

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

106th Meeting of the Board of Directors

Yellowknife, NT – March 10-11, 2020

Summary of Discussion

Directors

Jaida Ohokannoak

Emery Paquin

Tim Byers

Ron Allen

Jesse Jasper

Bill Slater

Kim Poole

Staff

Marc Casas, *Executive Director*

Shannon Moore, *Comms & Admin Specialist*

Meeting chaired by Jaida.

Day 1 – March 10, 2020. Start time: 9:00am

Agency Business

Chair/Director Updates

Directors gave brief summaries of key reviews and documents they have worked on since the last board meeting in December. Also noted that annual staff reviews were completed in January.

Directors participated in the following meetings and workshops since the last board meeting: Tim Byers attended Dominion's AEMP 3-Year Re-evaluation Workshop in February on behalf of the Agency. Ron (with staff) attended a writing workshop regarding the topic of Organized Reasoning held in Yellowknife. Several Directors and both staff participated in the Agency's Wildlife & Closure Workshop.

Executive Director Updates

The ED organized the Agency's ICRP: Wildlife & Closure Workshop that was held February 12-13. The ED has proposed a letter to support a Crown-Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) program participant funding (NGO, community members) during water license renewals and amendments, not just the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. This may be best related to the upcoming Water License amendment regarding Point Lake developments.

ED also participated in all document reviews and drafting of outgoing correspondence.

Action Item 1: Write a letter of support to CIRNAC to extend participant funding beyond the EA process, to Water License renewals and amendments.

Communications Update

The Communications and Admin Specialist provided a brief presentation that included reviewing social media statistics and website user statistics since December, updates and news about the website (the News section has gone through major changes), and a proposed update to the Agency general brochure.

Action Item 2: Update the brochure to be more of a summary. (Directors agreed that the brochure should be updated.)

Financial Report

An updated 2019-2020 Year-to-Date Expenditures and Variance Report was presented.

Dominion previously provided a comprehensive list of anticipated submissions for the upcoming year, which was helpful in determining costs associated with Agency participation in each submission. These anticipated costs were presented.

The work plan and budget for 2020-21 and 2021-22 were presented to directors. The core operating budget for the Agency for 2020-21 is approved at \$727,310.

Motion 1:

- Kim Poole motions to approve the budget with accepted minor changes to wording.
- Tim Byers seconds the motion.
- *Motion carries unanimously.*

Correspondence

Incoming and outgoing correspondence since the last board meeting was reviewed.

Review of Previous Action Items

Action Items from our last Board meeting were reviewed and discussed. Actions were either completed, or carried forward. Action Items from this meeting will be added to the list.

Current Items/Out for Review

- AEMP Design Re-evaluation
 - Send research paper in conjunction with our response (Tim sent Marc the paper as an attachment)
- AEMP Fish Response Plan – Submitted
- ICRP Progress Report
- WROMP 11.0 – Seepage Response Framework (pending)
- Lynx LUP –Extension
- Dust Suppression Pilot Study (EnviroKleen study)

Action Item 3: Draft an e-mail to Dominion regarding the surface hydrology report seeking clarification for the differences between hydrological graphs for Koala and Pigeon.

Action Item 4: Draft an e-mail to Dominion stating our questions regarding the EnviroKleen study.

- The study noted elevated levels of EnviroKleen 10 m away from the road –but did not investigate how far elevated levels extend. Is there any intention to follow up to further understand the extent of migration of the material?
- If EnviroKleen in soil breaks down (biodegradable) under what conditions and how long does it take?
- Will the results of the study be used to update the Air Quality Management Plan?

Dominion Update

Presented by Claudine Lee and Lynn Boettger

Corporate Update:

New COO of Mines in January 2020 – Pat Merrin (also acting as interim CEO)

Environmental Department Changes:

- Claudine Lee: promoted to Head of Health, Safety, Environment, Communities and Training (HSEC& T). 4 days in, 3 days out rotation at the Ekati mine
- Harry O’Keefe: promoted to Superintendent, Environment. 4 days in, 3 days out rotation at the Ekati mine
- Lukas Novy: promoted to Project Lead for Point Lake
- Kurtis Trefry: new Environment Specialist Reclamation

Dominion highlighted five projects where work has happened, including exploration and permitting for the Point Lake Project. Highlights of program areas were also presented, including fish & aquatics, wildlife, closure & reclamation, and exploration.

For further details and information, [see presentation](#).

ICRP V 3.0 – WLWB Approval

- ICRP V 3.0 was approved, pending additional information and a workshop
- The WLWB decided that Dominion’s next ICRP workshop must be held before November 16, 2020
- Workshop – continuing engagement on closure
 - Suggestion: Contact Aboriginal Society Members with ICRP decision, summarize key elements of the decision, work plan, mention some of the concerns

Action Item 5: Contact Aboriginal Society members to introduce the decision of ICRP 3.0 and see if there is an interest in further discussion.

Day 2 – Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Annual Report Planning

- Annual Report (AR) Writing Workshop – rescheduled to the first week in May
 - Timing to allow for key Dominion reports to be submitted.
 - Clarify with Claudine about timing of: Seepage, WEMP, AQMP and AEMP Annual Report
- Wekweeti Trip: change dates with contacts in Wekweeti to April 21-23
 - To reduce the risk of introducing illness in the community (all of this became redundant with the increasing COVID-19 concerns causing travel bans to NWT communities):
 - Directors who reside outside of the NT will not visit the community
 - Reduce time in the community – 2 nights instead of original 4 planned
 - Ask about principal's contact information – present at the school (prefer a classroom visit)
- To reduce overall length of the AR's recommendation section:
 - When we send "big R" recommendations, preface it with: "The Agency requires a response by ___ date. If the response is lengthy, we may summarize or edit to accommodate printed space in our AR and summary brochure. We will send any summary suggestions by ___ date for approval by ___ date."
- Summary AR Brochure Overhaul
 - Changes suggested by Communications & Admin Specialist to make the AR summary brochure more effective, as we mail them to every NWT resident.
 - *Scorecard feature* – Ratings need to be clearer, put in a scorecard form.
 - Graphics and maps and life of mine must be added
 - *Recommendations* – clearer as to who we are making the recommendation to, and only print recommendations, not responses.

Action Item 6: Shannon to contact Wekweeti organizers to inquire about: a) reduction of trip time, b) a contact at a school and c) cultural camp activities.

Inspector Report

Presented by Jamie Steele, GNWT Lands Inspector

The Inspector gave [a presentation](#) of photos of areas at the Ekati site he had recently inspected, including follow-up inspections of two spill sites, and the landfill area.

The Inspector also discussed waste management issues, including abandoning the idea of creating usable, graded compost out of Dominion's composting process, and that processed kimberlite is used to bury waste in the landfill.

At the end of the presentation the Agency asked specific questions regarding the Sable fuel spill:

- Q: What is an "intensive weekly inspection"?
A: It means the lines and tanks are physically checked weekly.
 - Measured by dipping with a measuring tool daily – records are available.
- Q: With such a large amount of snowfall, when melt happens, could contaminated runoff overflow containment berms?
A: Doubt that would happen.

Action Item 7: GNWT Environmental Protection Act Inspectors to be invited to a future board meeting to explain to Agency what they do.

Policy Review

The Agency's Risk Management Policy was reviewed, as was the Business Continuity Plan – it was appropriate timing in order to prepare for the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation. Staff and Directors also reviewed the Agency's Travel Policy, as it required an additional clause to be added regarding emergency travel cancellations. This Policy will be reviewed at the next Board Meeting.

Motion 2:

- Kim Poole motions to accept the addition of an amendment regarding emergency travel cancellations to the Travel Policy.
- Tim Byers seconds the motion.
- *Motion carried unanimously.*

Action Item 8: Update Travel Policy, including adding a clause to clarify financial reimbursement due to emergency-related travel cancellations – make this Policy our policy review next meeting.

Action Item 9: Check through all policies and make sure the most up-to-date versions are posted to Dropbox.

Action Item 10: Update Appendix A for Business Continuity Plan: write the section Business Continuity Plan (Emergency Response Section) to distribute for review.

Other Business

- **Next Meeting Dates:**

- Report writing – first week of May.
- Site Visit September 8-9
- Next board meeting TBD

- **Waste Rock Second Opinion:**

Staff to search for a waste rock expert before new Effective Neutralizing Potential Report comes out. The Agency may hire this person as a consultant during the review process to have someone review our Effective NP work to make sure we remain on the right track. Options so far:

- Lorax Environmental Services
- Bill Price
- Mark Logsdon
- Leslie Smith

- **Discussion – Communications & Admin Specialist Job Description:**

The role of the Communications & Admin Specialist was discussed in general to review ways in which the job description could better match the evolving duties of the position, and ensure there are pathways to complete listed tasks that are evaluated each year.