

Present:

Doug Crossley, KIA, Chair
Florence Catholique, LKDFN, Vice Chair
Eric Christensen, Diavik
Lawrence Goulet, YKDFN
Sarah Olivier, NSMA (alternate – temporary appointee)
Joel Holder, ENR (alternate)
John McCullum (Staff)

Guests :

Chandra Venables, ENR

Minutes:

John McCullum

Meeting started at 9:40

Welcome to everyone from Chair.

Opening prayer – Florence Catholique

Chandra will be taking over as ENR alternate from Joel

ITEM 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Agenda

Motion

Approve agenda as presented.

Moved: Joel Holder

Second: Eric Christensen

Carried: Unanimous

Minutes

Motion

Approve September 20-21, 2007 minutes as presented.

Moved: Florence Catholique

Seconded: Lawrence Goulet

Carried: Unanimous

ITEM 2: Aboriginal Involvement Workshop

ED presents item on revised report. There was some discussion on the implications of EMAB approving the report – it is intended that EMAB will only be stating that the report is an accurate presentation of what happened at

the workshop. There needs to be a clear statement that the Parties represented on EMAB don't necessarily endorse the recommendations in the report – this should be in the report as well as in the covering letter. Those members who are concerned about the way this statement is worded will send in written suggestions.

ACTION ITEM: ED to redraft statement on page 4 that organizations whose representatives attended the workshop don't necessarily endorse the recommendations in the report. Board to review and approve changes by email.

Query regarding contribution agreement with DIAND. This was for 06-07 so was changed to only include planning for workshop. Reporting has been completed.

ED reviews draft recommendations EMAB is making as a result of the workshop.

Regarding recommendations to DDMI:

- DDMI rep notes that Diavik employs youth and this should be recognized.
- DDMI rep notes that Diavik's costs are rising and asks how much EMAB thinks should be spent on this.
- Noted that these recommendations are to fulfill commitments DDMI made in the Environmental Agreement, so they must at least do the minimum to meet them
- Does EMAB have priorities within these recommendations?
- Noted that the recommendations allow some interpretation eg. "youth" can mean people up to 32 years old
- The intent is to improve on the existing situation while acknowledging DDMI's efforts
- DDMI employees must meet educational standards – this should be raised when DDMI addresses community meetings
- Possibility of partnerships to share costs – government, other companies etc.
- EMAB could help to bring various organizations together to discuss training, while recognizing that this is much broader than DDMI

Regarding recommendations to Aboriginal Parties

- These are fine as is

Regarding recommendations to educators

- Noted that District Educational Authority in Lutsel K'e gives direction to Aurora College – include DEA's in distribution
- Inclusion of monitoring in high school programs would build momentum

Regarding recommendations to ENR

- Add other wildlife to list

Regarding Next Steps for EMAB

- What role would TK play in monitoring training; what about EMAB TK Panels

WRRB presentation coming up – this discussion will continue later

Rob Marshall, Executive Director of the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resource Board, made a presentation. WRRB Chair Alphonse Nitsiza joined the meeting part way through the presentation. WRRB's collaborative approach was emphasized. In the short term they are expecting a new joint proposal from TG/ENR for management of the Bathurst caribou. In the longer term they expect a proposal for a comprehensive management plan for the Bathurst herd. They will also be looking for ways to meet their requirement to obtain and use Traditional Knowledge in their decisions.

A number of questions were raised:

- How should EMAB work with the WRRB? Keep them informed of related recommendations and any opportunities to work together.
- How will WRRB address cumulative effects? WRRB doesn't have a lot of information at this point, but feels CE will be a crucial part of management decisions.
- Does the WRRB see itself playing a role in Aboriginal Involvement in monitoring? They can recommend how studies are done and believe they can play a positive role here. They would like to receive EMAB's report and recommendations.

Lunch break at 12.

Shannon Hayden replaced Sarah as NSMA representative.

ITEM 5: No Net Loss

The letter from DFO from December 12 was distributed – it had also been circulated by email on Dec 12.

Bruce Hanna provided some background on the issue and the current proposal, which DDMI has also agreed to. The "M-lakes" proposal would continue, along with two community projects, one in Kugluktuk and one in Lutsel K'e.

There was a discussion on Aboriginal involvement in the projects – this is an option.

Has DFO estimated the habitat units for each of the community projects suggested? No.

It is likely local people will do the work on projects in communities. DFO feels it is possible people from other communities could be involved in monitoring but it is likely the communities would give priority to their own residents.

Bruce noted that DFO is trying to get Char monitoring started again in Kugluktuk.

The fisheries authorization would need to be changed to reflect the new proposal. A draft would be sent around for comment. DFO is looking for EMAB support for the proposal

Motion: EMAB supports Option 3 for inland lakes compensation for Diavik Diamond Mines as presented in DFO's letter of December 12, 2007 – to enhance the m-lakes plus two projects identified in the 2004 community consultations.

Moved: Florence Catholique

Seconded: Shannon Hayden

Carried unanimously

The NSMA representative noted that they would like their fair share of monitoring opportunities.

ITEM 2: Aboriginal Involvement Workshop (cont.)

Discussion on a partnership approach to implementation of training for monitoring. EMAB could play a leadership role in bringing together all relevant agencies, including Aurora College, federal and territorial governments, mines, high schools etc to share information on:

- What is being done
- What are the needs
- What are the gaps
- Possibilities for a partnership to achieve the objective

There was some discussion on the possible role of the Mine Training Society but it was noted that MTS only funds training where a specific job is waiting for the trainee at the end. This should be investigated further.

The ED noted that organization of such a discussion could be a very big job that goes well beyond EMAB's mandate or expertise. It was noted that EMAB could host an exploratory meeting. ED will get back to board with options and responses from agencies.

Motion: to approve the recommendations resulting from the Aboriginal Involvement workshop as amended.

Moved: Florence Catholique

Seconded: Lawrence Goulet

Carried unanimously

ITEM 3: Water Licence Update

ED presents item from kit. Noted that North-South has not done its review of the 2005 and 2006 AEMP data. Also noted that the WLWB has now received the comments on the AMP.

It was noted that the funding for technical expertise for the WLWB, that EMAB has recommended, should include TK expertise.

ITEM 6: Capacity Funding Review update

ED presents item from kit.

Break

Graham Veale, Robert Mulders and Jan Adamczewski from ENR joined the meeting.

ITEM 7: Air Quality Update

Gord Macdonald joined the meeting by phone to provide the updates.

Air quality monitoring program

There has been no progress since Scott left. The first step is a meeting between DDMI's consultant and ENR and EC – this has not yet been arranged.

Dust sampling methodology verification

Additional gauges have been installed. The first report will be included in the annual report on dust to be submitted March 31, 2008. DDMI has also added another snow transect as part of the new AEMP.

Lichen study

The next study is planned for 2010.

Graham Veale noted that it would be very valuable for Dave Fox from EC to be present for the meeting with DDMI's consultant, and that Dave is on leave until end of March 2008.

IT was noted that Dr. Naeth's recommendations from her 2005 lichen study have not been addressed. Gord said this will all be part of the 2010 study.

Gord also said that DDMI has not found someone to replace Scott yet.

ACTION ITEM: ED to draft a follow up letter for Chair review on the Air Quality Monitoring Program stating that it is needed ASAP and requesting a workplan to set out a definite timeframe.

ACTION ITEM: ED to look for a technical expert to review the 2005 lichen report and provide a cost estimate to the Executive for consideration.

ITEM 8: Wildlife update

Jan Adamczewski is the new ENR caribou biologist. He provided an update on the cumulative effects workshop ENR is planning for February 21 with a more technical meeting on February 22.

The workshop will focus on modelling cumulative effects on caribou. He has spoken to Anne Gunn, John Nishi, Chris Johnson among others. The three models are:

- Energetics
- Resource selection function
- ALCES

It now appears that these can all be combined through ALCES.

Jan noted that ENR had done calving ground distribution surveys of seven herds in June, including the Bathurst and Ahiak. He is preparing a report but is not sure when it will be available. The survey appeared to show a significant decline in the Beverly herd.

Robert Mulders presented the most recent work on the wolverine DNA analysis. He was not able to provide a copy of the presentation or the report due to an agreement that all three companies have to review and sign off the report first. ENR has published the data in *Wildlife Biology*, a peer-reviewed journal.

ENR is recommending that DNA sampling be the primary wolverine study method by the mines. They need to follow a standard methodology. The sampling could be done every second year to keep costs down while still providing much better data than current methods.

Meeting adjourned for the day at 4:40 for Open House.

Present:

Doug Crossley, KIA, Chair
Florence Catholique, LKDFN, Vice Chair
Eric Christensen, Diavik
Lawrence Goulet, YKDFN
Shannon Hayden, NSMA
John McCullum (Staff)

Guests :

Chandra Venables, ENR

Minutes:

John McCullum

Meeting started at 9:20

ITEM 8: Wildlife update (cont.)

Aerial caribou surveys

An update had been scheduled on aerial caribou surveys. The Diavik rep will provide some information at the next meeting.

Fencing

After having seen the dikes around the pits and containment berms around the ponds and PKC in August there are no further concerns about a need for fencing at the Diavik mine.

Wolverine surveys

It was agreed that EMAB would support ENR's recommendation that DNA sampling be used as the primary wolverine study method.

Motion: that EMAB supports the recommendation by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that DNA sampling be used as the primary wolverine study method at the Diavik mine...

Moved: Shannon Hayden

Seconded: Lawrence Goulet

Carried unanimously

ITEM 9: Reports

Executive reports

Northern regulatory improvement initiative

ED gave brief background and said he had contacted Neil McCrank.

ACTION ITEM: Indicate the EMAB is willing and interested to participate in the review.
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Christmas closing

EMAB offices will be closed from Dec 24 to Jan 2 inclusive.

WLWB AEMP workshop

ED gave brief background.

ACTION ITEM: ED to inform WLWB that EMAB will send our Executive Director and a board member to be named to the AEMP workshop in January 2008.

Financial statements

ED reviewed financial statements – item 9(h)

ACTION ITEM: CC to provide a report on website usage.

Questions:

- Is there a budget for board member training? Yes, under board member proposals there is \$5K per year.
- Is there a board member orientation process? Yes we have an orientation package and ED makes himself available.

Concern raised about communications coordinator's medical situation. Some work is not getting done. EMAB needs more promotional give-aways for Geoscience Forum.

Motion: to go in camera
Moved: Florence Catholique
Seconded: Lawrence Goulet
Carried unanimously

Motion: to return ex camera
Moved: Florence Catholique
Seconded: Shannon Hayden
Carried unanimously

The CC must be back to work full-time by April. She will keep EMAB updated as soon as new information becomes available.

Discussion on revised approach to reporting surplus on financial statement. This is not revenue but unrestricted assets that show up on the balance sheet rather than the financial statement. Transfers of unrestricted assets should be shown as revenue.

ACTION ITEM: ED to contact auditor regarding best way to present unrestricted assets.

Outstanding action items

ED reviewed ROAA – Item 9 (i)

Correspondence

NSMA request for review of permits

ED provides background and results of investigations. It was noted that early on EMAB decided that the Parties would deal with any applications directly. Agreed that EMAB will not respond to permit applications but continue with its review of monitoring programs.

ACTION ITEM: ED to prepare a response to NSMA request based on discussions.

Diavik public meetings on EA Annual Report under EA 14.1 (e)

ACTION ITEM: ED to prepare a letter requesting DDMI schedule for community visits under EA 14.1 (e) for 2007.

DDMI Security Deposit review request

INAC handles this request – EMAB is copied as a requirement of the EA but does not do the review.

DDMI President

Note that recently appointed DDMI President Kim Truter will likely attend an EMAB meeting in January or February.

Water Licence Report Reviews

Query – will EMAB review the Limnology Report? Not unless the board gives specific direction since this would require an expense for outside expertise. There was some discussion about what EMAB could do in general. EMAB ensures that any comments it receives are circulated. However these comments are usually received at the deadline so cannot be incorporated into Party responses.

ITEM 11: IEMA / SLEMA update

Dave White and Zhong Liu – SLEMA

- De Beers re-did the fish palatability study because the first one included comments from a couple of participants of a gas taste. They did not follow SLEMA's protocol so SLEMA will not recognize the study results
- Planning another wildlife workshop, including a discussion of De Beers' community based caribou survey
- SLEMA has a liaison committee, like IACT, and will try to meet quarterly
- Review of Air Quality Monitoring Plan and report

- Plan provides necessary information but needs to address green power
- All emissions due to construction, except sulphur dioxide because they used low-sulphur fuel.
- Generally met TSP standard
- Equipment failed on pm10 and pm2.5
- Hydrology
 - Water levels up 10-15 cm in Snap Lake
 - De Beers said this was natural but now agrees that it is at least partly due to mining following comments by SLEMA
 - SLEMA recommends better collection of precipitation and a new hydrogeological study involving elders

Lunch

ITEM 12: Strategic planning update

Mike Bradshaw from Tait Communications, EMAB's strategic planning facilitator, circulated a handout with background and some initial approaches following the first meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee in November. This included a chart of EMAB's "core accountabilities" and a review of the questionnaire results. It is hoped that the committee will meet again in mid-January focusing on objectives and measures with a third meeting not scheduled yet. Then the plan will go to the board. The intent is to prepare a 3 – 5 year plan with clear targets.

Seven or eight questionnaires were returned including one from the Executive Director. The main themes that are presented in the handout result from grouping the ones that most questionnaires pointed to. Mike will provide a chart showing how this was arrived at. The biggest themes going forward are: use of TK/IQ and Aboriginal Party capacity building. Other themes include cumulative effects and a board focus on its advocacy and reputation.

ITEM 11: IEMA / SLEMA update (cont.)

Kevin O'Reilly – IEMA

- Update on operations at Ekati
- Chloride EQC is in final stages
- ICRP review now on section 3 – IEMA wondering why BHPB doesn't want to allow fish into pit lakes. Also need research on metal uptake by vegetation before finalizing the approach to covering the tailings
- BHPB has now submitted a draft Adaptive Management Plan – WLWB may try to coordinate the responses to DDMI's with BHPB's.
- Some acidic drainage was found – BHPB will do some management there
- IEMA would like to see the wolverine DNA studies continue

- BHPB is proposing a new air quality model – IEMA has some issues

ITEM 9: Reports (cont.)

Member reports

Florence – most issues were raised during the meeting. Thanks to the board for sending her to the Geoscience Forum

Lawrence – hopes new year will be better for communication and getting together for a meeting. Rachel has left YKDFN. Lots of concern about development at Drybones Bay.

Shannon – had a community meeting recently – they support YKDFN on Drybones Bay issue. They also discussed the TK workshop DDML is providing funds for. At DCAB's AGM in October they noted that GNWT dismissed most of DCAB's recommendations as unreasonable while DDML did well at adopting them.

Doug – KAA is continuing monitoring water quality after freeze-up; this is the first time under ice. They are analysing the data. KAA is also involved in the Wolf Den environmental assessment.

Eric – DDML did an environmental update yesterday in Wekweeti. They will be meeting with KIA to set dates for a meeting in the new year. The ice road is looking good so far. Underground has been approved to proceed by the investment committee and is nearing completion. They will start in 2009 and be fully operational by 2012. The paste plant is delayed until 2009. They have about 870 people on site. The biggest environment challenge is replacing Scott W. They have been looking all over the world without success. Gord is acting as the manager for now. A21, including the causeway, is on hold until more extensive drilling is completed.

ITEM 10: Inspections update

ED presents item from kit.

ACTION ITEM: draft a letter for Chair's review to INAC and WLWB stating concern about lack of inspections since June.

Next meeting

Underground tour – Executive will work with DDML to arrange this. Noted that EMAB should be clear about what it wants to see during the tour to ensure the right people are there. A tour is quite difficult during the construction phase.

Next meeting in February

ACTION ITEM: check with Eddie about possibility of meeting in Gameti.

Following meeting will be in Kugluktuk.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Closing prayer – Lawrence Goulet