

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
Yellowknife, NT – February 17-18, 2022
Summary of Discussion

Directors

Emery Paquin
Tim Byers (Z)
Ron Allen
Jesse Jasper
Kim Poole

Absent

Bill Slater
Jennifer Ullulaq

Staff

Marc Casas, *Executive Director*
Jamie Mistry, *Communications & Admin Specialist*

Other Guests

Daniel Coombs – DFO
Tatiana Leclerc-Beaulieu – DFO
Alasdair Beattie – DFO
Nicholas Wasilik – DFO (Z)
Brianna Matthews – GNWT (Z)
Harry O’Keefe – Arctic Diamond (Z)
Dustin Chaffee – Arctic Diamond (Z)

(Z) denotes participation via Zoom

Meeting chaired by Emery Paquin (Chairperson).

Day one: February 17, 2022. Start time: 9:05am

Note: The Agency did not have quorum for this meeting, all motions made by the Board were officially carried via email after the meeting.

Agency Business

Chair/Director Updates

The Chair and Directors provided brief summaries of their participation in recent workshops, information requests about past Phase II TK studies and Point Lake Fisheries Authorization from Society Members and general thoughts on recent meetings and updates for on-going projects.

Financial Report

- In review of the year-to-date expenditures and variance report, the Agency is within the budgeted totals for the 2021-22 fiscal year. There are a couple expenses pending which will be added to the report before finalizing. The following are some highlights for the year:
 - Due to COVID-19 and related restrictions for travel and gathering sizes that were in place by Public Health, the Agency did not have the opportunity to travel to communities or host any workshops.
 - There are 3 review items expected before the end of this fiscal year (EIR 2019, Aquatic Response Framework and Reclamation and Closure Annual Progress Report)

- 2022-23 Workplan and Budget
 - The Directors reviewed the proposed 2022-23 Workplan and Budget. Approval will be made via email after the meeting due to the lack of quorum. The following are some events the Agency anticipates for this year:
 - Visiting communities
 - Water Licence renewal process + associated workshops
 - WEMP renewal process + associated workshops
 - Continuation of digitizing IEMA's resource library
- *Update post meeting: The amended workplan and budget was circulated to Directors via email on February 22, 2022. The Directors unanimously approved the budget by February 24, 2022.*

Communications Updates

Staff and Directors discussed the current status of the Agency's various media platforms including the website, social media, the newsletter and annual report. In reference to the 2021 NERDS external review, the Agency will continue to modify their current communications to reflect the comments and recommendations from the report. Some of the objectives include increasing accessibility and searchability for plain language resources, sharing more information about the Agency's activities and engaging with similar agencies and IGOs.

Current Review Items

Plankton and Benthos Response Plan v2.0

Due February 17th

Directors have reviewed the response plan and will be sending a letter to the Board stating their support for its approval with the condition that the proponent updates the results with data from recent studies.

Guideline for Preliminary Screeners

Directors discussed the Guideline proposed and if there are any concerns or questions that should be raised. Since the Agency's mandate does not consider socio-economic impacts, it was agreed that the Agency will not be providing comments for this particular review item.

Review of Arctic Diamond's Wildlife Workshop (February 15th-16th)

The Agency participated in a virtual wildlife workshop hosted by Arctic Diamond. Many parties and IGOs participated in the workshop including Tliche Government, LKDFN, NSMA, DKFN, FRMG, WRRB, GNWT, and ECCC. The primary topics discussed relate to caribou movement around the Point Lake area, the WEMP Addendum (timelines and processes) and the proposed designs for the Point Lake WRSA. The Agency listened to Arctic Diamond's presentations and the various questions and concerns raised by parties and provided comments and suggestions where appropriate.

Annual Report

Updates and Suggested Modifications to the Report and Brochure

Directors discussed potential changes they would like to implement for the next iteration of the Agency's Annual Report. These changes come from various comments and recommendations made in the 2021 NERDS External Review. The objective is to help increase accessibility for our readers and create a more efficient production process. Based on the discussions the decision was made to consolidate the Technical and Plain Language versions into a single annual report.

Translation requests

The Agency received a request from Society Members to have the Annual Report, or a portion of the report, translated into an Indigenous language either as an audio file or in video. The Directors discussed the request, agreed with the intent and considered how this can be implemented to meet the needs of Society Members.

Director's Annual Report Writing Workshop

Directors will be meeting in late May 2022 to develop and review the chapters for the 2021-2022 Annual Report

Workshop Recordings

The Directors discussed the recent request made by a Society Member to Arctic Diamond to receive a copy of the ICRP Closure Criteria Workshop recording. Directors agreed to support participants obtaining workshop and meeting recordings where it can be justified (i.e., unable to participate due to lack of resources).

Policy Updates

The Directors discussed and reviewed the "Administration and Personnel Policy". Updates were proposed to section 3.3 Statutory Holidays, 3.7 Special Leave and 4.1 Staff Salary Ranges & Increments. Formal approval of the policy revisions will be sought by email due to the lack of quorum.

- *Update post meeting: The amended policy was circulated to Directors via email on March 01, 2022. The Directors unanimously approved the policy by March 04, 2022.*

Day 2. February 18, 2022. Start: 9:07am

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

Summary of Discussion:

Representatives from DFO (Yellowknife office) met with the Agency to discuss current processes and how DFO operates in the North. Directors asked questions regarding, DFO's National Policies and their

application in the North, and the status of the Point Lake Fisheries Authorization (FA) process and FAs in general.

Action: The Agency will send a letter to DFO to thank them for their participation and for addressing the Agency's questions, and seek inclusion in the Fisheries Authorization notification process.

Government of the Northwest Territories - ENR

Summary of Discussion:

Bryana Matthews from GNWT spoke with Directors (via Zoom) about the proposed Metals and Diamond Mine Effluent Regulations Equivalency Agreement and how these changes will affect current processes in NWT. More information regarding the Equivalency Agreement can be found here:

<https://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2022/2022-01-01/html/reg1-eng.html>

Arctic Canadian Diamond Company

Arctic Diamond provided an update of current operations at the Ekati mine and discussed topics such as upcoming items for review, when the company plans for site visits, and COVID-19 updates. In accordance with Section 4.1 of the 2006 Resolution Agreement the Agency delivered a presentation of their proposed workplan and budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Other Business

Resource Library

Directors agreed to continue working on the resource library to create a digital archive of hard copy files that are currently in the office. Staff will start phase 2 of the project which involves digitizing the files.

IEMA Promotional Items

Directors discussed purchasing IEMA promotional items that can be taken to communities and workshops to help increase awareness of the Agency. The Directors shared their preference for “visible” or wearable items that are functional for users and give a visual identification of our presence in a community.

In-Camera Discussion

The Directors held an in-camera discussion regarding a personnel matter.

Day 2 meeting adjourned 4:10 pm