**Meeting Notes–Ni Hadi Xa Governance Committee Meeting**

July 14, 2021

Yellowknife, NT

Days Inn Commissioner’s Boardroom

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| DAY ONE: July 14, 2021 |
| 1) Opening Prayer – Rosy Bjornson | 9h30 |  |
| 2) Introductions/ Welcoming – Tom Unka, ChairIn attendance.Rosy Bjornson, NHX ManagerTom Unka, NWTMN Representative, ChairWilliam Liu, De Beers representativeRobert Sayine, DKFN Representative (Phone)Jessica Hurtibuse, NSMA Representative Stephanie Poole, LKDFN RepresentativeFemi Baiyewun, YKDFN RepresentativeLisa Tran, De BeersMason Elmwood, De Beers | 9h30 | 09h45 |
| 3) Move to accept meeting agenda/meeting notes from January 21-22, 2021* Motion # 21-07-14-01Moved to accept agenda and meeting notes by Jessica Hurtibuse, Seconded by Stephanie Poole, all in favor. Motion passed.
 | 09h45 | 10h00 |
| Break | 10h00 10h15 |  |
|  4) Environmental Manager 10h15 11h00  a) April to June 2021 Report b) Annual Report 2020 update c) Finance update – expenditure to date (invoice tracking sheet)  5) On the Land Family Travel Program* Update on family trips

 6) Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Program update 11h00* NHX TK Staff monitoring trip July 15-29, 2021 (tentatively)
* Advertisement of Position for NHX Administrative Assistant.
* Committee recommend that the NHX Environment Manager have a map of the mine site and fletcher lake cabin area on wall at the next meeting.
* Next year if we have a cancellation in the Family travel program, there should be a process to open the spot for the next family.
* Rosy to edit annual report and edit it say seven rather then six indigenous parties.
* Rosy suggested to Stephanie to email her list of concerns from community members and staff in which case Rosy can follow up on it.
* Benefit on incorporation. Incorporation should be a running agenda item.
* Committee suggested to Robert Sayine, DKFN representative to follow up with Chief Louis Balsillie on the signature needed for incorporation.
* The heritage resource protection forms are revised only to provide accurate names of people involved, nothing in the plan has changed other then people’s names with De Beers.
* William to email a copy of the heritage protection forms to the governance committee.
* Any internal policies that are made public must be shared with the governance committee.
* The cabin needs to be upgraded in a more sustainable way. The use of an oil stove is recommended to avoid having to leave camp because the chain saw isn’t working or hauling wood from gah cho kue mine when you can just use the oil stove.
* Internet must be installed, and it would allow access to the committee to host on the land meetings and have people call in from all over the world.
* Stand alone building, storage shed for the snowmobiles, with a heater in there to keep the skidoo’s warm. The shed should have a ramp.
* Spiritual part of the monitoring. They need to report the spiritual part of their trip.
* Drone training – CKLB or Native communication society does this training. Buy them drones for monitoring.
* Trail camera have been ordered through Canadian tire.
* Rosy read out aloud the march trip report for the NHX TKMP, trip with Students.
* Advised The Governance committee of Tommy Lafferty’s resignation.
* Sr. TK monitor left the Jr. TK monitor behind; they were supposed to leave together. However, when the Jr. monitor went to leave the camp, he was told the Sr. Monitor left the night before.
* Page 2, 7 parties
* NHX has 6 indigenous parties not 5.
* Only three main items that matrix helped on, workshops and hearing.
* Solar panels, biofuel. Back up plan, garage type building for skidoos.
* Motion # 21-07-14-02 moved by ???

Seconded by ???? – Direction for Rosy to work with Herman and Kyle to begin to price out and develop a plan to purchase a garage type building for the skidoo storage and back up plan for a place to stay.* Solar panels may not be good for winter months, maybe use of thermal energy from the ground.
* Assessment of plans, safety.
* Risk management assessment
* Wind and solar and battery power.
* Climate change funding, cannor, as a response to climate change.
* Ice network, indigenous people come together and share different resources. Extreme weather areas.
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| Lunch  |  12h00 1h30  |  |
|   7) De Beers Update – William Liu, NHX De Beers, Mason Elmwood and Lisa Tran, De Beers. 1h30 2h00 * Mason Elmwood, presented his slide.
* 5434 and Tuzo are being mined
* Continuing construction on Dykes A1, E and L.
* Continue to construct south and west mine rock pile course PK and mine rock pile. FK in FPK inside dyke L.
* AEMP update
* Fish Habitat Monitoring Program, fish fences, movement, wintering spawning habitat.
* Observation of Bank Swallows nesting in CPK dump on July 4.
* Bank swallows are a species at risk and identified as a migratory bird species.
* Two colonies and 45 active nests.
* All necessary regulations were followed.
* Committee suggests to De Beers to provide signage for the location of the bank swallows, also need close pictures of the nests, and how does De Beers avoid them, how has De Beers adjusted to it to make sure that species are safe including the nesting activities?
* Yes, we have all that documentation with ECC and some further up close photos. Mason will provide that to the group.
* Is there drainage around to intercept precipitation isolated from getting to the greener zone? Yes, everything drains into the management pond. None of the adjacent water bodies receive any of the drainage.
* Is there water monitoring that confirms this activity? Do we have data from season to season.
* William explained to the GC about water management at the gah cho kue mine.
* William will share with GC the water management plans and monitoring plans.
* Acid Rock Drainage is a parameter.
* Cpk is none acid producing.
* Seepage sampling occurs from late spring, early summer, significant rain event 3.7 m of rain, late fall. Varies site to site. Some sights do both, some only fall.
* Would a rain event during winter trigger a seepage survey? No.
* If there was a unusual rain event in the winter, how the rain travels through, when some areas perceive to be frozen because of climate change. If it did occur, we would do it, but we haven’t had rain in the winter.
* Colored dots for snp locations, original and new.
* GC commends De Beers on creating habitat for bank swallows who lost 95% of their habitat to development.
* Ensure the habitat is protected.
* Reportable spills
* There are more reportable spills in the NHX Environment monitor’s report?
* Spill management, how are we sure it is not intercepting it’s not getting into the ground water? How are we ensured these spills are not in water proximity? Do you have any monitoring mechanism to determine the distance of the spills from open water? How you ensure it will not contaminate the area after cleaning up and closure?
* Spill management assessment and spill reports, estimates volume. Risk assessment – is it a reportable spill or environmental risk?
* Land farms are on site for contaminated soil. For rock material, boulders and other materials is treated as AGR, type 3 waste, it gets placed in rock pile capsulated. Mobilized at later date.
* If there is mobilization, the sump is the easiest pathway and essential the area in which it will be mobilized into at the bottom of the pit. It is the deepest point with the easiest flow path.
* Majority of contaminates of a spill will be placed in this area.
* Accumulated spills risk management.
* Annual programs may not be sufficient data.
* Also areas, such as Truck areas, lay down sites, places that continue to be used. Heat map of locations of spills would be ideal for monitoring reportable and unreportable spills.
* De Beers agreed to a heat location map to show a visual of occurring spills on the mineral lease.
* William will present update on documents that have been submitted to the land and water board.
* How many surface leases does De Beers have and what one was amended and for what? 5 surface leases, each have different use, some covers open pit, some mine rock pile and the fpk facilities and another one for other infrastructure, rental agreement between GNWT and De Beers. Updated through any major amendment, recently Jan 2021 update in submission.
* Wastewater sampling covid -19? No regulated and where are the results? Internal or public registry? Environment department isn’t custodian to that data, it is safety and wellness department.
* Lisa Tran, De Beers.
* Annual reports – AEMP and Air Quality monitoring report.
* Exceedances of metals
* Flow rates
* More info about hydrology, about erosion and slopes.
* What is meant by low action levels?
* Framework that triggers actions, low action levels are when the water is still in good quality however De Beers kicks into gear and begins to mitigate whatever it was that trigger this low action level before it gets to a higher level action.
* Increase in copper concentration, what did you do when you recorded those exceedances there? Copper was above the Canadian interim sediment guidelines when we did the sediment component. Observation in the area, copper has generally been higher in this area then these guidelines. Not sure if there is a low action level set for it? Historically higher then the guidelines even in surrounding area.
* Investigation of purpose of spiking in the concentrate. It might be from a certain rock, or it can be from the process. Mitigations you must take and conducted should be documented.
* Detailed background on action levels and programs on aemp and snp.
* What collective actions are you to take similar to the mitigation, that will address the high levels? When we trigger the low action level, there is no corrective action persay, it is an early warning that could be pointing in the direction that you will have to implement actions and typically they trigger the low action levels you would add additional monitoring as required or additional analysis as required to focus on specific parameters or concerns and typically when you trigger moderate levels, that is when you start to plan for potential actions, then you trigger the higher action levels, again generally speaking in the higher action levels you are still not exceeding any of the guidelines.
* All the details regarding the monitoring programs are in the thousand-page report.
* Sit down with elders, land users in an intimate session and hear from them on the aemp.
* No fish tasting in 2020, in 2020 it was due to the pandemic. No fish tasting in 2021 due to forth wave.
* Undertaking #2 in De Beers Environmental commitments. Where are the fish harvested for the fish tasting, William was to get this information for committee? Stephanie recommends the fish for the fish tasting must come from Lake N11.
* William will investigate this request. Fish for the fish tasting event are from Kirk Lake. Kirk Lake is the downstream lake from the mine. Fish and water have to come from lake n11, you can’t take the fish from downstream and feed to old people and say there is nothing wrong. Lake N11, measures made around that lake. Past present and future, the theory of fish tasting is the bio accumulation of contaminants. William will follow up on this recommendation.
* Solar panel farm had been put off due to covid-19.
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| Break  | 2h00 2h15 |  |
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| 8) NHX Environment Monitor Shift Report 2h15 3h00 * May and June 2021
* Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan review and comments – These need to be uploaded to the public registry.
* All committee members are happy with the reports from the Environment Monitor and they feel that he is beginning to incorporate the results a lot more of his finding. They are happy with his work. Keep up the good work Garrick and we will invite him to our next face to face.

9) Next Meeting date: ***October 20-21, 2021*** 3h00* Map of the area of Gah Cho Kue and Fletcher Lake downstream for our next meeting to put on the wall for visualization.

10) Closing Prayer and adjournment 3h15  |  |  |
| END of DAY ONE  |