

EMAB meeting
Gameti – February 26

Present:

Doug Crossley, Chair, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Florence Catholique, Vice Chair, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Floyd Adlem, Secretary Treasurer, Canada
Lawrence Goulet, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Claudia Haas, North Slave Metis Alliance
Eddie Erasmus, Tlicho Government
Chandra Venables, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
(alternate)
Eric Christensen, Diavik
John McCullum, Executive Director, EMAB

Minutes:

Michele LeTourneau

Opening prayer:
Lawrence Goulet

Meeting started at 1:00.

Item 1 – Approval of agenda and minutes

Motion

Approve minutes of December 13-14, with change on 11 of 12.

Moved: Chandra Venables

Seconded: Florence Catholique

Carried: Unanimous

Email motions carried and read into the record:

- To send a letter to INAC in support of providing funds to the WLWB to access technical expertise and recommending that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada ensure that funds are permanently available to the WLWB for access to independent technical expertise and advice to provide for effective and efficient implementation of DDMI's water licence and resolution of any key technical issues that arise.
- To approve the December 19, 2007 revised version of the report on the EMAB workshop on Aboriginal Involvement in Environmental Monitoring at the Diavik Mine held in June 2007.

- To accept the December 24, 2007 proposal from Northways Consulting for Capacity Building Program Review for EMAB up to \$10,850
- To approve the October 30, 2007 Terms of Reference for a Capacity Funding Program Review budgeted at \$24,420
- To accept the October 12, 2007 proposal from Tait Communications and Consulting for a Strategic Planning Facilitator for EMAB up to \$9,250.

Item 2 – Community-Based Monitoring Camp update

An attempt was made to get Gord Macdonald on the line to update the Board on the CBM camp. Alas, technology failed us and this was not possible.

The Chair expressed the Board's support for Gord's return to health so he can continue to contribute to EMAB and Diavik as he has in the past.

The Executive Director and Communications Coordinator recap the meeting notes that were sent out regarding the January 30, 2008 meeting about the camp situation held with EMAB staff and Diavik staff.

Florence noted that Cindy Gilday and Steve Bourn of Diavik visited Lutsel K'e to present an update on environmental work Diavik has done. She said that they mentioned the CBM camps would go on this year, but not with the TK aspect.

ACTION ITEM: Write the proposal for a water quality camp.

ACTION ITEM: Speak with Gord Macdonald to get the update that was meant for this meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Write a memo on the big ticket items for discussion on future of CBM camp.

ACTION ITEM: Write and send a letter to Aboriginal parties re: that there will be activity at the camp this summer and encourage them to submit a proposal with a copy to Diavik. Includes dates Diavik designated for CBM camp.

ACTION ITEM: Include CBM camp on the agenda for the next EMAB meeting.

NSMA is working on a proposal for 2008 CBM camps.

Water quality camp should also help TK holders understand the science – this might require more than the three people per Aboriginal Party that can be accommodated.

The question on how to increase the number of participants at the camp. Separate Aboriginal parties? Put up another tent?

It was decided that such changes can be discussed in the longer term discussion.

Possible foci for future camps:

- No Net Loss issues
- Reclamation – in regards to the AEMP

Item 3 – Aboriginal Involvement Workshop follow-up

Discussions with training organizations; Information in meeting binder.

A workshop would cost approximately 30-50K.

We might possibly get funding from INAC – likely not available until fall.

Questions: Why is EMAB facilitating this? Isn't this beyond our mandate?

This could be an opportunity to show leadership. We could partner with Diavik? We do have a part in this, but neither Diavik nor EMAB is an educational institute.

Or perhaps this is the time to hand it off?

There is a disconnect between the occupational standards set by ECE, the course developed by BEAHR and delivered by Aurora College, the sponsorship of the course by the Mine Training Society (MTS) and the mines, which find the course does not provide enough training.

Mine Training Society seems to be best equipped to take this issue on.

Conclusion: We send a letter to MTS noting that there seems to be a gap between training program and the needs of the hiring mines, between standards / programs / needs.

Suggest a meeting with the relevant people from those organizations. EMAB to attend.

ACTION ITEM: John will draft a recommendation for a meeting between ECE, AC, MTS and mines.

Break 2:45 – 3:00.

ITEM 4 – Capacity Funding Review update

Information in meeting binder.

ITEM 5 – Strategic Planning update

Information in binder.

ACTION ITEM: Indicate to consultant that EMAB wants to review the report of the second SP committee meeting as soon as possible.

ITEM 6 – Water licence update / discussion

Note: wrong item in kit. Item copied below

- 1) AEMP –
 - All changes to original AEMP have been made by DDML, as directed by WLWB – final version of original AEMP being distributed
 - A modified AEMP to be submitted for approval March 31, 2008.
 - DIAND community workshops on Guidelines for AEMP Development originally scheduled for Nov 19-22 took place week of January.21
 - Adaptive Management Plan for AEMP – submitted August 24 and undergoing internal review by WLWB, including a comparison with Ekati plan; no decisions until after Feb 15 AdMP workshop. Revised plan due March 31 w/ AEMP.
 - QA Plan – now undergoing an internal WLWB review.
 - DDML has been directed to re-submit the historical data analysis
 - DDML has re-submitted the Limnology report based on direction from the WLWB provided Oct 18/07. This will be approved separately, and then incorporated into the new AEMP document.
 - 2007 AEMP summer sampling
 - July sampling did not take place, August sampling was not completed, September sampling was partially completed
 - WLWB workshop Jan 29 – largely discussed DDML's "lessons learned" paper on the summer 2007 sampling including recommendations for changes in the 2008 sampling. Participants did not support reduction in sampling.
- 2) Ammonia Management Plan – Board has all information requested; will likely at decide at March meeting;
 - Decision on Hyallela protocols likely in March as well.

- 3) Closure and reclamation plan – WLWB is still reviewing the Oct '06 draft and will likely not give direction until spring.
- 4) Funding for WLWB to retain experts – permanent funds are not in place. WLWB has a set budget of 600K with inflation adjustments and needs about 1.3M to operate. DIAND has been managing on a year-to-year basis and WLWB hopes a longer term (five years?) solution will be arrived at.
- 5) Licence management, DTC and participant funding – WLWB has an interim report from SENES but is now involved in a broader MVLWB initiative to review procedures among all MVRMA land and water boards to ensure minimum standards are met and achieve consistency where possible. Right now they are leaning more toward as-needed workshops rather than a standing committee like DTC. Also looking at a policy on expectations for consultation prior to submission of documents.

We haven't received an invitation for the McCrank roundtable yet?

ACTION ITEMS: Send EMAB members contact information for the roundtable and contact McCrank for the EMAB invitation.

Response from INAC re: need for continued funding to WLWB for experts -- WLWB gets its money from implementation because it's a settled land claim.

ACTION ITEM: Respond to INAC letter indicating EMAB is encouraged by their commitment to provide adequate funds.

4:00 adjourn for the day.

EMAB meeting
Gameti – February 27

Present:

Doug Crossley, Chair, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Florence Catholique, Vice Chair, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Floyd Adlem, Secretary Treasurer, Canada
Lawrence Goulet, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Claudia Haas, North Slave Metis Alliance
Eddie Erasmus, Tlicho Government
Chandra Venables, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
(alternate)
Eric Christensen, Diavik
John McCullum, Executive Director, EMAB

Minutes:

Michele LeTourneau

ITEM 3 – Aboriginal Involvement Workshop follow-up – con't

ED reads out draft recommendation:

EMAB recommends that appropriate representatives of Education, Culture and Employment; NWT Mine Training Society; Aurora College; Diavik Diamond Mines and other interested diamond mining companies; meet to assess whether currently available training for environmental monitoring in the NWT and Nunavut qualifies trainees to the level required by DDMI and other mines.

Motion

To pass the recommendation as presented.

Moved: Florence Catholique

Seconded: Claudia Haas

Approved: Unanimous

The letter will go to: Mine Training Society, Chamber of Mines, Aurora College, Diavik, Snap Lake, Ekati, ECE and Nunavut Department of Education.

ACTION ITEM: Give a heads up to the departmental people so that the letter is not unexpected.

ITEM 7 – Work plan/board calendar

Information in meeting kit.

Discussion on board planning.

- Report on ENR's Cumulative Effects workshop (in meeting binder).
- Report on CEAM Gathering (in meeting binder)
- Noted: Standardisation of data collection was not dealt with at the ENR workshop.
- It was discussed at the CEAM workshop under the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program.

ACTION ITEM: Request a presentation from CIMP on what they have done/are doing regarding indicators and standardization of data collection. Request ENR present on the outcome of the CE workshop and on the work they are doing on standardized and accessible data storage. (This can lead to a decision on whether EMAB wants to organize a workshop on cumulative effects).

The Board works through an exercise to determine workshop priorities.

Workshop priorities for 2008-2009:

#1 adaptive management

#2 abandonment and reclamation

#3 TK/IQ

The Board develops a Board calendar for 2008-2009.

Brief discussion on use of DCAB work plan format by EMAB in making its two-year budget submission to Diavik in September.

ACTION ITEM: Tie the activities listed in the two-year budget submission to the relevant clauses in the Environmental Agreement.

ACTION: prepare draft 2008-09 budget based on calendar and circulate to Board.

ITEM 8 – Reports

Financial report

In meeting kit.

Motion

Accept financial statement as presented.

Moved: Floyd Adlem

Seconded: Chandra Venables

Approved: Unanimous

Correspondence

Letter from INAC: An inspector has been hired for the Diavik file.

CEAM gathering

Information in meeting binder.

ACTION ITEM: Request an update on CEAM from David Livingstone for May meeting.

Member reports

Lutsel K'e: There will be an election in Lutsel K'e on March 18th. The wildlife manager position is now filled by a full-time community member. The wildlife committee has a full complement of members. Florence will train the new wildlife manager. Florence is the acting SAO from March 14-21.

NSMA: The organization has gone from 4 to 3 to environment employees. Claudia will be working on assessments and remediation, and the newsletter.

GNWT: Chandra will work with all three diamond mines. Section four of EA for Ekati provides for five year review. INAC and GNWT have stated they have no concerns. Chandra took a writing workshop on how to write useful and more effective comments for the reviews that they do.

Tlicho Government: Lands protection department now working on land use planning – which is a priority for the Tlicho Government. Also, the department is swamped in the spring land use applications. There is land use planning group, including: Elders from each community, employees of the department and a consultant. The group is doing community tours. The Elders say that youth must be a part of land use planning, so they are also doing school meetings and GPS and GIS training with youth. A few youth between the ages of 18-25 from the communities have been identified and are working with elders. It's a very exciting process. There is no precedent to follow. Starting to work with other groups in the Tlicho region. They want to have workshop with all the boards and departments so that we know what each organisation is doing. Eddie reports on a quarterly basis to the Tlicho Assembly.

KIA: Doug met with a member of KIA's lands and environment office and discussed some of EMAB's current issues, such as EMAB's

promotion of Aboriginal involvement and strategic planning workshops. He tries to do that on a quarterly basis. KIA will have their election for board members and executive on March 18. Five people have put their names forth for president. Doug will keep EMAB informed if there are changes that affect EMAB.

Diavik: Scotty is working on specs for CBM camp and health requirements. They are thinking of extending camps into the winter season next year. Looking at partnerships with training institutions in situ in winter months. There is a wolverine under the south camp. Wildlife (ENR) has given Diavik permission to deal with it. The ice road is going very well. There are 8000 loads going out compared to 11,000 last year. There have been no major incidents. It's been very smooth this year. In 2012 (fully underground) ice road traffic will dramatically drop off. Impacts will significantly decrease. Diavik will be heading toward the tail end of their operation. There have been no new discoveries of any consequence. There will be less jobs, less everything. Diavik's president, Kim Truter, has committed to a visit but he's really busy right now. He's getting a handle on underground operations. A visit may be possible in June-July.

Next meeting: March 25-27 or 28.

Underground tour – EMAB would like a general familiarization with a focus on water.

ACTION ITEM: Write and send a letter of interest regarding a potential underground visit at the Diavik site during the August meeting. Identify specific things EMAB wants to learn about or see so that appropriate resource people can be available to discuss issues with EMAB.

Motion
To adjourn
Moved: Florence Catholique
Carried unanimously

Closing prayer: Eddie Erasmus