

Northern MSSP Table

July 7, 2010

Role of the MSSP Table

- A forum of Ministry of Municipal Affairs and administrators to meet and discuss issues brought forward from their perspective and discuss to share ideas and solutions.

The northern form was been inactive for a couple of years and should we revitalize as in the south the forms are working well. It was collectively agreed that it should be revitalized and we have to make it more project orientated to be effective and an efficient use of time. *(This was the initial intent from earlier 2007 2008 documents but never was followed through as a useful working group. I remember frustration that again was a committee that discussed and went home. No responsibility and timing were assigned at the end of meetings)*

A discussion followed as to the makeup of the MSSP table, frequency of meetings and expanded role to work on issues arising from Mayors meetings and Northern Roundtables. It was generally agreed that the role should be expanded to include this work to ensure the concerns were being addressed. There should be a core group of individuals and others including other Ministries would be invited as specific issues were discussed. ie Highways, Sask Environment. etc. It was recognized that municipal issues in the north were far broader then in the south. It may not be the municipal responsibility to address the issues of health (long term care, suicides etc however the councils were often tasked by the community to help solve these concerns. New North and municipalities do not have the expertise in these areas but we should attend these meetings and get involved with the coordination and advocate were applicable. This table could help the understanding of the issues.

The discussion followed as to the structure of the Northern Roundtable. Currently everyone is frustrated with the process. Government hears complaints. Municipal leaders receive inappropriate responses.

Solutions and alternatives are not presented and discussed. The roundtable in the fall should not only be a forum to bring problems forward but must expand into a more detailed discussion of major issues. Time must still be available to discuss the minor issues which could be taken forward to the Ministries for change. The AGM should be the place where these major issues were identified and the information forwarded to the Ministries early so they can have a chance to prepare. The Roundtables possibly should be expanded to include more of the senior government people as the Ministers are often not the people who can discuss these issues in depth. They can give direction to the senior individuals. What is often happening no one is given the task of following up and working on the issues and with the resources in gov't often these issues are not being worked on – thus the inappropriate reporting back in the June meeting.

The June meeting should be moved earlier to enable the attendance of more Ministers. The meeting should also be expanded to a full a day to allow time for more detailed discussion. It would also allow more time for the Ministries to bring forward new issued for discussion.

How do we get there?

- Agreement by the Board in the new direction for both tables and the process

- Buying from the elected officials at the AGM.
- Keith Comstock, and Mark Cooper (SUMA) have both agreed to come to the AGM to help present to the members.
- (also have a offer from Saul Sanderson (First Nations consultant from PA on issues they work on with the federal gov't) to come and provide insights how they achieve or attempt to achieve their goals. He also offered to facilitate a planning session at no cost if he is available.)
- For the MSSP table changes would be presented the administrators at the administrators conference in October. How large should table be? How often should it meet? (Suggested about every 6 weeks) Do we elect persons to the table, or invite?. Keith Comstock will come to assist as he will probably be here already.

Additional topics for both administrator's conference and AGM.

- Presentation on what specifically does NorthWest Partnership mean to municipal operations.
- What does duty on consult mean
- Provincial/Municipal Infrastructure initiative. Not only what we need but how do prioritize and creatively fund.