

**Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency  
100<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Yellowknife, NT  
March 13-14, 2018  
Summary of Discussion**

Directors

Jaida Ohokannoak  
Emery Paquin  
Kim Poole  
Tim Byers  
Ron Allen

Staff

Marc Casas, Executive Director  
Shannon Moore, Communications and Admin  
Specialist

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*Meeting chaired by Jaida.*

*Tuesday, March 13, 2018. Start time: 9: 00 am*

**AGENCY BUSINESS**

***Information Updates:***

**Chair Update**

The Chair continues to review and comment on letters leaving the Agency. Also read and reviewed the Engagement Plan, and made comments.

**Directors Update**

Each Director gave an update on the work they have been involved in since the last board meeting. It has been busy!

The main projects Directors have been working on include the Misery Underground project, Potassium Effluent Quality Criteria water licence amendment, Jay Waste Rock Co-Placement, Jay AEMP design plan, Jay Project water license recommendations and Closing Arguments, a fisheries compensation project, and the Closure Seepage Ecological Risk Assessment.

Also in the roster, Phosphorous and Dissolved Oxygen response plans, and review of the GNWT's Bathurst Caribou Range Plan.

## Notes & Discussion:

- Staff and Ron participated in an Offsetting & Caribou Webinar in February, which was informative.
- Director Kim Poole attended the CARMA (CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment Network) Workshop in Whitehorse in early March of 2018.
- Director Tim Byers was a panelist at the MVRMA Workshop held in February, with the topic of “The Project is Authorized – Now What?”.
- Tim was informed by Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board (EMAB) staff that water seepage coming out of Diavik rock pile (1 km radius, into Lac de Gras) is unsafe for health of people and wildlife because of uranium from clean granite cover. He mentioned it likely has ramifications for Lac de Gras cumulative impact monitoring.
- Interim Closure & Reclamation Workshop Review – Emery, Marc, Shannon, and Bill Slater were present, as was our waste rock consultant, Kevin Morin of MDAG.
  - Presentation was extremely general, it didn’t discuss objectives or criteria. Half of the first day was spent in breakout groups. Community members and workshop participants were asked leading questions to come to the conclusion that some of the reclamation work might not be necessary (caribou might use roads, for example).
  - Discussion about ICRP was general and not particularly informative, which was a disappointment.
  - Overall, there was a good community presence and participation. It was a great window into the interest of communities when it comes to Closure and Reclamation.

## Staff Update

- *Shannon – Communications & Admin Specialist:* Settling into role, working on the move back into the newly renovated office. Consistently updating the website and coordinating the overhaul of the online Timeline.
- *Marc – Executive Director:* Staffing was good, renovations are done – things went smoothly. Signing lease soon. Landlords have been very accommodating. Switched to VOIP phones. Call forwarding happening now. (Explained how it’s all working and cost savings.)

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### 2017-2018 Year to Date Expenditures and Variance Report

- Year to Date Expenditures: ***See document on Dropbox***

- Variance Report: ***See 2017-2018 Variance Report to March 1, 2018 on Dropbox***

## PRESENTATIONS – DAY 1

### • **Crowe Mackay, Celestino Oh – Amortization & Funding**

Celestino Oh from Crowe Mackay gave us an informative presentation about amortization and how it relates to the Agency's current assets. The information is timely, as we recently moved back into our renovated office, and are doing an inventory of assets and items we may want to part with.

- Amortization = depreciation – an asset that is used in service delivery is expected to have a decline in value over time. Entropy and obsolescence set in. This cost is in addition to operating cost. This cost is referred to as “amortization” or “depreciation”.

*\* See Presentation for more details.*

- **Action Item 1:** Send Claudine a list of items that could be useful to communities – they may want some of our stuff.

### • **Laurie McGregor (GNWT) – Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IACT)**

Q: Is IACT still functional and having meetings?

- Yes, technically IACT is functioning, but there has not been a meeting since 2014

Q: What is the trigger for having IACT meetings?

- Not a responsibility of BHP (now Dominion Diamonds) to ensure it's happening, but they do want to be part of the meetings.
- Likely worthwhile for that group to get together on a semi-regular basis.
- **Laurie:** GNWT is supposed to lead it, then Jay project put a hold on things.
- **Jaida:** The understanding is that it was to get agencies all together and do a site visit. There are a lot of regulatory groups that never get to see the site. This means the Agency is losing the opportunity to get others' perspectives.
- **Tim:** We were fed IACT updates from DIAND (now GNWT) as to what was going on.
  - IACT's Representative: Michael Roesche

## DAY 2

Started ~ 9:00am

### CORRESPONDENCE

The Agency had a number of outgoing correspondence regarding various document reviews, response plans and changes to the Environmental Agreement. These will be posted on our website (monitoringagency.net).

- Co placement Study Design
  - Pretty strong in terms of recommendations.
- Potassium effluent quality criteria (EQC): response to undertaking – Dominion Diamond didn't answer our questions
  - Put it back into our recommendations
  - Sarah Elsasser's (WLWB) feedback: If the Agency doesn't feel like our questions have been answered, we can write the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board a letter. The Board can then write to the company itself requesting the same information – if they think the info would be worthwhile.

### REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS

Agency Action Items from the December 2017 Board Meeting were mostly completed.

- Infographics:
    - Instead of a brochure that has a lot of text, a shorter pamphlet or poster that explains a concept – Ex. Water balance, or ecology.
  - Plain language training:
    - Organize for another board meeting – half day would be best. Run around the next board meeting for interested directors. Bring EMAB (for Diavik) and maybe GMOB (for Giant mine) into it.
  - Report writing – May report writing session
    - In YK – First week in May (May 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>)
  - Cloud storage: would be \$100-300/month through Tamarack
    - Purchase an external hard drive for archival purposes.
- **Action Item 2:** Look into external hard drive for archival purposes.
- **Action Item 3:** Set up an independent file path in Dropbox that's only accessible to staff for finances.

- **Action Item 4:** Pick a date to update the backup twice a year (spring forward/fall back?)

## CURRENTLY OUT FOR REVIEW/CURRENT ITEMS

- **Potassium effluent quality criteria (EQC) Amendment Application – March 15<sup>th</sup>:** WLWB made draft recommendations to Dominion Diamond (DD) for conducting a Potassium Toxicity Study. This is a result of DD requesting that the Potassium EQC be raised, as recent trends and updated models indicate that EQCs are likely to exceed current water licence limits.

### Discussion:

Dominion's position on not wanting to conduct potassium toxicity testing on fingernail clams is that (a) there are no CCME protocols for rearing and testing this species, and (b) this species is not ecologically important in monitored lakes. The Agency argues that for (a): the same thing was argued for round whitefish eggs, but BHPB's consultant was able to do nitrate toxicity testing on those years ago. (b): snails are more important in the diet of whitefish than clams so maybe it should be snails tested, but we could support ENR's recommendation that fingernail clams be tested. DD says would take 12 months to collect, rear and conduct test so wouldn't have this available for the current open water season which is when DD says it needs a new EQC in place.

- **Decision:** We would like to see toxicity results for next open water season for 2019. Marc will draft a letter and send it around – due March 15<sup>th</sup>.

- **Action Item 5:** Mention this in our Annual Report

- **Waste Management Plan 4.0 – Due March 20 (Shannon/Marc):** It is saved on Dropbox. Shannon to draft a letter to send out to directors.
- **Lynx Diabase – WROMP Version 8.0 & Jay Road Construction Plan Version 2.0 – Due March 28<sup>th</sup> (Marc/Tim):** Marc will look at it. Found more diabase in the Lynx pit than they had planned. WROMP is how they propose to deal with it. The Jay Road construction is involved as well.
- **2017 Closure & Reclamation Progress Report – April 17<sup>th</sup> (Emery)**

## OTHER BUSINESS

- **Directors and staff discussed improvements to internal communications and discard of old paper materials.**

- **Group E-mail Etiquette:** Make sure you are working with or responding to the latest thread of the email.
- **Annual Report Writing Workshop:**
  - Location: TBD
  - Timing: May 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- **Draft Workplan (Annual Report):**
  - This year’s workplan will reflect efforts to complete the Annual Report earlier than recent years. This includes having a draft completed soon so that it can be sent to our publisher (Kellet) for their information.
- **Future Meetings and Workshops**
  - Annual Report Writing Sessions (May 1-3)
  - Implementation Meeting (present recommendations) (Beginning of June)
  - SGP (Slave Geological Province) Regional Wildlife Monitoring Workshop (April 24-26 in Yellowknife) – draft agenda will be released soon

## BUDGET & WORK PLANNING

### See Budget

*Kim motioned to approve the budget via e-mail.*

*Seconded by Tim. Motion carried.*

Board meeting adjourned 5:18 pm

## PRESENTATIONS – DAY 2

### • ENR – Karin Clark – Bathurst Caribou Range Planning

#### Background:

- Since mid-2014, 11 meetings, 3 workshops
- Threatened population –barren-ground caribou – Bathurst herd has declined 96% over 30 years. Very likely barren-ground caribou will be formally listed territorially and nationally (which will kick in legislative requirements). The Range Plan can contribute to those requirements.
- The Range Plan came about because of the Jay project – WLWB directed GNWT to take a bigger role.

- No harvest currently allowed on the Bathurst herd. Small harvest in Nunavut. Predator (wolf) feasibility study was conducted to look at what they can do about predation.
- 21 organizations in working group – overall, been well received. The Chamber of Mines has contributed.
- Range of Bathurst herd – 400,000 km<sup>2</sup> – winter range (northern Saskatchewan) hasn't been used since mid 90s. Recently, seasonal ranges have contracted.

*\* See presentation for further detail.*

#### **Next Steps:**

- Engagement Phase – January to March, 2018
- Written submissions by March 31<sup>st</sup>
- ENR will complete a *What We Heard* document
- Completed plan by Summer 2018

#### **• Dominion Diamond Presentation: Lynn Boettger – Update**

Lynn gave us a general update on all things Dominion Diamond, including the new name for the company since it was purchased last year. As it is registered in a different jurisdiction now, we'll be referring to the company as Dominion, Dominion Diamond, or DD Mines.

Other highlights from the presentation included the Jay Project Water License and Construction Program, and updates on Sable, Misery Underground, and Fox Underground projects. Updates were also given for fish/aquatic monitoring, as well as wildlife monitoring (specifically caribou, both the grizzly bear and wolverine DNA programs).

The discussion involved a few questions, which are listed below by topic.

- Interim Closure & Reclamation Plan
  - Q: Is there going to be a final reclamation report, or is this premature?
    - A: Unsure – will ask Lukas Novy and get back to Agency.
- Winter Drilling Program
  - Q: Is Phoenix kimberlite below Point Lake?
    - A: Yes
  - Q: How is it accessed?
    - A: By the spur road.
    - Still in early exploration stages. No where near pre-economic assessment. May not economically feasible.
  - Q: Is it a bulk sample?
    - A: Yes. Trying to figure out how many diamonds there are and where.
  - Q: Timeline – when will we expect to see a Fox application?

- A: larger and more complicated, could be 10 years, will go to feasibility study. To do that, DD needs additional information, which is why some of this drilling is being done now. To go from conceptual to engineered. Until results are back from drilling – summer – and apply them to the project, won't know if it's a feasible project going forward. No decisions until later this year. Even if it looks like it's feasible, then company has to decide if it's worth it. No permitting yet.
- Misery Underground
  - Q: The drilling that's being done – is that investigation actually in the pile?
    - A: Yes, it is piggy backed on other drilling that was happening; just completed – instruments are set up.
  - Q: Can the Agency expect a report on this investigation? How would this be disseminated?
    - A: Unsure. Will have to ask Lukas Novy. And a Geotech Report likely won't happen until the end of the year.

*\* See presentation for further detail.*

**Summary of Discussion Approved by  
Kim Poole, Secretary Treasurer**

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