

INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, JULY 8TH 1999, 7:30 PM

Participants

Society Members

Akaiicho Treaty 8:

Lucy Sanderson

Wally Desjarlais

Bernadette Lockhart

Dogrib Treaty 11 Council:

Grand Chief Joe Rabesca

Violet Camsell-Blondin

Johnny Smith

North Slave Metis Alliance:

Bob Turner

Govt. of the Northwest Territories:

Kelly Robertson

Govt. of Canada:

Marie Adams

BHP Diamonds:

Scott Williams

John Witteman

Denise Burlingame

Chris Hanks

Directors

Fikret Berkes

Peter McCart

François Messier

Tony Pearse

Kevin O'Reilly

Bill Ross

Staff

Hal Mills

Matt Bender

Lisa Hurley

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Opening Prayer

Bernadette Lockhart delivered the opening prayer.

Roundtable of Introductions

All Members, Directors and Staff introduced themselves.

Chairperson's Address

Tony Pearse, chair of the meeting, delivered the opening address. The Annual General Meeting is for the members of the Society. It provides an opportunity for members to give direction for the upcoming year. Mention was made of the discussion that took place at the Members Meeting earlier that afternoon. The meeting between Members and Directors of the Agency provided a helpful opportunity to discuss issues in a more informal setting. One of the points raised was a desire to have Agency meetings open to the members of the Society. This could be accomplished by involving more people simultaneously in our meetings, rather than meeting with individual members, invite several. This is something that the Agency would like to initiate. Another suggestion raised, was the need to be more proactive with community meetings.

Pearse noted that Red Pedersen, chairperson of the Agency was unable to attend this meeting, but provided the following comments; The Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) is unable to attend the AGM due to other priorities. However, KIA supports the Agency and the idea of increased community involvement and would like to host a meeting in Kugluktuk. The KIA also feel very strongly that we, as residents of the North, must approach monitoring from a resource base and not simply on a project to project level.

Pearse noted that a draft workplan was available (copies available at the AGM). He also mentioned the need for a full-time manager and the move towards new staffing at the Agency office.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting were reviewed.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the 1998 AGM be approved. The motion was approved by consensus.

Presentation of the Annual Report

Bill Ross presented the 1998-99 Annual Report of the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency.

Ross noted that the project has not experienced any extreme environmental problems and there were many examples of successful environmental management, but there is the feeling that we can all do better. His presentation was focussed on summarizing the key issues.

(The overheads used in this presentation are attached as Appendix A).

Treasurer's Report

François Messier reported on the finances of the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency. This presentation included a summary of costs over the past two years, and a suggestion that MacKay & Partners continue as the Agency's auditor next year.

The motion was moved and seconded that MacKay & Partners be appointed as auditors for the 1999-2000 fiscal year. The motion was approved by consensus.

(The overheads used in this presentation are attached as Appendix B).

The Chair thanked François Messier for his hard work as Treasurer over the past year.

Members Presentations

Members of the Society made presentations that are summarized as follows:

Scott Williams (*BHP*) feels that we have all come a very long way. The meeting this afternoon was far less tense than the AGM one year ago. He is very optimistic and relieved at the fact that we seem to be building effective relationships. Of particular note is the Agency's work with traditional knowledge. The planning meeting in the fall and the workshop in December both represent commendable steps forward with respect to community work. The GeoScience forum contributions made by Directors Kevin O'Reilly and François Messier were also noted. One of the most significant areas where BHP appreciated the Agency's support was at the technical sessions held last February to deal with monitoring programs. This was a good mechanism for coming up with and sharing valuable technical information.

John Witteman (*BHP*) appreciates the technical contributions from Directors.

Chris Hanks (*BHP*) thanked the Agency for their efforts with respect to traditional knowledge.

Kelly Robertson (*Govt. Northwest Territories - RWED*) commended the Agency on its Annual Report, and the improvements over last year. She noted it was less technical and more focussed on the Agency.

Robertson noted that the Agency did a lot of good work in raising its profile in communities, and would like to emphasize the value of occasional meetings with all members of the society.

Joe Rabesca (*Grand Chief Dogrib Treaty 11*) This is the kind of work that should have been done a really long time ago. The area between Rae Edzo and Great Bear Lake is my part of the country and mines have historically been bad for us; a complete lack of effort to clean them up. I can see the importance of the work being done and feel BHP working through the Agency is what we all need. There is a lot of uncertainty and that's why we have to work together. If people like the ones in this room can demonstrate that the land will be fine, then we will listen. Diavik did not do this. We must hit these things before the problems happen, but there's no sense talking about it after the fact. Hit it early and plan ahead. We have to keep this land clean. We have one kind of water up there: pure and clean. We want to keep it this way. This is our homeland and I'm not going to move away. I grew up with fish and wildlife and I'm going to keep them around. My kids will have them too. I appreciate what you guys (Directors of the Agency) have done over the past few years and I wanted to give you a pat on the back to say good work and I want you to keep it up. We need to work on these uncertainties. The Dogrib are not against development. A mine gives our people jobs. This mine needs to be a safe and sound place to work. It needs to be a mine that is not polluting the land and water. If we all work together, we can do a lot.

Marie Adams (*Govt. of Canada - DIAND*) David Livingstone offers his apologies for not being here. DIAND and other federal agencies have been impressed with changes in the Agency's approach to communications. The Agency has to be credited with taking a more team-based approach to communications and as well, all parties have shown a willingness to find solutions rather than lay blame.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Team (IACT) hasn't had the involvement of Aboriginal members and wants to assure them that it was never the intention to exclude anyone. There is no additional funding for participation on this committee. There is no intention to exclude anyone and we want to make sure information is not being withheld. We were under the impression that minutes were being forwarded by the Agency.

It was recognized that two Aboriginal groups would be able to participate easily by virtue of the Yellowknife location (no travel costs). This created inequities in the degree of information supplied to groups, which was seen to be a problem. Therefore, since part of the Agency's mandate was to inform the Aboriginal community, we elected to stay with the current membership with the Agency supplying the information. This did not preclude any group meeting separately with any of the IACT members upon request to clarify specific areas of concern. This issue will be brought up at the next IACT meeting (Tuesday, July 13th, 1999 at the Ekati Mine Site).

With regards to cumulative effects, she noted that we cannot expect proponents to take sole responsibility. Federal Agencies need to be more pro-active. They will be hosting a cumulative effects workshop in the fall from which they hope to achieve good resolutions.

The Agency is to be commended for their work in assisting BHP with their workshops with the Aboriginal organizations (the traditional knowledge workshops). Overall, DIAND is very appreciative of time and effort Directors have given in reviewing technical documents and helping to keep others informed, for example at the February workshops.

Bernadette Lockhart (*Akaiicho Treaty 8*) Lutsel K'e wants community people involved in monitoring in the future. After the mine closes, it is us who are going to be left with what is there, it is important to keep trapping in place. There should be workshops in small communities so they can understand what is going on with the animals and water. Three more pipes are coming up, the people are wondering how many more. We want to move ahead with the traditional knowledge workshop. It hasn't happened like we heard it would.

Bob Turner (*North Slave Metis Alliance*) The NSMA has the same set of opinions as Chief Joe Rabesca regarding the mining of their land. They support pro-active and cautious approaches to environmental management. The Agency has shown they are doing this. This is a improvement to management in the North (reference made to Giant Mine in Yellowknife). The NSMA supports the Agency as it has been functioning and thanks the Agency for the work being done. He noted that NSMA has nearly finished work on the history of the Metis.

Lucy Sanderson (*Akaiicho Treaty 8*) thanked BHP and Agency for following through on the goals made at last years AGM.

Bill Ross (*Agency Director*) Thanked the GeoNorth staff for their contributions and hard work.

Involvement of Nunavut

Tony Pearce raised the question as to the involvement of the Government of Nunavut. Should the Government of Nunavut be invited to participate in the next meeting? What should the Agency be doing with respect to this? The point was made that the Kitikmeot Inuit Association was not in attendance, and maybe they should be looked to for guidance.

Peter McCart stated that the Coppermine River flows through Nunavut, it does not stop at the border. The Kitikmeot Inuit Association is from Nunavut.

François Messier stated that sending the minutes to the Government of Nunavut would be a good start.

Lucy Sanderson suggested that maybe the next board meeting could be held in Kugluktuk.

Kevin O'Reilly noted that to include the Government of Nunavut would require opening up the Environmental Agreement. He thinks the signatories of the Agreement should meet to discuss this.

Bob Turner mentioned the process being undertaken with Diavik. People aren't involving the Government of Nunavut, and he is unsure whether the Government of the Northwest Territories wants to involve them.

Lucy Sanderson suggested that by having the board meeting in Kugluktuk, the Agency could obtain ideas from the community with respect to the involvement of the Government of Nunavut.

Closing Remarks

In closing, Tony Pearce expressed the Agency's appreciation for GeoNorth's work in providing staff to the Agency office.

He also mentioned that Red Pedersen's absence was for medical reasons.

Pearse stated that what we are dealing with are issues that are not solely connected to this project, some issues are beyond the project, the Agency and the Environmental Agreement. We don't know what the regulatory regime will look like next year, for example and these are exciting challenges that we will all work together on. Given the difference in expectations that individuals place on the Agency, we appreciate your support. We are a new creature, and are still on a learning curve, we want to keep trying at this.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.