

Rainy River Watershed Program
Rainy River First Nations

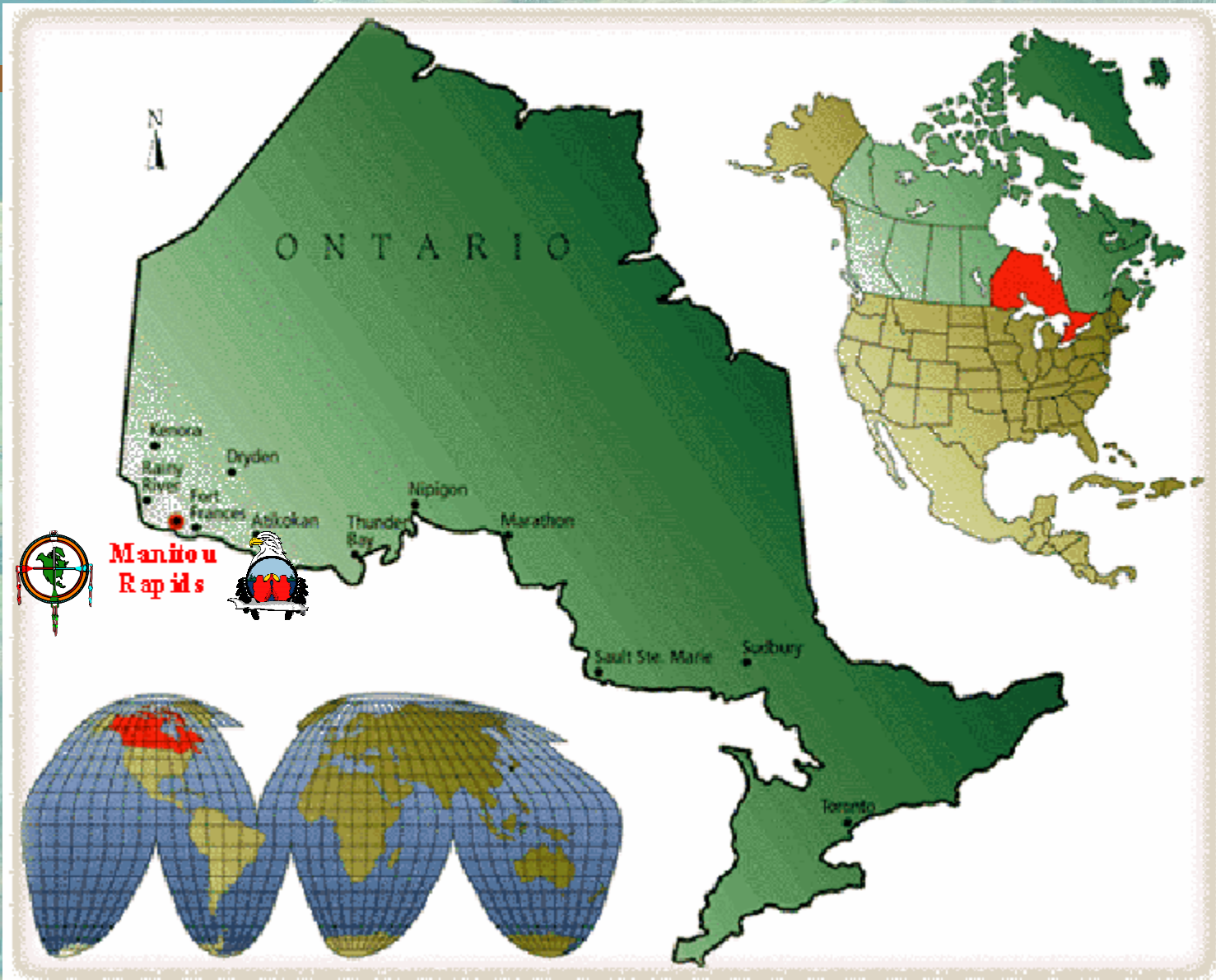
Environmental Management Plan

8th Canadian Pollution Prevention Roundtable

Ottawa, April 28-29, 2004

By Martin Nantel

Location



Rainy River First Nations



- ❖ Part of Treaty #3 since 1873
- ❖ Illegally relocated in 1914 – land claim
- ❖ 5,600 acres (8.75sq miles) of land
- ❖ 700 members, 410 on Manitou Rapids

Environmental History

An aerial photograph of a rural area, likely a reservation or reserve. A large body of water is visible in the upper left. The landscape is a mix of green fields, brownish soil, and scattered trees. Several buildings, including houses and larger industrial-style structures, are scattered across the area. Roads and paths are visible, winding through the landscape. The overall scene suggests a community with a mix of residential and possibly commercial or institutional buildings.

- ❖ Self-imposed moratorium on commercial fishing of lake sturgeon and on logging activities within the Manitou Rapids Reserve

- ❖ Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre

- ❖ Manitou Fish Hatchery to raise lake sturgeon

- ❖ Rainy River Watershed Program

Project Goals

- ❖ Community-driven, multi-year action plan to:
 - Identify problems and solutions to the environmental challenges faced by the community
 - Respond to WP Steering Committee and community members
 - Communicate effectively internally and externally
 - Facilitate access to funding
 - Open up possibilities for increased communication

PROJECT PARTNER: ENVIRONMENT CANADA

Environmental Protection Branch

Environmental Conservation Branch

Great Lakes and Corporate Affairs Branch



Project Description

An aerial photograph of a residential and commercial area. In the upper left, a large body of water (a lake) is visible. The land is a mix of green grass, brown patches, and various buildings, including houses and larger commercial-style structures. A road winds through the area. The background is filled with a dense forest of trees.

❖ Living document

- Help RRFN adopt a holistic and coordinated approach to dealing with issues of concerns
- Record community decisions and plans (corporate memory)
- Increase individual and community capacity to address the issues
- Provide formal and informal opportunities for involvement
- Distributed to each household and updated yearly

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Schedule

Phase 1

2002

RRFN Discussions

Phase 2

Process starts

Phase 2 (contd)

2003

EMP v. 1.0; implementation begins

Phase 3

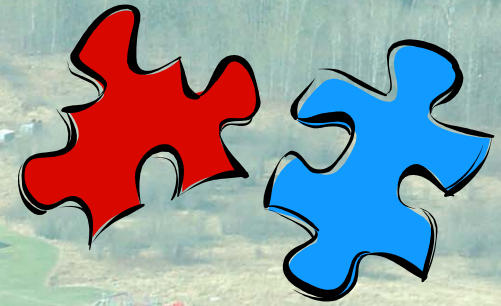
Phase 3 (contd)

2004

Implementation continues

Jan Feb March April May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec

Procedures



- ❖ Band Council Resolution
- ❖ EMP Committee and TOR
- ❖ Community members-centered (Elders, youth)
- ❖ Ongoing communication (pre, during, post)
- ❖ Two workshops and several meetings
- ❖ Information package
- ❖ Research, community survey and interviews

FOR MORE INFO...

Martin Nantel
Coordinator, Rainy River Watershed Program

Challenges and Solutions



- ❖ The “environment” includes 3 inter-related components:
 - **Nature**, or all of the Creation including people;
 - **Society**, or the relationships between people, family, communities, as well as institutions; and,
 - **Culture and spirituality** or the sacred teachings of the Creator and how they unite us together and with Nature and Society.

Challenges and Solutions (continued)

❖ Environmental Mission Statement:

We, Rainy River First Nations, recognize the life-giving force of Mother Earth, the inter-dependence of all things, and our children as future leaders. We honour individual and collective voices. We shall promote and facilitate ecological responsibility through community-based stewardship of the natural and spiritual environment.



Challenges and Solutions (continued)

- ❖ Environmental issues of concerns to the community:
 - Aki – The Earth (34)
 - Nibi – The Water (17)
 - Ishpiming – The Sky (8)
 - Awesi – The Animals (7)
 - Bimaadiziwad – The People (33)
 - Gaa-daadindaabinigaadeg Aki – The Land Claim (n/a)

Total: 99 recommendations


Challenges and Solutions (continued)

Community Survey			Action Plan			
Issues	Concerns	Community Suggestions	Tasks	Resp.Party	Priority	Next Steps
Aki – The Earth						
Landfill	1. Poor Waste Management practices at our landfill.	Draft a solid waste management plan addressing solid waste, recycling, composting, and hazardous waste.	Prepare a solid waste management plan.	WP OM SWMPC	High	Submit plan to OFNTSC then Chief and Council for scrutiny. Submit plan to INAC for final approval.
		Inform all landfill users on new waste segregation practices to be used in landfill. Ensure that they adhere to the practices.	Hold a mandatory landfill waste segregation workshop, in which all landfill users must attend.	Band, WP, OM	Low	Design workshop
		Redirect non-hazardous biodegradable waste from entering the landfill to composting facility.	Design and implement a centralized composting and community garden project.	WP, OM, Rec	Medium	Site area and develop plans
		Educate community on landfill's current problems.	Provide excursions to landfill and relevant information	WP	High	Work with Rec to design a schedule

Findings Summary

Community Survey				A. Plan	Impl. Status
Categories	Issues	Concerns	Suggestions	Tasks	
Aki The Earth	7	14	25	34	
Nibi The Water	3	8	7	17	
Ishpiming The Sky	3	4	3	8	
Awesi The Animals	4	5	0	7	
Bimaadiziwad The People	10	23	21	33	
Gaa- daadindaabini gaadeg Aki Land Claim	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Total	27	54	56	99	

Implementation Status (as of May 28, 2004)



Categories	+ (%) (%)	- (%)
Aki The Earth (34)	13 (13.2)	9 (9.1)	12 (12.1)
Nibi The Water (17)	9 (9.1)	3 (3.0)	5 (5.1)
Ishpiming The Sky (8)	1 (1.0)	2 (2.0)	5 (5.1)
Awesi The Animals (7)	2 (2.0)	2 (2.0)	3 (3.0)
Bimaadiziwad The People (33)	2 (2.0)	13 (13.2)	18 (18.2)
Total (99)	27 (27.3)	29 (29.3)	43 (43.5)

Implementation Status (as of May 28, 2004)



Categories	+ (%) (%)	- (%)
Aki The Earth (34)	13 (38.2)	9 (26.5)	12 (35.3)
Nibi The Water (17)	9 (53.0)	3 (17.6)	5 (29.4)
Ishpiming The Sky (8)	1 (12.5)	2 (25.0)	5 (62.5)
Awesi The Animals (7)	2 (28.6)	2 (28.6)	3 (42.9)
Bimaadiziwad The People (33)	2 (6.1)	13 (39.4)	18 (54.5)
Total (99)	27 (27.3)	29 (29.3)	43 (43.4)

Implementation Status (continued)

- ❖ EMP one year old and due for update in May 2004
- ❖ Significant progress has been achieved:
 - ❖ Land and Water
- ❖ Little progress has been achieved:
 - ❖ Sky, Animals, People



Analysis (continued)

❖ Strengths:

- ❖ Identify challenges and approaches to resolving them
- ❖ Respond to concerns from RRFN
- ❖ Increase external communication and facilitate access to funding

❖ Weaknesses:

- ❖ Internal communication not as effective as planned, i.e., WP still the main implementing body
- ❖ Actions and indicators that appeared straight forward are proving challenging to implement / monitor

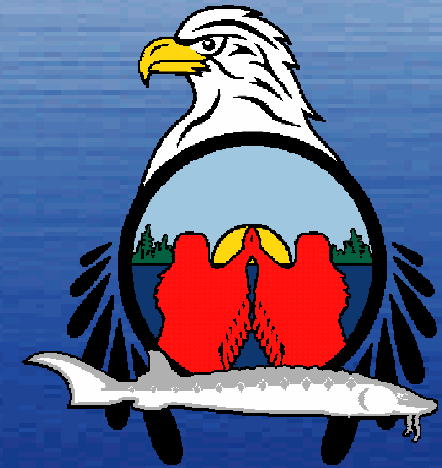


Analysis

❖ Next Steps:

- ❖ Update EMP and integrate into SMP
- ❖ Take care in refining and defining new indicators
- ❖ Work to ensure wider buy-in / participation and implementation from responsible groups





Miigwech, Thank You

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