**Meeting Notes**

**Ni Hadi Xa Governance Committee Meeting**

Date April 22, 2021

Meeting Venue – Google Meets

|  |
| --- |
| **April 22, 2021****In attendance;****Rosy Bjornson, NHX Manager****Tom Unka, NHX NWTMN****Robert Sayine, NHX DKFN****Jessica Hurtubise, NHX NSMA****Stephanie Poole, NHX LKDFN****William Liu, NHX De Beers****Mason Elmwood, De Beers****Sarah McLean, De Beers****Lisa ??, De Beers****Cam Stevens, Golder Associates****Regrets;** **Sarah Gilles, NHX YKDFN****Joline Huskey, NHX Tlicho** |
| **1) Opening Prayer – Rosy Bjornson** |  |  |
| **2) Introductions/ Welcoming – Tom Unka, NWTMN** |  |  |
| **3) Move to accept meeting agenda/meeting notes from January 21-22, 2021*** **Rosy to ensure minutes have action items listed.**

**Moved by William Liu, De Beers, Seconded by Robert Sayine, DKFN – Motion # 04-22-21-01** |  |  |
| Break |  |  |
|  **4) 2021 NHX Environment Monitor Shift Reports.*** **This item was moved on the agenda from day two to day one to accommodate Garrick, as the first day was postponed until today April 22, 2021 and being Garrick is on his time off, we adjusted the agenda.**
* **Garrick read out his reports January 26- Feb 9, 2021 and March 6-23,2021.**
* **Committee recommended that Garrick include results from his previous reports on spills and other items he may identify during his shifts.**
* **A lot of the time you are presenting what is going on there but not what is being done about it.**
* **How has covid 19 effect clean up? Minimal staff available for specific tasks, prioritize items. Scaled back work.**
* **The Environment staff will go with lands inspector around site, using full PPE to minimize contact with Gah Cho Kue Staff.**
* **Due to accumulated snow at this time Site services was busy trying to keep up with the weather, understaffed as well.**
* **Required covid test before boarding plane, then on site covid test and sent to rooms for day, until the covid tests are negative then can go into work area.**
* **Gah cho kue camp is now using limited space in eating area and everything is disposable.**
* **Continuous testing thought out the time your there, day five, day eight and before you leave.**
* **Contact tracing all over mine site.**
* **One arctic hare and some fox tracks.**
* **Two small spills – details in report. Both cleaned.**
* **Light vehicle fueling station still has to be taken care of.**
* **Still snow in the secondary containment**
* **Flash pans at the burn pit, requires immediate clean up. Recommendation is future training with flash pans must include clean up immediately. Must be documented with photo.**
* **All waste was cleaned up and put where it belongs.**
* **How does it work when an occurrence happens? How do you as the environment monitor get notified? Morning meetings, reported to the EO’s.**
* **Have you found it since your last shift that there is more waste not being properly disposed of? Or is just kind of ongoing and normal? Yes, kind of ongoing list of the small stuff. Different departments dumping where they are not supposed to. Generally small items in the land fill and burn area. It is hard to pinpoint exactly where the items are coming from.**
* **Training for waste disposable inside the camp mainly, new staff coming on site.**
* **Individual departments have their own rules and due diligence with respect to waste management.**
* **Continue with the good work you’re doing Garrick.**
* **Environment Department should not be cleaning other department’s garbage.**
* **Minor issues with processing plant and simple corrections from their staff.**
* **Gap time between the EM reports due to covid outbreak at site. Typo on report dates should be March 23 – April 6.**
* **Who will be there in June? With freshet? May 4 – June 1, 2021. Then a four week off rotation.**
* **Concerned no one is at the mine site as a monitor during the spring freshet.**
* **Incorporation is important, incorporation will allow NHX to apply for funding to hire more people to work as Environmental monitor at the mine during Garrick’s time away, it will be like a switch, right now NHX only has the budget for one Environmental Monitor, which is Garrick.**
* **Limited supply of spill trays at the site? There must be always enough on site, and the tray itself must be environmentally friendly.**
* **Break**

**3)**  **Environmental Manager**  **a) January to March 2021 Report read out loud the reports, which will be made available on the NHX website.****The relationship between DKFN and Rosy has been improved and will continue since March 25, 2021 when Rosy signed new contract.** **b) Annual Report 2020** * **NHX committee to review first draft by May 14, 2021.**
* **Rosy to add TK reports within the Annual report 2021.**

**c) sub- committee (Finance) update** * **Budget has been approved by the Governance committee.**
* **Purchase orders to be sent to each organization.**
* **Order transcribes software Sonix – research it and order it.**
* **Committee recommends using shorter version of meeting minutes rather then verbatim.**
* **The Chair suggests we do purchase the Sonix software in order to keep a document of everything that is said, however we don’t have to have a verbatim record of meeting notes just a two pager, but the record will be useful if needed in future use.**

**d) sub – committee (HR)** * **Update – incident report March 29, 2021**
* **Set up meeting with LKDFN HR officer – Lucy Sanderson to discuss and bring her up to date as to how things are going with the staff.**
* **Rosy spoke to Herman and the call did not go as planned so Rosy asked William to call Herman and it went well from there. Pay issues and issues of other employees were discussed and resolved.**
* **Herman, Kyle, Tommy, and Garrick have all attended the Stewardship gathering in YK. It was a concern that when Herman spoke, he sounded like he was doing all the work himself. I allowed for the complaint to come in, however I understand Herman is a bushman and speak first person. He represents all of us.**
* **Issues between Herman and Tommy have not escalated.**
* **Tommy is still on the old contract with terms that are not his full responsibility, however we sent a new contract, and he hasn’t signed it. I requested a meeting some time ago, but this hasn’t happened. Rosy will contact Lucy regarding this.**
* **Staff meetings are conducted regularly.**
* **Working together is key to operating a successful program.**
 |  |  |
| **Lunch**  |   |  |
|  **5) De Beers Update**  **William Liu, De Beers/ Sarah McLean/ Mason Elmwood** * **GK’s routine operation update, plain language summaries for the Mar 31 annual reports, and the offsetting update and associated fisheries authorization amendment.**
* **De Beers presented the methods and approach they will be taking on the habitat restoration project on the Red Knife River, highway one in the NWT.**
* **De Beers was not able to find a suitable project in the traditional territory of the signatory groups.**
* **Extensive consultation took place, even after fisheries authorization was granted.**
* **Red Knife river has been identified as a culvert the GNWT wanted to fix for a long time.**
* **This is a De Beers fisheries authorization, not aware of other companies with authorization for rehabilitation of habitat in the Red Knife River area.**
* **Amendment to extend the date of pervious authorization.**
* **Dates and numbers were added to the amendment request.**
* **Amendment is currently under review.**
* **Engaging NHX members is not formal consultation for the affected signatory parties to the NHX. There needs to be effective consultation at the grassroots stage through their processes.**
* **Use of non-lethal ways to monitor the rehabilitation of fish passage in the Red Knife River. I.e. tags, antennas and acoustic methods that De Beers has committed to using.**
* **Information requests from Matrix to De Beers on the AEMP and responses.**
* **Letter to land and water board stating NHX they were fine with the responses. Why not on the agenda?**
* **NHX should be involved in things such as’ Conceptual mitigation plan for arctic grayling, post closure, due to the board June 13, 2021. Why isn’t NHX being provided this information by De Beers?**
* **NHX must be involved early on rather than given information afterwards when a GO tells you must engage further?**
* **De Beers to provide presentations to NHX prior to meetings.**
* **Agenda needs to be structured to accommodate work for NHX not an engagement session for indigenous parties.**
* **Agenda is provided to committee two weeks before for review and comments as well as amendment or edits.**
* **Covid update**
* **Environmental requirements kept up to date.**
* **Maintaining camp facilities**
* **4 reportable spills, march 6, 2021 250 liters crane hydraulic hose. March 10, 2021 500 liters rock drill within pit area, march 19, 2021 550 liters shovel 5034 pit installed incorrectly hydraulic hose, April 7, 2021 1500 liters hydraulic line failure, follow up next week all spills cleaned up appropriately**
* **Field level license approved by DFO for Field Programs summer 2021.**
* **Geochemical characterization plan 2018 annual report, addressed reviewers comments.**
* **Response plan for AEMP for triggering low action level design plan. Final report submitted.**
* **Annual reports submitted under the water license by March 31, 2021 soil vegetation management plan, closure and reclamation, wildlife management, the summaries of those reports will be summarized by Lisa.**
* **Routine report class one archeological permit.**
* **Additional submissions, land use permit renewal request. Notification letters sent to parties. Nothing new in application, just requesting five years.**
* **AEMP annual report due May 1, 2021**
* **Air Quality report due in July 2021**
* **AEMP re-evaluation report approved by the MVLWB.**
* **De Beers will now update the design plan for AEMP.**
* **A conceptional post closure mitigation plan on how we expect the greyling to return to Kennedy Lake.**
* **Low level exceedances- fish and fish habitat community section area 8.**
* **A rom pad? Raw Ore Material, blasted kimberlite and the ROM Pad is storage area before they load into the crushers at the process plant.**
* **Sarah McLean committed to presenting to the indigenous parties’ leadership if a formal request is made.**
* **Presentation of plain language reports submitted in March 2021 done by Lisa. 2020 water license and land use reports, 2020 wildlife report, vegetation and soil report and annual closure and reclamation and summary report, all reports are on the public registry.**
* **Discussion on Acid Rock drainage. Is there a monitoring program for acid rock drainage? What is being done to mitigate the seepage? De Beers does a seepage survey program each year. Conducts seepage sampling twice a year, once in spring and once in the fall.**
* **All samples get sent out for geochemical analysis.**
* **Walking along side a blast pile and trying to identify acid generating rock does not sit well with Tom.**
* **The person looks for seepage, flowing water out of the pile, they collect the sample and in addition the geologist direct the the trucks where to dump the rocks, to determine potential acid generating rock. Color coated.**
* **Determination test. Shake flask test. Test it in a few hours. Then long-term test, 40 weeks.**
* **Biannual rock sampler, send to lab for same test to confirm if the rocks are acid generating.**
* **How many aemp programs or stations are there at gah cho kue?**
* **William gave description of lay out of the AEMP stations.**
* **Invasive species brought up on the big trucks and other equipment, foxtail, is there a program that identifies invasive species?**
* **De Beers will follow up with site about invasive species. Site inspections of vehicles. Winter roads follow on how the procurement works for transportation company; how does De Beers request them to inspect their vehicles and have a policy not to bring invasive species north. William to follow up with procurement for inspection or standards.**
* **GC recommends that De Beers monitor for invasive species.**
* **William to email committee with results of conversation with procurement.**
 |  |  |
| **Break**  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **6) Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Program update** * **Reports January and March 2021**
1. **Wilderness First Aid Course – YK Feb 8-10, 2021 Both TK monitors passed.**
2. **Purchased two Wilderness First Aid Kits for the NHX TKMP**
3. **Staff meetings each month for strategy and check in.**
* **Report from TK Coordinator 2021**
1. **Tommy to upload all micro data onto USB stick and set up meeting with LKDFN archives to see our portal.**
2. **Rosy will send Tommy’s report when received.**
* **Storage for skidoo’s in Lutsel Ke since October 2020**
1. **GC approved to pay $300.00 to Doris Enzoe. Rosy to advise Tommy to prepare a cheque requestion for this payment and submit to finance for processing.**
* **Incident report April 29, 2021**
1. **Rosy updated committee on incident.**
2. **Rosy to meet with HR from LKDFN.**
3. **William had call with Herman.**
* **Discussion on cabin use. NHX needs to be advised, NHX should approved use of cabin, procedures need to be developed on cabin use outside of monitoring program.**
* **GC recommended trail cameras used at cabin. William to check with De Beers to see if they can get some cameras for NHX to use at the cabin.**
* **GC recommend that NHX invite Lucy to our staff meetings to keep her up to date with all the planning and coordinating.**

**7) On The Land Family Travel Program** * **Five applicants**
1. **Cindy Villeneuve, DKFN**
2. **Delores Betsina, LKDFN**
3. **Deneize Basil, LKDFN**
4. **Julia Naedzo, Tlicho**
5. **Darcy Catholique – LKDFN pulled his application out.**

**Committee recommended that Rosy create a spreadsheet that has all the applicants’ names for when we do the budget, we understand the number of families applying each year.** **Rosy advised the committee that she advised all the families that the TK monitors are not camp attendants they are there to monitor the use of the area.** **All forms are developed and prepared for the summer season.****8) Next Meeting*** **July 14-15, 2021 Tentatively set for Face to Face in YK**

**9) Meeting Adjourned** |  |  |
| END of DAY ONE  |