



EMAB Meeting Summary – December 5-6, 2023

Meeting held in-person and by teleconference/videoconference.

## **Minutes/Action Item Follow-up**

- Follow up request for observer status on TK Working Group.

## **Finance**

- On target for budget this year except for PKC Closure Design review – funds from last year will be rolled over to pay for this. Budget revised to include this.
- EMAB to request rollover of unspent community update funds from 2022-23 to 2023-24.
- 2024-2025 workplan approved by Board.
- Sean Erasmus appointed to Personnel Committee.
- Discussion on ways to retain Environmental Specialists.
- Add budget line to 2024-2025 budget for AGM Support to include honoraria as well as travel for one delegate from each party outside of Yellowknife.

## **Update on Traditional Knowledge Working Group**

- Received updates from Board Members who also sit on TK Working Group.
- No decision has been made whether EMAB can be granted observer status.
- TK WG proposed structure if it becomes part of EMAB. EMAB and TK WG need to decide if they should join.
- EMAB to send letter to TK WG requesting to attend next meeting to discuss potential collaboration/organisational structure of both groups, granting of observer status/access to meeting notes.

## **2022 Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan Report Review**

- DDMI consultant (Rainie Sharpe, WSP) presented 2022 AEMP Report.
- EMAB consultant (Megan Cooley, NSC) presented review of 2022 AEMP report.
- board approved comments to go to WLWB.

## **Discussion to finalize workshop report on future role of EMAB**

- Discussion to address wording in Report, “The Board believes... that EMAB should continue to exist ... until DDMI fulfills its responsibilities under the Environmental Agreement and its license requirements” DDMI rep did not agree with this wording.
- Alternative wording options were discussed, e.g., changing sentence to “Most Board members agree” or deleting the last part of the sentence.
- Board to follow up with report author, Shauna Morgan, for clarification on reasons for wording.

## **Update on A418 filling**

- A418 pit continues to be filled with processed kimberlite.
- Noted modeling will be done again prior to flooding the pit with water.
- Water will be sampled once it reaches bottom of open pit.

## **Annual Report Update**

- ED proposed tentative schedule for completion of annual report, expects 1<sup>st</sup> draft will be ready for review by Board in early January.



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## **Water Licence Proceeding Update**

- Record is now closed and decision is in hands of WLWB.

## **Board Member Updates and Community Concerns**

- Board members provided community updates; no major concerns.

## **Environmental Air Quality Monitoring Plan**

- ED presents options to Board on whether to collaborate with DDMI on EAQMP.
- Board chooses option to recommend DDMI revise EAQMP to meet GNWT and EMAB recommendations.

## **Wildlife Monitoring and Management Plan Update**

- Discussion on Zone of Influence (ZOI) analysis – Tlicho Government was granted extension to submit comments and has recently submitted them; ECC directed DDMI to consider all comments and respond; and provide a final ZOI Analysis Method for approval.
- Meeting on caribou behaviour – did not come decide how to collect better monitoring data at meeting; GNWT requested follow-up letters from EMAB, TG, and DDMI by January 12.

## **Motions to approve EMAB recommendations**

- Decided that since EMAB engages and provides direction to the consultant and reviews consultants' comments internally, recommendations should come from EMAB, as has been done in the past; a revised motion to re-word recommendations can still be made, but if no one seconds it, the motion dies.

## **Update from Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Marc Casas, ED)**

- Marc Casas provided update on Ekati: recent water licence amendments, ICRP, WMMP, new ownership, Seepage Response Framework, and caribou monitoring. Some concerns about security.

## **Inspector's Report (Joe Heron, GNWT)**

- Inspector presented highlights of recent DDMI water licence inspections to EMAB since February 2023.