

Draft Minutes

EMAB meeting – August 26, 2008, Yellowknife

Present:

Doug Crossley, Chair, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Florence Catholique, Vice Chair, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Floyd Adlem, Secretary Treasurer, Canada
Eddie Erasmus, Tlicho Government
Claudia Haas, North Slave Métis Alliance
Lawrence Goulet, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Gord Macdonald, (alternate) Diavik
Jason McNeill (representing the GNWT)

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Guest:

Alice Legat

Staff:

John McCullum, Executive Director
Michèle LeTourneau, Communications Coordinator (also minutes)

Meeting started at 9:15

Noted: Underground tour slated for the next day will probably not happen due to ventilation breakdown. Proposed rescheduling to September 26 and doing a surface tour Aug 27.

Michele thanked the Board for their understanding regarding her health problems.

Item 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Agenda

Chair reviews the agenda.

Motion

Approve agenda as presented.

Moved: Floyd Adlem

Seconded: Florence Catholique

Carried: Unanimous

Motion

Approve August 1, 2008 teleconference minutes.

Moved: Florence Catholique

Seconded: Claudia Haas

Carried: Unanimous

Motion

Approve June 24-25, 2008 minutes.

Moved: Eddie Erasmus

Seconded: Lawrence Goulet

Carried: Unanimous

Item 2: Aboriginal Involvement Workshop Follow-up

Alice asks the question: Why is TK important?

(Everyone around the table has the opportunity to answer the question.)

Florence: TK is a measurement through observation and experience, while science is the acquisition of data. Observing change has to be linked with being on the land and priorities set by those out on the land. TK can't be understood in a western science mode.

Eddie: This issue is important to all Aboriginal groups. It's their way of life that is being researched, knowledge they have on the area. You can't be sitting in an office discussing TK – you have to be out there.

Lawrence: Agrees with Florence and Eddie. Adds that fall is the time to do TK studies.

Doug: Regarding TK – have the youth learn how life was back 40-70- years ago. It's an issue of pride, also. Have elders talking to youth. Referred to KIA youth/elders camp

John: As an administrator and a reviewer of reporting when working for WKSS, experience of TK opened his mind. Witnessed Elders and researchers working together, Gathering TK meant the collection of experience from a lot of different people. It's a collaborative method, driven by the people who hold the knowledge.

Floyd: TK is not solely attached to Aboriginal people. Recounts experience with the farming community in Saskatchewan and the passing on of information. Adds that who sets the priorities is the real issue.

Jason: Data collection belongs to the sciences but the larger scale and longer time frame belongs to TK. Agrees with Floyd that the important issue is who sets the priorities. There needs to be much more community involvement. Researchers are different from the knowledge holders.

Gord: Not talking about the same kinds of information. TK complements science. Diavik is doing the monitoring for the communities. TK knowledge holder can set the priorities – determine what questions need to be answered.

Claudia: The two (Science and TK) seem so separated – would like to see them joined. Agrees with Jason that TK is long term.

Eddie adds that there has been a lot of internal research by the Tlicho eg. Idaa Trail. They try to get Elders and youth back together on the land – this is the best way to pass on TK. Youth are important.

Alice:

The idea of priorities is an issue, but so is money and time.

Time consuming process: Selecting the research team of Elders, harvesters, and youth. They will have limited formal education – it's a sit and listen, sit and observe process. It's important to use the ways that stories were traditionally passed on.

The researcher has to be a good listener. Don't ignore the young people – bring students in as soon as possible. Interview guidelines need to be developed. At least four researchers hired. They should stay at camp for at least 10 days, observing changes that have taken place compared to before the development. A consultant should not be doing all the research.

- It's important to know why you're collecting the information; setting priorities is crucial and this must be done by the communities
- Data must be held by communities
- Money is a big issue.
- Elders are the best to choose researchers from among local people.
- To monitor, you also need to know what's going on now. You get that from the harvesters.
- There should be several camps.
- The process should happen twice a year, with at least four researchers per camp.

A key part of the study is relationship building.

Concept: Hunter talks and Elder listens. Then the Elder weaves it back to the past. The researcher's job is especially important at the beginning; to advise, to remind about priorities and methods and to know when to push.

Once the researchers return they need to talk about what they've heard and "learn" all the information. Then they need to verify the key points with all the harvesters/elders. All researchers write the report together.

Elders usually have an idea of what is happening, when it started happening, why it's happening.

The Chair acknowledges that Diavik wishes to incorporate TK.

It's very difficult to incorporate TK and science together at the research stage. Scientists end up taking over.

Action: follow-up the discussion by brainstorming a proposal and possibly an EMAB workshop with community participants.

Item 2: Inspector's Report

Provided by Jen Potten.

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- Drilling exploration program is completed. Thirty – two sites that were inspected have been cleaned up of blocking and debris.
- Pond 7 effluent release in May into lake E14. (There is trout in that lake.) It did exceed the water licence, but did not get into Lac de Gras. Diavik hired Golder to look at the problem and it was decided that the sediment should be left alone to settle. It would do more damage to attempt a clean-up. The water licence does not apply to this lake; it is covered by general provisions in the NWT Waters Act
- At the water treatment plant – 4000 cubic meters were discharged containing alum particles. It lasted a couple of hours – there was no night shift person at the plant. There was a power failure and alarm suppression and a float valve got stuck. Procedures have been changed. There is no predicted environmental effect.
- Diavik has requested to increase the amount of water drawn from Lac de Gras for dust suppression.

Item 3: AEMP/AdMP Update

Information in meeting kit.

Follow up to effects found in 2007 AEMP report will be done through the AdMP, but this is in development, so not sure when it will be complete.

ACTION ITEM: Regarding the AdMP – identify to the WLWB, by letter, that they should follow-up if the AdMP is not expected to be in place by March 31, 2009.

ACTION ITEM: Regarding Diavik's request of the WLWB that it increase use of water from Lac de Gras for processing kimberlite. EMAB's comment, via letter, is that it's not a problem provided it's temporary, as Diavik states it will be. Propose wording change to licence be for a temporary period.

Lunch at 12:00

Meeting resumed at 1:35

ITEM 2: con't

Received a response from Diavik regarding the recommendations from the Aboriginal Involvement Workshop.

Info in meeting kit.

Suggested that this issue be dealt with as part of the strategic plan initiatives for Aboriginal Involvement and for development of a cooperative workplan for EA implementation with Diavik. Need to pull AI and TK initiatives together. This could be done in a facilitated workshop

ACTION ITEM: Write a letter of response to Diavik setting out EMAB's vision for addressing recommendations in combination with TK in monitoring through cooperative workplan.

Training discussion

Shooting for a tentative 2nd meeting week of September 8.

Noted that, beyond bringing everyone together to the table, this is not an EMAB responsibility.

Noted that the Mine Training Society might take the lead.

Action: respond to ECE Minister's letter regarding training initiatives after training meeting.

ITEM 4: Annual Report update

The draft will be back to the designer this week. Canarctic needs two weeks to print the report. Should be ready by AGM.

ITEM 5: EAAR Follow-up Process

Info in meeting kit.

ACTION ITEM: Follow-up on EMAB's 2007 recommendations re: the EAAR once the report comes out.
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The EAAR issue could possibly be a part of a cooperative work-planning process.

ITEM 6: Air Quality Monitoring Update

Info in meeting kit.

Air quality is proceeding. Air modeling consultant has met with EC and ENR and will also work with EKATI. The consultant will develop inputs and rates for the model and review with EC/ENR before proceeding.

Question: Should EMAB get involved in reviewing from the start? That should be identified sooner rather than later.

Answer: Our job is to make sure all the proper people are involved. We don't need to review the model, but we will likely review the Air Quality Monitoring Program, once it is drafted. This is expected by roughly the end of 2008.

Query about air quality sampler mentioned by Scott W. at

Noted that Diavik is actually checking to see if air quality necessitates monitoring beyond dust deposition.

ACTION ITEM: Keep air quality on the agenda.

Noted that Diavik must not forget the involvement of Aboriginal people in the design of an air quality monitoring program.

Explained that this is the modeling phase, later will come the design process.

Discussion on lichen. Communities are concerned that caribou are eating lichen and other plants and this is affecting their health. Concern is how much dust is being eaten by caribou, what's in it and how could it affect them.

Conclusion: The program scope needs to be determined.

ACTION ITEM: Executive director will look into the dust/lichen issue and come up with ideas.

ITEM 7: Wildlife Update

Info in meeting kit.

ITEM 8: Two-year Funding Submission Update

Partial draft of submission in kit.

Action: finish submission using current approach and attach strategic plan and 08-09 workplan.

Noted that the budget submission should be a cooperative effort between EMAB and Diavik as set out in EA.

EMAB should present draft workplan to DDMI President recognizing that all Parties can have input.

ACTION ITEM: Gord will set up a meeting with Diavik president Kim Truter for September, and EMAB will formally present the draft proposal.

Gord suggests that we include the top 5 things we want Diavik's help with.

ITEM 9: Capacity Funding

Tlicho proposal

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Motion

To approve the Tlicho and YKDFN proposals for Capacity Funding Program

Moved: Florence Catholique

Seconded: Claudia Haas

Carried: Unanimous

Noted that both proposals mention use of CBM camp and that neither party has actually spoken with Diavik about such a possibility.

Motion

To rescind previous motion.

Moved: Floyd Adlem

Seconded: Gord Macdonald

Carried: Unanimous

ACTION ITEM: Send a letter to each of the parties indicating they must confirm Diavik's permission to use of the camp before EMAB can consider their capacity funding proposals. It would also be good if they proposed an alternate location.

ITEM 10: Reports

Financial Statement

Motion

To approve the financial statement as presented.

Moved: Floyd Adlem

Seconded: Florence Catholique

Carried: Unanimous

Member Reports

Claudia/NSMA: Claudia is moving over to work for the GNWT, and will be their alternate on EMAB.

Doug/KIA: Doug is trying to get the Capacity Fund report. It was good working with the CBM camp participants.

Gord: Interested in seeing a McCrank follow-up report.

Next meeting: The AGM on September 24 and regular meeting afterwards on 24-25-26 with the underground tour on the 26th.

