

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Meeting Notes – Oct 21-22, 2025

EMAB Boardroom – 50/50 Mini Mall, Yellowknife, NT and by Zoom – 1:00 p.m.

Present:

Charlie Catholique, *Chair*

Marc Whitford, *Vice-Chair*

Violet Camsell-Blondin, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Ryan Arta, *Director*

Baba Pedersen, *Director*

Tara Marchiori, *Director*

Sarah Elsasser, *Director (by zoom)*

Łutselk'e Dene First Nation

North Slave Métis Alliance

Tłıchǫ Government

Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Diavik Diamond Mines

GNWT-ECC

Staff:

John McCullum, *Executive Director*

Daniel Fawehinmi, *Environmental Specialist*

EMAB (minutes)

EMAB (minutes)

Guests:

Amanda Annand, DDMI (Day 1 – by Zoom)

Bill Slater, Slater Environmental Consulting (Day 2 – by zoom)

Jennifer Kirk, Arcadis (Day 2 – by zoom)

Megan Cooley, North-South Consultants (Day 2 – by zoom)

Brian Kopach, ROAM Consulting (Day 2 – by zoom)

Bryana Matthews, ECC (Day 2 – by zoom)

Mark Nelson, DDMI (Day 2 – by zoom)

Imran Maqsood, GNWT (Day 2 – in person)

Wasef Jamil, Arcadis (Day 2 – by zoom)

Megan Perra, EMAB intern (Day 2 – by zoom)

Elie Guerera, professor, SUNY (Day 2 – by zoom)

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Meeting started at 1:00 pm in the EMAB Boardroom and by Zoom, following EMAB AGM

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Item 1 – Approval of Agenda

Chair reviews agenda

- Move Item 6 on TK Monitoring to 1:30 to accommodate Diavik staff person availability

Motion: to approve the agenda as amended

Moved: Marc Whitford

Second: Charlie Catholique

Carried

New Environmental Specialist Daniel Fawehinmi introduces himself and presents qualifications: academic background and previous experience. He worked in Nigeria, Germany and now Canada.

Item 2 – Conflict of Interest

No conflicts declared.

Item 3 – Minutes

Motion: to approve minutes of July 7-9, 2025 as presented

Moved: Baba Pedersen

Second: Ryan Arta

Carried

Review of Action Items

Review of Outstanding Recommendations

Item 4 – TK Monitoring (moved up on agenda to accommodate Diavik staff at home with sick child)

ED introduces item.

Amanda from Diavik – TK Monitoring Framework (TKMF) is short and concise.

- WLWB addressed Diavik submission of Framework vs. TKMP in recommended water licence
- Received good feedback from WLWB
- Engaged with Aboriginal Parties
- Expecting a healthy discussion on WLWB ORS

ED explains perspective

Discussion:

- Noted that YKDFN made comments to Diavik that were not reflected in the TKMF

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



- May not be feasible to start TK Monitoring on Diavik's schedule
- YKDFN have a large internal database that could be used to support monitoring
- Concerns about governance and implementation
- No budget

Amanda spoke to the level of detail in the TKMF: this is not a monitoring plan or program

- Diavik is proposing cycles, like the AEMP TK Camps: planning session, then monitoring session, then verification session.
- There was a lack of consensus among TKMP workshop participants on a governance structure and ratio of monitors among Aboriginal Parties. Diavik doesn't see itself as the decision-maker on this.

Discussion

- List of TK Indicators is good
- Agree this is a framework; lack of budget is a concern
- A structural plan is needed
- This will not be ready to go by next summer
- Concern about what will happen after demolition; wording of activities is "we will see" based on performance
 - Where will TK Monitors be housed on site; how will they get to site

Amanda notes that everyone wants TK Monitoring to be equal to science monitoring

- Don't have a budget for TKMP
- Recommended water licence just came out
- Diavik is responsible for implementing the TK Monitoring program

Q: so where does this go from here?

- Concern about lack of transparency; can't shut down discussion as Diavik is proposing

A: Diavik intent is to respect other peoples' TK

Amanda noted the crucial nature of the verification process.

ED presents comments on TKMF. Notes that the "what we heard" section of the companion document is quite different from what Diavik proposed.

Q: Example?

A: Participants wanted a TK Monitoring Advisory Panel to run the program; TKMF structure does not include the TKMAP or equivalent.

Q: Number of monitors?

A: Based on ratios discussed by EMAB: 4, 2, 1, 1, 1

- Concern that Elders who provided input on TK Monitoring, TK Panel etc are no longer with us.

Motion: to approve the comments on the TK Monitoring Framework for submission to the WLWB.

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Moved: Baba Pedersen
Seconded: Violet Camsell-Blondin
Carried

BREAK

Item 4 – Finance

ED presents item from kit

1) Income Statement

Motion: To approve revisions to the 2025-26 budget as proposed

Moved: Baba Pedersen
Seconded: Marc Whitford
Carried

- 2) **Jack Kaniak Scholarship** – Tara Marchiori stated that the scholarship has already been approved and the recipient student, Shantel Qirngnuq has been awarded the scholarship. The student thanked EMAB and Diavik for the scholarship.

3) Destroy Financial Files

Motion: to destroy financial records prior to April 1, 2018 as per federal and territorial regulations.

Moved: Marc Whitford
Seconded: Tara Marchiori
Carried

4) Office Space

ED presents item from kit.

Action Item: Get commitment in writing from Range Lake Development regarding commitments for access to Boardroom.

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Meeting started at 9:00 am in the EMAB Boardroom and by Zoom

Item 7 – Final Closure Plan version 1.1 Review

Bill Slater, Megan Cooley and Jennifer Kirk join by Zoom

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



ED introduces item

Bill Slater presents findings. Main areas of concern:

- PKC, especially Zone 2 cover, channel and spillway. Settlement of PK will create challenges, especially with freeze/thaw of active layer over summer, and exposure of new PK as channel is dug.
- Concern about exposure of PK in the PKC in the long term
- Maintenance will be required. Diavik will need to budget for this.
- Need to monitor NWRSA for 100 years, not 5 as proposed
- Pond design doesn't take into account short intense storms in small catchments
- Revegetation plan is very limited

Discussion

- Many of the concerns will need to be monitored. EMAB needs to be around to review monitoring.
- SWRSA – Diavik is still using rock for covers etc; will submit a closure design after that's done.
- Concern about dropping water levels due to filling of pits; could harm fish reproduction
- Noted storms are becoming more intense
- Concern about contaminants in NWRSA being washed out.
- Global warming requires more frequent monitoring
- 100 years of monitoring seems like unreasonably long – how can this be accommodated?
- Concern about PK settlement; design is based on 4 meters of settlement, but could be up to 14m. This would put the channel below the spillway, leaving a pond
- PKC is a very challenging engineering project; difficult to set schedule or assess maintenance at this point.
- Diavik notes the goal is for all Parties to agree that the land at Diavik can be relinquished, along with an agreement on long-term liability.
- It would be good for Elders to visit the site with EMAB consultants

Q: How long will consolidation of PK take

A: could be decades

- Concern that only one option is being proposed for North Inlet; should be more
 - Noted full re-connection option was on the table until recently.
 - HHERA says no substantial risks.

Q: Contaminated soils – original plan was to only put inert materials in landfill; why has this changed?

A: contaminated soils are heavy, so expensive to transport off site

- Noted the new Diavik Waste Management Plan has been approved that addresses this issue.
- It is important to consider long-term monitoring that includes the Coppermine River. Diavik proposed 5-10 years of monitoring. Much longer monitoring is needed: 20 years or even 50 or

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



100. Some things will take a long time to change. The water licence will need to continue until monitoring is completed.

BREAK 10:15 – 10:30 AM

Item 7 – FCRP (cont.)

Jennifer Kirk from Arcadis presents:

- Major concerns about mixing zones for collection pond breaches, and wildlife drinking at the discharge point.
- Each pond should have a plume study to identify the size and shape of the mixing zone
- SWALF – concern about Diavik's proposal that AEMP benchmarks could be revised if no toxicity is found. The toxicity testing is too narrow to be sure there is no effect on any aquatic life. AEMP benchmarks are protective. At minimum add a fish species to testing.
 - Change chronic tox test from IC50 to IC25. IC50 means 50% of the aquatics tested are affected.
- Sediment in ponds exceeds CCME guidelines; need triggers for covering or treating sediment
- North Inlet sediment – only criteria is hydrocarbon PHC F3; there are metals in the sediment that also need to be tested for.
 - F3 criterion should be justified; not risk-based
 - Need to test water in NI; should meet AEMP benchmarks before breaching.
- General – Diavik proposes to be able to change closure designs
- Concern about reduction of monitoring frequencies – need to be clear that WLWB must approve. Diavik predicts some parameters in collection ponds will increase over time.
- Diavik's risk assessment needs some cautions.

Discussion

Q: Diavik plans to monitor every week for the first year?

A: Yes, just the first year; after that monitoring may be insufficient

- Agreed that mixing zones are too big. Agreed that NI sediment is a concern.

Megan Cooley from North-South presents:

- Lots of overlap with Arcadis comments
- NI – will Diavik's hydraulic connection keep all fish out? If not, then closure criteria on aquatic health in the NI should stay.
 - Need criteria for re-connection; ideally AEMP benchmarks.
 - Also sediment criteria
- Collection ponds – measures of stability need to be improved. Data will be very variable, so hard to ID trends. Decrease in monitoring makes variability worse.
 - EQC list is short; no proposal to evaluate non-EQC parameters

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



- Pit lakes – need more detail about monitoring, and duration. Right now period of monitoring is way too short. Account for seasonality.
- Closure AEMP – criteria SW2-3 has issues. Monitoring schedule won't provide data required to assess trends. Need to link Action Level Framework

Discussion

- Board members agree with comments.

LUNCH

Item 7 – FCRP (continued)

Brian Kopach from ROAM Ecology presents:

- Some changes to wildlife monitoring and revegetation criteria in version 1.1
- Addresses safety of vegetation for wildlife health, but uses operations levels as background; should use baseline conditions.
- Revegetation criteria haven't changed – focus should be on amount of self-sustaining coverage
 - Included comparison to baseline.
- Need a systematic survey of caribou predation, not just incidental observations
- Diavik is planning more use of wildlife cameras to monitor safe passage of caribou; need to provide a plan, and maps showing proposed locations of cameras.
- Not much changed from version 1.0

Discussion

- Agree with comments
- TK Indicators and monitoring may relate to caribou

Q: Could the PKC channel be a hazard to wildlife?

A: will look at that. Could place a camera there.

- Review schematics of features to assess for possible wildlife hazards
- Wildlife cameras should be on all the time.
- Caribou might start using the area again once the mine is closed
- TK Monitoring could answer some questions.

Action Item: ED will meet with consultants to sort out overlapping comments, then send draft comments to Board for review, followed by email motion to approve.

Item 10 – 2024 Air Quality Monitoring Report review

Wasef Jamil from Arcadis and Imran Maqsood from ECC join meeting

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Diavik was unable to make someone available to present the 2024 EAQMP report so Wasef described the report during his presentation, along with his comments and recommendations.

Key points:

- Dustfall is at its lowest since 2002 because much less material is being moved.
- Snow water chemistry was largely acceptable; one station near the mine was above the reference value for zinc
- There was a 10% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, due to lower fuel consumption related to reduced operational intensity.
- Emissions of other pollutants were also lower due to decreased activity at the mine.
- Conclusions were generally positive; Diavik has still not provided its emissions calculations for review.

Discussion:

Q: Why is there such a wide variation in results for the snow core surveys?

A: The sample sites are on a line from the mine, so the further away the lower the result.

Q: where was the station that had high zinc values?

A: Diavik responded this may have been a non-project source or a contaminated sample. They will get back to EMAB with responses to any questions they can't answer at the meeting.

Q: why would dustfall be higher in winters?

A: this means summer dust suppression is working

Q: could there be a winter storm effect?

Q: is the yellow haze related to dust?

A: no, it is related to NOx emissions from burning fuel

Q: was EK-35 applied as a dust suppressant?

A: Diavik will get back on this.

- Imran noted that an email from Mark Nelson in April 2025 said EK-35 was not applied in 2024.
- Imran noted there is no mention of TSP, NOx, SOx in the report. The summary and conclusion should explain why these are not discussed.
 - Wasef noted these monitors were non-operational in 2024
- Imran indicated GNWT will expect these parameters to be reported on in the 2025 report since GNWT accepted the revised plan in April 2025.
- Diavik stated the 2025 report will include TSP, based on the approved plan.

Action Item: Diavik to respond to 2024 EAQMP questions.

Action Item: Send 2024 EAQMP report to Board for review and approval by email motion.



Item 8 – WL Renewal

ED presents item from kit.

Staff have only had time to do a brief scan of the licence. Will do a more thorough review and report back to Board.

Update 9 – Annual Report Update

ED presents item from kit.

- Proposed schedule may be optimistic.

Item 11 – Diavik Views on EMAB Role During Transition to Closure

ED introduces item

Tara presents on behalf of Diavik

- Regulatory environment has changed since EA was signed
- Most reporting will have been done once operations stop
- WLWB is in place; co-management provides for Indigenous input
- Diavik formed EA Working Group on 2022
 - EMAB prepared report on Future Role of EMAB
- EA can be amended; has not been amended so far
- Diavik asked Minister how EA section 18 would work
- Diavik plans to continue to have discussions with Parties re: EMAB
- There are a number of other agreements that have to transition to closure eg. SEMA

Discussion

Q: Does Diavik plan to convene the Parties to discuss effect of closure?

A: Diavik started this in 2023. Noted that some Parties don't acknowledge devolution and GNWT Minister's authority.

- Environmental Agreement should be honored until the end of mine life. Doesn't trust NWT Minister to take care of Kugluktuk interests.
- Should be onsite more often now; at least twice a year – freshet and before freeze-up. EMAB's role will increase.
- No benefit to dissolving EMAB until full and final closure, and relinquishment.
- EMAB's budget should increase
- Need to address TK, and implement TK Monitoring together
- Abandoned mines have a bad history; EMAB has a role in ensuring good clean-up.

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Diavik – how can EMAB demonstrate that closure will be done right?

- EMAB has an important role as a watchdog
- EMAB's work needs to continue; EMAB contributes to proper relinquishment

Q: can EMAB play a role in TK Monitoring? What is EMAB's value proposition?

A: EMAB's role is in relation to Parties. Helps to keep Parties satisfied.

- Noted mixed message from Diavik regarding EMAB role in TK Monitoring. Does Diavik support this?
- Diavik says this would be a mandate change. Hard to be a watchdog on TK Monitoring.
- Noted that EMAB's mandate includes TK
- EMAB gives people a voice, particularly those who lack capacity eg. comments on WLWB ORS
- Reconciliation – industry has a role; Diavik has the opportunity to be a leader and participate in corporate reconciliation
- Diavik made promises when it came to this area; EA was the first process where Aboriginal people could participate – this is a precedent. Make sure everyone leaves with a good name.
- People from communities want EMAB involved in TK Monitoring; this was loud and clear at the TK Monitoring Plan workshops. EMAB experience and capacity fits with TKMP
- EMAB is the best board to review reports; satisfactory closure will be determined by monitoring results.
- EMAB role is increasing
- Could EMAB provide a proposal on TK Monitoring?

Action Item: add this discussion to December 2025 meeting agenda.

BREAK

Item 13 – Board Member Updates

NSMA

- New building opened: Francois Beaulieu Bldg...
- More improvement at Old Fort Rae; also built up equipment stockpile there
- New jetboat for shallow water operations
- Building up highly qualified staff for Q'Met Environmental joint venture
- Concern about Ekati financial situation

YKDFN

- Fred Sangris re-elected as N'dilo Chief
- Two Elders passed away
- Fall gathering was successful
- Concern about effect of mine closures on employment

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



- Involved in major projects: Gray's Bay port and road, Arctic Security Corridor (ASC), Diavik Closure
- Restructuring Environment department
- Guardians program studying effect of winter road on caribou
- Involved in Bathurst caribou survey summer 2025

TG

- TG & YKDFN planning to work together on NWT side of ASC
- Focusing more on economics; doing internal geology work
- ASC review is multi-disciplinary, TK and science
 - Plan to meet with Nunavut partners & YKDFN
 - Applied for funds for review
 - Route is still undecided
- Diavik closure is a concern; creates a void
- Some leadership changeovers in communities

KIA

- KIA going through a transition; President Robert Greenley passed away; James Eetoolook is acting President (formerly VP of Lands)
 - Manager of Lands just left
 - ED is on leave to run for MLA
- Concern about Grays Bay project: what is benefit to communities? Effects on wildlife will be huge.
 - Shipping will only happen in summer
 - Concern about military aspects; how will ice-breaking affect wildlife and sea mammals

Break for Presentation from Megan Perra

Item 12 – Caribou Behaviour Monitoring with Audiologgers

Megan Perra and Elie Guerera joined meeting by Zoom

Megan presented her study results to date

- Was able to recover several audiologgers from this round (previous session the loggers dropped off early and were not able to be recovered)
- Still processing data – so far shows continuous fine-scale movement with bursts of activity
 - Analyzing calving behavior
 - Looking at responses to winter road

Noted that when caribou calve the mom's leave the babies to avoid drawing attention from predators, then return to feed them.

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Elie presented his analysis of effect of winter road on caribou movement

- Assessing how “permeable” the road is
- Animation showing how winter road opening prevents caribou crossing
- Trying to determine what aspect stops caribou; need traffic data

Discussion

- Good example of science and TK working together
- Effects of road on caribou crossing will increase if it becomes an all-season road.

Elie continues

- Questions: does stopping traffic affect crossing behavior
 - Where to locate a road; identify most used areas
 - Avoid separating Contwoyto L. from Bathurst Calving Grounds
 - Finding that Beverly, Bluenose E. and Bathurst herds mix a lot in winter
 - If a road separates Bathurst herd from calving grounds they may not thrive
- Expect effects of a road can be partly mitigated by road locations; possibly include crossing structures
- Problem of lack of traffic data; hasn’t seen Ekati road, or traffic data

Item 13 - Board Member Updates (continued)

LKDFN

- New co-op opened in July
- Community clean-up at Stark L. ends in October
- Ni Hat Ni busy: patrolling, taking Elders out, community moose hunting
- New Wildlife Ctee manager: Eileen Marlowe
- Water has been getting lower
- Concern about Diavik mine closure in March 2026

GNWT

- Thanks Board and staff for good meeting and good work

Motion: to adjourn

Moved: Baba Pedersen
carried
Meeting adjourned

Next meeting: December 9-10, 2025

Closing prayer – Marc Whitford