Dr. Daniel M. Millette

Strategic Planning and Policy Direction
First Nations Land Management Resource Centre

First Nation Land Use and Land Use Planning in Ontario and Canada: New Perspectives

Exploring Rural Land Use Conference
Institute for the Advanced Study of Food and Agricultural Policy
University of Guelph May 14, 2013
PRESENTATION

Three components:

1. Historical context to past (unsuccessful) reserve land planning;

2. Community lands governance through Land Codes; and,

3. Land Use Planning Model.
Introduction
Historical Context
Land Use Planning Realities

• A general lack of consideration for traditionally held lands and traditional methods of planning;
• A persisting focus on external reserve boundaries;
• A comparatively short (western) planning horizon compared to a longer (traditional) planning horizon; and,
• A general misperception that the failed land use plans are the due to the First Nation planning.
New Conditions
Land Codes - Land Committees

Land Codes
- developed by communities under the Framework Agreement;
- these are essentially the “land law” of a First Nation.

Land Committees
- mandated by their communities to draft the same community’s Land Code;
- often act as an advisory body on land matters, to that same community, once a Land Code is passed.
Towards a New Approach
Blended Planning Elements

TRADITIONAL  BLENDED  WESTERN

world-views  comprehensive plans

traditional use studies  legal obligations

cultural principles

traditional stewardship  sustainability principles

genealogy information systems

ETHICAL

PHILOSOPHICAL

ENVIRONMENTAL

TECHNICAL
Blended Planning Model: Land Use Planning Process

- Develop planning process specific to the First Nation community.
- Interview community Elders on traditional use, patterns, sites and preferences.
- Interview outside experts on species, land types, resources and so on.
- Interview community members on desired uses.
- Map the three sets of interviews.
- Assess where there are overlaps or competing uses.
- Identify areas and resources for harvesting or protection, or enhancement.
- Map the two sets of resource areas (traditional harvesting and cultural areas, and potential resource extracting / protection/enhancement areas).
- Assess where there are overlaps or competing uses.
- Communicate the results with the community, solicit feedback.
- Record and assess the community comments.
- Incorporate the comments with the mapped data and specialized studies.
- Re-assess the gaps or conflicts.
- Prepare land use plan based on the assessment.
- Identify potential problems and conflicts.
- Communicate the results with the community/solicit feedback.
- Record and assess community comments.
- Evaluating possible solutions.
- Draft land use plan.
- Present to the community for comments.
Conclusion