

Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board

Board Meeting – April 29 & 30, 2014

EMAB Board Room, Yellowknife, NT

DAY TWO: Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Present:

Sean Richardson, *Chair*

Charlie Catholique, *Vice-Chair*

Arnold Enge, *Secretary – Treasurer*

Seth Bohnet, *Director*

Stephen Ellis, *Director*

Doug Crossley, *Director*

Napoleon Mackenzie, *Director*

Tlicho Government

Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation

North Slave Metis Alliance

Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.

Government of the Northwest Territories

Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Staff:

Brenda McDonald, *Executive Director*

Holly Sansom, *Minute Taker*

Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board

Office Compliments

Guests:

Damien Panayi, *Wildlife Biologist*

Tamara Darwish, *Field Leader*

David Wells, *Superintendent – Environ.*

Jessica Simpson, *Comm. & Environ*

Philippe de Pizzo, *Executive Director*

Zhong Liu, *Environmental Analyst*

Golder Associates Ltd.

Golder Associates Ltd. (via teleconference)

Diavik Diamond Mines (2012) Inc.

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA)

Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency (SLEMA)

Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency (SLEMA)

Absent:

Robert Eno, *Director*

Nunavut Government

Day 2

1) Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2) Approval of Agenda

The Chair opened the floor for additions or revisions to the agenda. 2014-2015 Budget was requested to be the first item on the agenda. Item#3, Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan was removed and replaced with 2014-2015 Budget.

Motion: To approve the amended agenda of the April 30, 2014 Board Meeting to include the replacement of item 3. Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan with 2014-2015 Budget as item 3.

Moved: Stephen Ellis

Seconded: Charlie Catholique

Carried.

3) 2014-2015 Budget

The Executive Director requested a motion to approve the proposed 2014-2015 Budget noting that amendments should be made to include two additional Board members.

Motion: To approve the 2014-2015 Budget with amendments for two additional Board member costs to be included and new honoraria rates.

Moved: Seth Bohnet

Seconded: Charlie Catholique

Carried.

4) 2013 Wildlife Monitoring Program (WMP) Presentation

(David Wells, Superintendent of Environment, Diavik Diamond Mines (2012) Inc.)

Mr. Wells presented a short video demonstration of the wolverine DNA sampling program, a summary of the 2013 WMP and DDMI's recommendations.

The following concerns were raised:

- Regarding the collars on Caribou and the poor health condition of the animal and the declining numbers. Mr. Wells - Herds of 1,000's seen but there is no number count taken.
- Wind farm noise and how it impacts the wildlife. Mr. Wells stated that there is no current data to support that the wind farms' impact the wildlife.

Caribou – The Executive Director will follow up with the Government of the Northwest Territories Working Group regarding data on Caribou and incidents of occurrences, e.g. behavioral scans.

- With respect to wolf activity. Mr. Wells noted that many of the Wolf dens are empty and it is speculated this is due to the decrease in Caribou presence.
- With respect to Generators – Mr. Wells noted that 54% of the site is now powered by the wind farm last summer and therefore the two power stations are not both working at the same time.
- With respect to two Caribou being hit on the winter road and were there changes made? Mr. Wells, that incident was related to Ekati and perhaps ENR would have statistics on this as Diavik's programs are restricted to their sites.

Grizzly Bear – Grizzly Bears have been removed from the site, tagged and a fur and tooth sample also taken about 150km off site.

- With respect to the Grid size, is it 10 x 10 as in the south? Mr. Wells replied 12 x 12 which data supports and is consistent with other mine practices.
- Between dykes there are lush greens that now attract bears. Working with ENR to assess a good trap. All staff is trained in deterrence. There were two bear dens last year, none this year.

Next steps: The Board deferred discussion on the reports and recommendations until all presentations have been made.

Coffee Break: 10:00 a.m. to 10:14 a.m.

4) 2013 WMP Presentation (cont.)

Mr. Wells, Mr. Panayi and Ms. Darwish provided feedback to the Board's inquiries.

Wolverine – No major concerns with this portion, question with respect to the number of tracks, 18 sets, 9m, 9f's.

Birds – There were two incidents of death with Peregrine Falcons likely struck electrical lines.

Waste Management – Funds from recycling is collected and donated to organizations. Last donation was made to Hay River.

Questions:

- There are no plans for expansion to the waste management system as the current system is working well.
- There are inspections during the development process, the waste oil transfer station is below ground and waste oil is transferred up in totes.
- There is no regular testing of the incinerator, however, the system is compliant and reported to Environment Canada.
- The ash is not tested, however the smoke is.

Several recommendations in Mr. Wells report support changes to the current wildlife monitoring programs at Diavik, these include:

- *Modify the Road/Rock Pile/ PKC Caribou Monitoring Program from a date trigger (i.e. May 31 – Sept 30) to an actual presence trigger (i.e. caribou spotted on East Island or within 5 km of the Site).*
- *Discontinue caribou aerial surveys until the newly established Technical Working Group reports back to ENR, based on the December 2013 Caribou Workshop recommendations.*
- *Conduct caribou behavioral surveys only when caribou are located on East Island.*
- *Discontinue the current water bird survey as supported by the Canadian Wildlife Service and 2010 workshops. Replace the current survey with the CWS ran PRISM program.*
- *Discontinue the wind farm bird mortality monitoring program as per original commitments to Environment Canada. The area will continue to be inspected for bird mortalities as part of the general site compliance monitoring.*
- *Reducing the frequency of landfill and waste transfer area inspections from every two days, to twice per week in the winter and once per week in the summer.*

The Board thanked the Diavik Representative for attending and complimented Diavik on their Environmental Management Program. If A21 is to proceed, it is anticipated there will be changes to these programs.

Next steps: ED to follow up on aerial survey program suspension for Caribou, to ensure that it is temporarily suspended and not cancelled.

PRISM – Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring

Next steps: As PRISM is a shorebird monitoring program; it does not address mine activities on waterfowl. This program does not replace the current waterfowl monitoring program. Invite RWED’s Working Group to make a presentation to EMAB to understand the plan and share data.

Mr. Panayi exited the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Next steps: Executive Director to schedule a Wildlife Workshop for the Fall of 2014. Invitations to attend and present will be extended to the GNWT - Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Environment Canada and representatives of all Parties to the Environmental Agreement.

Lunch Break: 11:49 a.m. to 1:05 p.m.

5) Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AQMP) Presentation (David Wells, Superintendent of Environment, Diavik Diamond Mines (2012) Inc.)

Mr. Wells presented a summary the 2013 AQMP and DDMI’s recommendations. This report was provided to the WLWB on March 31, 2014. Comments from WLWB are not yet received. The Comprehensive Report (3-year overview) is due to WLWB October 2014.

The Board thanked Mr. Wells and Ms. Darwish (by teleconference) for attending.

Mr. Wells and Ms. Darwish exited the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Break: 2:07 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.

Board Discussion on Report Presentations

The Board formulated a number of questions for the upcoming Wildlife Monitoring Workshop.

The Board agreed the upcoming 3-Year Comprehensive Study would be distributed to Board Members, forwarded for Technical Review and that review distributed to the Board. DDMI and the reviewer will be invited to present their reports and recommendations to the Board.

Break: 2:58 p.m. to 3:07 p.m.

6) SLEMA Update

Philippe de Pizzo, Executive Director and Zhong Liu, Environmental Analyst provided an update on the activities of SLEMA for the Snap Lake Mine. The Board thanked Mr. de Pizzo and Mr. Liu for attending.

- There are currently only two inspectors in the NWT, post devolution, whereas there were previously 1 per mine site. SLEMA is pushing for transparency, invited GNWT to their June 10th meeting.
- Request other Boards to approach GNWT regarding this issue

- Pursuing greater transparency with respect to Devolution and its impacts on the EA.

Mr. de Pizzo and Mr. Liu exited the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

7) IEMA Update

Jessica Simpson, Communications and Environmental Specialist provided an update on the activities of IEMA for the Ekati Mine. The Board thanked Ms. Simpson for attending.

- IEMA will conduct a site visit for June
- Report writing exercise by the Board for Annual Report
- Follow up on Devolution and AANDC withdrawal

Ms. Simpson exited the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

Mr. Bohnet exited the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

Closing Comments

Each Board Member took a moment to provide final comments before the Closing Prayer.

8) Closing Prayer

Stephen Ellis

9) Adjournment at 3:56 p.m.

Board of Director

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