

Verbatim Minutes
GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT
SEMI ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARTIES
August 27, 2020 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Caribou Room, Nova Hotel
Yellowknife, NT

IN ATTENDANCE:

Present	<p><u>Giant Mine Oversight Board</u> David Livingstone - Chair Ken Froese – Director Ken Hall – Director David Livingstone - Director Kathy Racher – Director Mark Palmer – Director (Telephone) Ben Nind – Executive Director Paul Green – Technical Advisor (Telephone)</p> <p><u>North Slave Métis Alliance</u> Jessica Hurtubise</p> <p><u>Yellowknives Dene First Nation</u> William Lines</p> <p><u>City of Yellowknife</u> Sheila Bassi-Kellett Todd Slack</p> <p><u>Government of Canada (CIRNAC)</u> Natalie Plato Katherine Ross (Telephone)</p> <p><u>Government of the Northwest Territories</u> Diep Duong Alex Lynch Erika Nyssonen</p> <p><u>Alternatives North</u> Gord Hamre Michael Nabert (Telephone) Katharine Thomas</p>
Regrets	<p><u>Giant Mine Oversight Board</u> Tony Brown – Director</p>

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Agenda Item 1: Welcome & Introductions

David: Alright, I've got notes here from Ben. I'm just going to go through them. The mic system is working. It wasn't initially. The meeting is being recorded as in the past and transcribed I think. When people speak, I would ask that you identify yourselves first, and I forgot to do that. So it's David Livingstone. The mics, most people are familiar with these things, but when you finish talking, turn it off so there's no interference.

The internet is apparently working, but slow. There are some folks on the phone, so we'll have to remember to make sure they have the opportunity to speak too. On the internet, there's no password.

So welcome to our semi-annual meeting that has been delayed, postponed, and now face-to-face. That's a weird, weird thing, isn't it? We can almost reach out and touch each other. Zoom has become so standard. It's the virtual flip-side of a virtual Zoom meeting.

Maybe we should go around the table and get folks to identify themselves. I'll start with Ben.

Ben: Ben Nind, Giant Mine Oversight Board.

Erika: Erika Nyssonen, GNWT.

Diep: Good afternoon. My name is Diep Duong, and I'm also with GNWT.

Natalie: Good afternoon. Natalie Plato with CIRNAC on the Giant Mine Remediation Project.

Alex: Good afternoon. Alex Lynch with GNWT on the Project.

Todd: Todd Slack. I'm a contractor with the City.

Sheila: Good afternoon everyone. Sheila Bassi-Kellett, City Administrator, City of Yellowknife.

Katharine T: Hey everyone. This is Katharine Thomas with Alternatives North.

Gordon: Gordon Hamre with Alternatives North.

William: Hello everyone. It's William Lines with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

Ken F: Hi, Ken Froese, Giant Mine Oversight Board.

Ken H: Nice to see everyone. Ken Hall with GMOB.

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- Kathy: Hi everyone. It's Kathy Racher with Giant Mine Oversight Board.
- David: Alright, thanks everyone. I'll make one observation. Over the time that we've been apart, it's hard to recognize some folks with the addition of facial hair and camouflage....Oh yeah sorry. Ben just reminded me that there are folks on the phone. Thank you. Folks on the phone, do you want to identify yourselves please?
- Mark: Mark Palmer, GMOB.
- Katherine R: Hi everyone, it's Katherine Ross in Ottawa.
- Michael: Michael Nabert with Alternatives North
- Paul: Paul Green, GMOB contractor.
- Ben: And also just to note, Jess Hurtubise with NSMA is on her way.
- David: Thank you. There was a bit of a volume problem with folks on the phone. Do you want to test it again? Michael, do you want to identify yourself again? We're just going to test the phone volume.
- Michael: Michael Nabert...(*inaudible*)
- David: Try that again, Michael.
- Michael: Michael Nabert with Alternatives North.
- David: Alright, thank you. It's quiet, but it'll do, I guess. Can everybody at the far end hear Michael? Yeah? Okay.

Agenda Item 2: Approval of the Agenda

- David: So, with the approval of the agenda, are there any comments, additions, deletions?
- (Pause)*
- David: Alright, can I get somebody to move approval of the agenda as drafted?
- Sheila: I'll move for the City of Yellowknife.
- David: Okay, a seconder? Gordon. All in favor? Okay, thank you.

Agenda Item 3: Review of Action Items

Action Item 1:

GNWT to update the Parties on Progress of the Giant Mine Educational Module

David: Here we go. GNWT to update the parties on progress of the Giant Mine Education Module: Are there any comments on that?

Alex: Yeah, so I believe in the last meeting, we gave a bit of an update that we've had some discussions with the NSMA and the YKDFN around developing an education module for Giant. Those discussions really were around if this could be a wider curriculum piece or an education resource. At the time of the last meeting, we hadn't had any discussions with Education, Culture, and Employment to really understand what the restrictions would be, if it would be a wider curriculum piece. Both NSMA and YKDFN had expressed that they would like to see this as something that was a curriculum insert.

We had met as a Project with GMOB as well and Education, Culture, and Employment, and they really gave us a clear picture of what would be required for this to be a curriculum insert. It's a difficult process. It's a lengthy process. They had noted that the Grade 10 curriculum now is the only curriculum that has ever been drafted for the NWT. Most are adopted from Albert and elsewhere. They strongly recommended that we take the approach of developing a resource, and they noted a number of different resources to us as examples of resources that have been developed and have lived on because they were done really well.

So right now, we're in the process of pulling together the example resources that EC&E recommended we look at. The next steps were to go back to the YKDFN and the NSMA to provide the information again that you see and have provided, and also to provide a clearer picture as to that process if we wanted it to be a curriculum piece.

Basically, we're still in that process of really defining what this will look like and getting an understanding from the Yellowknives and the North Slave Métis Alliance as to the next steps based on how they'd like this to progress. Certainly, Ben has been involved in this process as well. So, we'll continue to update folks as we move along. Yeah, I think this is essentially where we are. We're still plugging along. We want to do it right, and we've had a really good conversation with EC&E to get an idea of what a good resource looks like, so we think we're on a good path. Now it's just kind of circling back with the appropriate folks.

David: Alright. Thanks, Alex. Are there any comments or observations? Todd?

Todd: A couple of questions there: The first is can you talk to me what the difference is between the curriculum piece and a resource piece? I think I can deduce that, but just to make sure that I know what you're talking about.

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Alex: So, my understanding is that the curriculum piece is actually written into the curriculum, so it would be a part of the Grade 10 Northern Studies, for example. That would be territory-wide and taught throughout the territories, whereas an education resource is developed to align with the curriculum objectives. The resources are available for teachers to pull as they deem necessary. So this was one of the challenging pieces. It's not a requirement if it's a resource. The resource is there for a teacher to pull if they are touching or teaching on that subject.

In this region, I think if there is a resource developed for Giant that was well done, it would be well used. It may not be used in the Beaufort Delta, for example. However, yeah, that is my understanding of the two.

Todd: Okay, thanks. That's great. Did the EC&E folks express an openness or a willingness to see you guys do this work so that this has a home?

Alex: Yeah, absolutely. They had a number of examples of where they thought it would fit and were happy to help us throughout the process. Yeah, they were definitely open to having this and thought there was value in it, for sure.

David: Thanks, Alex. Are there any other questions? Anybody on the phone have any questions for Alex? Okay, Jessica.

Jessica: Hi everyone. Sorry for being late. Something came up and I was just a little bit delayed, but no questions as of right now.

**Action Item 2:
GNWT to Report Progress of Discussion with Newmont regarding Information Needs
for Offsite Contamination Initiative**

David: So the second action item is GNWT is to report on progress of the discussion with Newmont regarding information needs for the Offsite Contamination Initiative.

Alex: So at the last semi-annual meeting we had, there was some discussion around how Newmont – or whether or not Newmont - should be involved in some offsite legacy work that GNWT is leading. We had some discussions with the Environmental Team. To be blunt, they have no interest in being involved in the offsite risk assessment, which is not a huge surprise.

However, that was really the extent of the discussion. They really pushed back and said, "We see this as being GNWT's responsibility. We're happy to respond to questions as needed, but we do not want to be part of the process."

David: Are there any comments or observations on that point?

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Ken H: Far be it from me to have something to say on this issue, but I'm not surprised. I'm disappointed, but I'm not surprised. However, what I think is important is that when there are future discussions or any publications or reference to regional contamination in the Yellowknife area, I think we need to continue to make reference to the other operations that contributed to that contamination. I think that's really important. But I'm not surprised that they don't want to wade into this. Thank you for that.

David: Thanks, Ken. Are there any comments from anybody on the phone?

Erika: David, I'll just add to that. Yeah Ken, absolutely. Actually, when we initially started to look at the risk assessment, we defined scope of work that was mainly focused on Giant. Then we actually changed our scope of work to make sure that we specifically are looking at the areas around Con, all references to point sources around Giant and Con as well. So yeah, that's how we'll continue to move forward and not specifically just focus on Giant. That's recognized.

Also, I'm giving Alex practice, because I'll be gone in November. That's why Alex is taking these hits, and he's doing a great job.

David: So far.

(Laughter)

Action Item 3:
GMOB and YKDFN to Arrange Meeting and Update YKDNF Leadership on the Status of the GMOB Research Project

David: Alright. GMOB and YKDFN to arrange a meeting with YKDFN Leadership to update them on the status of the GMOB Research Program. I think that's a work in progress still, but Ben and William, anything to add? Are there any comments?

Kathy: We actually had an arranged meeting, and then the pandemic struck, so who knew. I got a presentation and everything ready. If at any time you guys want to do that online or in person if you have the facilities to do that, then we're happy to do that. Otherwise, we'll just put it on pause until you're ready.

William: Yeah that sounds good. As you know, COVID threw a wrench in everything. We'll aim to have that meeting as soon as we can.

David: Thanks, William.

Action Item 4:

YKDFN to Share Update and Results of the Socio-Economic Survey to Help Inform the Proposed Stress Survey

- David: Action Item 4 is YKDFN to share the update on their Socio-Economic Survey and its results to help inform the proposed Stress Study. William, anything?
- William: At this time, I can't comment on that. I can check in with Leena after this meeting to see where the status of that is. I missed the last meeting, so I didn't even really... Erika said she could speak on it.
- David: Erika first. Then refer it to Alex.
- Erika: You're up, Alex. The results of the survey that YKDFN put out to understand the socio-ec considerations of their community weren't shared directly. However, Leena did participate in meetings that we did have on survey questions to make sure that the type of questions that the survey was asking weren't duplicating or exhausting the efforts of the Socio-Ec Survey. So we feel we have that input that we were looking for with that action item. Leena has been involved, but also Kynyn is working closely with the YKDFN Department on that.
- David: Thanks, Erika. Are there any comments, questions, or observations?
- Kathy: So Leena is helping you understand if the questions in the Socio-Ec overlap with the Stress Study, is that what you mean? It's not called the Stress Study anymore, but yeah.
- Erika: Yes. I mean that was the main concern that we would be asking duplicate of questions in both surveys, so we feel that we have a good handle on that in that there are different objectives. That concern isn't an issue anymore. Ken, I don't know if you have more to add to that.
- Ken F: Yeah, this was discussed at length following our last meeting within the Stress Study as we evolved, or as the Stress Study design evolved and was amended. So I think that crossover issue has been adequately addressed.
- David: Thanks, Ken. Are there any other comments or observations?

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Action Items 5 & 6:

Project Team to Meet with GMOB to Discuss Delivery Dates for the GMRP Annual Report & the Perpetual Care Plan

David: I'll just shortcut the last two. Project Team is to meet with GMOB to discuss the delivery date for the Annual Report. That has been done, and the Annual Report has been filed and commented on.

The Project Team is to meet with GMOB to discuss the delivery date for the Perpetual Care Plan, and that too, we've discussed. We recognize that there will be some delay in that process. So the draft framework will be November, and something filling in the gaps, at least the contract, shortly after that with work to be done next year. Any comments, concerns, or questions? Anyone on the phone?

(Pause)

Agenda Item 4: Meeting Organization

Appointment of Chair

David: Alright, so that's the end of the action item and now Appointment of the Chair. Looking for volunteers or conscripts, whichever you like. Do I have a volunteer? Yeah, you've been volunteered, Alex.

(Laughter)

Well, I can continue if there are no genuine volunteers. Okay.

Meeting Records/Secretariat Function

David: Meeting Records/Secretariat Function: I'm not entirely sure what that is. Ben?

Ben: It's just to make sure that everybody approves GMOB keeping the records of the meeting and distributing them as a result.

David: Thanks, Ben.

Agenda Item 5: Terms of Reference for the 5-Year Review per the Environmental Agreement

David: So the next item is Terms of Reference for the 5-Year Review. That's been a work in progress since June. The initial draft Terms of Reference was sent out in June. As for

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comments, only the City responded. Todd took the lead on that and provided a redraft. Since then, crickets.

I recognize that this is dragging on a little too long, so I took another shot at the Terms of Reference. I worked from Todd's document and just compared it to the original to make sure nothing had fallen off the table and did some minor edits. I think I captured everything that Todd had put in there, but I'll leave that to Todd to comment on.

That revised document was sent out on Monday by Ben. So today, I'd really like to get this at least to the extent that we can around the table... I'm not talking about drafting around the table, but identification of any significant issues or errors in the draft. Then we can figure out how to move it forward more quickly.

There was one issue that I wanted to address up front, and that's the role of GMOB in this review. I think there might have been a bit of a misunderstanding or miscommunication. Maybe I misunderstood, but GMOB will, of course, be involved in the review. I mean we're not going to stand back silently, but we didn't want to be seen to be taking too much of the initiative on it, because it's in large part about GMOB's performance. We were a little undecided about how best to handle the actual contracting.

So that's something that we need to discuss today: the contracting approach and the Terms of Reference themselves. So, I think I'll just go around the table. Perhaps I'll just ask for comments from the table rather than going around the table. If anybody has any significant concerns about the Terms of Reference as is currently, please let us all know what those are and we can discuss them.

Erika: As the Project Team, both CIRNAC and GNWT did review the Terms of Reference homework this week. We have had the chance to take a look, and we do have some comments that I'm not sure how you want to work through, but we can walk you through some of those comments on this revised version. So we are ready to speak to that.

David: Well why don't you go ahead, and then we'll go table by table. The City is next.

Natalie: We had quite a few comments, and they are quite minor, so I just didn't think we would want to go through those now. So we were just trying to pick out if there were any big-picture ones we wanted to address. We hadn't organized them that way, so my apologies.

David: Yeah, I don't want to hear minor editorial stuff. A document is never going to be perfect. Is it enough to guide a contractor to do the work that we want done? Typos and minor editorials and all that stuff almost come down to a question of personal taste at a point. What I'm looking for are substantive concerns: concerns that would

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confuse a contractor if not corrected or concerns that might misguide or mislead the contractor.

Sheila: Thanks, David. I'm really pleased about this. It's too bad there were no comments after June. I guess we can chalk a lot of things up to COVID. I'm very appreciative that the City of Yellowknife has access to Todd and Todd's skillset, because he obviously was very instrumental in bringing the Terms of Reference for this review to the state that it's in now, with you, David doing some more work, and I'm assuming Ben in there somewhere as well.

A couple of high-level points around this: I think it's very, very important about the optics of transparency and impartiality. Of course, GMOB members must be involved, but there must be that arms-length separation and the optics of this done through a very rigorous process.

So, I think that's a very good point that you flag. It would be silly to do this without GMOB board members being involved, without the organization itself, but there must be that very clear respect for and recognition of the fact that this is not a matter of the organization looking at itself saying it's doing great and moving on. I know that's not where anyone is coming from, but we would not want to see the perception of that being engendered anywhere by the nature of the process.

I'm pleased overall, and we're really happy to see it. I think there has been a lot of good work. Thanks to Todd and thanks to everyone who put the pen to this. I'm very happy again, just as an aside, to see the addition on the draft that came earlier this week over the draft in June that acknowledged the Board as a storefront location to be playing its role in terms of distributing public information. We see that at the City, as key issue. We did flag that as part of the Annual Report that we felt we were a little bit thrown under the bus for lack of communication. So, we did push back on that. I know we've had a sidebar conversation and correspondence between the City and GMOB on that, but we're very pleased to see that role acknowledgment for the office in the downtown.

I believe very much that it's very important to focus on the mandate that was set out, and I think that's very important. I think that has been articulated in here. Let's go back to the Environmental Agreement and use that as the baseline for what the intention was for establishing GMOB. Then of course, it is going to be very interesting to see that evaluation framework, to see exactly how to measure effectiveness, how to measure value for money around the role of GMOB. That's going to be a very important point of this.

I feel very strongly that this be done through a request for proposal to be open and transparent. I think that the process in and of itself will be very important for GMOB to be able to show that, and I think that is a really important way to approach this. I don't know. I haven't heard any conversation about anyone being sole-sourced or

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anything, but I think it's a very good best-practice to show in this 5-year review that it is an open and transparent process.

If there is a smaller committee that is put in place to be able to look at the proposals that come in, that would be a great thing as well. I think representation around this table – not everyone, that would be very cumbersome, and I think people have day jobs and are very busy – but if there was at least representation from territorial, federal, representation from some of the NGO partners, and representation perhaps from a governance whether it's municipal or Indigenous, I think that would be a very good way to set up a committee to look at this going forward.

So those are high-level comments on the process overall. I look forward to hearing what others have to say. Thank you.

David: Thanks, Sheila. Are there any other comments from folks around the table?

Erika: Sorry, I just wanted to bring forward from the GNWT that specifically, there were some higher-level rather than nitty gritty things. One of them was just really understanding the tasks that the contractor was set to do. It talks about developing an evaluation framework based on Section 9.2 and 9.3. And 9.2 and 9.3 really just discuss what we can do to reevaluate.

So, I just was sort of struggling with understanding what this framework would look like. Is it sort of breaking down all the various responsibilities? Does it mean breaking down the Annual Report and status of the environment? Does it break down the bylaws? You know, could you just tell us a little bit about what you envision in this framework?

David: I'll take the first stab at it. Oh, you want to go first?

Todd: Sorry, Erika can you just cue us to the passage to help? I think I'm in the right spot, but I just don't know which part.

Erika: Yeah, it's under "Scope of Work," and it says, "Specifically the contractor will develop an evaluation framework." Yep.

David: I'll take the first shot at that. Essentially, 9.2 and 9.3 provide the impetus for this 5-year review. That's really the core of it. What we've added to 9.2 and 9.3 is at the top of page 2: "The purpose of this review is to specifically address 9.2 and 9.3. In addition, the review shall consider the Parties' general satisfaction, consider the Parties' satisfaction specifically with the performance..." and so on. There are four bullets there.

So, the contractor would be expected to develop an evaluation for how that contractor is going measure success or failure. What are the criteria that are going to be used? I

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can't at this stage say what I would expect other than I would expect some criteria laid out that follow 9.2 and 9.3 and address the other considerations that we want evaluated and come back with a rating system if you like. Because otherwise, as Sheila pointed out, what are we measuring? We don't have a good idea of what the contractor is going to use to measure performance, so we've asked that the contractor first develop an evaluation framework and then measure performance against that framework.

It's that sort of conceptual thing. Maybe some additional wording in that bullet would be helpful. I don't know.

Erika: Okay, well that's really helpful. Maybe some more context on that? I think when you just said a rating system or a measurement of success or some sort of criteria, I think it brings you down that path, and that's what you're meaning by a framework.

Then just the other comment that I had was about what is just above that. It says the Board is seeking a contractor with extensive experience in evaluation methods. I absolutely agree. But then it says, "Experience working with the parties, with the Project, and with the Board." So my question is how married are you to that with previous experience working with all of us, specifically or individually? If someone comes with a really strong background on evaluation techniques and they've never worked with any of us, is that an X?

David: The reason that's in there is to make this thing efficient and effective and not have to train the contractor in what we all do. You know, this thing has dragged on too long already. I think we want somebody who at least has working knowledge of the Parties, the Giant Mine Remediation Project, and the more experience the better with each and all of us.

The other thing that the contractor needs to have is good experience in evaluation, because this will be as much qualitative as quantitative, I suspect in the end. So we need to find somebody who is able to start running and get this done. We could drop the extensive and say experience, but ultimately, whoever is evaluating the proposals will look for somebody who has more experience than not. That's just one of the criteria for selection, and that's a discussion that we'll have to get to this afternoon – the working group that Sheila mentioned – how that group is going to do its job in reviewing the proposals. But I think the more experience the better, obviously.

Erika: Okay, for sure. I understand that. Sorry, and just one last question. On the approach, it talks about a workshop so that all of this information is gathered. We all talk about it. We evaluate the priorities. It's more so of understanding...So it has to provide a final report. Then have you thought past that in how the Agreement actually gets changed? Is it sort of going back to the table of renegotiating and we have the lawyers involved? Is that how you see that playing out?

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David: I haven't gone there at all. I think we would have to wait to see what the report looks like. I mean if the contractor comes back and says, "You know, everything is working fine. You can tweak a few things," that takes us down another path. If the contractor comes back and says, "You know, there are some fundamental flaws," then that's another path. So, I think we'll just have to wait to see what the results are.

I mean I don't even know what the evaluation framework is going to look like. So to predict the outcome is a whole different story. Todd, did you have anything to add to this? You were one of the prime drafters.

Todd: Sure. I want to get back to the other one too, but the idea of changing the Agreement in my mind is secondary. This review is intended to evaluate the work and whether it's meeting the Agreement. There's the potential that it comes back with "Hey, this particular clause is problematic in terms of being able to achieve the intended result." Like if it puts the Board in a no-win position where they can't deliver, that would be identified and something to consider.

But more generally, at least with IEMA and the other boards, it comes back as suggestions on how better to do the work, or entire sections aren't getting done. In my mind, that's what this is about. There are mechanisms to amend the Agreement, but that's bigtime, you know.

Erika: Great. Thanks. That's really great for us to understand. The primary intent is to change how things are done, not necessarily the text in the Agreement and opening it back up. We'll just see how things play out. Thanks.

David: Sheila?

Sheila: Thanks. Just as a quick follow-up to Erika's point, thank you for flagging that, Erika. Evaluation frameworks are interesting. The little nanosecond study I did on evaluation always says that – and again theory versus reality – the best way to set up an evaluation framework is at the start as part of program design so that you know what to collect.

Certainly, there is a lot of qualitative information that will be forthcoming as part of the discussion at the 5-year review. However, I am curious to see if there has been the degree of quantitative that would be at GMOB's disposal right now that would feed into this. Those are things that would certainly, looking backward to try to seek this information, are more difficult than if it collected from the start. So I'm just curious around that, if there is anything the Board can shed light on around that in terms of what kind of quantitative information there would be that could feed into the evaluation. Thank you.

David: Yeah, I'll ask Ben to deal with that when he gets back. Each of our annual reports has a summary of our activities, meetings, website development, and all that stuff. Those

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are the concrete things that we've been doing. It's a little more difficult to assess the effectiveness of those things. Like, how effective is our website? How effective are the meetings that we've held? That's more subjective. The more people the contractor speaks to, the better handle the contractor will have on whether there is a consensus opinion to the effectiveness of all these activities we've undertaken.

The question is how much quantitative stuff do we have available for the contractor rather than the qualitative? Ben, I was just saying that our annual reports summarize all our activities, but they don't necessarily put a stamp of A, B, or C in terms of performance of those activities.

Ben: It depends on the questions being asked but we should be able to pull as much information as needed.

Sheila: Thanks for that. I mean, part of it is knowing full well that the 5-year review needed to happen. Was there any thinking back then when getting the organization set up, around what some of those terms might look like and the kinds of measurables that would help identify the effectiveness of GMOB at the time of review?

David: Todd?

Todd: Full terms and negotiations in the very first days? No. I was there for three months, and it was about banks, office space, and really getting off the ground. Just with my experience, it's going to be inherently qualitative. The quantitative stuff will generally be digital, either 0 or 1, like it was done or not.

But that by itself, might be a point. If the contractor has a lot of experience in these evaluations, like maybe this is what we want to write in there. Do your best to establish quantitative metrics for the next 10 years so when we go to repeat this, there is something. Yeah.

David: The nucleus of this Terms of Reference really goes back to the independent diamond mine boards. I cribbed initially from – I can't remember which one it was – an evaluation that one of the boards had done on its performance. So there may be some useful information that the contractor can glean from that board's experience as well in terms of preparing the evaluation framework and so on. We can point them in that direction. Gordon?

Gordon: Two points I want to stand behind: Sheila and her comments early on and reflection on the discussion that you and Erika were having, David, about extensive expertise of consultants. I think that may be a little unnecessarily narrowing of likely consultants. That word alone might discourage someone from participating. In the long term, we want a broad range of consultants with knowledge on Giant, and this tends to narrow that.

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The second point I want to make, and this is coming from a retired bureaucrat, is simply one word. In the second paragraph, the last sentence reads that the Board is established as an independent entity administered by a six-member Board of Directors, each appointed by a party, not nominated.

David: Thanks, Gordon. Any other comments?

Katherine R: Thanks. I have really appreciated the discussion so far and the clarifications have come as being really helpful. Thank you. I think Erika captured succinctly what I was initially going to say, but there was one piece that I thought I would bring up and that's the period of the contract. Right now, I think we're looking to have it done by the end of the calendar year. I'm wondering if you think that's achievable at this point.

There is going to need to be a process to get the contract if we do as suggested by Sheila, bid the contract, and select a contractor or consultant, as well as try to coordinate people for workshops. I expect the need to do virtual workshops, so that would extend that timeframe plus the three weeks to have the report with recommendations, etcetera. This is just to point that maybe we might want to add some flexibility if possible.

David: Thanks, Katherine. Yeah, we can look at that. Maybe what we should do is specify the time period from the contract actually commencing, our expectations about how long it's going to take. Diep?

Diep: I wanted just to bring up something that a few people have talked about now. That's the experience, in terms of having experience in doing evaluation and experience working with the Parties and the GMRP and the Board. Usually with RPs, there's evaluation criteria, so you can rate. Methodology is worth 10. Experience is worth 10. Budget would be 10, whatever we want to rate it as. If we wanted to break down the experience in terms of experience in being able to conduct evaluation methods a little bit more, we can do that so that it is weighted properly.

David: Thanks, Diep. Unless there are any other comments on the Terms of Reference, that's a good segue into what do we do next? Todd?

Todd: Yeah, I've got some clarifying questions on unfortunately a couple of different comments folks have made. It goes back to Erika and that first bullet. I just want to be sure that the issue, the central concern, is that this seems to suggest the evaluation framework is coming from 9.2 and 9.3 as opposed to the mandate and the objectives or purpose. So, is this to be rewritten in such a way that the authority to do this review is from 9.2 and 9.3.... okay, got it. You're nodding.

I think everyone else has hit on a good point in terms of the experience Diep was just talking about. With experience working with the Parties, yes, it's good to grease the wheels a little bit. But I'd ask the question that I'm not even sure that is necessary or

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that a knowledge of Giant is necessary. The key ask here is to look at the Agreement – and I’m going to paraphrase what I think it is – look at the Agreement and see if it is being done. Those are superfluous or at best, minor pluses that you know everyone around the table. I’d just ask whether we just want to delete that entirely.

David: Well it gets back to Diep’s point about the evaluation framework that is used to assess the adequacy of the proposals. So yeah, you could delete that. I don’t have any particular problem with deleting it, but what I would suggest to people who are going to do the evaluation is that we avoid having to educate a contractor about the business we are in.

I’ll leave that to the Evaluation Subcommittee, but I’ve been involved in way too many contracts where you have an individual or a team proposing what looks on the face of it to be a lot of good work. Then you spend way too much time filling in the background so that they understand the context of what they are doing.

So yeah, you can drop that section, but please make sure that when you look at the proposed contractor’s experience that it is a key part of the evaluation framework for that and the other proposals you receive. The last thing I want to see is spending a month filling in the background. It’s just a waste of time, and there are enough people out there that do have that experience, that knowledge. I don’t think we have to dig too deeply. I hope not anyhow.

A couple of things: There will be some minor revisions to this document to clarify the points that have been raised. We need somebody to do that and be done with it. As I said earlier, it’s a little frustrating to tinker with things when the main message is there and it’s clear enough. It will never be perfect.

Then, how do we issue the request for proposals? We can put the request for proposals on the GMOB website. I suggest that we also identify a short list, if you like, of people that seem to have knowledge and experience that we are looking for. We did that recently in another initiative I was involved in. The request for proposals went out broadly, but then we alerted folks that we would particularly be interested in seeing work from or a proposal from. Then we need a committee, a subcommittee, to evaluate their responses.

I guess I’m not sure the GMOB wants to sit on that subcommittee. I mean all the Parties are involved, and you’ll have a conflict of interest in one form or another in this stuff, but GMOB being at the center of the work, I don’t think it would be appropriate for GMOB to sit as part of the evaluation framework. I don’t know how people feel about that. Diep?

Diep: Sorry. Before we move on to discussing how we’re going to do this, I would also like to recommend that we do have the evaluation criteria within the request for

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proposals, so that bidders know exactly what they are getting into and what they have to write in terms of getting the best product to us.

David: Yeah, both the Feds and the GNWT would have templates that could be attached. It's a good point, and the budget of course.

Natalie: Can I ask to submit some comments in writing on the Terms of Reference specifically, like the Giant Mine Remediation Project Team was not referenced in the Agreement, the core proponents, those technical things? Then my suggestion or recommendation on how this went out would be RFPs to be put on the MERX system which is a public tendering process open to private industry. That would be my suggestion. Thank you.

David: Well, yeah. Who is the holder of the contract? I mean if it goes on MERX it's got to be federal, doesn't it?

Natalie: So MERX is now private. The Government of Canada uses it. It's called buyandsell.ca. For instance, Parsons our main construction manager, uses MERX for all of our contracts now, so anyone can use that system.

David: Yeah, that would be good. So, back to the first point. Who's got the pen now? I don't want to be pushy on this, but it's got to be done, so let's make sure it's done. So, Todd, are you volunteering?

Todd: I've been volunteered once already, so I'm going to suggest that it's your guy's business to finish this up.

David: Okay.

Kathy: But if there is going to be an evaluation framework and we're not going to be the evaluators, then it seems odd that we would finish it up. It feels like whoever is going to be evaluating the bids that come in should be the ones to decide what that evaluation framework looks like, for example.

Todd: Another suggestion I put to Ben was you guys have six members. One of them could be firewalled off from the participation with the reviewer and be on the evaluation side. Like, we don't have a problem with the optics there as long as it's clearly stated. But secondly, the evaluation criteria, once written, is there. Then it's up to whomever, if we mention the breakdown that Sheila mentioned, we would be evaluated based on the terms that are set forth. I don't know that there is a necessary connection between the writers of the evaluation criteria and those who administer it.

Erika: Just to add to that, eventually there will be questions about how adequate the parties responded, or the Project Team members responded to their responsibilities or carried them out. So, I do feel like we're all in that same boat. I'm just not sure, yeah like, how strong are those optics of a conflict of interest of having GMOB involved?

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Yeah, if we're all together setting the criteria, then it's the Evaluation Committee and it's done in a fair process.

David: I will finish this thing... yeah. I will ask that you guys send me your evaluation frameworks yesterday and you send me your comments on this document yesterday. I don't think I want to go through another iteration of this, so you're going to have to trust me on it. I will finish the document, given the input you provide, and then I will hand it off. I will not be involved in it further. I don't think as the Interim Chair that I should be. It provides that kind of firewall in a different way, like I suppose we were talking about earlier.

Then I guess what I can do is ask Ben to take on the administrative side of things and make sure the requests for proposal gets out to MERX and is posted on our website. So if people have potential contractors in mind that they think would do a good job, we can let those folks know.

Then I'm going to ask for volunteers to sit on the evaluation of the proposals in response to the RFP. Let's go around the table. Who wants to sit on that small subcommittee?

Diep: So I'm not volunteering, but I'm asking how many people are you thinking you would need on this committee? Usually it's three people when we evaluate proposals or tenders, so I don't know if we need to have each member be on the committee. Correct?

David: Yep. Looking for three, as Sheila said, a representative, three or maybe four. But if four, then why not five. Then we're back to square one. So, let's stick to three. Let's have Indigenous governments, Métis, and the Yellowknives think between themselves of who could do that. Gordon, okay, and then governments. One more.

Alex: I think that's a fair. We'll have a conversation. I think it would be ideal to have someone from the Project, but if it doesn't work out, it doesn't work out. We'll figure it out. But we'll commit to one. I think I see heads nod.

David: Who is the one?

Todd: Can we have a conversation about that?

David: Yeah, we can, and let's do it now. I mean I really do want to get this done. I don't want to leave the table with things dangling. I think we can figure that out fairly quickly.

Todd: Can we take 10 minutes?

David: Sure.

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BREAK

- David: Okay, are we ready to regroup? I gather that Alex has been volunteered for this. Is that correct?
- Alex: No.
- (Laughter)*
- David: That would've been too ironic.
- Natalie: I volunteered. Thank you.
- David: Alright. Thank you very much. So we have a subcommittee of William, Gordon, and Natalie.
- Jessica: I'm also happy to participate if four or five are not too many in a crowd.
- David: Three is what we're looking for. William, you and Jess need to talk.
- Jessica: I'm happy if William takes it on. He seemed very enthusiastic to participate, so I will take on that enthusiasm.
- William: Yeah, I don't mind participating, but I'd be open to Jess participating as well. I think it would be good to have more rather than less from my perspective.
- David: Well maybe you can consult with Jess, but I'm going to keep it to three, and we'll leave it at that. I really do want to get this as efficient and as effective as possible.
- Jessica: I can be the sub-player if there is more support needed.
- Sheila: Just one thing: Perhaps I missed it, but I know in all of the procurement that we do at the City, as I think you reaffirmed on this one, we include in the Terms of Reference what the evaluation criteria will look like. So I heard you valiantly saying that you will take on the edits on this. Are you also taking a crack at that?
- David: Yep. Based on what people provide me, I will try to find a consensus. Before the contract goes out, though, you all – well the three of you – will have a chance to look at it again and make sure that it's balanced appropriately, the evaluation framework that is attached to the contract. The only other alternative is to come back as a group and look at it again, but I don't think that's an effective use of time. Is that okay?
- Todd: So, you're asking us to send evaluation frameworks, or what we think. What would you like to see for that? Are we sending interests? Are we sending refined sentences? Please.

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David: Spreadsheet basically. I mean the ones I'm familiar with have on one side the quality that you're looking for, and on the other side has a number, maximum points awarded for that particular thing. The Feds, the GNWT, and I gather the City, do that routinely for the contracts they send out. So send me your templates, and I will do my best to merge them. Then the subcommittee will then be responsible obviously for assessing in the ER phase, will have a chance to take a look at that before it goes out.

Todd: Okay, I'm just clarifying. We'd just like to have a look at the final edition of that to see how they all come together and just circulate that to give us a chance to comment or not.

David: Alright. Do others feel the same way?

(Pause)

Okay. Alright. Please do it efficiently though. I don't want to be waiting until December to get this thing underway. I realize I'm pushing hard on it, but I think that's the only way we're going to get it done by the fall.

Diep: Would you like us to put a deadline, or would you like to give us a deadline to send you final comments and criteria and numbers?

David: Yeah, next week. Friday. Does that work for folks? Friday to get the comments on the draft and the criteria, the evaluation criteria that you normally use to assess proposals. Is that okay with folks?

Todd: Can you make it the next Monday?

David: Are you going to work over the weekend?

Todd: I will work unpaid over the weekend. Oh, I will not...

(Laughter)

David: Let's aim for Friday please. That's a week tomorrow. Most of the comments in the draft RFP have been expressed or will be provided. They're ready, so it's just the evaluation templates that I'm looking for really, and those should be readily accessible. Okay, thank you. Thank you very much for your patience and tolerance on this one.

Action Item: The Chair of GMOB, will submit a final draft of the RFP for the Five Year Review of the Environmental Agreement to the Parties RFP Evaluation Committee.

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Action Item: The RFP Evaluation Committee will produce the final RFP version and send it to GMOB Administration for posting.

Action Item: GMOB Administration will post the RFP on MERX, the GMOB website and distribute to appropriate community consultants.

Agenda Item 6: Roundtable Highlights from Each Party

David: So, roundtable highlights from each party: I realized after we sent this out that the Project Team had pretty much summarized much of this stuff in the last working group meeting. So maybe what we can do is ask the Project Team to quickly summarize the activities and use this list as maybe a guidepost. Then we'll have comments and questions of the Project Team and then go back to the individual parties. Does that work for folks?

(Pause)

Natalie and Erika, you want to take the lead on this? You can defer to Alex anytime you want.

Summary by the Project Team

Natalie: David, what you're suggesting is I'll just briefly touch on all the topics on the agenda. The first item is the ministerial approval of the water license. The water license has gone to our minister for approval, and the latest word is that he will make his decision within the 45-day time period and not ask for the extension to the 90 days. Of course, I can't guarantee that, but that is the word on the street anyway. So, we should have a water license by mid-September.

The next item is the early works. We did a presentation at working group that I think everyone here was privy to. We're still on track to begin remediation in 2021, and the first works will be beginning the construction of our nonhazardous waste landfill, getting the AR1 freeze pad started, because the freeze is obviously the first item, and begin the underground stabilization. Then the town site will probably be deferred to 2022, but still considered in those first two years.

Perpetual Care Plan update: I'm not sure if there's anything you want to add, Alex. Everyone here is fairly up to date, but I will pass that over to you.

Alex: Yeah, just to recap, the framework was submitted – the draft framework – to the working group. David, you had mentioned this as well earlier. That revised document will be submitted to GMOB in November with a proposed procurement process for the next steps. There may be a few folks who weren't on the last working group meeting where we updated, but that's the update on the progress for that plan.

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Natalie: Continuing on, the next item is the MCM Socio-Economic Action Plan update. We have our Socio-Economic Plan update from the Project. We had a Socio-Ec Advisory Board meeting in the past couple of weeks where we presented on our implementation plan as well as the finalization of our KPIs and targets, so it's on track. We are planning to do some focus groups to fully flesh out the action plan in the coming weeks. We know there's a lot going on, so we're just trying to balance priorities and needs. It's well underway. If anyone wants to see the plan, we've shared it.

From the MCM perspective, I don't have an update. The only update I think I can share is that Industry Day is being planned for October. We're planning a virtual Industry Day for, I think it's October 20th, 21st, and 22nd. We're splitting it over three days, so it's shorter duration. Normally it would be a full day, and we realize with the virtual platform, it's a little easier to split it up and hold people's attention. So that will be coming in October. Any of the team can chime in.

Erika: I'll just add to that. There will be a survey that Parsons will send out to a big list of businesses that they have. Part of that survey, part of the questions would be what people are looking for to get from those Industry Day sessions. That will just help tailor the types of information that will be presented. But really again, we'll have that focus on the early works.

One other thing that is an achievement that we've reached is with ECE. We've been working very closely with the regional office. We just evaluated a number of proposals that were submitted to establish a training coordination body. This isn't driven by Giant, but with all our poking, we've helped get this going. So, there is federal funding that is provided to ECE on this. It will be a multiyear training coordination body. We're just in the final processes of awarding that contract. So that contract really is to play a secretariat role to get the group organized.

Our hope is at our next working group meeting on September 15th, we will be able to come to that working group and let folks know who that is. We would have had our meeting with them already and talked about the next steps would be. Who are the appropriate partners to be part of that training coordination body? Again, it's not just focused on Giant. It's the right people in the room. We're taking the lessons learned from this previous training coordinator body that just got way too big and actually stopped functioning. So they're fully aware of those risks.

This is a big deal, and it's great. It's to help the North Slave region in general so that any larger project – even smaller project – could come to the table and say, “Hey, this is what we need. Can you guys start hooking up the right people and let the right people know about our upcoming project?” Anyway, I just wanted to highlight that.

Ken F: Can I just follow-up with a question on that? Is there any crossover with the discussions on the new technical, polytechnic university, on that front, with the training coordinating body?

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- Erika: Can you elaborate more what you mean? In what way is it connected?
- Ken F: Well, one of the fundamental reasons I believe for having a polytechnic university here is to help train people from the North to do jobs in the North that require a higher education. Are there things being identified within the training coordination process, whether it's for Giant or for other projects in this Slave, South Slave, North Slave region or NWT in general that would benefit from the programs that could be done by a polytechnic?
- Erika: For sure. We haven't had specific conversations on that issue but having them not part of the discussion makes no sense.
- Diep: I just wanted to add that the polytechnic university discussion is still fairly early. They're trying to figure out the high-level governance and all those things first, but it would totally make sense to put those two aspects together once they are further down the road. They are talking right now about a facility that's many, many years away.
- Sheila: Thanks for that update, Erika. That's great to hear the training coordination is coming together. From the last Socio-Economic Advisory Board discussion, we had talked as well of the timeliness. That's something that I personally and the City finds very concerning in order to meet the test of what the Socio-Economic was set out to do. In fact, the entire Giant Mine Remediation Project, in the City's opinion, is to maximize the benefits of remediation to Northerners and to people in the City and environment.
- So when we talked a little bit about trying to tap into existing Northerners, particularly the Yellowknife North Slave region that are in postsecondary right now in the sciences in areas where there could be an alignment of the kinds of work, the studies they are pursuing at university with opportunities to come...I don't know if there has been that pursuit with ECE as well, because we get very concerned. I shake my head when Diep says the university is years off. It makes me crazy, because it should not be, but it is. So if there are other ways that we can tap into the Northern talent pool and workforce that's here to be able to see about alignment for their studies... *(Microphone turned off)*
- Diep: The reason why I said that is because I don't think we want to wait until the polytechnic university is in a stage where we do reach out to them. I think right now, because it has already started, we can have a discussion, but definitely we're way ahead.
- Erika: Sheila, I wouldn't mind...I don't know if this is the place for it, but I wouldn't mind to just explore that a little bit more with you on who or how to bring that linkage in there. I'm struggling a little bit, but just in terms of timelines, our hope is to have the first meeting of this coordinating body in early October. With ECE, there is momentum

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there. The regional superintendent there is fantastic, keen, and wants to get it up and running ASAP, so we're rolling.

William: I had a similar question, Ken. What is the crossover with YKDFN's Dech̓ta Nàowo Training Program?

Erika: Yeah, again, we'll be bringing this forward to the working group – the Socio-Ec Working Group – to talk our idea about who the various partners at the table would be. But absolutely, the Dech̓ta Nàowo Program has been identified as a key player to sit at the table, or maybe there are some other ways to link them in. Definitely, it's part of it all.

William: Is the idea that this training body would be doing Dech̓ta Nàowo's work or would they be supporting Dech̓ta Nàowo? Why I'm asking this is because there have been numerous training programs, such as the Mine Training Society, etcetera, etcetera, who have tried to train our membership but have failed because they are an outside organization. I'm trying to say that if the goal is to train band members, it has to come from the band. It has to be the Dech̓ta Nàowo Training Program or a similar program to it.

Natalie: I fully recognize that. Thank you, William. From the Project's perspective, we do recognize that, and we have been funding Dech̓ta Nàowo for a number of years now. We have talked with Margaret this year and are going to look at a 5-year training plan so we can be more holistic as opposed to a year off, one off. This year, we did give quite a bit of funding: \$450,000.00. We now want to make sure it's actually looking at a holistic picture.

So that's one thing we're working on with Margaret this year that we think is a good improvement in terms of not just a yearly training plan, but a 5-year plan. That will certainly continue and work in conjunction with his group that Erika was talking with.

David: Natalie?

Natalie: Okay, where were we? Boat launch update.

David: The special envoy...

Natalie: Sorry, I saw GMOB next to that. Okay, special envoy update. We as the Project Team met with GMOB, I think it was last week. The weeks are blending together, but within the past few weeks. We met to understand the nature of GMOB's recommendation #1 from the report in terms of establishing the special envoy. That was very helpful. Thank you. We now have a better understanding of what your intentions are, and we will take that to our Minister. Thank you.

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David: Just to let people who weren't part of that conversation, words never really express the intent sometimes, most times. There was some gap of understanding I think, between GMOB and the Project Team. The meeting conference call last week was just to try to express better where GMOB was coming from on this.

In a nutshell, it's about the size of the box that people are working with when it comes to contracting in particular, and the challenges the Project Team has in meeting the expectations of Northerners while still having to deal with the limitations imposed by the federal contracting system.

Special envoy is a confusing term as well, but this troubleshooter if you like, was to try to identify somebody who has experience in the senior levels in Ottawa in particular, as well as contracting. They have experience working in the North and understand the concerns and objectives of Northerners to try and break down some of these constraints that Public Works in particular, place on contracting, given that many of the contractors in the North – smaller contractors in particular - simply can't access the benefits this Project can bring.

It was basically a discussion about the size of the box that the Project Team has to work within. It's making clear progress within the current box, the current limitations that it has. The perspective from GMOB is that there is a way to make that box bigger and better. It's not going to happen, in GMOB's view, if it's left to the machinations of government, of people coming to meetings and then going back to their offices to try to catch up on the work that they missed in the meantime. Stuff slips behind.

There is no single person fully dedicated to solving some of these problems. It's not just a problem for Giant. It's a problem for federal contracting in the North and elsewhere. Some of the limitations are overcome through land claims agreements, and we saw a bit of a demonstration of that with the Tl'chô recently with the GNWT overcoming some of the constraints through agreement.

So the idea of this troubleshooter would be to meet with all the Parties at a very senior level – deputy minister, ministerial level – identify the challenges, and try to get the parties to agree to remove some of those obstacles. The primary target would be Public Works at the federal level.

If that is a successful exercise, it would benefit not just Giant, but all remediation projects with federal funding, and perhaps even broader. It will improve the access that Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations would have to contracting and address the concern that Sheila just raised. The whole point of the exercise, cleaning up Giant Mine, is to clean up the site, but it is also to ensure that the maximum benefits accrue to the residents of this region and to the North generally. We're not going to achieve that within the current system. That's the GMOB perspective.

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So, we need somebody to try to break down some of those obstacles. It's not a criticism of the Project Team. It's doing the best it can within the box it has, but we think that box is the problem. In a nutshell, that's where we're coming from on that one. If there are any comments or discussion, we can do that later if you like. Natalie, the boat launch update?

Natalie: We are still negotiating a tripartite access agreement with the City and the GNWT, so I don't want to presuppose how that concludes. However, in my opinion, we're very close. It has just been a little slow due to summer holidays. But within that, the Project Team has committed and plans to always keep access at the Giant Mine town site open for a boat launch, either through the existing public boat launch or through an upgraded, improved boat launch at the Great Slave Sailing Club area.

We're just working through the design. The design would be to remediate that Great Slave Sailing Club area first and get that area remediated while leaving the current boat launch open. Then once the Great Slave Sailing Club area is remediated, we would construct a comparable boat ramp with concrete, asphalt, turnaround, and proper traffic management. Then we would be able to close the other one down for remediation and more than likely leave that closed for a longer time because of the Baker Creek work. We wouldn't want to keep reopening and confuse people, but we are certainly open to working with the City and the GNWT on how that rolls out. That's certainly the Project's intent, and we are working on the design of the boat launch as we speak.

Todd: Just to add to that, everything Natalie says is right in terms of the lease aspect. The kicker is it has bumped into a couple of other things. GNWT is going to be talking to the lessees soon, if not already. So that aspect is done. Now the City has inherited – that's too strong a word – but there is a spur line that runs from the main water pipe to Giant that needs to be severed. So we have some engineering work on the City side to do, including how best to do that, where best to do that, and mostly just to ensure it is not going to compromise the integrity of the main line, which is already in some state of disrepair after 50 years or so.

That's where that's at, and that's the main impediment. That's the last hitch, or we think it's the last hitch.

Sheila: Thank you, Natalie. Yeah, the Access Agreement has been a huge thorn in our side. You'd think it would be a straightforward, easy thing to pull together, but it has taken an enormous amount of investment from both sides. We're small. We're mighty, but we're small at the City, and it has been a great drain on us. That, along with many other things, and I apologize. I had assumed there was an opportunity for each member to provide an update, not just on the list that was provided.

Ben: It's next.

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Sheila: It's next. Okay, there I go. I should get my act together on that. The spur line, of course, is a big issue for us when it comes to our submarine water intake line. Again, going back to the environmental assessment, we wish that this was not the City's problem to have to deal with the replacement, but it is.

We have been successful in securing 75% of the funding needed to replace that line. The other 25% is a big headache for us that we continue to beat the bushes on. I do want to give a big shout out to Yellowknives Dene First Nation and North Slave Métis who have supported us in trying to seek funding for this, because we're all in this together.

What is this has said to me – the issue of the spur line and the Access Agreement – is that something very small, and then oh by the way in the process that we're dealing with, can mushroom into something where some of our engineering staff have to drop everything. If anyone is driving around the city, you'll very well note that it is construction season. People are maxed out, and we had to stop and do a whole bunch of work on a spur line to see what the implications would be, along with the timing of how to deal with this in order to find a timely solution to the Access Agreement.

There are many, many moving pieces to this, and it's something that I just wanted to flag, because people may think that there is not a lot going on that is reflective of our work on the Giant Project behind the scenes, but there is a ton of it. Thank you.

David: Thanks, Sheila. Natalie, the Stress Study and the lease issues update?

Natalie: Erika, would you like to give an update on the Stress Study? Thank you.

Erika: Alex? Just kidding.

(Laughter)

Is it getting old yet? We are getting close with the Stress Study. It's no longer called the Stress Study. I need to practice how to pronounce it right, but it is understanding community wellness related to Giant Mine. Right now, the research team is in the final stages of preparing their ethics review package. They are also pilot testing the survey with all the age categories. They have had really good participation in that, and also really great feedback. During that, they haven't had that participant care, like a counselor there with them, because of the people selected or they are familiar with the Project and understand some of those limitations. But there has definitely been feedback on how that could work and how to improve that.

We typically have a meeting scheduled for the last Friday of the month. I have removed all that, because Laura – the new coordinator – is going to be managing those meetings. So, we don't have a next meeting planned, but the intent of that is to have a revised Communications and Engagement Plan. There was a lot of feedback that the

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Project Team actually gave, myself included, in really trying to structure that a little bit more like what was done for the HEMP project and diving in deep about the key messages and who the audience is.

We will be looking for input again from the Advisory Committee group, because it's a revised plan. That will be the last piece that will go into ethics approval. So we are close. The thought is the first week of September or so, and then we're rolling. Hopefully. Any questions about that?

(Pause)

David: Okay, thank you. That's it for the Project Team stuff other than the lease issues. That's GNWT and the City, and I think you already sort of touched on that.

Natalie: Can I just add one more item from Canada's update? I just wanted to acknowledge the response from your recommendation of support? I'm told it should be coming very soon. I'm assuming that's two to three weeks. I didn't get an exact time on it. It is in with our Minister, and it should be coming soon, so thank you for the patience.

David: Anything else?

Erika: I'm so sorry. Sorry to interrupt, but I just wanted to clarify. Todd had said maybe GNWT has already talked to the lessees. We have not. We need to come up with a bit of a plan. There are lease amendments. We will be introducing ourselves as the new landlord, but we will be working with the Project Team to think about the timing around all those details the lessees will be interested in, like what the ramp is going to look like. Where are we going to store our boats? So, we do need to strategize a little bit about the timing around those things, but GNWT will be approaching the leaseholders and talking about those lease amendments soon.

David: Thanks, Erika. Just to clarify for Sheila: The idea of this list was to make sure that those issues were addressed. That wasn't intended to limit the discussion of other issues that aren't here, and we've identified some of the lead parties. The next couple of items of Preparedness of the Parties for Review of Plans, that's for each of you to raise. Then there's the GMOB Operations and Research Program Update. That's GMOB's. So I guess I'll ask Canada. Natalie, is there anything else that wasn't touched on that you would like to?

Natalie: No. Thank you.

David: GNWT: Diep, Erika, anything?

Other Updates by the Government of Canada

Erika: I quickly just wanted to give an update on where we are with our Legacy Arsenic Risk Assessment. We have done all the sample collections, and the last piece was muskrat samples from a community member with the Yellowknives Dene. We are evaluating and number-crunching all of that. We hope to have a draft report maybe at the end of this month, so next week? At that time, we will start planning our engagement approach.

We actually have a meeting with Jess and North Slave Métis tomorrow to start thinking about what that community engagement would be like for the North Slave community. Then we are hoping to meet with William and crew probably when Sarah is back next week to talk about that. So, things are rolling along. As I mentioned, I am leaving on November 1st and I'll be gone for a year, so it is crunch time. We're trying to figure out how to do that with Alex gone. Anyway, here I am rambling.

Two other pieces of that work though: Not only is it just a risk assessment out to a 25-kilometer radius, but we also did look at worker exposure along the highway road. That's something that we are at a point that we'd like to be able to share ahead of time. That's something that folks might be seeing in the near future. Also, we did look at grayling in Baker Creek. We completed some sampling this summer. That's a piece that the YKDFN had a lot of interest in to understand the impacts on grayling cruising through Baker. So we have a good handle on that as well. Stay tuned, but the work is getting there. We are really pleased.

David: Thanks, Erika. Now my hearing is fading. Did you say muskrat temples?

Erika: Samples

(Laughter)

David: Samples!

Erika: But we did get tails. Actually, they are still in my freezer. Supposedly the Elders have said they taste like popcorn.

(Laughter)

David: Thank you for clarifying. I was wondering where all these temples had appeared. Muskrat pushups maybe? I don't know. Alright, anything else from the GNWT?

Alex: If I could add one thing as well: As part of the Offsite Risk Assessment, we are also developing a brochure that communicates the guidance on arsenic from Health and Social Services. We've been working with Allison McCreesh to have an illustrated brochure. We are very pleased with what has been produced, and we think it will be

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really valuable for the communications piece on that Risk Assessment. We have been working closely with William and the YKDFN to really refine that, so stay tuned for that as well.

We are also funding Mike Palmer with Aurora Research Institute with Aurora College, to look at a garden produce study. He's working with the YKDFN to basically collect soil samples and vegetable samples grown around Yellowknife, looking at the relationship between the arsenic concentrations in the soils and the uptake in the vegetables. We're looking at the work that Iris Koch had done with the Royal Military College back 15 years ago – a while ago – that looked at some garden studies in the area. Yeah, we're happy to provide funding for that work as well. It has actually been approved. I believe all their research permits were approved, so that first phase of work will take place this fall. There will be some comms material on that asking folks for samples. Stay tuned for that piece as well.

David: Thanks. Anything else you want to get Alex to talk about?

Ken H: Just a comment on the garden vegetable studies - I'm thinking of communication of the public about why more studying is being done when there was actually quite a bit done in the past. Are there are new techniques? Is there more that we know about it? Is there a substantive reason why there is further study being done as opposed to what we know already? The public would be really interested in knowing why it's being done, as opposed to just doing some more studying. Could you explain the rationale for looking at that question again? People would be interested. It would be good to put it in context.

Alex: So, what Mike is proposing that I think is different with this research is basically, folks are concerned about... If I have a garden in my backyard where I'm gardening with native soil, I want to know in this specific garden, where I have a garden box, where I purchase soil from a local producer that's sourced, and soils from a local quarry, for example. It is a bit of a more comprehensive study is my understanding of what Mike is proposing.

In the work that the Royal Military College did, there was a few locations where they were looking at native soil. But this is really going to people's backyards and getting samples from their garden so they can ask specific questions about where they are growing their food and whether or not there is a specific risk to them and their families based on what soils they are growing in.

Erika: Great point. Just to add to that, Alex and I are feeding some communication ideas and will be reviewing what they are preparing. So that's definitely a message that we'll relay to Mike and his team.

Sheila: Thanks. It's really great to hear that work is underway. Particularly, I know GNWT is putting money into food security and agriculture. CanNor is, and the City is as well.

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Great to know that this is going on. As much information as you guys can share as possible would be great. If we're going down in our own little stovepipe around things and not aware of some the implications, that would not be good, so thank you for that.

David: Okay. GNWT, are you actually done for now? Okay, Alternatives North.

Alternatives North Update

Katharine T: First, I just wanted to say that Alternatives North is very happy to continue working on the Project, and we're grateful for support from CIRNAC to be able to fully participate in the work.

I thought I'd take this time to update you all on how the three of us have sort of divided up the work. The three of us being Gordon, Michael, and myself. Michael is leading our review of the regulatory documents and drafting up the comments to those. Gordon and I are reviewing and adding to that. Michael is also Alternative North's representative on the Perpetual Care Taskforce. Then I've been working on the Socio-Economic Working Group, the Stress Study, and I'll be representing Alternatives North on the aquatics engagement work, and Gordon is working on all of those things as well, as well as overseeing and providing guidance and support to both Michael and myself. Gordon or Michael who is on the phone, do you have anything to add?

David: Michael, are you still there?

Michael: I'm still here, but I don't have anything to add.

David: Alright. Thank you. That was a good reminder for the folks on the phone to interject if you feel the need. It's a little quiet, but we'll be able to pick you up. Any questions for Alternatives North? I guess I have one, and it was one of the bullet points above: Preparedness of the Parties for the Review of Plans. There are a lot of plans coming down the pike, and I'm just wondering if you think you're prepared for it. Are you adequately resourced and able to engage?

Gordon: David, you never ask if the party you're dealing with is adequately resourced. Of course not. But we have confidence in the contribution agreement we have with CIRNAC that if we run into trouble, we'll go back and see. That's been the understanding for a while. We've learned the hard way that you have to go back before the end of the fiscal year and not after. But I think we're okay at the moment.

David: Great. Thanks, Gordon. Any comments or questions for Alternatives North?

(Pause)

Okay, North Slave Métis.

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NMSA Update

Jessica: I'll copy Alternatives North and maybe give a quick refresher on what's going on in our shop in terms of staff. As has been for a little over a year, I'm the main rep for our Giant files. In theory, half of my worktime is dedicated to Giant, but it fluctuates based on the year. I think it'll be more than half in the next few weeks.

But I'm very thankful to have our manager, Adelaide. If you haven't met her yet, she is a very sweet and very calming person, and I love having her working with me. She's tackled a little bit more of the HEMP projects, because she has a background in health sciences as well as socio-ec work, along with our vice president, Mark. I do the main stuff, and then Adelaide and Mark come in and help me out with that.

So tying in what David mentioned, we definitely have noticed a bit of a hole or a gap in our socio-ec work in the sense of maybe not being quite so up to date on some of the bids that are coming up or just what NSMA is missing in terms of work and time that we can dedicate to socio-ec.

But there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We've been having great conversations with the GMRP team to better understand where our lack of communication is, understanding MERX, understanding how Parson works, and then seeing if there is an option for possibly having a part-time or even reduced hours person that could come onto our team, because we would really like to give our members that opportunity to apply to bids and have a working chance in a remediation project.

Also, to kind of fill in, I've been tackling a database for our membership. We've been struggling to try and understand which members have businesses in the community, who has education in the environmental sciences, monitoring, or any kind of contractual work that might be related to Giant or to many of the other industry files that we're working on. I've been working on a survey to get members to tell us if they are a small business owner. What is it in? Is it construction? Is it monitoring? Is it otherwise transportation?

Then we're going to hopefully create this really nice database to make it easy for us internally to pinpoint those members who are most interested in upcoming projects within NSMA or on the industry side and to apply to those bids. So, I'm really excited about that database, and I've been pretty enthusiastic to get that together. I think it will be a really great tool that will help bridge the gap between us and the Project Team for bids coming up in remediation.

Mark and Adelaide have been spearheading the work for the focus groups on the socio-ec stuff, so we're looking forward to that in the next few weeks. In terms of reviewing the Monitoring and Management Plans, so far they have been going well. I've been spearheading those with support from Adelaide when I need to, but I continue to rely pretty heavily on Bill Slater's memos and recommendations, as well

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as GMOB. I always appreciate when you guys are putting that ahead of the deadline. I find that they are very helpful to me just to confirm any doubts and make sure this is a comment worth submitting. Please, if you can continue doing that, it is extremely appreciated.

Otherwise...what else do I have in my notes here? We're slowly working on stuff with Alex and Erika on the education piece. Like Erika said, we have the HHRA meeting tomorrow, so we'll see how that goes.

Then I'm personally extremely excited for the aquatics stuff. As a marine biologist, I'm like give me all the fish. We have a really great group of members that are very enthusiastic to be part of the AAC, varying from youth to older harvesters and land users – a great group that we're excited to be participating on the review of the Baker Creek stuff and Yellowknife Bay work. I think those are all of my notes. I'm slowly feeling comfortable in my role, and let's keep tackling the weird COVID world that we have right now.

David: Great. Thank you. Any comments, questions, observations? And I'll ask you the same question. Are you adequately resourced to take on all these plans that are coming forward?

Jessica: Yes and no. I think it's always difficult when taking on a new role. It has been a year and a half now that I'm in this position, so there is definitely a much better understanding than, say last year when we were having the semi-annual meeting. So I feel better equipped in terms of the amount of internal Environmental Team that we now have compared to...I think NSMA usually only had one staff members on the Environmental Team, so we are looking very good, as is in terms of that collaboration internally.

In terms of perhaps the financial support, I think in the next 5 years, NSMA is going to start being a little bit more concerned, especially with a lot of the diamond mines that are closing down. There is quite a bit of our financial aspect that comes through that because we are a nonprofit, so we might be looking more and more for support from Giant in terms of that kind of work to continue us working on projects.

But for the time being, we are making do with what we have, and we appreciate that Giant is always open to try to see if there are ways to expand or change what that financial support and expertise looks like.

David: Great. Thank you. Natalie?

Natalie: I don't think I quite understood what you were getting at. Well, I knew what you were getting at, but I don't understand the rationale. Sorry, if you could elaborate on what you mean by the diamond mines closing down and looking for more financial support, then that would be helpful. Thank you.

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Jessica: So just to explain, NSMA, because we're a nonprofit organization, any of the work that the Environmental Team is doing, we have to look for grants and contributions. So most of the money that we're looking for to support people like me in the roles is coming from either government or mine funding. For example, Diavik and Gahcho Kué will be closing – not near future, but in 10 to 15 years. There are impact benefit agreements that will no longer be available to us, and those are big sources of money that continue the work at NSMA.

So not that we'd be going to Giant and saying we need X amount of money to balance out what we're missing from all the other mines. We're anticipating maybe a little bit more struggle, because a lot of our work has been involved with the diamond mines, and they won't be there forever. Does that kind of make more sense?

Natalie: Sure. I understand that concept. Thanks very much.

Jessica: Okay, thank you.

David: Alright, if there are no more further questions for the North Slave Métis Alliance, we'll go to the Yellowknives. William?

YKDFN Update

William: What a weird year it has been! So where to begin? Where to begin? I missed the last meeting in which Jason Snags took my place in it. I had an appointment that I couldn't miss. I'll start from the top.

We've had a bit of a restructure in our department. Johanne Black is no longer my director. It's now Sarah Gellis. Working with me on Giant stuff, you have Leena Black as our Economic Development Officer and Kynen Dowdy working on the Stress Study, the Hoèla weteèts'eèdè Study. I had to say it so people knew I could say it.

(Laughter)

Yeah, right now really it is the same-old-same-old. As all the parties feel, it's a struggle, and there are challenges. We're working towards them so that we can have the best outcome here from the Project. With COVID, it has been a real challenge for engagement and getting membership, because as you know, we can't meet in person. A lot of our community members don't have the means to meet virtually, so it had been a real challenge as of late.

But in terms of the review of the management plans, I would say that we're satisfied with the support we've gotten. So that's kind of where we're at right now.

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David: Thanks, William. Any questions for William?

(Pause)

Alright. City of Yellowknife? It's your turn.

City of Yellowknife Update

Sheila: Thank you very much. It's always good to come to the GMOB meetings and have the opportunity to hear from everybody about the great work that is underway across the board related to the Project.

We are small but mighty in our skillset. Let me start off with that. We are very, very appreciative to the Project for the capacity support. But what we do find is that with the range of things we are involved in, Giant related we are cut very thin. Frankly, we don't have enough resources. We are very appreciative for what you provide, Natalie. We know that this has been a particularly busy six months – 2020, what a year. I could not quote you better, William.

The Access Agreement, as Natalie said, has consumed a lot of time. It has consumed legal time. It has consumed time in our Planning and Lands with Todd and with myself. There are a lot of different parties coming to this. As Natalie said, we are quite pleased. We think we are very, very close at this point in time. Again, we are appreciative of the work that GNWT and the Project have put in on that, and we are hopeful that barring any of these bizarre curveballs that come out of nowhere like the spur line that we had no idea even existed... Well, I certainly didn't know that the spur line existed that has taken a lot of time.

Related to that, of course, has been work around the Compensation Claim that the City had put in. We have heard back from the Land and Water Board who said no to the two asks we have. Well, one was conditional. We did ask for the remaining amount of funding that we need to be able to replace the water intake line.

Again, as I mentioned, we have received 75% of the required \$34 million dollars from the federal government from its Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. We made the case that we need to always have a water source for Yellowknife, Dettah and Ndilo that comes from upstream of the mine. So, we have 75% of the funding secured there with YKDFN and NSMA support. That remaining 25% - that \$8 million dollars – we're still looking for. That's a big concern for us. We did put in a request to the Compensation Claim, and it was turned down.

What we did see in the Compensation Claim and we put in, we were also looking at an alternative site for water access for Yellowknifers to see if there was an opportunity for a dock and a boat launch. That is no longer needed because of the

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outcome around the water license that basically says thanks to the Project for ensuring that there is continual access, as Natalie has mentioned in her update as well.

We're very pleased that we reached a Municipal Services Agreement. That was a long time coming, but we are very glad to have that, which we were able to put in place earlier this year.

The Socio-Economic Advisory component remains of grave concern to us. Again, we are very concerned that time is slipping away, and that without having some very definite progression done towards knowing what the key performance indicators are, how to measure success. What are the targets that we all think are realistic, achievable, and comparable to what some of the other mines have put in place?

Those are of great concern to us. We need to make sure that the ship doesn't sail on us while we are working out things like the definition of "Northerner." So a huge amount of work needs to be done on that. We're worried that things may come and go, so that remains a very, very big focus for us, and we want to make sure again, that the maximum benefits accrue to Northerners.

As always, we are appreciative to the Project Team for making time for us every month. We sit down and hear the latest and greatest from them. We're able to exchange information, and for that we always appreciate the opportunity to get together, and that you make time, Natalie. We know you are busy. I've seen the inside of Natalie's home through Zoom, and it's quite lovely. Always appreciate those opportunities. Thank you very much. I don't know if Todd has anything else to add.

Todd:

I'll just add a quick anecdote on this Access Agreement, or as I like to call it this dumb Access Agreement. I'm sure Erika who has left, feels the same. I go to these director's meetings, and there are five divisions. It would just start out that I would brief, and it would be Kerry talking Giant. So I give the little update. Then Planning and Lands got involved. Now Chris Greencorn's involved, and the only one that isn't involved is the only one now who doesn't have to deal with Giant at all. Having that done, I'm sure you guys agree – or close to done – is great.

I have a suggestion and a recommendation for the Board. The storefront is closed, so maybe have a sign on the door allowing appointment making so you can keep that public, walk-in opportunity there. That's a quick suggestion.

A quick recommendation echoes Jess's. As time goes on, we're funded to a part-time level, and that's great. It really works for me. But having the reviews of the plans from the Board released five business days ahead of time would be really useful to us, particularly on those areas where we don't have like the Water Management Plan, and all the other ones. It's important from a triage perspective that we are not missing any of the key issues and that we can pass it by some of the other principles at the City.

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This came up at the QRA, and I think it got done. I was flat on my back at that point. If we can keep this going in the future, that would be terrific. That's it for me. Thank you.

David: Alright, any questions for the City? Observations? Yep, go ahead.

Kathy: It's not specifically for the City, but of all the parties. I thought I'd wait until everyone had spoken. Earlier this year, we've had sessions over time – it's been over a year, I guess. We've had sessions over time about participating in the water license process, what a water license looks like, the draft license, stuff like that. Ben and I were just wondering if anybody wanted to have a chat about what's in the water license that has been sent to the Minister. Do you have any questions about that? Do you want to have a session with myself or Ben or Paul about that? I didn't know if it was necessary or if everyone is sort of in the swing of things now with this whole Management and Monitoring Plan and how the water license is put together now that it is practically finalized. It's a question for the parties.

Jess: I'm always a support of the GMOB 101 session, so I would take you up on that.

William: Yeah, I was going to say the exact same thing. I'd be appreciative of that.

Katharine: I'm going to jump in and say yes. Let's do. Thanks.

David: Government of Canada?

Diep?: I was going to say, can I say yes?

(Laughter)

I don't see why not.

Kathy: Ben will set up a time for everyone in the next little bit, and any questions you have about the water license, you can bring them. Both Paul and I have read through the reasons and the license, so hopefully we can answer your questions.

GMOB Update

David: So it is GMOB's turn now. I'm going to turn to each of the directors to talk about their respective portfolios. As others have done, we've broken up the tasks into several different areas. For health, Ken Froese is the lead. The site itself is with Ken Hall. The regulatory, aquatics, all that stuff is Kathy, and communications too. Tony is research. Tony couldn't make it today. He's weathered in on a lake somewhere in Ontario, but Ben will give a quick update on the Research Program. Mark, if he is still on the phone, is our socio-economic lead. Ben is over all the administration, budget management,

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and so on. I'll just go to those folk in turn and get a quick update from each of them as to where things stand. Ken Froese?

Ken F: I think in terms of the overall health issues or health projects that are going on, we're all aware of where the HEMPAC or YK HEMP study is at. There have been no updates on that recently. The team from Ottawa has begun publishing papers, and they are also beginning to plan for the five-year point, at which time they do some resampling for some of the children that were involved in the initial part of the study. That's moving along.

The study that was once called the Stress Study is moving along as we've heard. The changes that I've seen in that study from when we first looked at it in November last year are quite remarkable. I'm impressed with how that study team has positively taken the edits, changes, requests, and all kinds of input. They've done, I think, a very good job.

I think with piloting the survey, they will learn even more with input from the university ethics team. They will again get more input to make the study better. So I'm looking forward to that getting off the ground. Many of you know, I believe that is the study that will offer the best information, the best data for actually understanding broader health implications of Giant and other arsenic-related issues in Yellowknife. I think that's all I have to talk about right now.

David: Thanks, Ken. The other Ken?

Ken H: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have just a couple of things about the site. I tend to be a little bit of a go-to guy for the man on the street. Well this last six months, it has been really difficult to talk to people or to even bump into people without getting chastised severely for doing that. I like to bring to the Board things that I hear from people, both former employers of whom I know many, as well as longtime residents of Yellowknife. I want to let parties know some of the things that I hear about what people are asking about and are interested in.

People will be very interested to know that the water license is at the stage where it's at. Most people are probably not aware that it's imminent. That's good news for many people. The question I get continually is what is the hold up? Why aren't things happening out there? Con is done. People keep going back to Con. Con is done, and Giant is still sitting there. So I think that will be very good news for people if and when the Minister presumably approves the license. That will be a good news thing for people. They will start to see that progress is being made at the site.

The boat launch is probably one component of the whole Project that has one of the greatest impacts on residents of Yellowknife. The whole boat launch and cruising club has been an issue. Again, I haven't talked to a lot of people lately, but I think people will be quite pleased to see the progress that has been made on that issue and the fact

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that access to this tremendous body of water that we live on, will be maintained throughout the Project. I think that's a real positive move. I know that there will probably be a fair bit of relief felt by the City on that front, because I really don't think until the 11th hour, people realized that was a potential issue that could have had such an impact on a major part of people's lives up here. That's really good news for the general public.

People are always asking about the town site itself and what's going to happen there. You said deconstruction is postponed for another year or so, but that's another area of keen interest to a lot of people about what is going to happen out there. I know that's still up in the air. The City still has their fingers in that as far as lease. But as far as the future use of the site, people that I've talked to are keen to know what might happen on that property in the future.

Perhaps that's something the City could speak to the public about at some point, if there is anything further, new or developments in that area. Again, I know a lot of it is still unknown, but the people I talk to are keen on finding out what might possibly happen on that land down the road. Someone asked if they are going to maintain roosting at the northwest tailings ponds where the Sandhill cranes have taken up habitat. I don't mean to be facetious about it, but there are people that are actually going out to photograph the birds, because it's a great opportunity to see them up close.

Also, we've been looking to former employees for information, some of which we've shared with the Project Team, and some of it we've used for our own information. I've been leading the charge on that a little bit, getting a hold of many, most of whom are no longer in Yellowknife. I'm getting background information from them on what went on out there and their thoughts on the future, so I will continue to do that. Other than that, I don't have a lot of specific things to say about the site itself unless people have questions.

David: Any questions for Ken? Sheila?

Sheila: Thanks very much, and thanks, Ken, for your point on what the City is planning to do with the town site. We very purposefully in the completion of our most recent community plan, which was approved – gosh, just in July by the Minister of MACA. We made it very clear that we are waiting for the process to unfold. We have advocated, as you know, for the remediation to residential standards to maximize the future potential use.

When the time comes, we will be looking, of course, to talking with YKDFN and other partners about what makes sense in that area, but our projections for city future growth are aiming southward right now. There are many different things in here, but we would not want to be going out ahead of the Project to say things around what we see happening without knowing full well what the lay of the land will look like. I

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appreciate your comments, but I would gently and respectfully say it may be a little premature right now.

Todd: The City advocated pretty diligently on the Access Agreement. It is one of the reasons it took so long. It is supposed to come back to the City at the end of that, so the planning and the future considerations are supposed to come back to the City's discretion. Ultimately, it's signed off by MACA, but whatever.

This has been communicated to the lessees. You know, we've tried to be as transparent with them as we could, given the nature of the legal discussions that were underway. Promises can't be made until the day comes. The money heritage guys are there. The boat is there, and they're going back, so I don't think that there is a significant concern that they won't be a part of the City's future. That's the contractor saying that on behalf of the City. If I'm no longer a contractor tomorrow...

David: I understand that the City can't get along without you, Todd. Small but mighty was the term I think was used.

(Laughter)

I guess I'll just remind folks that one of the recommendations in the most recent report was that the various affected parties get together sooner rather than later and start working on land use planning for that site. The notion that land use plans are best defined or best built when there is the least amount of constraints, I think stands. I realize that there are parties that have more or less control on the site, but a longer-term land use plan for the site can only be built properly if everybody gets engaged as early as possible.

I'm not pointing a finger at the City necessarily, but everybody needs to start thinking about what they want that site to be used for in the longer term. If I remember anything from Land Use Planning 101 when working with the federal government and land use plans for different regions, the sooner that people start thinking about what they want the future to look like, the better. Otherwise, they'll miss the opportunity, and you end up somewhere else. It's just an observation I guess.

And at risk of digging myself into a deeper hole, I'll leave it at that. Kathy, do you want to give a quick update on where things are?

Kathy: Sure. I'll be leading for the Board on the Aquatics Engagement Advisory Group, which hasn't started yet. It's starting next week I think, or soon. All the regulatory things, including the Aquatics, Paul Green is involved in all of those things. We're going to go to the kickoff meeting and then decide whether we want to reengage Neil Hutchinson. He helped us out during the water licensing process as more of an expert, so we'll see after the kickoff meeting.

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On the regulatory stuff in general, Paul Green is the guy who is reading all the plans and making all the comments at this stage, in conjunction with different members at different times. On the Arsenic Frozen Shell Management Plan, he is working with Tony Brown predominantly. It'll be me for other plans. We did get our comments a few days ahead of schedule, but we'll do a few days in advance of that next time. It was just our first run at it.

The other thing, Ben, I'm working on – and may contact you soon about that – is doing a plain language or an infographic communications project for describing our research program, the need for it first of all, but also describing what we're doing in the research in a way that everyone can understand. We can use that eventually to do updates. We'll be consulting with people. It'll probably be me calling you and harassing you individually about some of your ideas on that. That will be in the next few months that we'll get going on that. It'll be nice to be able to not have to give a longwinded explanation about what the Research Program is about and just be able to give something to people. And I think that's it for me right now.

David: Thanks, Kathy. Any comments or observations for Kathy? Sheila?

Sheila: Thanks, Kathy. Did I hear correctly? It's that time of the afternoon where people start to fade. I heard you say that your mandate on the Board is around the Aquatics, the regulatory and the communication. Did I hear that last one correctly or not?

Kathy: So, yeah, I've been trying to do some of the communications. I don't know if it is official, but certainly starting with this one project anyway. I have an interest in doing more communications in a plain language way that is accessible to everyone, because we haven't had a chance to do that yet. So I will be leading that plain language part of our communications.

Sheila: I think that's awesome. I think that's great. The communication angle is something that has certainly been pointed out as an area that more is needed. Certainly, the finger has been pointed at the City on that, and we have articulated how stretched we are to be able to do more than we are. So I'm super happy to hear that, and I think hearing from you guys brings a credibility to it, so hats off to you for wanting to do that plain language. I think that's really, really important. Thank you.

David: Thanks, Sheila. Tony is, as I said, out on a lake somewhere, and bad weather is preventing him from getting ashore. So we'll turn to Ben to give an update about the Research Program, but I would also add that Tony is our lead on engineering stuff generally. I can't comment too much on that, other than to say that he is fully engaged in all the management plans, including the Frozen Shell and that sort of stuff. Ben?

Ben: So the Research Program has been progressing since our last meeting. One of the things we were working on at the beginning of the year was the provision of glass samples for the Research Program. That's the vitrified samples. So we had the lawyers

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involved, and the agreement was produced in April with Dundee Sustainable Technologies out of Montreal, who are providing us with three set samples, the details of which are 5%, 10%, and 15% arsenic trioxide within those samples. They will be then given to researchers at the University of Waterloo who will be doing tests on those samples. That's part-and-parcel of that program.

So that agreement was signed. The arsenic trioxide for that was shipped to Dundee Laboratories in Quebec, and they received that. They, of course, had their laboratories affected by COVID, so there was a delay in them producing those samples, but they have reported that they are starting to produce those samples now. We expect probably by the end of September to have those samples into the hands at the University of Waterloo.

Sample shipping then was also done to the University of Waterloo. They wanted samples of the arsenic trioxide as well, so there were two samples that went out in that case. Then we had arsenic trioxide samples shipped to both the University of Quebec in Abitibi- Témiscamingue for the cementation research stream. That involves both the University of Alberta as well as the University of Quebec for that.

Many, many thanks to the Project for being able to coordinate the shipping of three barrels of tailings. Two of them went to the University of Quebec, and one went to the University of Alberta, and they have arrived.

As well, as David has already talked about, discussions have taken place on the need for GMOB now - because we've almost run out of samples - to be able to access samples to continue both the Research Program, but also to be able to look in the future at the possibility of a pilot program. It's thought to have that pilot program be onsite at Giant. We've had talks with CIRNAC about that directly with the Engineering Team. The Engineering Team has recommended that be done sooner rather than later, which we were pleased to hear about.

Discussions have taken place between GMOB and the CIRNAC engineers. There are two sides to it: Number 1: how that is done; and Number 2: what the regulatory impacts are for that. So just to let you know, discussions are ongoing with that. We expect to see at least from the engineering point of view, extraction of those samples, and transport of those samples, and possible storage of those samples. We are hoping to see that by, and Natalie may correct me on this, by mid-September. There should be a recommendation coming from CIRNAC regarding that.

GMOB will be working with CIRNAC and others directly on the regulatory portion, and that's a discussion that is going to be going forward. So that's where we sit right now with the Research Program.

David: Thanks, Ben. Are there any questions from folks? Todd?

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Todd: I was under the impression that the stockpile of material that could have been tested wasn't small. To hear that the available samples, which are at Lakefield I guess, are already used, what's the thinking around the necessary size of the future stockpile for the Research Program? You know what? Sorry, I can send this as an email if you prefer, because I'm not sure it's a 3:30 conversation.

Ben: Yeah, and I think having Tony involved in that discussion would be good. The quick answer is we went back to TERRE-NET and asked them with all the entire program to take a look at it. Their estimate is 600 kilos. To get to the end of the research stage, where we are right now, and a possible pilot program would include 50 tonnes.

Todd: That's good in the short term. I'm sure Tony is thinking of this already, but the only thing is starting in about 10 years, it is going to be really hard to get samples. This is a research program for the next 100, so what then is the sample or how will there be access to future samples? That's what I'm going to put in the email.

Ben: Sounds good, and Tony would definitely lead that conversation answering that.

David: I'll just add to that. We're starting to look at extraction methodologies. The nature of the access to the stored arsenic will depend on the best extraction method. That's long-term as well as the medium-term of 50 tonnes and 600 kilos. We need to figure out how we're going to extract that as well get the best samples for research purposes. Mark, are you still on the line? If you are, do you want to talk about the socio-ec stuff briefly?

Mark: Sure. I'll try and keep this brief. It's getting late. I'll go over my experiences and what I think. I think a great thing for us was we are now an observer on the working group as of early this year. That's really good. What I've seen so far, the Project has been very receptive to concerns or suggestions.

An example I'll just use quickly is that I made a comment that the Socio-Economic Implementation Plan was really focused on training and jobs, which it should, but it was quite right on what it was saying about the social side. I know there are a lot of things going on, but it wasn't there. They right away jumped on that and came up with a plan to include that, so I just want to say that's really good.

As we've talked about today, one of the biggest concerns... Oh, and the other thing I'd like to say is I love that training idea –getting central training and thinking bigger than Giant. It will help all projects to get a central training initiative for the whole region, so that's really good.

As everybody's mentioned, the big worry is jobs and maximizing them for the area. I think the Project knows that, and they've been doing a good job up until now, I think. I mean most of the contracts have gone locally since I've been involved, but I think the

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bigger worry – and everybody sees this – is once this gets into implementation it is going to get a lot more interest from a lot more people across Canada. I think that was one of the main ideas, and David explained that, for the special envoy: to give the Project more tools in the toolbox, if you want to put it that way, to use to maximize that.

I have good experience in contracts in the federal government. I know that's always been one of our limitations when I used to work there. I think that was the intent behind this, and it will only help everything if we can give them more tools and more flexibility. I think everybody knows that. I don't want to beat that around too much. Other than that, yeah, I've enjoyed this. I'm not new to the Project, but I'm relatively new to GMOB. I'm the newest person in, and I'm quite enjoying it. I think they are making a lot of progress, and they are quite responsive to any concerns.

David: Thanks, Mark. Any comments from folks?

(Pause)

Alright. So the last little bit on the GMOB side was general administration and status of the budget. Ben, do you want to just take a quick stab at summarizing that?

Ben: Yes. I'll start off with the audit of 2019, which was completed and signed off by the Board in July. We gave that to CIRNAC as a result of the requirement for the financial report, and that will be presented at the AGM.

The budget for this year, as you can surmise from the report that I've put together here was 1.6 CPI adjustment for the NWT. Core operations were 72% of the budget. The Research Program budget is 28%. Now that does not include the monies that have grown as a result of the research budgets that have come in the past. We have approximately \$450,000.00 in total in the Research budget in the bank.

The work plan for CIRNAC went in February 21st. That can be found in Appendix 1 here. The list of meetings we've attended, we keep track of that. We also keep track at the same time of the evaluations that are made by each of the Board members. That is in a general file for us. So, we are in good shape right now.

One of the questions will be how much the management plans – the MMPs – are going to be drawing as far as contractors are concerned. Right now we don't have a sense of that, but we're starting to take a look, especially in the pre-engagement process that we're in now. We will have a sense of that by the end of the pre-engagement to know whether or not there is going to be a major draw on the budget as far as contracting is concerned, but that is going forward. Any other questions?

David: Thanks, Ben. It's getting late in the day. One little thing about the Research Program: We're working with TERRE-NET to try to leverage additional funding for the research

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through various federal and provincial programs. We'll hopefully be successful there as well.

The last major item on the agenda is the issue of reconciliation and actions. I had a brief discussion before this meeting, and I guess in a nutshell, all the work that we're doing is pointing toward a reconciliation or reconciliation actions. But having said that, there still are the outstanding issues between the Government of the Canada and the Yellowknives for an apology and reconciliation measures. We know that CIRNAC here is working with the Yellowknives to try and come up with a solution or an agreement. William, I don't know if you have any updates on the status of those discussions and the background research that is being done.

William: Not a major update, but I can tell you that COVID has impacted that process. We had schedules that have definitely been impacted. We're hoping that COVID will not have such an impact over the long-term, because it's a very important topic. We've definitely been impacted through COVID, because we wanted to do engagement. We wanted to have community input into a lot of things, so it's very difficult.

David: Okay, so once again it's COVID. When Zoom becomes the reality and meetings like this become artificial, it's a hard thing to wrap our heads around. This is the state of affairs. Hopefully things will progress properly on the COVID side, and we can start meeting more and more together. There weren't any other additional agenda items I don't think. Oh, William?

William: While we're on the reconciliation issues and actions, there were two things that came to mind. There was one good and one bad, so I'll start with the good. I really appreciated, and membership really appreciated, that the Project took our recommendation to rename the Akaitcho headframe, or the pump. So we really appreciated that the Project has done that, because as you know Akaitcho is regarded highly by our community. That was one thing.

But when I reviewed the Management and Monitoring Plans, it was very light when it came to community engagement, guidance by the Elders, and guidance by our community members. That was a little disappointing on my end. Really there was only one line, and the one line was engagement with stakeholders. To me, in this day and age, I think we can do better than one single line and referring to us as stakeholders. That's where I stand on that.

David: Natalie?

Natalie: Thank you for that input, William. We've certainly taken notice of the Management Plan topic, and we will aim to do better. Absolutely. I had the Akaitcho naming on my list of items, so I don't know if the whole group had heard that we did take that recommendation from William specifically, and we are not going to use that name going forward. The pumps we are now going to refer to as Northwest Pumps or

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Northwest Headframe. We were not going to go back and redo all our documents, but just going forward, that name will no longer be used. Thank you.

David: Great. Any other items? Erika has left so Alex, I'll turn it to you.

(Laughter)

Alex: I just have one thing to mention on incorporating TK in things that we've heard from the Yellowknives. In the water license through the design plan process, we'll be also incorporating in those design plans where we've incorporated learnings from the Yellowknives. So, there's also that, which will come outside the Management Plan process. Just to keep that in mind that there is also that piece that the Project Team is working on in the background to make sure that we're capturing what we've heard from the Indigenous governments on input for design.

Natalie: I know Erika wanted to mention a couple of things, so I will mention them for her. We've already touched on the Stress Study. Based on the request of the Yellowknives, pretty much it has been handed over to them. We think that is a step towards reconciliation as well. We're certainly happy to work with you on that and take your lead on that.

From Canada's perspective, we funded the Det'on Cho to develop the quarry. I don't want to call it a grant, but they have a funding of \$900,000.00. That certainly will help in the economic world, and the Project certainly believes economic opportunities can be one avenue for reconciliation. Hopefully that can help in that respect as well.

The training program with Dechîta Nàowo as well is a piece that we received a big request from Margaret's program this year. Luckily, we now have a good source of funds. We were able to accommodate that. I guess that I will also point out that when you were asking if people were funded, if people aren't, we are certainly always open as a Project to hearing about additional needs. We recently funded William for some extra technical support to do the Management Plan, so that can certainly help in his avenue as well.

I have the TK brochure written down here, but that was Erika and she's not here. I'm not sure. Alex?

Alex: William may want to speak to this too. We've basically just been supporting the YKDFN to develop a bit of a brochure for communicating Traditional Knowledge or how the land was used before Giant. This came out of the TK study we initially did. There was some wording in there around communicating information after the TK study was actually completed. So, we've been supporting William and the YKDFN to put this together.

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David: Thanks, Alex. Are there any other last-minute items? I don't know if anybody is left on the phone, but Natalie will get there first.

Natalie: These are just two follow-ups to the roundtable from GMOB. The first is that Todd, you'd mentioned the research piece and getting the bulk samples and 10 years being the limitation for samples. From the Project Team, 10 years is too late for us once we start putting thermosiphons in and getting samples for the charter. That's why we're working with GMOB to ensure all samples...Yeah, we're talking two years when we start getting thermosiphons in the ground. I just wanted to make sure everyone was aware that there is a limitation on that.

Then I think I have a minute so I'm going to give an anecdote to Ken's story on the cranes in the northwest pond. About two summers ago, I received a phone call: "Natalie, oh no, we have a crane down in the northwest pond," and my first response was "Oh no, did anybody get hurt?" That was it. Thank you.

(Laughter)

Agenda Item 7: Next Steps

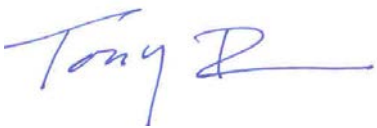
David: Thank you. Any other closing comments or observations from everyone?

Well thank you very much. Last thing I guess is the next meeting or next steps. The next step will be producing the transcript and summarizing the action items and so on. Next meeting: Do we have a suggested date?

Ben: We're looking at dates, but we're looking at late November to get back on track. I'll be sending a little doodle poll around for all of you to feedback into. Thanks.

David: Thanks, Ben. I guess we'll adjourn the meeting. William moves and Todd seconds. Thank you very much for your patience. I know we didn't have a break, but we had a lot more to go through than I thought. Thanks very much.

MEETING ADJOURNED



Tony Brown
Acting Chair, Giant Mine Oversight Board

December 16, 2020

Date

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Motions

- 1. Motion: Moved:** Sheila Bassi-Kellett moved to approve the agenda.
Seconded: Gord Hamre
Motion carried.

- 2. Motion: Moved:** Todd Slack moved to adjourn the meeting
Seconded: William Lines
Motion carried.

Action Items

- 1. Action Item:** The Chair of GMOB will submit a final draft of the RFP for the Five Year Review of the Environmental Agreement to the Parties RFP Evaluation Committee. (pg 20.)

- 2. Action Item:** The RFP Evaluation Committee will produce the final RFP version and send it to GMOB Administration for posting. (pg 21.)

- 3. Action Item:** GMOB Administration will post the RFP on MERX, the GMOB website and distribute to appropriate community consultants. (pg 21.)