

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency
107th Meeting of the Board of Directors
Yellowknife, NT – Mornings – September 22 & 23, 2020

Summary of Discussion

Directors

Jaida Ohokannoak
Emery Paquin
Tim Byers (Z)
Ron Allen
Jesse Jasper
Bill Slater (Z)
Kim Poole (Z)

Staff

Marc Casas, *Executive Director*
Shannon Moore, *Comms & Admin Specialist*

(Z) denotes participation via Zoom

Meeting chaired by Jaida Ohokannoak (Chair).

Day 1 – September 22, 2020. Start time: 9:20am

Agency Business

Chair/Director Updates

The Chair and Directors gave brief summaries of key reviews and documents they have worked on since our March Board meeting. Some examples include the AEMP Re-evaluation and Design Plan V 7.0, the AEMP Fish Response Plan, changes to environmental monitoring programs as a result of COVID restrictions, and an ongoing analysis of caribou movement in and around the site.

Executive Director Updates

The Executive Director gave an update on a current contract the Agency has with an environmental consultant (Lorax Environmental) who is reviewing the Agency's assessment and approach when it comes to waste rock issues at the Ekati mine.

The Executive Director also participated in all document reviews and drafting of outgoing correspondence.

Communications Update

The Communications and Admin Specialist provided a brief presentation that included reviewing website user statistics since March, office planning for COVID, the work the Agency put into the Wildlife and Closure Workshop Report, an update on the Annual Report, including a discussion on the Annual Report Summary Brochure, and general updates.

Financial Report

The Agency's updated Year-to-Date Expenditures and Variance Report were discussed. Dominion provided a comprehensive list of anticipated submissions that can inform variance reporting for this Board meeting. Dominion has explained that their submission forecasting is all pending on details of the sale to Washington Group and when the mine begins production again.

Due to COVID restrictions since March, the Agency's expenditures have decreased, as we have not spent money on travel of Directors or community visits. Proposals regarding options for using funds were presented and included computer and telecommunications support for Directors, a third-party review of our organization, and outreach tools.

Action Item 1: Research what it would cost to have basic updated software and computers/laptops (or annual support for these items) for Directors. Use Director input and examples (i.e., EMAB and GMOB.)

Action Item 2: Marc to come up with proposed wording for new policy on computer and telecommunications support.

Action Item 3: Directors to review the Agency's last third-party organization review (Senes, March 2009) and have further discussion on moving forward with a new review.

Action Item 4: Purchase office décor (framed maps and images of the site).

Action Item 5: Investigate options and costs for 3D models or scale models of the Ekati site for taking to communities/workshops.

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.

Wildlife Analysis Update

Director Kim Poole gave a presentation to review the Agency's analysis of regional caribou movements in and around the Ekati mine. There was a question of when this analysis will be complete and able to be shared with Society Members and the public, the answer being that there is still more work to be done in the coming months. The Agency will be sure to share the report as soon as it is able.

Day 2 – Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Wildlife & Closure Workshop Report Debriefing

Recommendation Follow-Up

The Agency reviewed some of the recommendations that came out of the February 2020 Wildlife and Closure Workshop to determine our next steps, including holding more workshops and events where our Aboriginal Society Members can be together at once. The Agency discussed the realities of the COVID pandemic in terms of in-person workshops and community visits. The interim plan to continue the conversation with our Aboriginal Society Members includes determining each of their preferred methods of engagement and considering how best to accommodate those while relaying the latest information on Ekati's Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan.

Guest Presenter: Dominion Diamond Mines, ULC

Claudine Lee (Zoom), Harry O'Keefe and Lynn Boettger (in person)

Dominion reviewed key events and projects from the last 7 months, with specific focus on operational shutdown and being in temporary care and maintenance due to COVID, insolvency protection, and the recent sale of Dominion to their parent company, Washington Group.

[See presentation for more information.](#)

Guest Presenter: GNWT Inspector

Insp. Joe Heron (phone)

The Inspector gave a presentation to review some of the inspection work that has happened at the Ekati site since March. An important topic was discussing what higher than normal precipitation over the summer meant for aspects of the site, including the Panda Diversion Channel, during shut down. Insp. Heron also confirmed that a site inspection is scheduled for early October.

[See presentation for more information.](#)

Currently Out for Review/Current Items

The Agency reviewed a comprehensive list of Dominion's anticipated timeline of upcoming submissions and review items. The submitted list came with the caveat that it is subject to change as Dominion is in the midst of a transition after the sale of the company.

Other Business

- **AGM and December Board Meeting:**
 - Zoom AGM – maximum 2 hours long.
 - Hold it in November instead of December (middle to end of November)
 - Board Meeting – before AGM (maybe a day before)
 - Consensus:
 - AGM afternoon of Thursday, November 19th
 - Board Meeting – morning or afternoon of 17th & 18th

Action Item 6: AGM Notice to be drafted and sent to Society Members this week.

- **Policy Review – Honoraria and Travel Claims Policy**
 - The Agency's Policy on Honoraria and Travel Claims was reviewed. Updates and additions and were discussed.

Motion 1:

- Ron Allen motions to accept the changes of the Honoraria and Travel Claims Policy.
- Jesse Jasper seconds the motion.
- *Motion carried unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned by Jaida at 12:35pm on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.