MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Telewale na - Honoring the past, facing today's challenges, building a strong future.



OFFICE OF THE GRAND CHIEF

Ohiarihko:wa/July 6, 2016

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

We now forge into July; so far the weather has been great with a touch of rain for the garden, which is always a positive.

Last week we held our monthly General Meeting at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center. There was a significant increase in the number of community members, with approximately 35-40 people in attendance. Nia:wen to those who came out, especially since it was held the evening before a long weekend. The agenda included a presentation from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) Community Planner on the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP), an update on the Akwesasne Tobacco Law, discussion regarding a letter received from the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO), an update on the Cornwall Port Divestiture, and finally business from the floor.

A few community members present asked that business from the floor be moved up to the beginning of the meeting which resulted in the discussion being predominantly focused around the recent divestiture of the Cornwall Port. This agenda change resulted in the Community Comprehensive Plan being rescheduled to a future meeting. Some of those present expressed discontent with the recent decision of Council to proceed with the final divestiture of the Port of Cornwall. Updates on this file have been routinely provided in my reports to you as well as being a topic of three information meetings held in the past 2 months. Council responded to the community's questions and reinforced that we have continuously made our best efforts to inform the community of the progress being made on the divestiture file.

Moving forward, the Council and I will continue to inform the community of the files we are working on and continue to have relevant and explanatory discussions with community members in attendance at District and General Meetings. We look forward to exploring alternative methods and options that can be used to get information out to you and to provide you with the opportunity to become better informed on current issues. Any suggestions and recommendations in this regard are welcomed and appreciated.

Finally, as I have been doing for the last several months, I provided my monthly report to the community at last week's General Meeting. I am providing that report to you today. Please take a moment to read through the report and feel free to reach out to me or any District Chief if you have any questions regarding the content or suggestions on additional communication methods.

I hope you enjoy the beautiful weather ahead in the month of July.

Grand Chief Abram Benedict



Grand Chief Activity Report for the Month of Onerahtohko:wa/May 2016

MAY 3, 2016 CO-OWNERS AGREEMENT SIGNING



On the morning of May 3, 2016 the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne officially signed a co-owners agreement with the City of Cornwall. As part of the divesture of the Cornwall Harbour/Port the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the City of Cornwall needed to sign a formal agreement between the two parties that outlined each parties responsibilities with respect to being

co-owners of the Cornwall Harbour. The final stage of the divesture of the Cornwall Harbour will be to sign a transfer agreement with Transport Canada for the transfer of the Cornwall Harbour to the City of Cornwall and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne jointly.

MAY 4-5, 2016 INDEPENDENT FIRST NATIONS (IFN) QUARTERLY MEETING DAY



The Independent First Nations (IFN) held its quarterly meeting in Toronto on May 3-5, 2016 in the City of Toronto. District Chief Tim Thompson and I attended the

meeting. Due to scheduling I wasn't able to attend on May 3rd but did attend on the 4th and 5th. The IFN Health Coordinator provided the IFN leadership with updates on the ongoing health files including the Health Canada 2016/17 Management Operating Plan and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Patient First Action Plan. The Patient First Action Plan is a strategy that Ontario announced to improve the health care system in Ontario. Representatives from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) gave an update and overview of the upcoming presentation by the Minister on the Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy, which is set to occur on May 5, 2016. During the late afternoon of the 4th a delegation of IFN Chiefs travelled to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care's office to meet with Minister Hoskins. The purpose of the meeting was to begin a dialogue between the Minister and the Chiefs on the priorities of IFN communities. Minister Eric Hoskins agreed to meet with the IFN leadership regularly and also indicated that he would be willing to consider a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the IFN.

MAY 5, 2016 MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH (MCYS) LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE



On the afternoon of May 5 Chief Tim Thompson and I travelled to the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto for a Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) First Nations Leadership Roundtable presentation. Over the last several years MCYS has been developing an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy jointly with Indigenous leaders and technicians. This meeting was to present the co-implementation process of the strategy for the coming year. The Minister of Children and Youth and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Ontario Regional Chief, and the Youth Council representative each provided opening comments. Staff for MCYS provided an overview of the policy and how the Government of

Ontario expects to implement the policy through the entire Government of Ontario approach. The Minister also requested consensus on renaming the strategy to 'Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy'. The leadership consented to the change in the name.

MAY 9, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

- The Akwesasne Tobacco Law Working Task Group presented the final draft of the Akwesasne Tobacco Law for Council consideration to accept in principal and to be voted on by referendum.
- Representatives from Mohawk Networks presented a request for access to GIS information for MCA jurisdiction to assist in the expansion of Mohawk Networks services. Council will consider the request at a later date.
- Representatives from Bell Canada presented on a proposal to canvass Kawehno:ke infrastructure in order to determine if fiber optics on Kawehno:ke would be feasible. Council will further research if Bell will also consider Tsi Snaihne and Kana:takon for fiber optics expansion.
- Council was briefed on the ongoing work of the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup; Council was also briefed on the MCA Preferential Hiring Policy as it relates to the school. Presentations will be made at upcoming District Meetings.
- The challenges with the former Akwesasne Peoples Fire building remaining in the corridor area on Kawehno:ke was discussed; Chiefs will follow up with interested parties.
- Representatives from Proteus introduced themselves to Council and outlined work they will be doing to assist with the Dundee land claim referendum.
- MCRs passed: Acceptance in Principal of the Akwesasne Tobacco Manufacturing and Products Law to proceed with the law enactment process; Acceptance of the Akwesasne Tobacco Manufacturing and Products Law Special Referendum Regulations to be used to enact the Akwesasne Tobacco Manufacturing and Products Law; Approval to add the St. Regis Catholic Church General Fund and Food Pantry Fund to the list of MCA employee payroll donation deductions list; Approval of MCA Employee Deduction and Incentive Plan; Appointment of Community Member to represent Kana:takon on the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission for a three year term; Approval of amendments to the Akwesasne Health Transfer Agreement;

Approval of (2) Emergency Council Meeting Minutes; Approval of (4) Council Meeting Minutes.

MAY 11, 2016 COGECO INTERVIEW REGARDING PORT DIVESTITURE



On the morning of May 11, the Mayor of Cornwall and I were invited to take part in a quick interview with Cogeco in the City of Cornwall. The interview focused on the benefits that would result from Akwesasne and the City of Cornwall becoming co-owners of the Port of Cornwall. I spoke about the social and economic opportunities the co-ownership would bring to both communities.

MAY 11, 2016 CORNWALL UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE – CORE COMMITTEE

The Cornwall University Steering Committee met on the afternoon of May 11 to hear an update from other committee members who were able to attend the Lead to Win presentation at Carleton University in April. The Cornwall University Steering Committee agreed that since a million dollars was needed to be raised to participate in the Lead to Win program a decision would have to be made by the entire committee before this partnership with Carleton could proceed. An update was given on the committees efforts to provide a 5-day Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)/DRONE professional course. This 5-day course was on track to be delivered at the NAV Canada Center in the coming months. An Aerospace Summit has been planned at the NAV Canada Centre tentatively for October 24-31, 2016 which will complement the efforts of the committee to make NAV Canada a Centre of Excellence in aerospace.

MAY 12, 2016 CHIEFS OF ONTARIO (COO) POLITICAL CONFEDERACY (PC) MEETING

The Political Confederacy for the Chiefs of Ontario met in Ottawa on May 12, 2016. I had to step out of the meeting earlier in the morning to attend a separate meeting with Transport Canada and Indigenous Affairs. While I was in attendance at the COO PC meeting, the following was discussed:

PC - Update on Water

- On April 25, 2016 a Tri-lateral Steering Committee meeting was held between First Nations, Ontario, and AANDC. This meeting was held to discuss Ontario's drinking water needs and to determine if a tri-lateral steering committee would be necessary.
- Chiefs expressed a concern with AANDC Ontario region's inability to act; there is a sense that the Ontario Regional Director General should be arguing with headquarters for Ontario's fair share of the National Budget. As followup to the meeting of April 25, OFNTSC will continue to work with First Nations and the Working Group.

PC - Preliminary Outcomes - Consultation Session

 Chiefs of Ontario held three consultation sessions over 7 days during the month of April. Key recommendations from the session will go into a draft report expected over the coming weeks. This work is being done in partnership with Ontario, which is moving forward with the creation of a consultation office. Chiefs are concerned that First Nation's consultation definition is not the same as Ontario's. Ontario is set to make some large announcements regarding investments in First Nations but the Chiefs have not been consulted on the programs or amounts.

PC - Upcoming Announcement:

• On May 30 the Premier of Ontario is set to make a statement of reconciliation to the First Nations in Ontario. It is expected that this announcement will include a budget of over \$200 million. Other Ministerial announcements could be tied into this one; the Minister of Health has signaled that new investments will be made in a number of areas of health specifically dealing with First Nations, including midwives and traditional medicine.

PC - Chief of Ontario (COO) First Nations Economic Forum:

Chiefs of Ontario proposed a First Nations Economic Forum to Minister Zimmer; the Forum has been tentatively scheduled for October 12-13, 2016 in Toronto. Leading up to the forum, COO is going to facilitate an economic roundtable either the day before or after the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) General Assembly, which is scheduled to take place in Niagara Falls in July. COO is also going to set up an economic roundtable the day before or after the All Ontario Chiefs Conference (AOCC) in June in Thunder Bay. Both

economic roundtable sessions would feed into the First Nation Economic Forum in October.

<u>Fiscal Committee with the Federal Government – Fiscal Relations Proposal</u>

• The Chiefs of Ontario Political Confederacy is advocating for a direct fiscal relationship with the Federal Government. Ontario Chiefs feel that since Ontario is very different from other provinces in Canada, many of the programs rolled out by AANDC do not reflect the Ontario region's needs. The National Chiefs office has had preliminary meetings with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to discuss this concept. A proposal is being made to the PMO to establish a technical committee to examine this possibility.

MAY 12, 2016 MEETING WITH TRANSPORT CANADA & INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS CANADA

On the morning of May 12th I left the Political Confederacy meeting for a few hours to meet with representatives from Transport Canada and Indigenous Affairs Canada to continue our discussion on the Seaway litigation against Canada. In December 2015 we provided Canada with list of areas we want addressed in order to resolve the 40 year old litigation. The representatives gave us an update on the progress of their investigations within the respective departments. This meeting gave us the opportunity to answer further questions the department had on certain areas. Further meetings are scheduled over the summer as we work toward more formal discussion to resolve the litigation.

MAY 16, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

- The Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) Manager provided an update on the ongoing Cornwall Port/Harbour Divestiture file.
- University of Ottawa Fulbright Chair in Human Rights Gloria Lopez and Justice presented on a research project that is underway and asked for assistance from the MCA; ARRO staff will follow up on the request.
- Council set the General Meeting agenda for May 26 in the District of Tsi Snaihne.
- A brief was provided on an upcoming survey on the potential proposed amendments to the Akwesasne Election Law.

- Council identified a tentative representative for the upcoming recognition event for the Akwesasne Code Talkers.
- The upcoming community fund callout was discussed and Council agreed to review it again once community members have been identified to sit on the committee.
- <u>MCRs passed</u>: Approval of amendments to agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care; Approval to rescind (2) loans to community members; Approval of Council meeting minutes.

MAY 16, 2016 PRESENTATION FROM AKWESASNE COMMUNITY SETTLEMENT TRUST

In the afternoon of May 16, 2016 members of our Council and the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust Overseers attended a meeting at the Mohawk Casino hosted by the trustees. The various advisors for the trustees introduced themselves to the participants and provided various financial updates on the current financial investments of the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust. The advisors included: CGOV Asset Management, Morneau Shepell and CI Institutional Asset Management.

MAY 16, 2016 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR QUEENS CELEBRATION

On the evening of May 16, 2016 I was invited to attend a celebration hosted by the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. It was a birthday celebration for the Queen's 90th birthday. The evening included a gala concert followed by a reception and took place at Koerner Hall in downtown Toronto.



MAY 17, 2016 INTERVIEW WITH JOSHUA KEATING FROM SLATE MAGAZINE



In the afternoon of May 17, 2016 I met with a journalist named Joshua Keating who is a writer for Slate magazine in Washington. Josh is currently on leave from Slate to write a book about border changes and the creation of new countries. Josh was interested in learning more about Indian self-determination, sovereignty, and nation-building, and especially how Akwesasne is affected by the border. I sat with Josh for an hour and explained the daily

realities our community faces with the international border being in the middle of our community.

MAY 18, 2016 INTER-JURISDICTIONAL SUB-TABLE ON JUSTICE



We have been meeting with Canada, Ontario, and Quebec regularly to bring the provinces on side as part of our ongoing efforts to establish a sectorial agreement with Ontario and Canada for the administration of our Mohawk Court. On May 18, 2016 we hosted an all-day meeting with Canada, Ontario, and Quebec. The morning portion of the agenda included a presentation on the Akwesasne Mohawk Court as well as a presentation on the draft Akwesasne Tobacco Law. These presentations were used to give the attendees a better understanding of what Akwesasne has in place and is working to put in place. Currently no specific mandate has been given by the Governments of Ontario or Quebec to begin any

negotiations or development of a framework agreement. The representatives from each province provided an explanation on their government's internal challenges with the development of a framework agreement, which essentially came down to political will and precedence setting. The Mohawk Council will continue to meet with the provinces and Canada but will also continue to lobby the Ministers responsible to provide mandates to develop a framework and eventually an agreement.

MAY 18, 2016 PORT DIVESTURE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

On the evening of May 18, 2016 Chief Loran, Chief Jacobs, and I participated in a community information session on the Cornwall Port Divesture at the Anowarako:wa Arena on Kawehno:ke. As part of our ongoing community consultation regarding the divesture, the Council has hosted a number of information sessions in each district and has had this discussion item on previous General Meeting agendas. The information session was sparsely attended on the evening of the 18th, but we do wish to acknowledge those community members who came out to learn more about the divesture and to ask questions.

MAY 19, 2016 NATION BUILDING SELF GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS

The Akwesasne Governance and Relationship Self Government Negotiations team met with Canada on May 19, 2016 at the Anowarako:wa Arena to continue our ongoing negotiations with Canada. At this meeting Canada brought in its education program people to present on the new federal budget as it related to education and what the dollars will translate to for the communities. Many of the new money announced will require the government to develop policy and program guidelines on how the money will be spent. The government will be doing a robust consultation process over the next year to help shape new program policy. The Governance and Relationship Self Government Negotiations continued on throughout the entire day but I was only able to attend the morning presentation from Canada.

MAY 19, 2016 ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES (OACAS)

During the afternoon of the 19th, I participated in an OACAS Board of Directors meeting by conference call. The meeting was part of the OACASs regularly

scheduled board meetings. This meeting included a presentation and update on the Call to Action Strategy which is a strategy on how the child welfare sector can adapt to the government of Ontario's call for amalgamation of CASs in Ontario. The CASs in Ontario have taken the position that since the government wants changes, the CASs are proactively looking at potential solutions to propose to the government. Other regular board business was conducted which included an update on the financials of the OACAS, the Risk Management Report, the OMERS report, an update from the Governance Committee, and an update on the authorization project. The next OACAS board meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2016 in Toronto.

MAY 20, 2016 CONFERENCE CALL WITH CHIEFS OF ONTARIO POLITICAL CONFEDERACY & ONTARIO

Late in afternoon of May 20, 2016 I participated in a conference call with the Chiefs of Ontario PC and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs for Ontario. Earlier in the month the Minister had indicated that the Premier of Ontario would be making an announcement on May 30th in the Ontario Legislature. The minister asked for this conference call with the PC to give them a heads up on what the May 30th announcement would entail. The Minister outlined that the announcement would focus on the following key areas: Understanding the Legacy of Residential Schools; Closing Gaps and Removing Barriers; Creating a Culturally Relevant and Responsive Justice System; Supporting Indigenous Culture and Reconciling Relationships with Indigenous People. The Minister also informed the PC that the province would invest \$250 million over the next three years to support these key initiatives. The final details and budget commitments will be made on May 30, 2016 by Premier Wynne.

MAY 24, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

- The Education Portfolio Chiefs informed Council that the parking lot in the corridor on Kawehno:ke will be used to inspect AMBE buses on June 20, 2016.
- The Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) Manager briefed Council on composition options for a board of directors for the Akwesasne Harbor Development Corporation.

- A briefing was provided on the Tsi Snaihne Trails development, as well as a concern with garbage being dumped in the proposed trails area.
- Council agreed that the MCA flag will be updated to be reflective of the modernized MCA logo.
- A concern was raised with respect to vendors charging HST to local vendors; portfolio will follow up with the Ontario Ministry of Finance.
- The questionnaire regarding the proposed amendments to the Akwesasne Election Law was raised again for comments; Council agreed that the results from 2013 should be used as an indicator.
- A briefing was provided on difficulties to attract members to the legislative commission, portfolio will make recommendations for changes to the criteria.
- MCRs passed: Approval of FASD and Child Nutrition Program Contract;
 Approval of 15/16 Akwesasne Economic Development Fund (AEFD)
 Administration Fee Final Report; Request to AANDC for reimbursement of
 funds for detail design costs for Tsi Snaihne Sewage Treatment Plant;
 Approval for Bell Canada to canvas the district of Akwesasne to collect data to
 determine the feasibility of installing fibre to the homes; Approval for legal
 counsel to proceed with the development of the Akwesasne Harbor
 Development Corporation.

MAY 24, 2016 CALL WITH PUBLIC SAFETY ASSOCIATE DEPUTY MINISTER (ADM) GINA WILSON

Around March/April of 2016 the Federal Public Safety Minister had indicated that Public Safety Canada was giving serious consideration to the creation of an oversight boards for all federal agencies under Public Safety, which includes the Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA). The move to create an independent oversight board is something Akwesasne has been calling on Canada to create. Currently actions and complaints against CBSA officers are reviewed internally to CBSA, which essentially creates the potential for impartial bias to be exercised. Once this information had been made public I arranged for a call with ADM Wilson to receive any additional information she might have on the creation of an oversight body and to express Akwesasne's support for this effort. While on the call with ADM Wilson I spoke to her again about pre-clearance and our need to have alternative reporting for Akwesasne residents. ADM Wilson committed to put us in touch with the appropriate people in public safety that are examining and leading these initiatives.

MAY 25, 2016 WORKPLACE REVITALIZATION WORKGROUP

On May 25 I was able to attend the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup meeting. While I am not an official member of the workgroup I generally try to make it once a month to their meetings. During this meeting the workgroup was reviewing and making a final recommendation on the proposed models. The models for consideration were part of the groups mandate to "develop and propose options to strengthen the MCA administration organizational structure". The committee has three different options for consideration. After much discussion and debate the workgroup decided upon one option for recommendation to Council. The proposed options to cover the entire mandate of the workgroup will be presented to Council at a later date in June, with a final report due to Council in July.

MAY 26, 2016 MONTHLY GPage 12 of 14Page 12 of 14ENERAL MEETING

On the evening of May 26, 2016 Council hosted its monthly General Meeting in the District of Tsi Snaihne at the recreation centre. The agenda included a presentation on the MCA Trails Initiative as well as a presentation from the MCA Human Resources program on the MCA Preferential Hiring Policy. Updates were provided on the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance, Census Canada, CBSA vehicle seizure case, demolition of the Seaway International Bridge, Cornwall Port divestiture, and the Quebec Hydro smart meters. The General meeting was attended by approximately 15 community members.

MAY 27, 2016 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR QUEBEC VISIT TO AKWESASNE



On May 27, 2016 Aboriginal Affairs Minister for Quebec Geoffrey Kelly visited Akwesasne and met with the Council. Minister Kelly had been to Akwesasne a few times in the past but we felt he should come and meet our new Council. The morning began with a tour of the Akwesasne Welcome Center at

the Peace Tree Mall where we viewed the 'Sharing Though the Generations' video

and also a film from the Tewa'araton Festival. Following the welcoming at the Peace Tree Mall, we traveled to Tsi Snaihne to have lunch with MCA staff at the MCA long term services employee recognition dinner. Although we arrived a bit late to lunch, Minister Kelly and I were able to share in congratulatory words with the staff on their commitment and years of services to the MCA organization and community. Following our luncheon we traveled to Kanatakon to have a sit down meeting with the Minister. The afternoon meeting with the Minister included a discussion on Quebec's contribution to Akwesasne to support a Quebec Liaison Officer, the lack of support from Quebec's road subsidy program, renewal of the Aboriginal Initiatives Fund (AIF), the Akwesasne Tobacco Law, professional licensing challenges (such as for doctors), and the Akwesasne Mohawk Court. The Minister committed to following up on a number of items raised with him.

MAY 30, 2016 STATEMENT OF RECONCILIATION BY ONTARIO PREMIER



Akwesasne Residential School Survivor Donald Jocko also attended the Statement of Reconciliation

On the morning of May 30th I was invited to Queens Park in Toronto to witness Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne issue an apology to all Aboriginal people for Ontario's role in the Residential Schools. The Premier in her address to the legislature outlined new programming the province was introducing to help support reconciliation with Aboriginal people in Ontario. The programming had already been previously disclosed to the Political Confederacy (PC) in a conference call on

May 20 with the Aboriginal Affairs Minister. The Province outlined that it was taking action by understanding the legacy of Residential Schools, closing gaps and removing barriers, creating a culturally relevant and responsive justice system, supporting Indigenous culture, and reconciling relationships with Indigenous people. Following the statement in the legislature the Indigenous people were invited to a reception at the Lieutenant Governor's parlor in Queen's park.

MAY 31, 2016 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO VISIT TO AKWESASNE

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, came to Akwesasne on May 31, 2016 to tour Kawehno:ke. Earlier in the day she attended a meeting with the City of Cornwall Council and Mayor. Chief Loran, Chief Connie Lazore, and I attended on behalf of the MCA to welcome our guest

to the area. Following the meeting with the City of Cornwall, we travelled to Kawehno:ke where she was greeted by a number of Council members and other invited guests. An "Edge of the Woods" ceremony was held when Her Honourable arrived at the Tri District Elders Centre. Once the ceremony was complete we had a round of introductions followed by a nice lunch.



During the visit we took the opportunity to explain the challenges of being a border community when the various governments do not recognize our Aboriginal Rights as a people. After lunch we took our guest to the AEDA language lab where staff from the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education as well as staff from AEDA provided an overview of current programing, but also spoke of the current challenges. To wrap up the afternoon we finished our community visit at the Native North American Traveling College where the staff provided us with a more in depth understanding of the Jay Treaty and other treaties affecting Akwesasne.

MAY 31, 2016 CONFERENCE CALL WITH REGIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL HOWLETT

Following our visit and tour with the Lieutenant Governor, I attended the Department of Technical Service (DTS) office to participate in a conference call with the Director of DTS and the Regional Director General of Ontario for Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development Canada. The purpose of the call was to follow up on a previous meeting we had with the RDG regarding our funding proposal submission for a new sewage treatment plant in Tsi Snaihne for the sub division located next to Iohahi:io. The RDG provided us with a status report on the proposal submitted and let us know what the next steps would be. She also relayed to us that we should have a decision within 3-4 weeks. Overall the conference call was positive.