



Minutes

Committee of the Whole

Monday, July 9, 2012
3:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Action

Present: Mayor D. Canfield
Councillor C. Drinkwalter
Councillor R. McKay
Councillor R. McMillan
Councillor S. Smith
K. Brown, CAO
R. Perchuk, Operations Manager
W. Brinkman, Emergency Services Manager
C. Neil, Recreation Services Manager
J. McMillin, City Clerk
J. Findlay, EDO

Regrets: Councillor L. Roussin
Councillor R. Lunny

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A. Public information Notices

As required under Notice By-law #144 -2007, the public is advised of Council's intention to adopt the following at its July 16 meeting:-

- i) An amendment to its 2012 capital budget to transfer \$60,000.00 from the Loader project to the Dockside Washroom project at the Kenora Recreation Centre Boat Launch;
- ii) An amendment to its 2012 capital budget to transfer \$150,000.00 from the Desk Modification project to the Basketball Relocation project, previously approved for 2013;
- iii) An amendment to its 2012 Operating budget for an appropriation from the JM Arena Reserve up to a maximum of \$65,000 to offset costs related to repairs and upgrades of the arena for the purposes of occupancy compliance;
- iv) An amendment to its 2012 Capital Budget for the Downtown Revitalization Phase 3 Design and Tendering services project, currently pending FEDNOR and NOHFC funding approval through an additional appropriation of \$140,000 from the City's Contingency Reserve.

B. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature Thereof

1) On Today's Agenda

2) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance.

Councillor McMillan made a Declaration of Pecuniary Interest on today's Agenda Item 3 under Corporate Services under the Various Minutes and specifically the Kenora Police Services Board, as well as **Items 1, 2 and 4** under Financial Services regarding policing as is spouse is a member of the Kenora Police Services Board.

C. Motion for Confirmation of Previous Committee Minutes:

1. Moved by C. Drinkwater, Seconded by S. Smith & Carried:-

That the Minutes from the last regular Committee of the Whole Meeting held June 11 and of the Special Committee of the Whole Meetings held June 14 and July 5, 2012 be confirmed as written and filed.

D. Deputations:

Jennifer Findlay, EDO gave a brief overview of the project and explained the Commission's involvement with the Path of the Paddle Project and she introduced Ms Kurz to Members of Council. Jennifer advised there is a great article on this project in the July/August 2012 edition of the National Canadian Geographic, a copy of which was circulated to Committee to review.

i) Vicki Kurz – Path of the Paddle Water Route Project

Ms Kurz introduced her involvement with the project and provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the background of the project, noting she first proposed it in in 2003 and it was turned down under the National Trail Use Policy. The PowerPoint overview also covered the Water Trail History, the Path of the Paddle Trail, phased development, project benefits and opportunities and implementation (copy of presentation attached to and forms part of these Minutes).

Ms Kurz advised there will be a session on Tuesday between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon at the Discovery Centre for kayakers, canoers, and anyone interested in the project to attend and participate. She further noted the project has a Facebook page; email; monthly newsletter and provides media releases as well.

In summary while no dollars are being requested, Ms Kurz indicated she is looking for a letter of support of the project from both the LOWD Commission and Council. She advised there is quite a bit of land on the route (34 kilometers) for the TransCanada Trail in the Kenora area that has to be reduced in order to connect with the water trail so at one point Council will have to rescind the previous approval and amend same for this purpose by resolution.

Ms Kurz also noted under the Community Contribution section that there is the matter of insurance issues around the dock at the Trailhead.

Ms Kurz will forward a suggested format for the letter and will work with Jennifer to come up with some suitable wording for the Kenora letters.

Committee agreed that once a letter has been drafted by the EDO, Mayor Canfield can send under his signature and no requirement for a resolution.

Ms Kurz was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

E. Reports:

Community & Protective Services

Councillor Drinkwalter, Chair, reviewed the Committee reports:-

1. 2012 Capital Budget Amendments for Kenora Rec. Centre Recommendation:

That Council hereby approves amending its 2012 capital budget to transfer \$60,000.00 from the Loader project to the Dockside Washroom project at the Kenora Recreation Centre Boat Launch; and

That Council hereby approves amending its 2012 capital budget to transfer \$150,000.00 from the Desk Modification project to the Basketball Relocation project, previously approved for 2013; and

That in accordance with Notice By-law #144-2007, notice is hereby given that Council intends to amend its 2012 Capital Budget for these purposes at its July 16, 2012 meeting; and further

That Council hereby gives three readings to a by-law to amend the 2012 budget for this purpose.

Recommendation approved (resolution and by-law).

2. Whitecap Pavilion User Guide Recommendation:

Recommendation:

That further to the matter of the Harbouredome User Guide being deferred to Council's July 16, 2012 meeting, as recommended by a Committee of the Whole on July 9, 2012, the matter of the now "Whitecap Pavilion User Guide" be hereby deferred indefinitely in order to allow City staff the opportunity to meet with Tourism staff and resolve any concerns prior to being submitted to Council for approval.

Recommendation approved.

3. JM Arena Repairs Recommendation:

Recommendation:

JFindlay

**Mayor
Canfield**

JMcMillin

JMcMillin

That Council hereby authorizes an appropriation from the JM Arena Reserve up to a maximum of \$65,000 to offset costs related to repairs and upgrades of the arena for the purposes of occupancy compliance; and

That in accordance with the Notice By-law #144-2007, public notice is hereby given that the City intends to amend its 2012 Operating Budget at its July 16th meeting; and further

That Council hereby gives three readings to a by-law to amend the 2012 budget for this purpose.

Recommendation approved (resolution and by-law).

JMcMillin

4. KRC Boat Launch Washroom Report – 2012

Recommendation:

That the following quotations, for the Kenora Recreation Centre Boat Launch Washrooms, (HST extra), be received:-

Hy-Grade Precast	\$38,225.00
Parkworks	\$48,500.00; and further

That the City of Kenora accepts the quotation submitted from Hy-Grade Precast Concrete to supply and deliver a precast washroom facility (Benchmark Plus) for the amount of \$38,225.00 plus HST.

Recommendation approved.

JMcMillin

5. Museum Board – Application for Appointment

Recommendation:

That Council hereby appoints Craig Cunningham to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Charmaine Romaniuk on the Lake of the Woods Museum Board, with a term to expire November 30, 2014.

Recommendation approved.

JMcMillin

Corporate Services

Councillor McMillan, Chair, reviewed the Committee reports:-

1. K.D.S.B. Report

With Councillor Roussin not in attendance there was no report this month.

2. Northwestern Ontario Regional Conference – Attendances

Recommendation:

That authorization be hereby given for up to four (4) Council Members to attend the NWO Regional Conference in Thunder Bay, taking place September 27 and 28, 2012 at the Victoria Inn; and further

That all eligible expenses in accordance with Council's Travel & Per Diem Policy be hereby authorized.

Recommendation approved.

It was noted that reservations have already been made and that Councillor Roussin indicated his interest in attending the conference. It was recommended that one staff member also attend however staff approval is not required in this recommendation. In the meantime, Mayor Canfield will be attending and Councillor McKay would also like to attend; otherwise only Councillor Lunny is to confirm with the Deputy Clerk if he plans to attend.

Councillor Smith introduced Item #3 below due to Councillor McMillan's declaration:

3. Various Committee Minutes

Recommendation:

That Council hereby adopts the following Minutes from various City of Kenora Committees:

- May 10 – Heritage Kenora
- June 11 – Committee of the Whole
- June 12 – Property & Planning Committee
- June 14 – Special Committee of the Whole
- June 20 – Environmental Advisory Committee
- June 26 – Lake of the Woods Museum Board

That Council hereby receives the following Minutes from other various Committees:

- April 11 – Kenora Police Services Board
- May 28 & June 22 – District of Kenora Home for the Aged

That these Minutes be circulated and ordered filed.

Recommendation approved.

4. Youth Council – First Term Report

Recommendation:

That Council hereby directs administration to review the terms of reference for the Kenora Youth Council based on a review of the first term and make recommendations related to the structure and membership of the Kenora Youth Council while exploring opportunities to tie appointments to the Kenora Youth Council in to local government week activities in the fall of each year; and

That Council hereby approves holding any appointments to the Kenora Youth Council pending said review; and

JMcMillin

**Councillor
Lunny/**

HKasprick

JMcMillin

That Council hereby directs the Clerk to advise any members of the first Kenora Youth Council that have indicated their interest in continuing on as a member of that Council as to next steps in the process, together with a thank you for their interest in continued participation; and further

That an amended terms of reference for the Kenora Youth Council be brought forward to Council for approval by the September Council meeting.

Recommendation approved.

JMcMillin

Economic Development

Councillor Smith, Chair, reviewed the Committee reports:-

1. Homelessness Report

Recommendation:

That as recommended by the Lake of the Woods Development Commission, the City of Kenora establish a Task Force on Homelessness to develop a community strategy to address homelessness and related issues in Kenora, led by Mayor and Council.

Karen requested Committee to consider an amended recommendation as follows:-

Amended Recommendation:

That the City of Kenora establish a Task Force on Homelessness to develop a community strategy to address homelessness and related issues in Kenora; and further

That the CAO be directed to provide Council with a report recommending the establishment of said task force, including proposed framework and membership, prior to the September 2012 Council meeting.

Recommendation approved as amended.

JMcMillin

Councillor Smith requested then Thelma Wilkins-Page of the Commission's Business Development Committee to speak to the homelessness matter:

Ms Wilkins-Page gave an overview of her involvement in attempts to address homelessness in the Kenora community. She explained the estimated financial cost is \$55,000 annually per homeless person in Canada and when multiplied by the number of homeless in our community, the cost is substantial. It was explained those dollars could be used in providing a solution, and she referred to the City of Calgary's 10 year plan to end homelessness and believes that Kenora can do this as well.

Finance

Councillor Smith reviewed the Committee reports:-

Councillor McMillan left the meeting while Item #'s **1, 2 & 4** were **discussed** due to his declaration.

1. 1,000 Officers Program

Recommendation:

That Council give three readings to a by-law to authorize the execution of an agreement between the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the City of Kenora, and the Kenora Police Services Board with respect to the Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program; and further

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement for this purpose.

Recommendation approved (resolution and by-law).

JMcMillin

2. 2011 - Annual Report

Recommendation:

That Council hereby approves the 2011 City of Kenora Annual Report, including the 2011 audited financial statements for the City; and further

That a copy of this report be made available for public viewing on the City's portal, as well as the front desk at City Hall.

Recommendation approved.

JMcMillin

Councillor Smith advised an Audit Committee meeting will be held on Monday, July 16 at 11:30 p.m. in Chambers at which time the Audited Financial Statements will be presented.

3. FCM Infrastructure

Recommendation:

Whereas The Building Canada Plan and a number of important federal-provincial transfer agreements vital to Canada's cities and communities, will expire in March 2014; and

Whereas Federal investments over the last few years have helped to slow the decline of our cities and communities, and the Government of Canada has committed to develop a new long-term plan for municipal infrastructure funding in consultation with municipal and provincial/territorial governments; and

Whereas a seamless transition from the Building Canada Plan to a new long term plan is necessary to ensure that municipalities can continue planning their capital spending effectively; and

Whereas The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a campaign to ensure the new plan reflects municipal priorities across the country and asks its member municipalities to pass a Council resolution supporting the campaign; and

Whereas our community has continuing infrastructure needs, in particular a significant bridge infrastructure, some in urgent need of rehabilitation works, that can only be met with through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by a national plan;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Kenora endorses the FCM campaign and urges the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to work with FCM to ensure the new long-term infrastructure plan meets the core infrastructure needs of cities and communities; and

Be It Further Resolved that Council urges the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to ensure that the new long-term plan is fully in place when existing programs expire in 2014; and

Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, to the Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to Greg Rickford, MP Kenora Riding, to Sarah Campbell, MPP Kenora – Rainy River, to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

JMcMillin

Recommendation approved.

4. May, 2012 Financial Statements

Recommendation:

That Council hereby accepts the monthly Financial Statements of the Corporation of the City of Kenora as at May 31, 2012.

Recommendation approved.

JMcMillin

5. FedNor Funding Program

Recommendations:

That Council hereby approves funding applications to the Community Infrastructure Investment Fund Program, for the following projects, listed in order of City priority:

- Keewatin Memorial Arena – Ice Plant Replacement
- Kenora Recreation Centre – Basketball Court Rehabilitation/Relocation and Dock Extension
- Keewatin Memorial Arena – HAVAC and Roofing Replacement
- Keewatin Memorial Arena – Arena Floor / Boards and Glass Replacement
- City Hall – Heritage Roof Replacement

That Council hereby directs administration to develop and submit funding applications for these projects, on behalf of the City, based on the priorities as set out within this resolution and with proposed project costs based on a detailed review of proposed projects; and further

That any additional required Council resolutions supporting the related funding applications be brought forward to the August Council meeting for approval if so required.

Recommendation #2:

That Council hereby commits matching funding, contingent on funding approval through the Community Infrastructure Investment Fund Program to the Lake of the Woods Development Commission, for the following projects based on the following priorities:

- Coney Island North Dock Rehabilitation;
- Discovery Centre Accessible Trail System Extension; and

That a copy of this resolution and related commitment be forwarded to the Lake of the Woods Development Commission for their information and action in pursuing this potential funding opportunity.

Discussion:

It was discussed if Recommendation #1 should remove reference to the Basketball Courts Rehabilitation/ Relocation and Dock Extension as it was recommended for approval under Community & Protective Services in the above recommendation to proceed with the works, however Mayor Canfield expects there will be a quick turnaround for the government approval and he suggested Jennifer could double check on approval time.

Karen also referred to possibly removing the City Hall–Heritage Roof Replacement as it may qualify under another fund.

Committee agreed after some discussion that the above recommendations be re-drafted by the CAO to reflect a revised priority list only for the projects and these be introduced at Council’s July 16 meeting.

**KBrown/
JMcMillin**

Operations Committee

Councillor McKay, Chair reviewed the Committee reports:-

1. 2012 Budget Amendment–DTR Phase 3 Design/Tender Works Recommendation:

That Council hereby authorizes a budget amendment to the funding for the Downtown Revitalization Phase 3 Design and Tendering services project, currently pending FEDNOR and NOHFC funding approval through an additional appropriation of \$140,000 from the City’s Contingency Reserve; and

That Council hereby authorizes ENL, the successful consulting firm, to proceed with the design and tendering services, in the amount of \$288,350 + HST; and

That in accordance with Notice By-law #144-2007, notice is hereby given that Council intends to amend its 2012 Capital Budget for this purpose at its July 16, 2012 meeting; and further

That Council give three readings to a by-law for this purpose.

Recommendation approved (resolution and by-law).

JMcMillin

2. Main Street @ Library – Pedestrian Crosswalk

Recommendation:

That the Council of the City of Kenora hereby adopts Option 1 to remove the existing uncontrolled concrete crossing at Main Street adjacent to the Library thereby allowing pedestrians to cross at their own risk at this location when it is safe to do so as per the Highway Traffic Act.

Discussion:

Councillor McMillan supports maintaining a crosswalk and commended Marco on his report. In comparison in costs it would still be good to have the crosswalk but an enhanced one. Councillor McKay agreed and questioned Rick Perchuk on the need or not for a concrete island on Main Street at this location and Rick provided some background on how the crosswalk came to be and thoughts on proceeding on a forward basis.

Committee was not in favour of a concrete island but that it should be enhanced, and they prefer Option 2.

Committee rejected Option 1 in the report and agreed to bring forward Option 2 as provided by the Municipal Engineer:

Recommendation:

That the City adopt Option 2: Install Courtesy Crossing Signage with amber beacons (for motorists) and Wait for Gap Signage (for pedestrians) to better define the responsibilities of each; and further

That a further review of the necessity for the installation of a pedestrian refuge island located between north and south bound lanes of traffic on Main Street South be a future consideration if so required.

Recommendation approved.

JMcMillin

3. Northwest International Rowing Association & Rowing Club

Recommendation:

That the Council of the City of Kenora hereby acknowledges the Northwest International Rowing Association Regatta to be held August 17 & 18, 2012 on Rabbit Lake; and

That Council also acknowledges the Kenora Rowing Club (mini-two) Regatta to be held July 28, 2012; and

That the following approvals be granted as outlined below in conjunction with both of these events:

1. A variance be granted for the motor size on Rabbit Lake as set out by By-law No. 153-2005 (as there is a need to operate 25-50 h.p. motors to keep up to the racing boats to ensure their safety on the water for the event).
2. The event buoys to be placed in the water two to three (2-3) days prior to the event, to be removed the following week by the Kenora Rowing Club.

Recommendation approved.

JMcMillin

4. Waste Water Systems Flow Data – May, 2012

Recommendation:

That Council of the City of Kenora hereby accepts the Kenora Water and Wastewater Systems Monthly Summary Report, as prepared by Randy Polischuk, Water and Sewer Foreman, Jim Campbell, Water Treatment Plant Operator and David Nachuk, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, for the month of May, 2012.

Recommendation approved.

JMcMillin

New Business

- **Kenora District Services Board Debt Financing:**

Recommendation:

Whereas the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) has submitted a Request for Expression of Interest seeking financing options relating to the newly constructed Land Ambulance Base located in Kenora, Ontario; and

Whereas the investment goals of the City of Kenora do not coincide with this type of investment;

Now therefore, let it be resolved that the City of Kenora not respond to the KDSB Request for Expression of Interest requesting construction financing in the amount of \$2,800,000 for its new Land Ambulance Base.

Recommendation approved.

JMcMillin

- **Concern regarding Keewatin Beach Docks**

A concern was received by a Keewatin resident about boats coming into and boating around the swimming docks at Keewatin Beach. It was questioned if these docks are for swimming only and boat docking is prohibited. It was questioned if a solution would be to put up signs on the docks stating no boats allowed.

The Clerk was asked to check if there is any reference in the Docking By-law for this regulation.

JMcMillin

- **July 11 Welcome – Michel Cloutier**

Mayor Canfield invited Members of Council to attend the Farmers' Market on Wednesday afternoon to welcome Michel who is a paraplegic and is doing the 'Challenge for Mira' by hand cycling across Canada. The Clerk will make arrangements for a City promo item that Mayor Canfield can present at that time.

JMcMillin

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. (due to Civic Holiday Monday)



Motion - Adjournment to Closed Meeting:

2) Moved by S. Smith, Seconded by C. Drinkwalter & Carried:

That this meeting be now declared closed at 5:30 p.m.; and further

That pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, authorization is hereby given for Committee to move into a Closed Session to discuss items pertaining to the following:-

i) A Labour Relations Matter;

ii) A Personal Matter about an Identifiable Individual.



Committee reconvened to Open Meeting at 6:35 p.m. with no direction or report from its Closed Session.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

TRANS CANADA TRAIL ONTARIO



PATH of the PADDLE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Prepared by:

Vicki Kurz Project Management Services

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Home Office: 807.223.6669

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BACKGROUND

As early as 2003, the idea of connecting Ontario's northwest with a canoe route was discussed at the Trans Canada Trail Ontario (TCTO) and Trans Canada Trail (TCT) National Board levels. The issue, at the time, was that National's trail use policy didn't support canoeing or kayaking despite the fact that the Mackenzie River had been designated as a TCT water route previously. It wasn't until 2007 that the TCT National Board approved canoeing/kayaking as one of the "preferred uses" along with hiking, cycling, horseback riding, dogsledding, snowmobiling and cross country skiing. This led to a route planning exercise with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Ontario Parks staff where known existing or feasible routes were identified from local knowledge. With the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between TCTO, MNR and the Ministry of Health Promotion in place, the TCT water route was designated in 5 northwestern Ontario Provincial Parks in 2008. These designations were the anchors for the water route but TCTO still needed to connect the pieces in between.

In 2009, TCTO staff met with trail builder and cartographer Hap Wilson at the Ontario Trails Council's (OTC) Conference where he expressed interest in the working on the northwestern Ontario waterway initiative. Hap Wilson's experience in sustainable trail building, eco-lodge adventures & retreats, unique mapping and guidebook writing spans across decades www.eskakwa.ca. In the spring of 2010, TCTO was able to attract the necessary funding to conduct the first season of route planning and ground-truthing by securing \$80,000 from Regional Tourism Organization (RTO) 13's product development committee.

WATER TRAIL HISTORY

There are a number of good reasons why this section of the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) has been selected as a representative canoe route or linear water trail. From a geo-physical perspective, a land-based trail would be difficult to construct: barriers include river and creek crossings, irregular-shaped lakes and large fens. The cost to build a land-based trail would be astronomical (at a modest cost, based on average per kilometre rate of \$10,000/km over a land distance of 650km the cost not including any structures, would be in excess of \$6,500,000), suspension bridges, long boardwalks, remote water crossings and puncheons would more than triple the cost of construction. Land tenure would also be an issue, as would territorial rights pertaining to First Nation reserves.

From a Nationalistic perspective, both historically and prehistorically, water routes were the first trails already existing in Canada. In northeast Ontario, the inter-connecting water trails and portage routes were utilized by the Algonkian Peoples; the trails were known as the *Nastawgan*. With reference to the "Path of the Paddle" route selected from Pigeon River to Falcon River in Manitoba, the water trails are generally referred to as the *Onigum*. Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Laurel and late Woodland native cultures and their Ojibwa and Cree descendants have used this specific water route for almost 10,000 years. It was also used to a lesser degree by the Sioux, Blackfoot, Beaver and Slave Peoples. These routes were used for early trade and barter between Nations, and for seasonal hunting and fishing forays. Archaeological surveys along the selected route, including over 200 pictograph sites, dolmen stones and waymarkers, tooling sites and pottery shards have been discovered.

Historically, the Pigeon River link (for a short term 1784 to 1803) was used by the North West Company as a point of rendezvous and inland trade. The historic fur-trade route was moved north to the Kaministikwia River as the Grand Portage was on the American side of the border. The “Kam” River was not selected as part of the “Path of the Paddle” because of the low water conditions caused by dams.

The creation of an all-Canadian, representative “canoe route trail” then, in terms of National Heritage values, gives notice to that rich and exciting part of our history, and acknowledges People of the First Nations and Canada’s historic use of the canoe. “Path of the Paddle” theme is acceptable by all partners because it relates to all traditional use of the water-trail resource. The name has been sanctioned (with permission), from the Mason family and noted Canadian canoeing icon, Bill Mason, whose films and books popularized the sport of canoeing in Canada. Bill Mason’s association with Camp Pathfinder on Shoal Lake gives credence to the water trail name and the importance of canoeing in Canada.

THE “PATH of the PADDLE” TRAIL

This is a large project with an estimated 900+kms of water route to develop in the Heart of the Continent. The route itself is divided into five sections, each with a different theme and name. Each water trail segment has its own concept plan developed. From these concept plans, the rollout to the community will continue with consultation, assistance with groups who are ready to move ahead with their segments and identification of what items still need to be addressed before starting the infrastructure portion of the project.

Sections were divided appropriately to accommodate access and egress from the route, affording trail users to select lesser portions, or to avoid longer duration or difficult sections:

- Anishnabe Trail (107 kms: Falcon River through Shoal Lake #40 to Kenora)
- Rushing River – Eagle/Dogtooth Trail (256 kms: Kenora through 2 Provincial Parks to Dryden)
- Maukinak Trail (212 kms: Dryden through Turtle River Provincial Park to Atikokan)
- Quetico Trail (208 kms: Atikokan through Quetico Provincial Park to Granite River)
- Omimi Trail (129 kms: Granite River through La Verendrye and Pigeon River Provincial Parks to Neebing)

The field research is really the first phase of the overall project. RTO13 funding was utilized in 2010/11 to conduct the first of two years of route investigation that is needed to determine the best-fit route and included criteria such as:

- Cultural/natural resource and historical trail initiatives
- Site planning and preparation

As a result of first season field research conducted by Hap Wilson, TCTO has completed 3 of the 5 segments of route investigation. From this study season, TCTO has received information including:

- Articulation of the best-fit route, divided into management units, mapped, and ground-truthed

- Identification of cultural and natural resource to assist in the development of value-added marketing opportunities
- Risk assessment of the water route (ie: skill level required, portages)
- Identification of route development project locations (ie: access points, camp sites, portages, wayfinding and trail head signage)
- Identification of partners to form sub-clubs for trail stewardship and portage maintenance
- Estimated cost to develop each segment including timelines
- Material for a draft guidebook that also serves as TCTO's risk management plan

The initial application to RT013 was based on an estimated 650 kms of land trail, however the actual water route now exceeds 900+kms. Funding for season 2 to conduct field research for Maukinak and Rushing River – Eagle Dogtooth segments of the trail has yet to be secured. A request for proposal (RFP) will be prepared and issued when the funding is in place. Season 2 field research is estimated at \$40,000 to complete route investigation, plus additional costs to fulfill risk management & map detailing for the project.

Budget to Complete Field Research

Field Work:		
July to October 2012 @ \$10,000/month x 4		\$40,000.00
Studio Work:		
July to January 2013 @ \$7,000/month x 6		\$42,000.00
GIS Digital Conversion Cost:		
- Build map templates & assembly X's 5 segments	\$2,125.00	
- Google Earth data conversion/quality assurance	\$2,125.00	
- Digital map production & refinement	\$1,150.00	
TOTAL GIS:		\$5,400.00
Project Management:		
- 4 months (October 2012 – January 2013)		\$23,000.00
Total for completion: (plus HST)		\$110,400.00

PHASED DEVELOPMENT

Since this project is sizeable, the only successful way to develop it would be in stages. This is actually beneficial in many regards. It allows for the lessons and successes to be template to the next section to be developed. It allows partners to physically see what the project is and how it will be managed and operated. The project will require commitment on behalf of the partners as it will take time to develop. Building the route is the first part of the initiative, building and creating the support structure (i.e. businesses that support the users on the trail) may take more time to develop. The route will not be a seamless Trans Canada Trail experience with land-based trail in communities which the water route will meet, but the system is being designed so that there is a continuous water-based route which users can continue their travels, just not all on Trans Canada Trail.

PROJECT BENEFITS

There are many positive aspects this project can bring to communities as they make the transition between single sector resource-based to one that builds on that and includes tourism and especially eco, education and/or experience-based tourism. This project would build the infrastructure (the water trail) that allows for that experiential tourism opportunity unique from anywhere else in Canada or North America. This project allows for all skill levels of canoe and kayakers to have the experience they are looking for and connects the user with the operator.

Some of the benefits identified include:

- Job Creation – trail construction, project management, infrastructure development (ie: links to community land based trail systems)
- Volunteer Driven – regional ownership and partnerships (ie: communities and trail groups working together)
- First Nation inclusion – Shoal Lake #40 will be used as an example for Treaty #3 (Eagle Lake First Nation and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation to be approached)
- Business Opportunities – new and existing (ie: camp operator diversification, guiding, excursions, training, outfitting, marketing)
- Themed Development (i.e. links to Old Fort William, Northern Canadian Canoe Museum, Ojibway Paradise Lodge, waterfront development)
- Education – links to high school, college and university programs (ie: Outdoor Education)
- Events & Festivals – trail connection to existing and new events (ie: Pow Wows, summer festivals, fishing tournaments)
- Health Promotion – active healthy lifestyle (ie: route accomplishment)

OPPORTUNITIES

Much has changed in the tourism landscape in Ontario since the February 2009 release and subsequent adoption of the Sobara Report *“Discovering Ontario - A Report on the Future of Tourism”*. As a result, in early 2010 the Ministry of Tourism and Culture (MTC) created thirteen new tourism regions as one of the first recommendations to be implemented. Northern Ontario (Region 13) was divided into three sub-regions (a, b & c) in recognition of its unique products, markets and travel corridors.

Regional Tourism Organization (RTO) 13 is responsible for working with tourism partners to augment and grow the region’s tourism products and enhance and align its marketing activities. RTO13’s business plan encompasses coordinating, aligning and investing in pan-northern and sub-regional programs that will maximize the regions’ potential to successfully attract visitors, grow spending while achieving the goals and objectives of the Sobara Report and the northern Ontario tourism marketing strategy, as well as the Northern Growth Plan.

TCTO and TCT National both believe the Path of the Paddle trail experience aligns appropriately with the goals and objectives of RTO13. A *real* opportunity exists for northwestern Ontario, RTO13c and the province of Ontario to develop a world-class marketable experiential product that will grow tourism receipts in Ontario.

In addition, the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation (OTMPC) has recently repositioned its tourism platform to showcase new experiences highlighting water themes. The OTMPC Northern Partnerships will plan and partner with RTO13, its sub-regions and Northern Ontario's tourism industry to maximize opportunities for coordination, alignment and working in partnership, based on the direction in the northern Ontario tourism strategy.

The OTMPC Northern Partnerships will continue to promote Northern Ontario's "best bet products" through its pan-Ontario experiential marketing verticals under the umbrella brand of "Canada's Great Outdoors" for U.S. and overseas markets. The OTMPC Northern Partnerships will continue its traditional marketing campaigns and tactics for its pan-Ontario experiential marketing programs and intends to enhance its digital strategy moving forward. Of interest to Path of the Paddle, is the Northern Portal and more specifically the link to Outdoor Nature and Adventure for promotion of a unique & new products found in northwestern Ontario www.ontariotravel.net/outdoor.

Once the Path of the Paddle trail has been registered and endorsed the data and cultural tourism assets that have been identified would also become available to the Kenora District Interactive Digital Media project funded by RTO13 and Ministry of Tourism and Culture (MTC) in 2011. This mobile device application would allow visitors to seek out water trails in the district while travelling through the region with the intent of extending their stay in northwestern Ontario. Other potential activities could be developed and marketed such as: physical Geocaching (and virtual within Provincial Parks) sites throughout the Path of the Paddle water route.

The Path of the Paddle water route also applies itself to the creation of a "passport" system of accomplishment – users get their passport *stamped* as they complete the various segments of the trail. Final route selection will be based primarily on adhering to experiential values, i.e. as it pertained to the classic Canadian canoe trip adventure. Working with local resources from each community (Thunder Bay, Atikokan, Ignace, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, Dryden, Eagle Lake First Nation, Kenora and Shoal Lake 40 First Nation), with private individuals and government officials, a water-route corridor will be confirmed and endorsed. Criteria includes ease of access and egress, general aesthetics, heritage values, quality of experience overall, and absence of development.

IMPLEMENTATION

There are outstanding questions on how this project will be further developed as TCTO staff and consultants are currently driving it. The project will continue to need some time put towards it to create the capacity within the Path of the Paddle and its sub clubs to hand off to the local trail stewards for development and future management. To that end TCTO through project funds secured (\$23,000) from TCT National (Heritage Canada grant) has recruited a project manager to oversee the next stages of development for Path of the Paddle. They include:

- Identifying potential funding sources, host information meetings with funding partners and prepare funding applications
- Facilitating meetings between Manitoba Recreational Trails Association (MRTA) and Shoal Lake #40 to finalize cross border route

- Introducing the Path of the Paddle project concept to area MPPs and MPs, engage in discussions regarding MNR established Green Zones and the closure of the Experimental Lakes Area (ELA) that may impact trail development
- Introducing Path of the Paddle concept to Grand Council Treaty #3 and secure confirmation of First Nation community partners
- Establishing Path of the Paddle as recognized paddling club with membership in the Ontario Trails Council (OTC) and potentially the Trillium Trail Network (TTN) and Ontario Recreational Canoeing and Kayaking Association (ORCKA)
- Hosting local meetings and facilitating the development of sub-clubs for each trail segment, share OTC, ORCKA, TCTO and other resources
- Identifying and establishing land-based trail connections, access and egress points to Path of the Paddle water route in cooperation with sub-clubs
- Maintaining ongoing communications with sub-clubs through our Facebook page and email, coordinate media relations

SUMMARY

The Path of the Paddle is an exciting new tourism product with wide-ranging support. Developing this initiative to its full capacity will be a good news story for northwestern Ontario. TCTO is seeking support for the Path of the Paddle project in a variety of forms including:

- First Nation community engagement & economic opportunities
- Designation of the water route Provincially
- MoU resigning with MNR, Ontario Parks, TCTO to include MNDRM
- Funding for risk management (ie: route investigation, mapping & guidebook completion) as identified in this document

Additional infrastructure applications will be submitted to the appropriate Provincial and Federal funding agencies from local sub-clubs of the Path of the Paddle once leads are established with the support of TCTO (resources) & TCT National (new trail funding).