



Thames River Clear Water Revival  
**First Nations Engagement Committee Meeting #11 – Minutes**  
Wednesday, June 3, 2015, 1:30-3:45 pm  
Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
Maawn Doosh Gumig Community and Youth Centre  
1972 Virgil Avenue, Sarnia

**Attendance:**

Aimee Johnson (Walpole Island First Nation)  
Christine Rogers (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)  
Courtney Jackson (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)  
Dave Depuydt (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry)  
Eleanor Heagy (Upper Thames River Conservation Authority)  
Isabel Lewis (Councillor - Caldwell First Nation)  
Rob Wallis (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry First Nation Liaison)  
Sharilyn Johnston (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)  
Tara Tchir (Upper Thames River Conservation Authority) – Project Manager

**Regrets:**

Bonnie Plain (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)  
Chief Louise Hillier (Caldwell First Nation)  
Darryl van Oirschot (Caldwell First Nation)  
Dean Jacobs (Walpole Island First Nation)  
George Henry (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)  
Larry French (Councillor - Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)  
Murray Blackie (Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Director)  
Pat Donnelly (City of London)

**Guests - Youth Engagement Program leaders:**

Carlyn Johnston (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)  
Theo Blackbird John (Walpole Island First Nation)

**Purpose of Meeting**

- Meet First Nation Youth leaders
- Discuss Thames River Water Management Plan

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves to our two First Nation Youth Leaders for 2015: Theo Blackbird John (WIFN) and Carlyn Johnston (COTTFN). Sharilyn explained the last minute change in program administration of the youth program. COTTFN will administer and Aamjiwnaang will be the main organizer.

The Secretariat would consider administering the program in the future if the pilot goes well and the program expands to include other First Nations.

**2. Review of April 28, 2015 Minutes**

The minutes were approved.

### 3. Review of High School Position Description and Discussion of Next Steps

Aimee presented the draft high school position description. It can be modified for each particular community as needed. Hopefully, there will be students hired through the various youth or employment programs who can fill the four positions. The information has been provided to the various employment departments at CFN, WIFN and Aamjiwnaang. Sharilyn will contact Brenda at COTTFN.

The application deadline will be Friday, June 26. Interviews will be in the various First Nations on Tuesday, June 30, Thursday, July 2 and Friday, July 3. Aimee will update the position description and circulate it to the committee.

Dave said he can help with interviews or questions for these positions. It was agreed that Carlyn and Theo will be part of the hiring process.

The position will be limited to youth currently attending high school, for this year's program. In the future, we will consider opening it up to any high school aged youth.

#### **Next Steps**

- There was discussion of how to share files and information electronically. Options include setting up a Google Drive account, using Drop Box or using an FTP site. Tara and Eleanor will investigate FTP possibilities at UTRCA. For now, Aimee will use her Drop Box account to share files.
- Sharilyn said the team can use her van, which has canoe racks and can seat up to eight. We would need to add Theo to the insurance and pay for the increased insurance.
- Sharilyn has a canoe trailer, and COTTFN does, too. COTTFN may be using their trailer and canoes this year, though. Three canoes will be needed.
- It was agreed that we need to inventory exactly what equipment is available and what needs to be purchased.
- Media – we discussed having a program launch, possibly on Solidarity Day (June 21). Ideally, this would be at COTTFN as they are the program administrator. Another option is to issue a media release now announcing the program, and then planning a media event once the high school students are hired. Media information includes TRCWR, youth program, four participating First Nations, COTTFN administering program, MOECC funding for three years, goal of making this a long-term, sustainable program involving all the First Nations with Traditional Territory in the Thames watershed.
- Sharilyn said the Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario has grants for programs that improve recreation in First Nations communities. They provide \$5000 for equipment and \$1000 towards hiring a person to run the program.
- Aamjiwnaang will provide space for Theo and Carlyn.