

EMAB Board Meeting/Conference Call Minutes

May 18, 2004

EMAB Board Room Yellowknife, NT

Present:

Doug Doan, Secretary-Treasurer, Government of the NWT (chaired the meeting)
Lawrence Goulet, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
John McCullum, Executive Director

Called in:

Johnny Weyallon, Dogrib Treaty 11 Council
Florence Catholique, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Doug Crossley, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Erik Madsen, Diavik Diamond Mines Incorporated
John Morrison, Government of Nunavut

Absent:

Bob Turner, Chair, North Slave Metis Alliance
Floyd Adlem, Co-Chair, Government of Canada

Minute taker:

Michele LeTourneau, Communications Coordinator

Meeting started at 1:37.

Doug Doan, who is chairing in Bob and Floyd's absence, must leave at approximately 3:00. Board will go through decision items first.

ITEM 3 – Review quoted estimates for annual report printing

Michele recommends Canarctic as per tab 7 in binder.

Erik says Diavik uses them all the time, and they're very happy with them.

Johnny says Rae Band does lots of business with them too, and they're happy.

Motion # 01-04-18-05

To accept Canarctic Graphics estimate for design and printing of annual report.

Moved: Erik Madsen

Seconded: Johnny Weyallon

Carried: Unanimously

ITEM 2 – Review of Terms of Reference for Fencing Workshop

John recaps process for EMAB's eventual fencing recommendations to Diavik. This is phase 2, and this workshop will look at the same questions as the Traditional Knowledge Panel.

Questions:

- How big of a workshop? 30 to 35 people?
- Where to hold it? Mine? Community? Yellowknife?
- Timing? End of June? Otherwise it's hard to do such things in the summer

Doug C: Do we have the human resources in the communities for all the activities EMAB is planning – TK Camp, etc.?

Doug D: Is the scope of the workshop, as written in the ToR what we actually want?

Florence: Yes

Doug C: Yes, if we go through all the material and resources listed.

Doug D: Then we have to accept that the budget is \$40,000 in Yellowknife and if we want to move it elsewhere that will cost more money. Also, easier to organize it time-wise if it's done in Yellowknife...

Motion # 02-04-18-05

To accept the Terms of Reference for the fencing workshop as written and to hold it in Yellowknife during the month of June.

Moved: Florence Catholique

Seconded: Johnny Weyallon

Discussion:

Erik: It might be difficult to bring 30 –to 40 people to the mine site... at the mine end of it.

Doug C: We might try to tailor the workshop around meeting in Lutsel K'e?

John McC: Might be asking for too much for too many days in a row...

Doug C: A two-day workshop on top of a three-day Board meeting...

Florence: Does the fencing need to be done now?

John McC: The logic was that we'd get the recommendations to Diavik on time to use the winter road to bring up fencing materials.

Doug D: If a visit to the mine site is not possible – given that we have done TK part that did involve visits – could we still do workshop and reach recommendations??

Doug C: When we do go to Diavik in June, we could include a review of the fencing areas much like what was done with the community delegates...

We could treat this like the TK panel – the Board does not have to be involved in the workshop.

Doug D: do we have the budget for this?

John McC: This will use a third of total projects budget. But the budget's good.

Doug C: We could save a few more dollars if the board does not have to attend this workshop. Perhaps Executive could meet and discuss whether Board needs to attend. This would also take some pressure off the Board members

Erik: At the end there would be a report that would answer all these bullets (referring to ToR in meeting binder).

John McC: EMAB will take both sets of recommendations, come up with their own that will then go to the company.

Carried: Unanimously

ITEM 4 – TK Camp Proposals

John McC summarizes the proposal situation. Tweaked proposals. Met with Erik and Scott Wytrychowski, who had two main issues:

- make sure proposal covered all guidelines and objectives
- that proposals have a tie-in with existing monitoring
- that the proposals have a methodology
- make sure budgets were comprehensive and accounted for a contingency fund of 10% because Diavik will not consider additional funding if we go over budget.
- Suggestion to combine two of the proposals: water quality and caribou

Florence: Refers to last year's palatability study recommendations – DDMI should have responded back to us on those.

Erik: They are attached to the report...

Florence: I think as an EMAB member that we should seek some response to recommendations made by 2003 fish palatability participants.

Johnny: Yes – especially since some came from elders

Erik: are you asking for a motion for a response to recommendations that came from fish palatability study?

Discussion of the three proposals and combining two of them:

- Diavik says part of the problem is that they only have two boats
- Not much time open: fish palatability same time each year – a lot more logistics to get three groups out instead of two...

- probably very little to do during the caribou study because there will probably be very few caribou, so water quality could fit in there
- basic budget of \$170,000) for three or 125,000 with two combined
- if we can still meet objectives by pairing up two, that's fine
- important to select the right community folks with the right expertise, especially if two workshops are combined
- fish and water might best fit together
- need more than two boats
- Diavik also reminds the Board that their airstrip cannot be used so float planes are necessary – need to redo budget
- Need to rework proposals so that two studies can be fitted together
- All the studies need to be done – shouldn't drop one till next year
- EMAB needs to take a stronger position to involve communities in monitoring. TK Camp program budget may not be enough.
- Shouldn't combine any of the studies
- Timing of fish palatability (for same time each year) and caribou(for migration) are critical – peak of migration south is end of July, fish palatability must be in mid to late August

Some consensus of combining fish and caribou. Must make some budget changes. Try to keep three separate and all three. But if budget doesn't work, we could reschedule one for next year. Board may need to prioritize. Suggested that fish palatability should be top priority.

ACTION: John McCullum will rework TK Camp proposals, and consult with Erik and Doug C.

ACTION: Write letter to Diavik recommending additional boats be available for TK Camp for the short period that it's on.

ACTION: Write follow-up letter to Diavik requesting response to recommendations made by fish palatability camp participants last year.

ITEM 5 – Strategic Planning Committee

#1 – draft mission statement: John McC looking for direction on draft mission statement he sent out several weeks ago. It will be used to get things started at the community level.

Discussion:

- capacity building? is that a meaningful expression for communities?
- because it's EMAB (with the word monitoring in the name) the monitoring should be the first bullet
- the word advise might be included, possibly with communication

#2 – critical success factors: need to make sure we have the right list of possible priorities; we will have communities pick their priorities then combine them and develop statements of critical success factors as in example on the hand-out.

Discussion:

- evaluation of EMAB – should be added

#3 – community engagement plan:

Michele L presents survey results from discussions with Aboriginal Board members.

So far Michele is having ongoing conversations with Florence, Doug, Johnny and Lawrence. Generally, a picture of the community consultations is looking like this:

- A two-day meeting, beginning with an invitation-only portion, involving chiefs, councilors, wildlife people etc. After consultations with them, we would move on to an open house-type of meeting for the community at large.
- Staff help: In one case, the executive director – in all cases the communications coordinator. In all cases, a translator.
- In all cases, PowerPoint presentations, in most case the display unit.
- Payment: In two cases: all participants to be paid. In one case: elders. In one case, no payment.
- In all cases, September was a good time to stage community meetings.

Question – will this involve travel to all communities in September/October.

Answer – yes, and possibly more than one trip to each

Discussion:

Doug C – reflects discussion we've had so far, but more discussion needed. Good start.

#4 – training for board members prior to community consultations

Michele L outlines training idea so far.

Michele has spoken with 3 of the 5 Aboriginal Board members on the training idea. So far, all seem to agree that a two-day PowerPoint workshop (learn the program, put an custom EMAB presentation together, learn presentation skills, present) and a two-day facilitation workshop (organizing, promoting discussion, gathering information, achieving consensus, compiling info in a report etc).

Discussion:

Doug C: It's very important that we feel confident in our own abilities. Agree that PowerPoint and presentation training as well as facilitation training would be very helpful.

#5 – Communication Plan

ACTION: Michele should work on a communication plan for Strategic Planning. After Strategic Planning Michele should work on a general communication plan for EMAB.

Agreed that alternates should be kept fully informed about the strategic planning and should be involved in community engagement. They can also be used as alternate contacts when Board members are not available.

ITEM 6 - DFO/Diavik

After reviewing the Board motion regarding Fisheries Specialists, and in view of the need for quick turn-around, the Executive approved contracting North-South consultants out of Edmonton to review reports. Board agrees that the consultant can talk to the Board at the beginning or end of the June Board meeting. Either way, in Yellowknife is fine.

Erik: DFO and Diavik met last Thursday and came to an agreement about the four reports in question. The letter EMAB sent really helped push this ahead. This is a good example where EMAB pushed and got something resolved.

ACTION: Gord MacDonald will send on all info to EMAB.

ITEM 7 – Diavik's EA Annual Report

John McC explains that he and Michele compared it with requirement in the Environmental Agreement and found it inadequate in some areas. Also, that Diavik wants responses back by Friday, May 21.

ACTION: Write a letter to Diavik a) saying EMAB is not given enough time to review and b) outlining constructive criticism.

ITEM 9 – Support for Lutsel K'e proposal

John McC explains that Lutsel K'e seeks a letter of support for a proposal to combine caribou data from their community-based monitoring program and caribou collar tracking studies.

Motion # 03-04-18-05

That EMAB write a letter to support Lutsel K'e for a proposal to combine caribou data from their community-based monitoring program and caribou collar tracking studies.

Moved: Doug Crossley

Seconded: Lawrence Goulet

Carried: unanimous

ITEM 12 – Ammonia amendment mediation

Erik notes that the ammonia issue has moved on to Ottawa for a signature. Mediation was successful.

Meeting ended at 3:30.