

EMAB meeting — Yellowknife – March 25-27

March 25, 2008

Present:

Doug Crossley, Chair, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Florence Catholique, Vice Chair, Lutsel K'e

Floyd Adlem, Secretary Treasurer, Canada

Claudia Haas, North Slave Metis Alliance

Chandra Venables, alternate, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT

Staff:

John McCullum

Michele LeTourneau

Minutes:

Michele LeTourneau

Meeting started at: 9:10

Opening Prayer: Florence Catholique

Item 1 – Agenda and minutes

Agenda

Chair reviews the agenda. Item 6 moved to May.

Motion:

Accept the agenda as amended.

Moved: Floyd Adlem

Seconded: Chandra Venables

Carried: Unanimous

Minutes

Motion

Approve minutes of February 26-27, 2008, with changes.

Moved: Claudia Haas

Seconded: Floyd Adlem

Carried: Unanimous

Item 2 – CBM Camp update/discussion

Gord Macdonald joins by telephone.

Camps were cancelled last year because of logistical issues. That's now sorted out. Diavik decided that operations would be Diavik's responsibility and that they would hire and oversee a contractor, including a cook. EMAB has responsibility of getting the right people, making them aware of their responsibilities, and getting them to the camp.

Liability can be dealt with by making participants casual labour so there is workers compensation coverage. There will be a few more forms to sign, but peace of mind.

Dates: a period has been blocked off when Diavik isn't doing AEMP so that staff is available, as well as equipment. (August 1-14)

There are a lot of challenges – open water issues, for example. Diavik is looking at moving the camp from summer period to spring period when there still is ice. This will open up more opportunities to do wildlife and dust monitoring when we don't have limitations of open water

We might be able to use the camp a little more.

While the water camp offers training, Diavik wants to move the camps towards Traditional Knowledge studies to enhance programs as opposed to training on already existing programs.

That was the intention of the camp originally and it's what Diavik is missing in their programs.

On the training side: Diavik wants to work with the Aurora College BEAHR program as there is currently not enough field exposure. The camp can be used for field training and real experience.

Question: Will there be site visits for participants?

Answer: The decision will be made on a year by year basis but it shouldn't be a problem.

Note that there can be specialization – some out in the field, other at the camp, such as Elders.

Part of this water study could include Traditional Knowledge/ discussion/recommendations.

Community people need to know how their training (such as BEAHR) fits into getting a certificate.

Methodology of collecting TK does not necessarily have to be done at the camp. Traditional Knowledge has to be clearly controlled/facilitated by a person who clearly understands the information, how to analyze it, how to present it, otherwise you lose the aim of TK.

There needs to be someone who would be in charge of this within Diavik – someone who is clearly knowledgeable.

Question: Will there only be camps during spring? Participants have noted that fish palatability should be done at the same time each year.

A: Yes, fish palatability timing would change.

On training: Diavik has spoken with the Mine Training Society, BHP and Snap Lake about something like an apprenticeship program. They are interested but this is a bad time of year.

Noted that EMAB doesn't want a duplication of the meeting it is planning on training.

Agreed that EMAB should be the one that initiates the meeting, but Diavik, through Seth, will involve the other mines and Chamber of Commerce for the junior companies.

Noted that BHPB has contracted someone to work on TK/IQ and that SLEMA has a TK working group.

Question on camps: Will there need to be an equipment change for spring conditions to move people around.

Answer: Yes.

On including TK in AEMP, Diavik made funding available to the Aboriginal Parties. They received something from NSMA but it needs to be fleshed out. It didn't provide anything to implement. Haven't seen anything from Lutsel K'e. KIA has a proposal related to fish in Kugluktuk. It's not related to the AEMP but it does address the mix of TK and western science. Diavik wants to help fund the project. DFO also has an interest. It's a good opportunity for a pilot study of joining the TK and science.

Executive Director notes that he spoke with Aalice Legat and she has ideas on incorporating TK into monitoring.

Question: Has Diavik spoken with anyone with that sort of training?

Answer: Diavik still believes that TK resides in the communities.

Note that communities don't have the resources to hire someone like Ms. Legat with an understanding of TK methodology. Recommended that DDMI hire someone with this background.

DDMI would prefer the communities hire the expertise with DDMI providing funding. This was thought to be a good idea.

It was then suggested that this could be done by an EMAB TK Panel.

SLEMA has a science assessment that it goes to a TK working group – they are going right into design.

That's a discussion to have during the strategic planning workshop.

Communications Coordinator goes over water camp proposal.

It was agreed that an orientation to the new participant requirements would be done for Aboriginal Party members at the May meeting.

Motion

Approve the Water Quality Monitoring Workshop Proposal, with changes.

Moved: Florence Catholique

Seconded: Claudia Haas

Carrie: Unanimous

Noted that data from analysis of 2006 CBM camp water samples was not received by EMAB

Item 3 – Budget Review and Approved

Review of budget by Floyd.

Note that EMAB could handle finishing off the strategic planning internally after the workshop this week.

Motion

Approve the 2008-2009 budget as presented.

Moved: Floyd Adlem

Seconded: Florence Catholique

Any changes to capacity funding, which might come out at the workshop tomorrow, might mean some change to the budget. The budget can be revised later if the situation changes.

Carried: unanimous

ACTION ITEM: In budget, change “consultation,” which has legal ramifications, to “community engagement.”

Item 4 – Aboriginal Involvement Workshop: workshop follow-up

Information in binder.

Item 5 – Water Licence Updates

Information in binder.

Break for lunch: 11:45

Item 5 (cont.)

E.D. presents approach to adaptive management plan review and workshop from kit. He asked the Board to review two proposals for review of Diavik AdMP from kit, including facilitation of workshop. The review is proposed to be done cooperatively with IEMA, who are reviewing the BHPB AdMP.

Noted that the EMAB portion of the review, and the main focus of the workshop, should be on Diavik.

It was noted that the idea of adaptive management is not rocket science. Adapting is part of everyone's life.

Motion:

To approve AdMP review proposal from Jacques-Whitford Environmental Consultants with the understanding that IEMA will pay half the review costs and that the facilitation component might change as details of the workshop are developed.

Moved: Floyd Adlem

Seconded: Chandra Venables

Carried unanimously

Action Item: inform IEMA of decision

Agreed to schedule the workshop for May 14 and 15, 2008.

Action Item: Prepare draft Terms of Reference for workshop with all board members attending and two participants from each Aboriginal Party.

Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative
Item presented from kit.

Agreed to send a letter after the draft report is provided to EMAB re-emphasizing the points EMAB has been raising about water licence management, and to circulate the draft to board members.

Action Item: ED to prepare a draft response for Chair's review after EMAB receives the draft NRII report.

Item 7 – Inspector's Report

Board met Jen Potten, the new INAC inspector dedicated to the Diavik file. She is waiting for Marty Sanderson to return for a full transfer of the file and will do an inspection with him in about a week and a half.

Coffee break

Item 8 – IEMA / SLEMA Update

SLEMA update

- Held a wildlife workshop in February and will hold another in May: how to involve Aboriginal People in monitoring and analysis of wildlife – they will provide a copy of report to EMAB
- MVLWB has approved temporary ammonia storage
- SLEMA is reviewing De Beers' request to change the timing of benthic sampling

IEMA update

- Expecting WL renewal application for Sable, Pigeon & Beartooth pits very soon
- WLWB may hold a hearing on BHPB's proposed chloride discharge limit (it's more than double B.C.'s limit)
- IEMA has approved a joint review of AdMP's with EMAB

- Last section of ICRP has been submitted; IEMA wants specific closure criteria for each component, or where BHPB can't identify specific criteria, IEMA wants research done so they can.
- They are waiting for the AEMP and WEMP for 2007

MPEMA – final meeting of steering committee to review final ToR is on June 17. Then they go to the Parties for approval.

Item 9 – Reports

Motion:

to approve the financial statement as presented

Moved: Floyd Adlem

Seconded: Florence Catholique

Carried unanimously

Member reports

Canada – nothing to report

GNWT – Chandra has taken a new position in ENR; not sure if she will continue on the EMAB file

LKDFN – election was postponed. Election for Chief is now April 16, election for councillors is April 18

KIA – Joe Otokiak won the election for President of KIA. If there are any changes affecting Doug, they won't happen for a few months. Working with Kugluktuk HTO on reporting on capacity funds for 07-08 and are working on some new ideas for 08-09.

Adjourn for the day

March 26 – Capacity Fund Review Workshop

Present:

Doug Crossley, Chair, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Florence Catholique, Vice Chair, Lutsel K'e

Floyd Adlem, Secretary Treasurer, Canada

Claudia Haas, North Slave Metis Alliance

Chandra Venables, alternate, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT

Lawrence Goulet – Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Gord Macdonald – Diavik Diamond Mines

Party Representatives

Shannon Hayden – North Slave Metis Alliance

Charlie Catholique – Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation

Peter Taptuna – Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Staff:

John McCullum

Michele LeTourneau

Facilitator / Consultant

Allan Twissell – Northways Consulting

- report to follow from Northways Consulting, by end of April

March 27 – Strategic Plan Review until about 4pm

Present:

Doug Crossley, Chair, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Florence Catholique, Vice Chair, Lutsel K'e

Floyd Adlem, Secretary Treasurer, Canada

Claudia Haas, North Slave Metis Alliance

Chandra Venables, alternate, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT

Lawrence Goulet – Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Gord Macdonald – Diavik Diamond Mines

Staff:

John McCullum

Michele LeTourneau

Minutes:

John McCullum (only for continuation of regular meeting)

- Tait Consulting to provide revised draft plan by April 4, 2008
Return to regular meeting at 4 pm

Next meeting will be May 20 – 22 in Yellowknife.

Motion to adjourn

Floyd Adlem

Carried unanimously

Closing prayer – Lawrence Goulet