.

14. Senate Retreat

ROD – 003 – *That Interim Senate Clerk Trumbley and Director Ducommun work on a date for the Senate retreat and meeting with the Captains' Assembly at Nicklen Lake.*

15. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary

Nominations: *Senator Edkins for chairman*

Moved by: Senator Snider

Seconded by: Senator Adams

Senator Edkins acclaimed as chairman.

Motion: *Senator Thibeault for vice-chairman*

Moved by: Senator Penner

Seconded by: Senator Adams

Senator Thibeault acclaimed as vice-chairman.

Motion: *Senator Adams for secretary*

Moved by: Senator Snider

Seconded by: Senator Penner

Senator Adams acclaimed as secretary.

16. Other Business

- a) Annual report – should look into a standardized format. Interim Clerk Trumbley presented that the Governance Strategic Plan has an area of success indicators, which could be expanded to meet the needs of the Senate as a format for annual report presentation. By filling in data, shows statistics for success and provides for prompt annual reporting with performance indicators. Bring forward for future discussion and decision.
- b) Community Senator – in a meeting at Grand Forks, Senator Penner was introduced to a community senator. The community felt that their community senators would benefit from a session with the MNBC Senate, and better enable the community senators to carry out their expected duties.

ROD – 003 – *That Interim Senate Clerk Trumbley will approach Regional Director Trumbley on this item. Feel it is good for communities to develop internal dispute mechanisms, but not to call the resolution individual a Senator, perhaps would be more appropriate if presented as an Elder.*

Senate feels presence of Elders at meetings as proposed by community would be acceptable, however the funding for such would be for the individual or the community, Senate does not have resources to fund.

April 21, 2009

17. IN CAMERA SESSION – CITIZENSHIP APPEALS

Belanger vs. MNBC Central Registry

Lizee vs. MNBC Central Registry

Turmel vs. MNBC Central Registry

April 22, 2009

18. IN CAMERA SESSION – CITIZENSHIP APPEALS

Pighin vs. MNBC Central Registry

Muise vs. MNBC Central Registry

Koster vs. MNBC Central Registry

April 23, 2009

19. Other Business *continued...*

c) Meeting with CEO

Aspects for discussion:

- ∞ Vision/expectation of CEO for next five years
- ∞ Communications with MNBC office, responsiveness to Senators
- ∞ Opportunities to expand citizenship staff
- ∞ Position/views on Senate – as an independent body, issues of funding independence, dispute resolution mechanism without fear from Board of Directors
- ∞ Management skills training for Chair and Alternate Chair
- ∞ Electoral Officer process – appeals in last election were result of Electoral Officer decisions
- ∞ Senate Chambers proposal

- d) Once Clerk is in place for Senate, as a clerical position, COO Trumbley can provide assistance as Agent of Senate, and commit 20% of his time to support for Senate. This would be ongoing assistance, as well as attendance at quarterly meetings and appeal sittings.

20. IN CAMERA SESSION – CITIZENSHIP APPEALS

Shandro vs. MNBC Central Registry

Gagnon vs. MNBC Central Registry

21. Meeting adjourned, April 23, 2009 at the hour of 2:45 p.m.

Approved: _____

Bill Thibeault, *Senate Secretary*