



January 19-20, 2021 EMAB Meeting Summary

Meeting held in-person and by teleconference/videoconference. Videoconference was for presentations, teleconference for audio.

Minutes:

- Executive Director (ED) is in negotiations with new EMAB office landlords.
 - Concerns about lease length, and termination.
 - Lawyer has reviewed lease
- Government of Canada has not assigned a new Director. ED will reach out to them.

Finance

- Board approved 2021-22 EMAB Budget and Board Calendar.
- Diavik has accepted EMAB's recommended budget for 2021-23

Inspectors report:

- No major concerns. Next inspection is January 28 2021.

Update on DDEC insolvency

- DDEC remains 40% owner of Diavik, but insolvent – value of assets equals closure costs.
- Diavik sells DDEC share of diamonds to cover operating costs, the rest are returned.
- DDEC's letter of credit will pay DDEC's share of closure costs.

Frame Lake Project – Fish Habitat compensation:

- Diavik looking into rehabilitating Frame Lake in Yellowknife as a part of their Fish Habitat Compensation Program. Requesting EMAB provide letter of support.
 - No fish in Frame Lake now; too little oxygen in winter
 - add special aerator/filter, and stock lake with fish.
 - Not intended to be a fishery, don't expect it will return to being safe for recreational uses such as swimming, could be catch and release fishing, etc.
 - Diavik will look into engaging with communities on this.
 - Concern that location is far from Lac de Gras
 - Diavik would start the program; would need a local partner to pass it off to once it's running.

2019 AEMP

- Results are similar to previous years; main effect on Lac de Gras is nutrient enrichment
- EMAB consultant had some questions, but answers won't likely affect conclusions much
- EMAB approved sending recommendations on 2019 AEMP to WLWB



Boots on the Ground – Caribou Monitoring Presentation

Petter Jacobsen from TG presented on their Caribou monitoring program: Ekwò Nàxoède K'è.

- Highlights:
 - Contwoyto Lake area, also Point Lake
 - Watch caribou the way hunters would. Watch everything: weather, vegetation, caribou health, number of calves, predators.
 - Cool weather has been good for caribou health: big antlers early in season
 - Not many calves in the last few years
 - Less caribou lately than in 2016 and 2017
 - Wolves were there; noted bald eagles
 - Travel slowly by boat or walking
 - Watch caribou where ancestors used to. Eskers can be a good place to watch. Best place to find caribou is at water and land crossings.

TK Monitoring during and after Closure

- Board discussed options for developing TK monitoring program.
- Question is how to provide for each community to speak for itself, and how to bring all the information together. How many people from each community should be involved?
- How involved should EMAB be in developing a TK monitoring program?
- Concern that TK Panel is not representative of communities
- Would like to see Diavik engage on a community level to get this information. Start broad at community level then narrow it down by having smaller groups of reps.
- Indigenous groups have developed ways to monitor other sites using TK, e.g. Giant and Colomac.
- Discuss further at next meeting.

Closing

- ENR WMP Workshop Feb 2-3 2021
- Next meeting March 9-10 2021