

**GIANT MINE OVERSIGHT BOARD  
AND THE  
GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT TEAM  
MEETING MINUTES  
Nov. 08, 2016, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. (MT)  
Northern United Place, 5403 Franklin Ave, Yellowknife NT**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Present:	Chair Kathy Racher (GMOB), Ken Hall (GMOB), Ginger Stones (GMOB), Tony Brown (GMOB), Ben Nind (ED), Letitia Pokiak (Administrator), Natalie Plato (INAC), Lisa Dyer (GNWT), Erika Nyssonen (GNWT), Sharon Low (INAC)
Via teleconference:	Craig Wells (INAC), Aaron Braumburger (INAC)
Regrets:	David Livingstone (GMOB)

GMOB Chair Kathy Racher called the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

**1. WELCOME**

The meeting opened with a welcome by GMOB Chair, Kathy Racher. Round table introductions were made.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Agenda was reviewed and the following changes were made; Item 5 Rollover of Annual Funds was moved to Item 4; Item 6 i) ii) iii) Giant Mine Oversight Board was moved to Item 5; Item 4 Giant Mine Remediation Team Update was moved to Item 6.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE GMOB AND THE GMRPT MEETING MINUTES – May 18, 2016**

The Minutes and Action Items were reviewed. A question was asked about Action Item 7 Project Team to forward to GMOB the recent Giant Mine bypass construction worker health and risk assessment report. Erika Nyssonen, GNWT replied that the Department of Transport was unwilling to distribute the report and that a request has been sent to the GNWT Justice for their review, to see if the report can be released.

**Action item:** Erika Nyssonen, GNWT to follow up with GMOB on the status of the release of the Giant Mine construction worker health paperwork and risk assessment report.

**Motion:** Natalie Plato moved to approve the May 18, 2016 meeting minutes.

**Seconded:** Lisa Dyer.

**Moved.**

**4. GIANT MINE OVERSIGHT BOARD**

**a. GMOB Review of GMRPT 2015-16 Annual Report**

The Project Team received GMOB's review of their 2015-2016 Annual Report on November 3, 2016. Natalie Plato (INAC) apologized for having to resubmit the Annual Report because of edits made after the initial submission. Discussion occurred regarding the reporting guidelines. The reviewed list of GMOB recommendations were;

- i. No Project work plan as a means to identify issues and compare what was planned with what has been accomplished. A mid-range plan for GMOB, framed in the medium term context and a multi-year timeframe, would be helpful to see the project as a whole. This would include key milestones and outputs. The Proponents stated that the 5-year plan is to be drafted and fleshed out in early 2017.
- ii. The Proponents will respond to GMOB's recommendations as per the Environmental Agreement Section 5.4. A requirement that the Project Team respond to GMOB's recommendations and GMOB to follow up with a response to the Project Team's response.

**Action item:** Project Team to respond to GMOB's review and recommendations of the GMRPT 2015-2016 Annual Report by the end of November 2016.

- iii. A meeting was suggested for May of each year at which the official plan for the next field season by the Project Team can be shared with GMOB while, at the same time, a progress report for how things ended for the previous fiscal year can also be shared. The Proponents responded that they would be able to provide an update at this time of the year. It would be similar to what's provided to Deputy Minister of INAC.
- iv. Concerns about the socio-economic performance measures were identified as an issue in the report. This included a number of factors including training, job scoping and economic opportunity targeting. The Project Team responded that Aboriginal employment is difficult to incorporate as the data provided by contractors is voluntary. The Project Team was encouraged to find means to gather the data. The Project Team is currently working on a socio-economic strategy and that a deliverable approach is to be adopted by INAC in a new performance framework to be legislated for 2018-19. The main focus will be performance targets for the remediation project focused on acquiring the water license.
- v. GMOB suggested that the Project Team ask the Parties what trends they think are most important to capture as consulting with the Parties may reduce the Project Team's workload.
- vi. GMOB suggested that more detail be added to the table on page 43 of their Annual Report, so as to begin to establish baselines as it will help with performance measures for the future.
- vii. With GMOB presently contracting a State of Knowledge Report to commence the research program, there is a need to work with the Project Team on research initiatives going forward. Aspects of the Project will influence and be influenced by aspects of the research program. These include access to chambers; freeze reversibility, bench testing, etc. Dialogue and engagement will be essential in this regard before project decisions are made. It was noted that all the stakeholders should be consulted.
- viii. Offsite contamination remains an issue. GMOB has recommended that the GMRP Annual Report should describe how this is being addressed. GMRP Team stated that it is mandated to the lease boundary and acknowledged that both INAC and GNWT are working on a path forward to how offsite contamination will be addressed. The Project Team will look at addressing offsite questions through the engagement section of the report. The Project Team stated that it is currently reviewing a possible adjustment to the Giant Mine site lease boundaries. It was noted by GMOB that for the past number of years, the Project Team has been working with researchers who are doing offsite research; i.e., air monitoring, health research, water and soil research and monitoring. A question was raised about the status of

the internal GNWT Legacy Contaminants Committee. It was stated that the Committee does at times invite guests to the table.

## **5. ROLLOVER OF ANNUAL FUNDS**

GMOB asked about the status of the rollover funds as per the Environmental Agreement citing that the funding provisions laid out in the Environmental Agreement were signed by the Minister. INAC stated that the provision could not be implemented for at least two years but that the upcoming Contribution Agreement could be prepared as early as January/February so that there would be no lag time for the flow of funds to GMOB in the new year. INAC stated that it would top off the research funds that GMOB was not able to spend in the previous year by adding it to next year's Contribution Agreement but that they would not be able to do the same for any core funding.

GMOB questioned whether there was any flexibility in how the 10% holdback of funds could be dealt with. The Project Team replied that there was a possibility that April payment could be increased by the 10%.

**Action item:** The Project Team will work with GMOB in late January to set out the deadlines and payment schedule for the new Contribution Agreement and will report to GMOB on the legitimacy of forgoing the 10% holdback.

## **6. GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT TEAM UPDATE – Natalie Plato**

An update on site activities was provided:

- a. Surface Design Engagement (SDE) update; Input was provided at the community consultations, as an opportunity for feedback from the community consultations. The SDE decision is scheduled to be announced in February 2017.
- b. The Health Effects Monitoring Program Advisory Committee (HEMPAC) was established and is now meeting monthly. With the resignation of GMOB Director Dr. Gabos, who specialized in health, local Directors will sit in on the meetings until a replacement has been named. A schedule of the monthly meetings will be sent out to everybody.
- c. The Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) has been progressing. The Project Team met with YKDFN, and the consultant CanNorth, to look at data gaps. A voluntary sample program of traditional foods was initiated to feed into the HHRA. The next meeting is scheduled for the second week of December. There was concern by YKDFN that not enough ptarmigan was sampled. A HHRA Dietary Survey is scheduled to begin also in December.
- d. New Air Quality Monitoring Stations were established in Niven Lake and in Ndilo and are to be operational by the end of the month.
- e. The Outfall engagement began in September with meetings with GMAC and the GMWG. And a decision on location will be made early in the new year.
- f. GMOB raised the issue of the Freeze Optimization Study. The Project Team stated that the report was still in progress.
- g. Care and Maintenance. At this time, drilling is taking place at C-509, a land use permit application is in process to use tailing paste; a technical review is taking place to use clean backfill, and the A Shaft head frame, curling club and assay lab were all taken down and the A Stope was capped. The Project Team has not done a leaching test on the tailings at this time.
- h. A new product has been identified to be used for the tailings dust management. It will have a 3 to 5-year life span.

**Action item:** The Project Team will send the Long Term Effects Monitoring Program (LTEMP) chart, package and deliverable dates to GMOB.

GMOB asked if they would be provided with a copy of the Project Risk Registry. The Project Team responded that they can provide GMOB a copy.

GMOB requested that they be kept informed about higher risk events that occur at site. The Project Team agreed to keep GMOB informed on how decisions in this regard are made.

**Action item:** The Project Team will send a copy of the Project's Risk Registry and communication for high risk events at the site to GMOB.

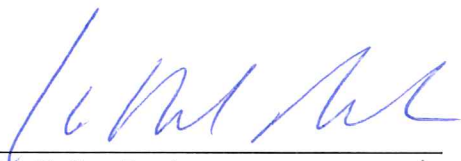
GMOB highlighted the need for better communications by the Project Team. It was suggested that the Project Team find a balance between content and communications, and use simple language and engagement techniques to get more of the community actively involved.

**7. POLICY ON SHARING GIANT MINE WORKING GROUP MINUTES, REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

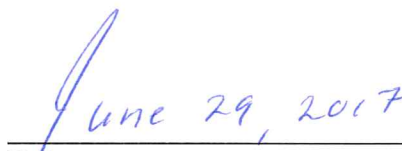
GMOB shared their observation that there is a communication challenge for the Project Team in providing a centralized and accessible public portal for information distribution. They noted that intermittent GMWG information and the recent Project Team's Annual Report has been posted on the MVLWB data site but that it was difficult to find, and is missing years of information.

The Project Team stated that they are tied by Federal guidelines that force them to have all documents in both official languages if they are going to post them online. If GMOB, or any other interested organization or individual needs any documents, the Project Team will provide them. It was agreed that this discussion will to be continued at the Parties meeting. GMOB stated that it will only distribute GMOB generated information and will steer the public to the Project Team and the other Parties as per the request. GMOB will reference and link to the reports and documents reviewed and used.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.



Dr. Kathy Racher  
Chair, Giant Mine Oversight Board



Date

## GIANT MINE OVERSIGHT BOARD AND THE PROJECT TEAM

Action items; GMOB and the Project Team Meeting, Nov. 08, 2016

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2. **Action item:** Project Team to respond to GMOB's review and recommendations of the GMRPT 2015-2016 Annual Report by the end of November 2016.
3. **Action item:** The Project Team will work with GMOB in late January to set out the deadlines and payment schedule for the new Contribution Agreement and will report to GMOB on the legitimacy of forgoing the 10% holdback.
4. **Action item:** The Project Team will send the Long Term Effects Monitoring Program (LTEMP) chart, package and deliverable dates to GMOB.
5. **Action item:** The Project Team will send a copy of the Project's Risk Registry and communication for high risk events at the site to GMOB.