Meeting Notes – July 6-8, 2026
EMAB Boardroom and Diavik Mine Site Visit

Present:

Charlie Catholique, *Chair*	Łutselk'e Dene First Nation
Marc Whitford, *Vice-Chair*	North Slave Métis Alliance
Baba Pedersen, *Director*	Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Tara Marchiori, *Director*	Diavik Diamond Mines
Sarah Elsasser, *Director*	GNWT-ECC

Staff:

John McCullum, *Executive Director*	EMAB (minutes)
Karina Kramer, *Environmental Specialist*	EMAB (minutes)

Absent:

Violet Camsell-Blondin, *Secretary-Treasurer*	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Adi Adiele, *Director*	Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Guests:
Adrian D'hont – NSMA Alternate (site visit only)
Jessica Pacunayen, TG (Day 2 & 3 in person)
Allan Twissel, Consultant (Day 3)

Monday, July 6, 2026

Site visit at the Diavik Diamond Mine Site
Checked in at G&G before 6:15 a.m. and returned to Yellowknife at 6:30 p.m.

Charlie, Adrian, Baba, Tara, Sarah, John and Karina were present.

Comments noted:

- There are some places on the NWRSA where boulders block caribou access; Diavik says TKMP will address this
- NWRSA is very steep at Pond 2 end
- Caribou spotted near Pond 2
- Many patches of natural vegetation appearing

- Big pile of contaminated soil in landfarm instead of windrows
- Siphoning will be continuously monitored to ensure lake levels stay within normal range of Lac de Gras

Tuesday, July 7, 2026
Meeting started at 9:05 a.m. at EMAB Boardroom

Opening prayer – Charlie Catholique

Charlie, Marc, Baba, Tara, Sarah, John and Karina were present in EMAB's Boardroom at 9:00 a.m.

Item 1 – Approval of Agenda

Chair reviews agenda.

Discussion regarding Inspector:

- Inspector has left position
- Discussion of Inspector position will continue at the specific agenda item

Motion: To approve agenda as presented
Moved: Marc Whitford
Second: Sarah Elsasser
Carried

Item 2 – Conflict of Interest

No conflicts declared.

Item 3 – Minutes

ED presents draft minutes from April 28-30'26 meeting.

Motion: to approve minutes of April 28-30'26 as presented
Moved: Charlie Catholique
Second: Tara Marchiori
Carried
Sarah abstained

Item 3 – Minutes (cont.)

Email motions read into minutes

ED presents outstanding action items.

Water Quality Station in Kugluktuk:

- KIA is in flux right now; they would support re-establishing the station
- Suggested that EMAB staff draft recommendation to ECC

ACTION ITEM: EMAB staff will draft a letter for Board approval recommending re-establishing the water monitoring station at Kugluktuk. Will be sent to ECC and copied to KIA.

Yellow Haze Recommendations:

- ES presents recommendations
- Discussion regarding relevance of yellow haze recommendations given Diavik has entered the closure phase
- Conditions have changed
- EMAB has raised this issue for a long time; need to keep this as an action item. What is the cause of the haze?
- If the Board is concerned about this in the future, it is always possible to revisit the recommendations
- This is a community concern; needs to be addressed. Is the haze harmful?
- Should be monitored at future mines; lessons learned
- Proposal to outline EMAB's position and perspective regarding the yellow haze in the Annual Report
- Agreed not to send the letters to Diavik or ECC

ACTION ITEM: Don't approve draft letters; include EMAB's position and perspective regarding yellow haze in the next Annual Report, and remove action item from list.

Storage Tank Regulations:

- Has been two years with no contact from the ECCC regarding storage tank regulations

ACTION ITEM: ED will follow up with ECCC regarding status of storage tank regulations.

Lake Trout Mercury Investigation:

- There was concern regarding mercury levels in fish at LdG, but study became stalled due to data gaps, and has been on EMAB's action items list for a couple years

- Workshop is unnecessary at this stage
- Cumulative effects should still be monitored
- Board agreed to remove item from action items list

Discussion:

- ED proposes developing a list of studies that did not meet EMAB expectations to inform future mine monitoring frameworks
- The Annual Report or a final report would be a good medium for this list. Could include lessons learned, recommendations, and areas for improvement for future projects

ACTION ITEM: EMAB staff will prepare a list of action items for possible removal from list for Board approval at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: EMAB staff will compile a list of research that did not meet EMAB expectations, to inform monitoring at future mines for possible inclusion in a final report. Include lake trout mercury monitoring.

ACTION ITEM: ED to send a follow-up request to GNWT regarding EMAB's participation in development of Public Lands Act regulations.

Community Meeting in Kugluktuk:

- Postpone community meeting in Kugluktuk until KIA management is settled

TK Fish Camp Recommendations:

- ES presents recommendations
- Discussion regarding relevance of recommendations given Diavik has entered the closure phase and TK Monitoring has started
- Board agreed not to approve or send the letter

ACTION ITEM: EMAB staff will review TK Fish Camp recommendations to determine if they were addressed in EMAB's comments on the TKMP. If there is no overlap, staff will keep recommendations to be used as future comments/recommendations on the TKMP.

BREAK

Item 3 – Minutes (cont.)

Continue with reviewing outstanding action items.

Discussion:

- Removing completed action items relating to following up on Minister's decision to wind EMAB down
- Removing action item to request CIRNAC appoint a member to EMAB.
- Noted this is the last year for the Jack Kaniak scholarship

ACTION ITEM: Replace Dropbox with a PDF when sending Board Meeting material to Board Members.

ACTION ITEM: Send Board Meeting material to Board Members one week prior to meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Tara Marchiori will follow up with Diavik to give the Board access to the hazardous materials and underground equipment removal list.

ES presents outstanding recommendations.

Diavik response to TKMP recommendations is overdue.

ACTION ITEM: Tara Marchiori will ensure a response to outstanding TK Planning Workshop recommendation.

Item 4 – Finance

ED presents variance report:

- Keep deducted rent until year end; potential liability / legal action
- Noted that GNWT rep in-person attendance is not in budget. Board agrees to cover accommodation and per diem cost.

Discussion on status of website and need for upgrade so it can continue to be stable and accessible

- Website should continue to be accessible after EMAB shuts down
- Diavik offered to digitize EMAB hard copy documents. ED agreed, but documents can't leave EMAB office. No response.
- Website will have annual costs – need to decide how these will be covered. Consider talking to EMAB partners such as GNWT
- Possible request to Diavik for funds to update website
- Wait until Minister's decision on Diavik request to shut EMAB down before considering

ES presents website upgrade proposals:

- Need for the website to be upgraded
- ToR and RFP sent out in May'26 to five website developers; EMAB staff received four proposals
- Discussion about EMAB website needing to be available long after EMAB winds down
- Perhaps ECC could house EMAB documents

Q: Should EMAB wait until Minister's decision is made public and EMAB understands whether it will have to wind down to proceed with hiring a website developer?

A: Yes. Will table this agenda item until after the Minister's decision.

- Need to consider intellectual property and permission from participants

ACTION ITEM: table decision on contracting a website developer to next Board Meeting

ACTION ITEM: Sarah Elsasser will inquire informally about ECC maintaining EMAB website if EMAB shuts down .

LUNCH BREAK
11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Item 5 – Site Visit De-brief

Discussion:

- Board Member would have liked a slightly longer tour eg. an hour
- Board should visit site twice per year at freshet and freeze-up.
- Appreciation for Diavik's hospitality and knowledge shared throughout the visit
- Mine site differences between the operational and closure phase were noted
- Single pile at landfarm; should be in windrows.
- Noted patches of vegetation growing naturally on site.
- Invite site visit participants who are not Board members to provide their observations at Board meeting Observations: Pond 2 discharge improved; PKC improved. Boulders should be removed from NWRSA.
- Should provide communities with a chance to see pits being breached when water quality is acceptable.

ACTION ITEM: Tara Marchiori will inquire on why landfarm is in one pile and not into windrows.

ACTION ITEM: Tara Marchiori will provide Board Members with a link to the Diavik auction site.

ACTION ITEM: Tara Marchiori will provide Board Members and staff with a video of the siphons filling the pits, and aerial photos of the PKC drainage.

Item 6 – Minister's Consultation Update

ED presents item

Status of EMAB response:

- Board should convene after the Minister's decision is made public
- Board agrees to a teleconference for August 5th at 10:00 a.m.
- Noted that scheduled August 12-13 meeting should be moved to a later date

Procedural Fairness Letter:

- ED presents item
- ED and Chair explained procedural fairness process and retained legal counsel, and rationale for sending letter
- Letter should have been approved by Board; Operation manual provides for emergency approval
- Board member requested letter be withdrawn but no response; too late now

Motion: to move in camera
Moved: Sarah Elsasser
Second: Baba Pedersen
Carried

EMAB staff step out of the Board Meeting.

Motion: to go ex camera
Moved: Baba Pedersen
Second: Sarah Elsasser
Carried

Motion: Any future legal advice sought by Board or shared by EMAB must be approved by Board in advance
Moved: Babe Pedersen
Second: Marc Whitford
Carried

Response to May 1st Invitation by Diavik COO:

- Time to respond has passed. EMAB will not respond.

Item 7 – Operations Manual Review

Discussion:

- All Board Members should familiarize themselves with the manual
- Some members stated they were not aware of the Operations Manual

ACTION ITEM: Remove Environmental Agreement text from operations manual.

ACTION ITEM: Staff to re-send current version of Operations Manual by email to Board Members and provide printed copies to Baba and Marc.

ACTION ITEM: Add Review of Operations Manual as an agenda item for the next Board Meeting.

Email Distribution List:

- distribution list recipients vary
- ED notes that distribution list can change depending on the context but the Board list and Alternates list do not change
- In the past EMAB has allowed Parties to choose who they want on the Alternates distribution list.
- Follow the Operations Manual to determine Alternates distribution list ie Alternates and one additional person identified by Party
- Noted there is also a Parties distribution list

ACTION ITEM: ED will consult with the Parties on removing individuals from Alternates distribution list where a Party has more than one.

Q: What types of emails would Parties receive?
A: Regulatory process, EA, and DDMI wind-down emails.

ACTION ITEM: confirm Operations Manual is on EMAB website

Item 8 – TKMP Update and Steps

ED presents agenda item:

- Has not received official response from Diavik regarding TKMP Workshop recommendations

Tara Marchiori updates Board:

- Diavik held a TK Workshop (May 11-14)
    - There were representatives from all Indigenous Parties, staff, and two observers from WLWB
    - Det'on Cho Environmental facilitated: Cody Drygeese and Karen Lenoir
- Participants appreciated the Indigenous-led workshop approach
- Participants discussed the governance and dispute resolution for the TKMF
    - Will help inform next update to framework due on 2027
- Process will be like TK Fish Camp panels: planning session, monitoring and verification
- Holding a session at the Diavik mine site on July 20-27'26 and a verification session to ensure participants approve the report
    - This year will focus on land-based objectives (e.g. caribou monitoring and protection, dust monitoring, reclamation, revegetation, landscape features and site appearance)
    - Water and aquatic life monitoring will resume next year (in accordance with three year cycle)
    - Will engage on new Cultural Use Criteria (site-wide), revegetation plan, and wildlife camera locations
    - Attendees: two community members and one staff from each Indigenous EA Party, a revegetation expert from WSP, DDMI staff, and two co-facilitators
    - Verification session will be done in the fall
    - Final report expected at the end of 2026

Discussion:

- EMAB would like to participate
- Diavik's rationale for why EMAB is not invited: EMAB will maintain its standard review role via WLWB
    - Diavik will submit a report for review
    - EMAB typically does not attend TK meetings; issue is logistics
- Some Board Members support EMAB attendance because EMAB monitors TK
- EMAB has attended past TK panels, on and off site
- Any attendance request should use less adversarial language
- EMAB should visit communities more often
- Many people who attended the May workshop had never been to site and did not have TK
- Would like to see report from May workshop.
- Diavik wants the process to be Indigenous-led. Participants found it hard to discuss the governance structure.
- EMAB should focus on community meetings and share EMAB knowledge
- There will be three participants per Party; try for male and female elder plus a youth.

- Recommendation to discuss any recommendations at October meeting after receiving Diavik response to TKMP recommendations.
- Try to be more positive

ACTION ITEM: Discuss EMAB past attendance/involvement at TK panels and events when requesting to attend.

ACTION ITEM: Board to identify additional reasons for EMAB attendance at TK panels.

ACTION ITEM: Tara to provide copy of her update on TKMP to staff

Item 9 – Specific Effects Study (SES)

ES presents item:

- Diavik submitted an SES Report for Ponds 2 & 7, and an SES Design Report for Ponds 1 & 13
- reviewed key ORS recommendations
- Diavik proposed using the Ponds 2 and 7 SES design for all ponds, which EMAB highlighted as a concern due to differences in the catchments, issues with prolonged exceedances and single year of data.

ADJOURN FOR THE DAY

Wednesday July 8, 2026
Meeting started at 9:05 a.m. at EMAB Boardroom

Chair reviews agenda

Item 10 – Draft Strategic Plan Review

Allan Twissell joins meeting by Zoom

Allan presents PowerPoint summary of Strategic Plan

Discussion:

- Chair's message
  - Clarify the EA Parties
  - Add a date for start of closure (page 4, para 2 of ppt presentation)
  - Instead of "pristine" say return land to a state as close as possible to pre-development condition (P. 4 para 3)
  - Change "environment" to land, water and air (p. 4, para 3)
  - Clarify use of Aboriginal instead of Indigenous (throughout document)
- Executive Summary
  - Change "the" to "their" (p. 6, para 4, line 1)
  - Concern about the word "watchdog" (p. 7, para2). Refer to independent oversight instead.
  - Add "necessity" (p. 7, para 3, bullet 2)
  - Refer to sustainable cultural practices (p. 8, para 3, bullet 3)
- Strategic Planning Framework
  - Change "contract" to "legally binding agreement" (p. 9, para 1, bullet 1)
  - Look for a better word than "formal way" (p. 9, para 2, line 1)
  - Add "necessity" to title (p. 11)
  - Add a bullet on why EMAB is necessary (p. 12)
    - Noted there is not consensus on whether EMAB is necessary
  - Minister's decision should be included in the context (p. 13, para 3)
  - Change "throughout the closure and reclamation process" to "until full and final closure"
  - Change statement that Diavik is the first mine to enter closure – Snap Lake entered closure first (p. 14, para 1, bullet 1)
  - Vision (p. 15)
    - Insert "their" before traditional cultural practices (Option 1)
    - Choose Option 1 for Vision
  - Mission (p. 16)
    - Decide on option after review of rest of document
- Pillars and Objectives
  - Note desire for EMAB to do more community involvement (p. 20)

Item 10 – Draft Strategic Plan Review (cont.)

Discussion

- Conclusion
    - Review achievement of plan annually and change as needed
    - Noted that the Vision and Mission shouldn't change during the five-year period; action plan should be updated annually
    - Final version should be public; can be an informational and promotional document

Strategic Plan Action Items

- Agreed that each Board member will review the action items and the Board will discuss them during the August 5 conference call from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Noted that better copies of the photos are needed for the final document.

Item 11 – Inspector's Update

ACTION ITEM: Staff to contact Inspector's office regarding Brandon Bradbury's replacement: when, who? Emphasize need for continuity and a quick replacement.

Item 12 – Round Table

NSMA

- Fish fry was successful
- Old Fort Rae projects going well
- Lots of projects; staff running out of space – will move into new building soon

LKDFN

- Chief was re-elected; new councillors – Charlie is on council
- Governance workshop next week
- Graduation – six graduates; highest ever
- Denesoline involved in demolition at Diavik; LKDFN members employed on project

TG

- Violet will be back soon; she is at the Annual Gathering in Whati
- Important to continue communication among Parties even if EMAB shuts down

- Expanding BOTG monitoring beyond caribou – fish, air, lichen and vegetation
    - Will invite other Indigenous organizations to participate

KIA

- Lots of change and some challenges right now
- People are concerned about Minister shutting down EMAB; they would like to see EMAB continue
- There are so many projects going on that there aren't enough people available in Kugluktuk to fill all the positions
- Concern about Grays Bay project – protect environment vs. economic development. People are torn.

Diavik

- Lots of site visits coming up: PKMW, TKMP, TG, WLWB, GNWT, DFO
- Tara will be leaving Diavik Sept 11, before the next meeting. Diavik will name a successor
    - Amanda will take over

GNWT

- Prefers to participate in person; will plan to attend next meeting in person
- Thanks Tara for valuable contributions to EMAB

Closing

Next meeting

- October 20-22 (including AGM)
- Conference Call August 5 after Minister's decision: 10-12, then 1 to 3.

Meeting Adjourned

Closing Prayer: Charlie Catholique