



EMAB Meeting Summary – November 29-30, 2022

Meeting held in-person and by teleconference/videoconference.

Minutes/Action Item Follow-up

- Concern that Elders' observations at 2021 TK Fish Camp are being called into question by biologists who weren't at the camp.
- respond to Diavik's November 15 letter on returning contributions repayable; note exceptions.

Finance

- revised budget for 2022-23 approved.
- Increase in salary range for the Environmental Specialist position approved.
- Diavik will provide the \$58K that EMAB requested be rolled over from 2020-21 to 2021-22.

Recommended Two-year Budget

- Revised Recommended Two-Year Budget for 2023-25 approved; added budget lines for review of Final Closure Plan and Water Licence Amendment Application
 - Diavik will disagree with the revised budget, so will go to Minister.
- Draft a response to Diavik comments on previous version of Two-Year Budget for Board approval.

Yellow Haze Monitoring Update

- The Final Air Quality Monitoring Guideline will be issued by ENR in February 2023.
- send letter to ENR asking to finalize Air Quality Guidelines soon and noting slippage of timelines.

Discussion and update on Expression of Interest for TK Monitoring Plan

- Diavik expecting Expressions of Interest to be submitted by communities by Dec 16.
 - Most communities said they don't have the capacity to lead development of TK Monitoring Plan.
- draft letter to Diavik regarding EMAB's comments/concerns on the EOI process for TK Closure Monitoring; recommend Diavik convene a meeting of the Parties to give direction on TK Monitoring.

TK Panel Issues

- TK Fish Camp Results including the video.
 - Diavik will contact the TK Panel then inform EMAB about their decision regarding the video.
- Workshop on TK Fish Camp Results
 - ED to draft a scope for the proposal for the workshop on the TK Fish Camp Results.
 - Diavik won't fund workshop if it doesn't take place before April 2023.
 - Focus on the reasons Elders decided the fish were unhealthy.
- Draft Letter on TK Panel Governance
 - Board has authority to convene TK Panel, but does not have resources.
 - EMAB would like the communities to give direction on whether EMAB should continue during Diavik closure period.
 - Diavik should organize a meeting of the Parties to address TK Panel and TK Monitoring.
- Does EMAB Want to Take Back the TK Panel?
 - Diavik has put the TK Panel on pause.
 - EMAB does not have sufficient funds to convene a TK Panel meeting (approx. \$150K).
 - If communities want EMAB to convene the TK Panel, then EMAB can consider how to do it.
- TK Panel Reports Approval Process
 - Recent TK Panel reports have not been finalized the same way as in the past.
 - Diavik will provide information on the verification process, then the Board will make a decision.



Water Licence Amendment Application for Natural Drainages

- WLWB will circulate the application for breaching collection ponds and allowing flow into Lac de Gras.
- Technical session planned for early April. Hearing will likely be 2-3 days.
- Backup material for application is from the Final Closure Plan (FCRP); coordinate the technical reviews.

Discussion on EMAB role during / after closure

- EMAB should continue reviewing reports after closure. EMAB will still be needed but role will change.
- Invite GNWT Lands, ENR and WLWB to address closure sign off at next meeting.

Debrief on Closure Information Sessions and FCRP review

- Complete initial reviews of FCRP by February, then update communities on findings.
- Technical consultants have provided proposals. They will identify any significant issues.
- EMAB has re-allocated funds for 2022-23 to review the FCRP, and added in FCRP review to the 2023-25 estimated budget.

PK to Pits Update

- A418 mining should be complete in December.
- Removing any potential contaminants and salvageable equipment will take 2-3 months.

Inspector's Report

- Before starting deposit of PK to A418 pit, the inspector will ensure that the work is done properly.
- Request for Inspector to take a photo of yellow haze if he sees it.

Boots on the Ground presentation

- Good conditions for caribou since 2019.
- Method: boat around lakes until they see caribou, then observe. New camp at Lac du Sauvage.
- Elders raised concern about low-flying helicopters near Diavik disturbing caribou.
- Saw lots of caribou in the Ekati area in August 2022.
- EMAB to consider a recommendation on low-level flying when caribou are present.

Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) Addendum Response

- EMAB staff will revise WMMP letter based on Board direction, and send to Board for review/approval.
- Clarify review process for WMMP and revisions with ENR.

Next Meeting

- Tentative dates for the next meeting are February 7-8, 2023.