Wild Rice Communication Group  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday July 5, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.  
Township of Selwyn  
Committee Room

Present: Ron Bailey  
Bob Brown  
Alan Easton  
Larry Wood  
Donna Ballantyne, Ennismore Ward Councillor  
Andy Mitchell, Mayor

Staff: Janice Lavalley, CAO

Councillor Donna Ballantyne called the meeting to order.

Introduction of Members

Each member introduced themselves and provided some brief information related to their background, history and interest with respect to wild rice harvesting on Pigeon Lake.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None.

1. Deputations and/or Invited Persons

None

2. Minutes

Moved by Mayor Andy Mitchell – Seconded By Ron Bailey – That the minutes of the April 11th, 2019 meeting be adopted as circulated. Carried

3. Question Period

None.

4. Correspondence for Discussion and/or Decision

None.

Information Items
None.

5. **Reports**

None.

6. **Other, New and Unfinished Business**

   a) Parks Canada Manomin/Wild Rice Workshop – Summary and Outcomes Report

   - The Report was provided to workshop participants on July 2, 2019, making it a public document. It was noted that, while the report summarized a number of potential future initiatives that were raised, the most immediate outcomes presented were the need to continue to build community relationships and the need to improve navigation safety and protect the rice beds by providing for the creation of channels to the main waterway.

   - This report will be provided to the Parks Canada/Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee as part of the mid-July meeting agenda.

   b) Information Sharing from the Members

   - Parks Canada has advised that it is accepting applications for aquatic vegetation removal until mid-July. Individual applications are required, however PC may ask or suggest that neighbouring properties work together where possible. PC may follow up with applicants to conduct site visits to areas where wild rice may exist.

   - Members note that residents are concerned about the timing of the application and decision making process in that it does not align well with the natural growth stages of the wild rice beds. The wild rice does not become evident for review until mid-July and permits need to be in place earlier in order to facilitate the creation of the suggested navigation channels.

   - Members noted that the residents have submitted group applications previously and will take that approach again. They are requesting only 3 channels and shoreline vegetation removal to provide access thereto.

   - Submission of applications as soon as possible was encouraged. Parks Canada needs the applications before them in order to review and make decisions. It was suggested that covering letters be submitted along with the applications to explain the purpose of the applications is to provide for navigation safety and protection of the wild rice beds. This is consistent with the priorities spoken to in the Summary and Outcomes report.
• Mayor Mitchell and Councillor Ballantyne will provide an update from this meeting at the July 9th, 2019 Council meeting. They will request consideration of a resolution directing the Township to send a letter to Parks Canada urging expedience with respect to the review of the applications received and issuance of related decisions.

• Mayor Mitchell will be reaching out to the new Chief of Curve Lake First Nation to set up a meeting to discuss this matter and the many other initiatives the Township is working on with the First Nation. Members felt that a conversation between the communities with respect to the different perspectives on this matter would be an important step.

c) Next meeting

- At the call of the Chair.

7. Adjournment

Moved by Mayor Andy Mitchell – Seconded By Bob Brown –
That the meeting be adjourned at approximately 10:15 am.