

NWT Board Forum

DRAFT Summary Report

**Fifth Board Forum Meeting
November 15 – 16, 2006
Edzo, NT**

January 08, 2007

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1.0 Introduction

The fourth annual meeting of the NWT Board Forum was held in Edzo on November 15th and 16th, 2006. The meeting was organized by the Board Forum Working Group made up of the Executive Director of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB), the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB), the Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat (IJS), the Associate Deputy Minister, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources GNWT, and the Board Relations Secretariat (BRS). The host of the Board Forum was Ms. Violet Camsell-Blondin, Interim Chair, Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB). The agenda for the meeting and a list of participants can be found in *Appendix A* and *Appendix B*, respectively.

1.1 Purpose and Objectives of the Board Forum Meeting

The purpose of the NWT Board Forum's 4th annual meeting was to report on and discuss the results of Working Group activities since the last forum meeting and the emerging priorities, challenges, and new initiatives of member boards. This included reviewing progress on the current NWT Board Forum work plan, and recommending actions to implement and priorities / results for the next Forum meeting. This meeting also included technical briefings and update presentations on issue(s) identified as of interest to the members.

This report, prepared by Terriplan Consultants, summarizes the discussions that took place during the Board Forum, and the action items that emerged.

1.2 Report Contents

This summary report is organized as follows:

Section 2	-	Member Updates
Section 3	-	Progress Report on the NWT Board Forum Work plan
Section 4	-	Review of Board Forum Terms of Reference
Section 5	-	Presentations and Updates
Section 6	-	Action Items
Section 7	-	Next Forum Meeting
Appendix A	-	NWT Board Forum Agenda
Appendix B	-	Participant List
Appendix C	-	Presentations by Speakers
Appendix D	-	Revised Board Forum Terms of Reference

2.0 Member Updates

The NWT Board Forum conducted a members' roundtable at the commencement of the meeting.

2.1 Wekèezhii Land and Water Board – Violet Camsell-Blondin

The WLWB, as host of this year's annual NWT Board Forum welcomed all for attending. The school where the forum took place was created on the request of Chief Jimmy Bruneau, who felt education should be modeled on the strength of two people; the traditional way and the white way. Since the school was built, there have been many graduates who have moved on to a number of careers and apprenticeships and trades. Education at the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School has incorporated traditional cultural studies, technology, and environmental studies.

The WLWB has recently been very busy with the public hearings associated with the Diavik water license renewal application. The two major issues facing the board in the past year have been funding and the appointment process. The board requires additional funding to be able to continue with their day to day activities, especially when engaged with public hearing processes. The WLWB is also quite busy as the result of the increase of mining activity in the region. In terms of the appointment process, the WLWB shares the same concern of other boards in regards to the lengthy period required for appointments to be made. The WLWB office is now fully staffed and operational and the board might look to have some shared services with the renewable resources board. The WLWB recognizes the importance of ongoing training, and encourages the continued development of training programs for board members throughout the NWT.

2.2 Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board – Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board received three new environmental assessments since April 2006, and has eight ongoing environmental assessments and environmental impact reviews. DeBeer's Canada Mining Ltd. filed an application with the NWT Supreme Court on July 28, 2006 for a judicial review of the board's order to refer the Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine project to a panel review. The court hearing will be held during the week of November 20-24, 2006, MVEIRB will update the NWT Board Forum of the outcomes of this hearing.

In the past fiscal year, the MVEIRB has been working extensively on the socio-economic impact assessment guidelines. It was recognized that a lot of helpful input to these guidelines was provided by NWT Board Forum members.

In terms of new initiatives, the MVEIRB signed an MOU with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB) in June of 2006, establishing a cooperative working relationship to deal with cross-boundary developments. Future initiatives include the EA Practitioner's workshop that will be held by the MVEIRB this year in February, 2007. The workshop will focus on socio-economic impact assessment guidelines. The Board is also planning to publish their plain language environmental assessment guidelines; it is hoped that they will be useful to inform the public of the EA process. Since

the last meeting of the NWT Board Forum, the MVEIRB has distributed its approach to adverse impacts, which was an issue raised in the Auditor General's report in 2005.

The Board's staff continues to work with translators across the valley. This year the approach has been different, staff members have been going into the communities to personally meet with translators. The Board's fifth annual interpreter/translator workshops were held in Yellowknife in October. During the workshops, interpreters and translators were asked to identify and define standard socio-economic impact assessment terminology in Chipewyan, Dogrib, Gwich'in, North Slavey and South Slavey to add to the Board's growing glossary of terms used.

It was also identified that on October 17th, 2006 the Board met with Federal Government Central Agency staff, who were on a tour of the north. The central agency participants were briefed on the work of the Board, and the challenges that it faces.

MVEIRB Key Issues:

- **Adequate and Stable Funding** – There is a need for adequate and stable funding for the Board to support the EA process.
- **Timely Appointments** – The MVEIRB has recently lost two of their board members, the issue of timely appointments is critical for the MVEIRB's continued work. This issue was conveyed to the Minister of INAC and the Premier of the NWT in the form of a letter. The GNWT nomination is coming up in March 2007.
- **Official Languages Act** – The MVEIRB suggested that this act could potentially affect all the NWT Boards. There is some uncertainty for the Board as to what extent needs to be translated into French to fulfill their obligations under the Act. (See Section 5.10 of this report for more information).
- **Renewable Resource Management Boards** – The Board recently attended a workshop that focused on the roles and responsibilities of these boards in all the NWT settlement areas. As a result, the MVEIRB recommended that these Boards join the NWT Board Forum as members.
- **Communications** – The Board's staff have been working with the NWT Board Forum Working Group on a communications proposal to be submitted for the consideration of NWT Board Forum representatives. (See Section 5.9 of this report for more information).

2.3 Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board – Willard Hagen

Over the course of the last year, the MVLWB has become stronger through the adversity it has faced. One of the biggest challenges that the MVLWB has faced, like other boards, has been the lengthy appointment process. The appointment process has directly affected the MVLWB in the past year as it has had difficulties in having enough representation to achieve quorum.

Recently, the MVLWB has added a "lessons learned" document for the Ekati Mine Renewal Review to their website. This document is meant to be an educational tool, that will allow the public to learn from the renewal review. In terms of future initiatives, the Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine project is on the MVLWB's radar screen, as well as the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP). If the MGP does go ahead, it will be a trans-boundary process that the MVLWB will have to be ready for. The MVLWB has hired two new

staff to create a one footprint process along the valley. The MVLWB is working with nineteen other regulatory agencies on this. It was also identified that there has been a comprehensive training plan established for Forum members, and there is enough funding to begin a pilot project for this work.

2.4 Gwich'in Land and Water Board – Willard Hagen

The Gwich'in Land and Water Board recently lost one of its members, George John, who passed away suddenly. Mr. John also chaired the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board's Finance Committee.

In terms of the Gwich'in settlement region, it has been very quiet lately, although a class A water license is in the works for the town of Inuvik, and there is permitting requirement along the Dempster Highway for gravel pits.

2.5 Inuvialuit Game Council – Frank Pokiak

Norm Snow and Bill Klassen send their regrets. The IGC has had difficulties achieving quorum a number of times this past year. Two meetings of the steering committee almost had to be cancelled because there weren't enough members to satisfy a quorum. Thus, the issue of appointments is very important for the IGC.

The IGC has been busy with the JRP hearings in the Inuvialuit region. The IGC has also been heavily involved with the caribou issue in the Inuvialuit region; there has been some coordination with the Gwich'in on this issue.

In terms of staffing, the IGC has a screening committee position filled; there is also a finance officer and coordinator starting the week of November 20th. There was a general IGC meeting in September; one of the outcomes from this meeting was that members felt that training workshops are very important for Board development.

2.6 Environmental Impact Review Board – Elizabeth Snider

The EISC has been very busy, but has not recently given the EIRB an application to review. In the last year, the EIRB has examined their policies and procedures that require updating. The EIRB has also looked at other Boards' socio-economic guidelines, and plans to incorporate some of these into their own policies. Strategic planning developed for the NWT Board Forum will also be used by the EIRB in the coming months. The Auditor General is currently doing a review of the Inuvialuit Boards, and has been interviewing chairs. The EIRB looks forward to the outcome of this review.

2.7 Sahtu Land and Water Board – Larry Wallace

A major priority of the SLWB has been the appointment process. In terms of making quorum, the SLWB has been short one member [the Territorial Government nominee] over the past year. Another issue for the SLWB is the MGP, especially the work that will be required when the JRP hearings are finished. The SLWB has unfortunately had to cut back on the funding for training programs for Board members, especially regarding pipeline issues. It was noted that this training is vital to the SLWB's work.

Since the last meeting of the NWT Board Forum in April 2006, the SLWB has received nineteen applications for renewals. In terms of the Sahtu region, development activities have slowed down. Husky is not drilling because their drilling program has caught up to their seismic program. Imperial Oil is going ahead with their geotechnical work. Talisman, British Gas, and Kodiak are also doing work in the region. This is an indication that next year might be quite busy for the SLWB. It was also reported that there has been an application submitted for a bridge across the Bear River, and a lot of interest in mining in the Sahtu region. The Oil and Gas Conference in Norman Wells, held in October was well attended.

2.8 Sahtu Land Use Planning Board – John T'Seleie

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board is to complete a land use plan for the Sahtu region. The SLUPB is targeting the end of January / early February, 2007 for a draft version of the plan to be ready. The revised version will be submitted to the required parties by September 2007 for approval. The SLUPB is hoping that the land use plan will be approved by the end of 2008. It was identified that there has been increasing political pressure placed on the SLUPB to have the land use plan completed. Before the plan is completed, development is unregulated; this is becoming more and more of a concern for harvesters, and those who use the land. In terms of appointments, the SLUPB has adequate representation, although there is one member who has not been appointed from the First Nation. From February to July of 2006 the SLUPB had problems with the First Nation representative not attending meetings which in turn made fulfilling a quorum difficult.

In terms of areas of concern, it was noted that there is always a need for resources to complete the use plan to meet the January deadline; this is important because there is still a significant amount of writing to be done before the first draft can be submitted.

2.9 Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board – Charlie Snowshoe

The MGP is the major issue facing the Gwich'in area. In response to this, the GLUPB is keeping informed and updated on the project, and preparing for development whether or not it occurs. One of the biggest concerns that the GLUPB has is the appointments process. The GLUPB has been one Board member short since last year. There have also been problems with board members who have been appointed but do not show up to Board meetings. The GLUPB proposes that once a member's term is over, he or she should be kept on to maintain the quorum until the newly appointed member is able to take over. The GLUPB has also been working on their five year review of the land use plan. The five year renewal plan will be sent to Ottawa for review.

2.10 Government of the Northwest Territories – Bob Bailey

Three additional positions have been created for the GNWT ENR environmental assessment unit. The GNWT's intentions are to strengthen this unit and to provide personnel for monitoring and follow-up programs for diamond mines and other environmental assessment processes that the GNWT is involved in. The GNWT has been fortunate in getting environmental assessment positions for each of the NWT regions, providing a point of contact. The Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine project is also on the horizon for the GNWT.

2.11 National Energy Board – Jann Atkinson

Jann Atkinson provided an overview of the NEB and the nature of its work in the NWT. The NEB head office is located in Calgary, Alberta and the Board has eight full time members and a number of part time members as well. The NEB regulates energy projects in Canada, including the NWT. This work includes regulating existing facilities in the NWT such as the Norman Wells pipeline. It also regulates seismic work, and well drilling. The NEB provides oversight for the duration of these projects. In terms of applications, the NEB is currently working on the MGP and two other projects, including a gas hydrates project and a drilling project. The NEB has also recently worked on MGP regulatory coordination activities. The Board is also currently updating processes for well drilling.

2.12 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada – Stephen Van Dine

INAC reported that they are committed as a department to continue to build on the successes of the NWT Board Forum. INAC also intends to be held accountable for the previous and current commitments they have made to the Forum. The challenge for the department is to continue to sustain this effort over the near future.

In terms of the issue of appointments, it remains an ongoing challenge for INAC. The department is sensitive to the challenges that NWT Boards face in regards to making quorum. INAC is working hard so that the appointments can be made in a more timely fashion. One recent improvement that has been made this year has been reducing the period of time for the security check required for new appointments. This has been reduced in most cases from two months, to forty-eight hours. This will not solve the appointments challenge in its entirety, but INAC is attempting to address the problem as best as possible.

3.0 Progress Report on NWT Board Forum Workplan

3.1 Briefing on November 2006 Board Forum Work Plan Task Tracking Report

A number of priority issues and action items were identified during the April 2006 meeting. The Working Group provided the Board Forum with an update as to the progress of the outstanding issues.

The following table summarizes the discussion of selected items from the report of the Working Group on the priority tasks from the last meeting.

Legend for Table 1: Work Plan task tracking report discussion:

- INAC – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- MVLWB – Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
- MVEIRB – Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
- Board Relations Secretariat - BRS
- EY – Eric Yaxley (BRS)
- W/G – Forum Working Group
- BW – Bob Wooley (MVLWB)
- VC – Vern Christensen (MVEIRB)

Table 1: Work Plan task tracking report discussion

No.	Issue	Task Description	Lead	Status	Forum Action
1.	Cumulative environmental effects	1.1 INAC to provide updates at future meetings on CIMP, CEAM and NWT Environmental Audit (Reference: April 2004, January & October 2005 Forums).	INAC –EY	Ongoing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part VI Environmental Audit was released to the public on June 22, 2006 • DIAND will provide an update at the Fall 2006 Board Forum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update given by David Livingstone, see section 5.7 of this report
		1.2 Update, discuss and identify the responsibility for addressing cumulative	INAC W/G - EY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As planned, the Annual CEAM workshop was held on May 16 & 17, 2006 in Deline to discuss Blueprint implementation. 	

No.	Issue	Task Description	Lead	Status	Forum Action
		effects (Reference: April 2004 & January 2005 Forums & April 2006 information request.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Beaufort Sea Strategic Regional Plan of Action is being developed for ISR and scheduled for completion by March 31, 2007. Consideration of a NWT wide workshop for Boards and Government to help define cumulative effects resource management systems and responsibilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update given by John Reid, see section 5.16 of this report
2.	Federal Consultation	2.1 INAC provided a position document on consultation at the April 2006 Board Forum (Reference: October 2005 Forum). Follow up meetings between Boards and INAC were agreed. 2.2 Updates should be provided on Consultation at Board Forums.	INAC & Boards - BW BW BW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INAC has worked with MVLWB and MVEIRB to develop detailed approach to s.35 Crown consultation procedures, building upon the MVRMA processes, to address assertions of rights infringements in the unsettled claims areas. Significant Progress has been made. The Regional Engagement Initiative (REI) was presented at the April Board Forum. The focus of the REI, as it concerns the MVRMA Boards, has been the s.35 Crown consultation work, discussions with Boards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bob Wooley provided an update; an interim process has been worked on by MVLWB, MVEIRB, and INAC staff. Regional consultation strategy expected in the next few months. Update given by Benie Hughes, see section 5.5 of this report

No.	Issue	Task Description	Lead	Status	Forum Action
3.	Inspection and Enforcement	3.1 MVLWB to report on its work to date with respect to inspection and enforcement issues. (Reference: April 2004, January & October 2005, April 2006 Forums).	MVLWB & INAC BW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MVLWB & INAC to provide progress update at Fall 2006 Board Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being addressed in Regulatory Working Group
		<p>A number of Phases have been identified that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 = Review and agreement on Terms and Conditions not requiring amendment - completed May 06 Phase 2 = Review and amend Terms and Conditions which are effective, but unclear due to wording – (underway) Phase 3 = Discuss Terms and Conditions which are viewed as unenforceable - next step (Jan/Feb 07) Phase 4 = Develop TOR / Work Group to identify Terms and Conditions which could be considered effective with the development of standards/codes of practice - final step (Spring 07) (Review existing guidelines used by INAC). <p>3.2 INAC to bring inspectors together with Forum</p>	BW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and INAC staff have completed Phase 1 of their review of the Terms and Conditions, and have commenced Phase 2 of that project. Phase 2 should be complete by the end of November, 2006. Working Groups have been established with a broad spectrum of participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update given by Bob Wooley: Phase 1 has been completed; phase 2 is underway, and moving towards phases 3 and 4.

No.	Issue	Task Description	Lead	Status	Forum Action
		representatives to learn and discuss issues related to MGP enforcement, monitoring and follow up (Reference: October 2005 Board Forum).			
4.	Board Information and Networking	4.1 General update whereby each Board shares the information it is receiving with other Boards (Reference: April 2004, January & October 2005 Forums).	All Boards W/G: VC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISR – Research Symposium planned for Fall 2007 in partnership with Aurora Research Institute. (Deferred for another year) Social Cultural Economic Workshop (BSS & RPA) held March 29 - 30, 2006. Final Report available on the website: www.bsstrpa.ca 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vern Christensen provided an update: a SEIA workshop will be held by MVEIRB in Feb. 07.
		4.2 INAC to follow up on implications of the Official Languages Act and distributed determination to Forum membership (Reference: January & October 2005 Forums). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Board to review policy and potential changes to advertising standards and communications 	INAC / All Boards W/G: VC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done - INAC provided an update at the special spring Board Forum in April 2006 Communications activities and associated budget implications need further consideration by Boards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that advice indicated that the act applies to MVRMA Boards, but not the ISR Boards.
		4.3 MVEIRB to circulate draft SEIA Guidelines to Board Forum members and will seek input from Forum members before releasing them for public comment (Reference: October 2005 Forum)	MVEIRB:VC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Draft Guidelines were circulated in June 2006 for comment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final version is at the printers, should be available before Christmas, 2006.

No.	Issue	Task Description	Lead	Status	Forum Action
		4.4 The OAG has been discussed under the Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative umbrella. Ongoing discussion on OAG Action Plan & INAC implementation activities.	All members / INAC: EY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update given by Stephen Van Dine, see section 5.2 of this report
		4.5 Board Member Orientation Program to be finalized (Reference: October 2005; & April 2006 Forum).	WG / MVEIRB, WG: EY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The General Orientation Binder is nearing completion and the most current draft is in the November 2006 Board Forum binders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments from Board Forum representatives on the current draft should be made by the end of Dec. 2006, provided to Casey Adlem
5.	Addressing Industry Issues	5.1 MVLWB, INAC and others to continue the dialogue with Minerals industry and others on issues that have been identified (Reference: Previous Forums).	WG:BW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum members to share update at the Board Forum at the Fall 2006 meeting as appropriate. <p>Suggested industry representative discussion topics could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. an overview of what industry is doing to ensure consistent and meaningful consultation with communities 2. provide an overview and examples of effective permitting processes including terms and conditions, dealing with CE, social and economic mitigative measures and orphan measures. (INAC Minerals to discuss with Industry) If Board Forum members are interested, PDAC & MAC can be invited to a future Board Forum meeting ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update given by Carolyn Relf, see section 5.11 of this report. The Chamber of Mines was invited but declined due to previous engagements

No.	Issue	Task Description	Lead	Status	Forum Action
			Information only	Information item: Copies of PDAC's E3 presentation dated June 2005 and the Mining Association of Canada TSM Progress Report 2005 can be found at: http://www.e3mining.com http://www.mining.ca/www/Towards_Sustaining_Mining/index.php Hard copies are available upon request from Yolande Chapman, BRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second URL is for the Canadian Mining Association, initiatives for sustainable mining.
		5.2 Mining Industry & CAPP to be contacted about future presentations/discussion at Board Forums (Reference: October 2005 Forum).	INAC/WG:BW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done. Mike Peters, CAPP as well as George Green, INAC will give presentations at this Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates given by Mike Peters (CAPP), and George Green (INAC-O&G Directorate), see sections 5.12 and 5.13 of this report. There were discussions by Board representatives that PDAC should be invited to present at the next forum.
6.	Forecasting Workload	6.1 Provide a forecast of future developments and workload	INAC, WG:VC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance templates are

No.	Issue	Task Description	Lead	Status	Forum Action
		<p>for each Board in relation to the MGP, secondary oil and gas activities, and other non-oil and gas activities. Note: Costs effected by Forced Growth (e.g. IPY & mining) (Reference April 2004 & January 2005 Forums)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWT Board Environmental Scan and Workload Analysis draft document will be distributed. The document provides a 5 to 10 year forecast of development activity across the NWT in key sectors. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final document is expected in January. 	<p>being developed for strategic and business planning. A working group has been created to move this work forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First draft of this document was distributed in early September. Final draft is to be distributed in January 2007.
		<p>6.2 INAC to develop a standard /defined and budget cycle that will assist in more timely funding approvals / confirmations for both Claims and Non-Claims boards (Reference January 2005 Forum).</p>	<p>INAC W/G:VC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MVEIRB and other Boards in discussion with INAC regarding longer-term funding solutions Ongoing funding issue related to all Boards. Need to create an opportunity to discuss issue with INAC and the NWT Board Forum To be coordinated with northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative and OAG Action Plan work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads to standard budget approval process so that funds can be given out quicker. This project will complement some of the back-end work done in 6.1 Update given by Stephen Van Dine, see section 5.3 of this report.
7.	<p>Community Capacity & Participant Funding</p>	<p>7.1 CIRL Report on Participant funding to be provided at the Fall Forum. 7.2 Presentation on participant</p>	<p>INAC & W/G:EY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIRL Report is in the Fall Forum binder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update given by Janice Traynor, see section 5.15 of this report.

No.	Issue	Task Description	Lead	Status	Forum Action
		funding in the resource management process to be discussed at Fall Forum 2006			
8.	Northern Board Training (was 7.2)	8.1 Northern Boards Training Initiative Steering Committee submitted a proposal / business plan to the Department in March 2006	W/G:BW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department reviewed the proposal and determined that more training options should be developed and will be able to support some training courses identified by the Boards. Funding has been identified • The Board Training Steering Committee has identified: Board Governance, Mining for Non-miners and Introduction to Natural Gas as possibilities. INAC Minerals are sponsoring a Uranium Workshop separately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Wooley provided an update on this action: • Proposal submitted to INAC by steering committee last fiscal year. • \$200,000 in funding has been identified to put on a pilot Board training program. There have been offers from industry to put on some courses. Casey Adlem (INAC) and Rick Upton (INAC) have been working on this project.
9.	Public Education	9.1 Communications sub-committee to conduct further analysis and develop a work plan outlining what a communications program might consist of (Reference:	W/G:VC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communication Sub committee met a number of times and a draft Terms of Reference and action table will be shared with the Board Forum in November for review and comment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update given by Vern Christensen and Allison Blackduck, see section 5.8 of this report.

No.	Issue	Task Description	Lead	Status	Forum Action
		October 2005 Forum).			
10.	Board Appointments	10.1 INAC to address current appointment vacancies; including work with nominating organizations (Reference: January 2005 Forum).	INAC:EY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board member vacancies continue to be filled but need significant lead time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process.
		10.2 INAC to improve the appointment process (Reference: October 2005 Forum). An Overview of proposed Accountability Act and implications for Board Appointments to be discussed at Fall Forum.	INAC: EY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of proposed Accountability Act and implications for Board Appointments at Fall Forum 2006 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update given by Stephen Van Dine, see section 5.1 of this report.

4.0 Review of Board Forum Terms of Reference

As required by the Board Forum's Terms of Reference, the terms of reference are to be reviewed annually.

As a result of discussion by the Board Forum, the following amendments to the terms of reference were approved:

Forum Secretariat – Working Group

It was agreed to amend the terms of reference as follows:

The GNWT representative's title on the Forum Working Group should be changed from Senior Advisor to Associate Deputy Minister.

Actions

Discussions to be held at the Chairs Caucus, November 16th, about the possibility of inviting the NWT Wildlife Boards to sit on the NWT Board Forum.

The Terms of Reference should be updated to reflect the NEB as a sitting member of the NWT Board Forum.

The revised terms of reference are presented in *Appendix D*.

5.0 Presentations and Updates

During the two days of the Board Forum, there were a number of presentations and updates on matters of interest to the Boards. The following presentations were provided:

- Board Appointment Process – Stephen Van Dine
- Update on the Response Plan to the Office of the Auditor General's Report – Stephen Van Dine
- Budgetary Processes for Northern Boards – Stephen Van Dine
- Strategic Planning and Reporting – Bob Wooley
- Regional Engagement Initiative Update – Bernie Hughes
- Consultation Update/Status of Policy – Bernie Hughes
- NWT Environmental Audit Update – David Livingstone
- Uranium Technical Workshop Update – Eric Yaxley
- Communication Plan Update – Vern Christensen & Allison Blackduck
- Official Languages Act Update – Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott
- Mining Sector Update – Carolyn Relf
- Oil and Gas Sector Update – George Green
- CAPP Presentation – Activities and Trends – Mike Peters
- Status of MGP Regulatory Coordination – Brian Chambers
- Participant Funding Program – Janice Traynor
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Guidelines Update – Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott
- Beaufort Sea Strategic Regional Plan of Action – John Reid
- International Polar Year: Investment and Research Update – Bob Bailey & Helmut Epp

Each presentation is summarized along with a summary of key discussion points and action items made by the Board Chairs. Copies of available presentations are found in *Appendix C*.

5.1 Board Appointment Process

An update presentation was given by Stephen Van Dine, Northern Affairs Program on the Board appointment process and the Accountability Act. The Accountability Act was put forward by the Government in April of 2006. This Act established the Public Appointments Commission (PAC) Secretariat to deal with Governor in Council appointments. The Act also established standards and guidelines for a consistent approach for making appointments. The goals of the Act were to increase transparency, and to have a more accessible process. The PAC Secretariat has created some draft principles that would form the basis of a Code of Practice for public appointments. The draft principles are:

1. The prerogative to appoint, and accountability, remains with the Governor in Council.
2. Expiry dates are managed in a systematic way to avoid vacancies and GIC appointees are supported with their career and development planning.
3. The performance of GIC appointees is assessed against the requirements of the job/function.
4. Renewals are based on the competency and previous performance of GIC appointees.
5. All candidates for a GIC appointment have the background, experience, knowledge and relevant qualifications to do the job/function effectively and the mix of competencies required for the well functioning of the organization is ensured.
6. GIC positions are widely accessible to Canadians in order to draw from the broadest/most appropriate source of talent, and selection processes and criteria and the announcement of vacancies are publicly available. ‘
7. The pool of candidates and appointees is representative of Canada’s regional, official languages and gender diversity, and employment equity groups.
8. GIC appointees are provided with the necessary knowledge and support to exercise their function appropriately.
9. All candidates for GIC appointment meet the necessary security and conflict of interest requirements.
10. Implementation of the Code of Practice principles will be proportionate to the complexity and nature of the job/function and of the business.

It was noted that INAC will be attempting to provide more rigor to the appointment process. Eric Yaxley at INAC will be the contact person for Boards in regards to the status of appointments. It was also noted that INAC is attempting to draft a procedures manual that will be used to manage appointments, borrowing on work pioneered in the NWT. Announcements of new appointments are expected to be available online to notify the public in the near future.

Discussion

There remained a concern amongst several members of the Board Forum with respect to the appointment process and in particular the lengthy delay in appointing new members or re-appointing members. INAC acknowledged these concerns and commented that there has been an improvement in terms of shortening the time necessary for security checks. There was also concern amongst members in regards to the assessment of previous Board Member performance, as outlined in the PAC Code of Practice. INAC noted that the process of reviewing Board members is moving more towards a performance based approach, but the details of the assessment approach still need to be ironed out.

Action Items

- Board Chairs were to develop a proposal in regards to Board appointments at the Chair’s Caucus, held on November 16th, 2006.

5.2 Update on the Response Plan to the OAG Report

Stephen Van Dine, Northern Affairs Program provided an update on the Response Plan to the 2005 OAG Report. It was identified that nine of the ten recommendations from the report had either been completed or considerably advanced. It was also noted that the recommendation on the creation of water standards has also been completed.

Discussion

Concern was raised by a number of Boards in regards to water quality standards and consultations with Aboriginal groups in the NWT. It was indicated that Environment Canada and CCME in conjunction with the GNWT would be holding a waste water consultation on November 24th, 2006 in Yellowknife. This consultation would be used to present the CCME Canada Wide Strategy on Municipal waste water effluent. A number of Boards wondered how CCME guidelines would fit into water licenses. It was also noted that the regulators should be involved in this process.

In terms of the Board training documents, it was recommended that closure should be brought to the three documents: the Orientation Manual, Best Practices, and Needs Assessment. It was agreed that comments from Boards on the three documents should be provided, once revised they should be sent to print.

Action Items

- Bob Bailey (GNWT) and/or Bernie Hughes (INAC) to coordinate on getting details about the November 24th, 2006 Environment Canada / CCME / GNWT Municipal Waste Water Consultation in Yellowknife and forward to Board Forum Representatives.
- Comments from Board Forum Representatives on the Orientation Manual, Best Practices and Needs Assessment documents should be forwarded to Casey Adlem by December 23, 2006.

5.3 Budgetary Processes for Northern Boards

A presentation was given by Stephen Van Dine on the budgetary processes for Northern Boards. Mr. Van Dine noted that a central agency tour occurred in the NWT due to a specific request by the MVEIRB on Board funding issues. The analysts from the central agencies were impressed with the complexity of the challenges, and the magnitude of work facing the Northern Boards. The tour was also in direct response to the efforts of the Board Forum.

Over the course of the last year, INAC has looked at the question of how the Northern Boards are currently funded. There are currently 5-10 year funding arrangements in place.

Work has been initiated to examine the existing funding methodology, and to analyze whether or not this current approach is working. This work would also provide recommendations on the appropriate funding model for the Northern Boards. .

The presentation also provided information on the Joint Examination Project, which was mentioned at the previous Board Forum. The project is examining all the Mackenzie Agreements: Gwich'in, Sahtu, and Tlicho, and comparing them to the MVRMA for duplication, ambiguity, and consistency. It is hoped that this project will be finalized by the end of 2006. The final product will provide recommendations on all

parts of the MVRMA where there are inconsistencies and ambiguities. The finished work will be sent to the Principal Agreement Holders, the premier of the NWT, and the Minister of INAC for their comment. Once their comments are received, the report will be widely available to the Boards and unsettled land claim areas.

There was also mention of the INAC publication, “Plain Talk.” This was published in 2005 and 2006, and highlighted resource management and the Board Forum. It has been proposed internally to publish another issue that will focus on recent Board activities.

Discussion

Many of the Board members voiced their concerns over the inflexibility of the current funding arrangements. Justice Berger’s work in Nunavut was also mentioned, his work identified government funding cemented in ten year intervals as inflexible

5.4 Strategic Planning and Reporting

Bob Wooley of the MVLWB gave a presentation on strategic planning and reporting. Included in Board member’s binders were four documents pertaining to strategic planning. These documents included three focused on strategic planning; the fourth was the Environmental Scan, which still must be finalized. All four documents were described as effective tools for Boards to better understand strategic planning, and to meet the requirements noted in the Auditor General’s report. It was identified that this was a joint project between members of the Board Forum and INAC. This work with strategic planning will be used as a springboard to further work on business planning and reporting. (See *Appendix C* for full details of the presentation).

Mr. Wooley looked for the Board Forum’s approval to print the three strategic planning documents, and also to proceed to Phase 3 of the work, business planning.

Discussion

There was general approval from Board Forum members that the three strategic planning documents should be printed and distributed. Before printed, the documents should include all Board Forum members’ logos on the inside cover. It was also agreed that the work should proceed to the business planning stage, phase 3.

Action Items

- The three strategic planning documents produced by the Board Forum Working Group should be printed and distributed.
- The Board Forum Working Group should proceed to the next phase of their work, business planning and reporting.

5.5 Regional Engagement Initiative Update

Bernie Hughes provided a status update on INAC’s regional engagement initiative. Since the Special Meeting of the Board Forum in April 2006, INAC has examined their general relationships with Aboriginal

Organizations, Boards, and other levels of Government in the NWT. Specifically, INAC wanted to examine specific consultation practices, any other types of engagement with clients, participants, and program recipients in the NWT region. The regional engagement initiative is an attempt at improving INAC's relationships in the NWT region.

In the spring of 2006, INAC produced a document entitled "What we Heard." Based on stakeholder interviews, and comment, the document proposed a set of improvements regarding INAC's engagement strategy, relationships, and consultation practices. INAC hopes to move forward with regional engagement and consultation by creating and implementing an action plan by March / April 2007.

5.6 Consultation Update / Status of Policy

A consultation update presentation was given by Bernie Hughes of INAC. It has been two years since the Supreme Court of Canada released the Taku Haida ruling; as a result the Government of Canada initiated a government / country wide process to identify its emerging Aboriginal Consultation Policy. It is still a work in progress, but a lot of work has been completed across the country. It still might be two to three years until this work is concluded and a national policy is implemented.

Some of the issues that have been addressed include:

- Roles and relationships of provincial, territorial, and federal governments in Aboriginal consultations;
- The relationship of section 35 consultations to Boards, and how to implement on a national level; and,
- The issue of how Aboriginal consultations should be organized on a national basis.

Regionally, INAC is developing an interim approach in the NWT. INAC reported at the Special Meeting of the Board Forum in April 2006 with an assessment of their obligations to consult under section 35. INAC's legal opinion was that it is the decision maker who has the duty to consult. Although there was disagreement with this, it hasn't stopped INAC in taking a collaborative approach to consultation.

The interim approach will apply to unsettled claims in the NWT such as the Akaitcho and Dehcho. It will focus on addressing assertions of Aboriginal treaty right in resource development issues. It is important to note that the interim approach does not include the MGP. Work on the interim approach has included input from the Northern Boards, especially with the MVLWB. Current discussions with the MVEIRB and the MVLWB have focused on the application process, and the possible opportunity to include a step that may solicit information from an Aboriginal group to ensure there hasn't been any infringements on section 35. It is hoped that the interim approach will be finalized by March 2007. Once prepared, this will be shared with the Board Forum.

Discussion

It was noted in the discussion that consultation in settled land claim areas could still be applied. An example was given from a few years ago that residents of Holman did not agree with a decision made by the review Board for a proposed development and wanted to be consulted. It was also identified that the interim approach could also be applied to potential trans-boundary issues.

Action Items

- INAC to complete interim consultation approach by March 2007, once finished the approach should be circulated to Board members.

5.7 NWT Environmental Audit

David Livingstone provided an update presentation on the NWT Environmental Audit. The state of the NWT environment, by and large, is quite healthy, although attention has to be paid to Caribou, climate change, and socio-economic impacts. The essence of the presentation was how the recommendations of the audit should be addressed. This could be done in three ways: government and the Boards could say nothing, they could respond individually, or there could be a collective response. (See *Appendix C* for full details of the presentation)

Discussion

It was noted by Board members that there was a large investment of input and time made by Northern Boards to the audit, and there should be a coordinated effort among the Boards in addressing the recommendations. There was agreement that there should be some sort of collective response, but it should be further discussed in the Chair's Caucus on November 16th, 2006. It was recommended that the Board Forum Working Group might act as a contact point between the Boards and INAC on the response. In terms of a time frame, it was suggested that a response should be completed by mid January so that it would be ready for the JRP hearings on environmental monitoring in February, 2007.

Action Items

- Board members to collaborate on the response to the NWT Environmental Audit. David Livingstone to coordinate with the Board Forum Working Group for this process. This will be discussed at the November 16th Chair's Caucus meeting.

5.8 Uranium Technical Workshop Update

Eric Yaxley from INAC provided a brief update on the uranium technical workshop. This workshop has been planned in conjunction with the Board Forum Working Group, and is scheduled for February 20-21 in Yellowknife. The workshop will be funded through Mineral Resources (INAC). The purpose of the workshop is to begin to understand the potential for uranium development in the North, the scope of exploration and development activities, and how environmental assessment and regulatory reviews might occur in response to any submitted application. INAC will provide funding for up to 2 Board member's airfare per Board.

5.9 Communication Plan Update

An update on the Communications Plan was provided by Vern Christensen and Allison Blackduck both from the MVEIRB. The Communications Sub-Working Group was established following the January 2005

Board Forum Meeting. Since the October 2005 Board Forum the Communications Sub-Working Group has created a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) and proposed 2006-2009 Communications Plan.

Both the draft TOR and proposed Communications Plan were presented to Board Forum members for their approval. In terms of the draft TOR there was general agreement by Board Forum members that the plan should be accepted.

Allison Blackduck provided an overview of the 2006-2009 Communications Plan. A Communications Audit was done in 2002 by Kellet Communications. It was noted that many of their previous recommendations have been used in the current Plan. The Plan's objectives for year one and two include creating and launching a website portal about the NWT's EIA and regulatory process and co-management network for Board Forum members (internal audience) and members of the public including citizens, government and industry (external audience). It was proposed that a PDF version of this website would be created on a CD and circulated for Board Forum member's review and comment, with it hopefully being launched in 2007. There was general consensus from Board Forum members that this work should go ahead.

Discussion

It was noted by some Board Forum members that a Board Forum FTP site might also be a good idea, as it would allow for Board Forum binder contents and other relevant materials to be stored in one central and easily accessed repository.

Action Items

- The draft Terms of Reference for the Communications Sub-Working Group was approved by Board members; the Sub-Working Group should be created immediately.
- A CD should be created by the Communications Sub-Working Group with a PDF example of the Communications Website Portal; to be presented at next year's Board Forum.

5.10 Official Languages Act Update

Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott from the MVEIRB provided an update on the Official Languages Act and how it might affect Northern Boards. The MVEIRB provided Board Forum members with a summary of the issue, along with a draft Language Services Funding Proposal. The MVEIRB has developed a draft funding proposal for inclusion in its 2007/08 Business Plan Submission to INAC in December 2006. It also created a draft Language Services Policy document.

Based on the research that the MVEIRB has completed and because it is a head office, the MVEIRB believes that documents have to be produced and questions have to be addressed in both French and English. In the opinion of the MVEIRB it would considerably more effective to approach this situation in a coordinated/comprehensive manner. It was also noted that if Northern Boards are going to meet these requirements, consideration should be given towards Aboriginal languages as well. This is a major challenge, both operationally and financially.

Discussion

The Boards were advised by INAC to be cautious with this issue, and to have more discussion before action is taken. Board members were encouraged to talk with Zoe Raemer, A/ARDG from INAC in regards to this issue.

5.11 Mining Sector Update

Carolyn Relf from the INAC Minerals and Petroleum Directorate presented a comprehensive scan of the state of mineral exploration and development in the NWT. Prices of most metals are beginning to rise, and there is a strong global economy and levels of investment. The presentation included a review of past mineral production statistics, as well as current figures. Exploration data was reviewed to provide trends for future years. Over the past decade, an average of 40 permits a year were issued in the NWT, in 2004/2005 alone, permit applications increased ten-fold. The presentation reviewed areas of mineral exploration in the NWT, including graphs that indicated the NWT “share” of specific mineral exploration. Due to high levels of commodity prices, mineral exploration investment is likely to continue at the current level for the near to medium future. Because of the increased exploration and development there is an extremely competitive market for skilled labour which will continue to be a problem in the NWT in the coming years. (See *Appendix C* for full details of the presentation).

Discussion

Board members inquired if there had been any assertions made from communities or Aboriginal groups in terms of infringements made on Aboriginal treaty rights by prospectors or mineral development. INAC noted that indeed there have been some NWT Communities who did not want permits issued because they felt that the permits would infringe on their treaty rights. However, this did not amount to any formal legal action.

A Board member from the Sahtu provided a summary of mining activities in his region and indicated that in the past year, four out of the twenty permits granted in the Sahtu region were for mineral claims. The member also noted that the INAC Minerals and Petroleum Directorate have done a commendable job of informing the Sahtu Region in regards to the state of Canadian mining industry.

5.12 Oil and Gas Sector Update

George Green, the Director of the Oil and Gas Management Directorate, Northern Oil and Gas Branch, at INAC provided a summary presentation of the NWT petroleum sector. The presentation provided a comprehensive picture of the state of oil and gas development in the NWT. The presentation included a review of past and present statistics for the issuance of exploration licenses, seismic programs, and exploration drilling.

It was noted that there is a very high hydrocarbon potential in some Arctic islands, and the Mackenzie Valley. Although, prices would have to sky rocket before exploration would start on the Arctic islands. In terms of exploration trends for hydrocarbon deposits, in the Sahtu for instance, licenses are moving east into the Great Bear Lake Basin. There has been extensive research done in the Peel Plateau region.

In regards to operational trends:

- Paramount has plans for 11 wells and 3D seismic over the next four years in the Beaufort Sea/Mackenzie Delta region.
- Talisman, Devon, Paramount, Husky and Petro-Canada are emerging as operators in the Central Mackenzie region.
- In the South Mackenzie, another round of nominations for the Fort Liard area looks like it will go ahead; there hasn't been rights issuance there since 1996.

Relatively speaking, oil and gas deposits in the NWT are underdeveloped and there is a huge potential for the future development of these resources. If a positive signal is given to the MGP a lot more exploration and development may occur, creating additional work for Northern Boards. (See *Appendix C* for full details of the presentation).

Discussion

One of the Board Forum members requested some clarification on the INAC process that is used once a parcel of land is deemed to be open for exploration and development. It was noted that once a parcel of land becomes open for exploration and development, an INAC representative will meet and consult with the communities affected by the newly opened parcel of land to inform them of the situation. Once a proposal is put forward to explore or develop this parcel of land, INAC will go back into the communities to ask for their support. Once letters of support from the communities are received, exploration or development can proceed.

It was also noted that INAC has a resident senior geologist responsible for what parcels of land in the NWT are available for exploration.

5.13 CAPP Presentation – Activities and Trends

The presentation provide by Mike Peters from CAPP began by providing a brief bio of the organization, and Canada's crude oil and natural gas industry. Graphs and statistics were provided for trends in investment spending in Canada, and wells drilled in Western and Northern Canada. In terms of oil prices, they have backed off recently but are starting to rise again. There is a lot of variability in the price of natural gas, these prices are but one risk factor that a company has to consider when making a decision to develop.

The presentation stipulated that due to the limited infrastructure, complex regulatory system, and high cost of operating, the North remains a high risk area to work in for many of CAPP's members. CAPP has also developed an Environmental Stewardship initiative for its members, which seeks to report on environmental indicators; a performance measurement tool. (See *Appendix C* for full details of the presentation).

Discussion

There was concern among Board members over the statements made by CAPP that the North is a complex regulatory area. It was noted that Boards have been regularly examining and improving their processes, in particular with the front end scoping. In terms of timing for the EA process, Boards are collectively taking stock of the process, and trying to streamline and improve to move forward. Every year

the MVEIRB hosts the EA Practitioner's workshop to examine the lessons learned and to improve the process. This year it will be held on February 27/28, 2007 and will focus on preliminary screening and socio-economic impact assessments. The invitation was extended to CAPP from the MVEIRB to hold a workshop for the benefit of some of its members to better understand the EA process in the NWT. It was also suggested that CAPP should do more to inform and educate its members regarding the Northern environmental and regulatory requirements.

It was noted that industry members have to do their homework if they want to be successful in the NWT. The most successful organizations are the ones that meet with the Land Corporations and the Boards. It was also recommended that improved communications between the Board Forum and industry / CAPP could possibly address some of industry's concerns on the regulatory process in the NWT.

Action Items

- Mike Peters / CAPP to follow-up with the Board Forum in regards to the statistic on "Wells Drilled." A breakdown should be given in terms of: exploratory, delineation and production wells for the NWT.
- Mike Peters / CAPP to distribute annual report on the Stewardship Initiative to Board Forum Representatives. Eric Yaxley (INAC) to follow-up with Mike Peters with Board Forum Representative's contact information.
- Possible educational workshop given to industry / CAPP by the MVEIRB in regards to the EA process in the NWT.

5.14 Status of MGP Regulatory Coordination

Brian Chambers from the Northern Gas Project Secretariat (NGPS) provided a high level summary review of the status hearings for the MGP.. The NGPS assists with the coordination of the review, and works closely with the chairs of the JRP and NEB. MGP regulatory coordination was founded with the Cooperation Plan (2002). In terms of the public hearing phases of the review, the initial review has occurred as well as the technical analysis, but will continue through the review period. Currently, the project is before the JRP and NEB. Due to a revision in the schedule in July 2006, the hearings are set to conclude in April 2007. The recent Dene Tha decision may or may not further extend the public hearing stage. Following the conclusion of the public hearings the JRP will spend time finishing their report, and recommendations will go to government and the NEB. This report should be submitted in the fall of 2007. The NEB will not reconvene to make a decision until the report is submitted and the government responds. A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is required from the NEB before the project can proceed.

Recently there have been regulatory coordination meetings in Yellowknife. There have also been a number of regulatory working groups including a cross section of the various NWT regulators that have worked on various MGP regulatory issues since May 2006. In terms of the Dene Tha decision, it is still unknown what the implications of this will be on the public hearing. It is still planned to conclude the JRP hearing by some time in 2007, with the final NEB decision being made some time in 2008. (See *Appendix C* for full details of the presentation).

Discussion

There was mention of the terms and conditions database, a database that the regulatory working groups have created.

The question was asked whether Cabinet could add stipulations to the final approval granted by the NEB. To the knowledge of some Board Forum members this has never happened before, Cabinet has never overturned or added stipulations to a decision that the NEB has made.

5.15 Participant Funding Program

Janice Traynor from INAC presented on a potential intervenor funding policy / program for the NWT. The environmental assessment regimes in the NWT, established pursuant to land claims do not provide for programs of intervenor funding, unlike the federal EA legislation in the rest of Canada. Effective intervenors contribute balance; they enhance impartiality during the EA process and bring credibility. It was noted that the new INAC governance structure, identifying new funding sources and an appropriate implementation mechanism has been challenging in moving the work forward. Next steps in regards to a possible policy include consulting with the Northern Boards, building the policy options and business case and seeking support from senior management in INAC. (See *Appendix C* for full details of the presentation).

Discussion

The MVEIRB noted that it had submitted an options paper for participant funding to INAC. The MVEIRB is anxious to move forward on this issue. Board Forum members wanted to know more about formal intervenor funding and how it might change their process for consultation. There was a recommendation from one of the Board Forum members that the case for a policy needs to be more transparent, pros and cons for intervenor funding need to be identified.

Action Items

- The status of Janice Traynor's Participant Funding Program Report should be added to the NWT Board Forum Tracking List.

5.16 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Guidelines Update

A presentation was given by Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott from the MVEIRB that introduced their socio-economic impact assessment guidelines. This document will be finalized, printed, circulated and posted to the MVEIRB's website before Christmas 2006. The drafting of the guidelines began in Spring 2005, 14 Mackenzie Valley communities were visited and over 600 people provide their comments. The objectives of the guidelines are to help developers and other parties identify and propose mitigation for potential socio-economic and cultural impacts of proposed developments early in the EIA process. They have also been created to clarify roles and responsibilities of every party in the three levels of the EIA process. (See *Appendix C* for full details of the presentation).

5.17 Beaufort Sea Strategic Regional Plan of Action

John Reid, the Beaufort Sea Strategic Regional Plan of Action coordinator provided a progress update for the benefit of the Board Forum. The BSSTRPA was borne out of correspondence between the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Minister of Environment due to concerns regarding preparedness for continued oil and gas development in the Beaufort Sea. A regional plan of action for the Beaufort Sea area was decided upon, to be completed by March 31, 2007. There are many strategic measures that have been identified as regional plan of action deliverables, these include measures in the following areas: biophysical, social/economic/cultural, regulatory, best practices, industry scenarios, climate change, and cumulative effects. The first draft of the BSSTRPA is expected January 31, 2007, and the final draft is expected March 31, 2007. (See *Appendix C* for full details of the presentation).

5.18 International Polar Year: Investment and Research Update

Bob Bailey and Helmut Epp from the GNWT gave an investment and research update on the International Polar Year (IPY) and its implications on the NWT. The IPY is an international program of coordinated research and observations focused on the Polar Regions and has been organized by the International Council for Science (ICSU). The federal government of Canada also has its own IPY program which has proposed \$150 million dollars starting the 2006-07 fiscal year. This funding was earmarked by the past Liberal government, and it is unclear what the status of this funding is with new federal government.

In terms of opportunities for the NWT, the IPY will benefit the northern service area who will tailor to the influx of international researchers. In particular, Northern companies, such as fixed and rotary wing charter operators, the outfitters/guide industry and the hospitality industry can expect increased business. The NWT research facilities can also expect to benefit from increased business generated by the IPY. This is because scientists and researchers arriving in the NWT will need these facilities to conduct their work. The NWT preparations have been managed by the NWT IPY Advisory Committee which includes a number of GNWT departments and non-GNWT members such as the RCMP, INAC, and DOD. Preparations to date have included an online central point of access for GNWT permitting and licensing requirements, a draft communications strategy and a grand opening ceremony proposed at Old Fort Rae for March 2007. Some of the challenges have included a lack of capacity and limited infrastructure, community preparedness, and a communications strategy. The NWT must prepare for the IPY now as it will happen with or without federal government funding. (See *Appendix C* for full details of the presentation).

Discussion

Board members were concerned with the type of research that international scientists will be doing, and if the results will be publicly available. It was noted that the NWT IPY Advisory Committee has not been allowed to view the NWT specific proposals from INAC. An agreement has been made that information/data will be publicly available from any research done in the NWT. Board members were also concerned that there wasn't enough involvement from NWT Aboriginal groups in the work of the IPY. There was some confusion over the ages of the youth involvement with the IPY in the NWT.

Action Items

- Helmut Epp to inquire with the IPY National Committee in regards to the age categories of the youth participating.

6.0 Priority Areas and Action Items

Over the course of the two-day Board Forum, participants raised issues and/or opportunities of common interest. These have been noted in this report in the respective sections under the Discussion heading. The Board Forum identified a number of priority areas for immediate attention by the Board Forum Working Group made up of the Executive Directors of the MVLWB, MVEIRB, Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat, and representatives from the GNWT and the BRS. In addition, there were some action items identified for INAC. These priority action items are shown on the following table.

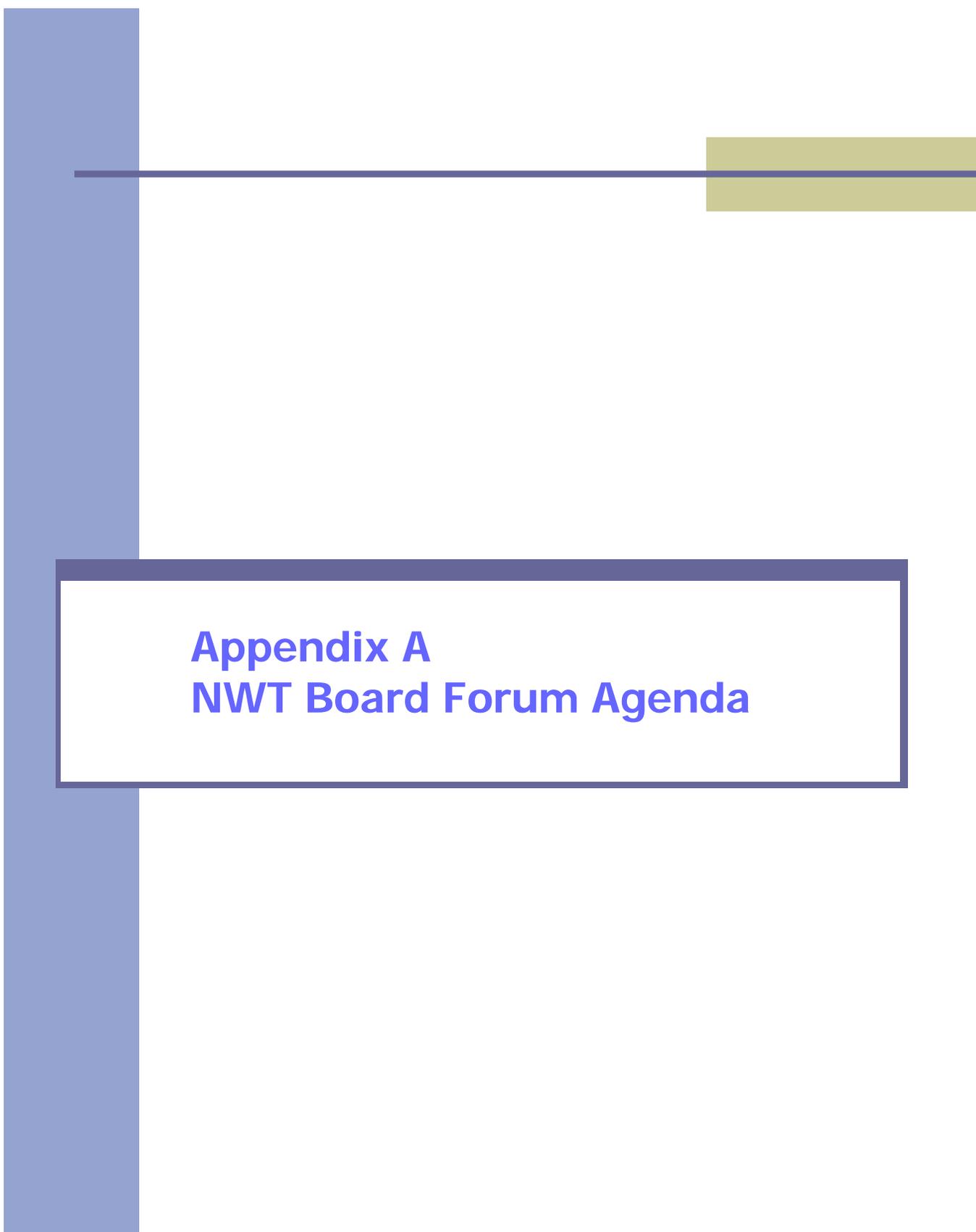
Table 2: Action Items

Agenda Item	Action Item
<i>Board Appointment Process</i>	The Chair's Caucus will develop a letter in regards to the issue of Board appointments at their meeting held on November 16, 2006. The letter will be given to INAC once finished.
<i>Response Plan to OAG Report (update)</i>	The comments from the Board Forum representatives on the Orientation Manual, Best Practices and Needs Assessment documents should be forwarded to Casey Adlem (INAC) by December 23, 2006.
	Bob Bailey (GNWT) and/or Bernie Hughes (INAC) are to coordinate on getting details in regards to the November 24, 2006 Environment Canada / CCME / GNWT Municipal waste water consultation in Yellowknife and will distribute this information to Board Forum representatives.
<i>Board Forum Terms of Reference</i>	The GNWT representative's title on the Forum Secretariat should be changed from Senior Advisor to Associate Deputy Minister.
	Discussions to be held at the Chairs Caucus, November 16, 2006 about the possibility of inviting the NWT Renewable Resource Boards to sit on the NWT Board Forum.
	The Board Forum Working Group should go through the Terms of Reference to ensure that the NEB is mentioned throughout as a sitting member.
<i>Strategic Planning and Reporting</i>	The three Strategic Planning documents produced by the Strategic Planning sub-committee should be printed and distributed by December 2006.
	The Strategic Planning sub-committee should proceed to the next phase of their work, Business Planning and Reporting
<i>Consultation Update / Status of Policy</i>	INAC scheduled to present interim consultation approach by March 31, 2007 and circulate to Board Forum members.

Agenda Item	Action Item
<i>NWT Environmental Audit</i>	Board Forum, members to collaborate on the response to the NWT Environmental Audit. David Livingstone to coordinate with the Board Forum Working Group for this process.
<i>Communication Plan Update</i>	The Communications Sub-Working Group was approved as well as the workplan objectives by Board Forum members.
	A CD should be created by the Communications Sub-Working Group with a PDF example of the Communications Website Portal; to be presented at the next Board Forum.
<i>CAPP Presentation – Activities & Trends</i>	Mike Peters / CAPP to follow-up with the Board Forum in regards to the statistic on “Wells Drilled,” from his presentation. A breakdown of this statistic should be given in terms of: exploratory, delineation and production wells for the NWT. This should be completed by December 31, 2006.
	Mike Peters / CAPP to distribute annual report on the Stewardship Initiative to Board Forum Representatives. Yolande Chapman provided Mike Peters with Board Forum Representative’s contact information. This action should be completed by December 31, 2006.
	Practitioners workshop given to industry / CAPP by the MVEIRB in regards to the EA process in the NWT. MVEIRB to invite CAPP.
<i>Participant Funding Program</i>	The status of Janice Traynor’s Participant Funding Program report should be added to the NWT Board Forum Tracking List.
<i>International Polar Year: Investment and Research Update</i>	Helmut Epp (GNWT) to inquire with the IPY National Committee in regards to the age categories of the youth participating.
<i>Next Meeting</i>	To be hosted by the Sahtu Land and Water Board in last week of April 2007.

7.0 Next Board Forum Meeting

The Sahtu Land and Water Board has offered to host the next NWT Board Forum Meeting in Norman Wells. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for the last week of April 2007. The Working Group will assist the SLWB in coordinating the meeting date and location.



Appendix A
NWT Board Forum Agenda

**NWT Board Forum
November 15 & 16, 2006
Cultural Classroom – Chief Jimmy Bruneau School
Edzo, NT**

**Draft Working Agenda
November 14, 2006**

DAY 1 – November 15, 2006 (Boards only)		
Time	Topic	Lead
9:00 – 10:30 am	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Opening Prayer • Opening Remarks • Opening Remarks, Round Table 	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Facilitator, Jim Micak Host, Violet Camsell- Blondin Wek'eezhii LWB</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Zoe Raemer, A/Associate Regional Director General Chairs (60 minutes)</i></p>
10:30 – 10:45 am	Break	
10:45 – 12:00 pm	Update from Last Forum – Working Group Board Appointment Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability Act & Streamlined Process Northern Training Initiative Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps/Discussion (Training needs) 	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Vern Christensen, Bob Wooley & Eric Yaxley (30 minutes)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Stephen Van Dine (20 minutes)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bob Wooley/Willard Hagen (40 minutes)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Co-lead S. Van Dine/ W. Hagen</i></p>
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch (to be provided)	
1:00 – 2:15 pm	Board Forum – Terms of Reference Response Plan to OAG Report (update) Budgetary Processes for Northern Boards	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Eric Yaxley (10 Minutes)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Stephen Van Dine (20 minutes)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Stephen Van Dine/</i></p>

DAY 1 – November 15, 2006 (Boards only)

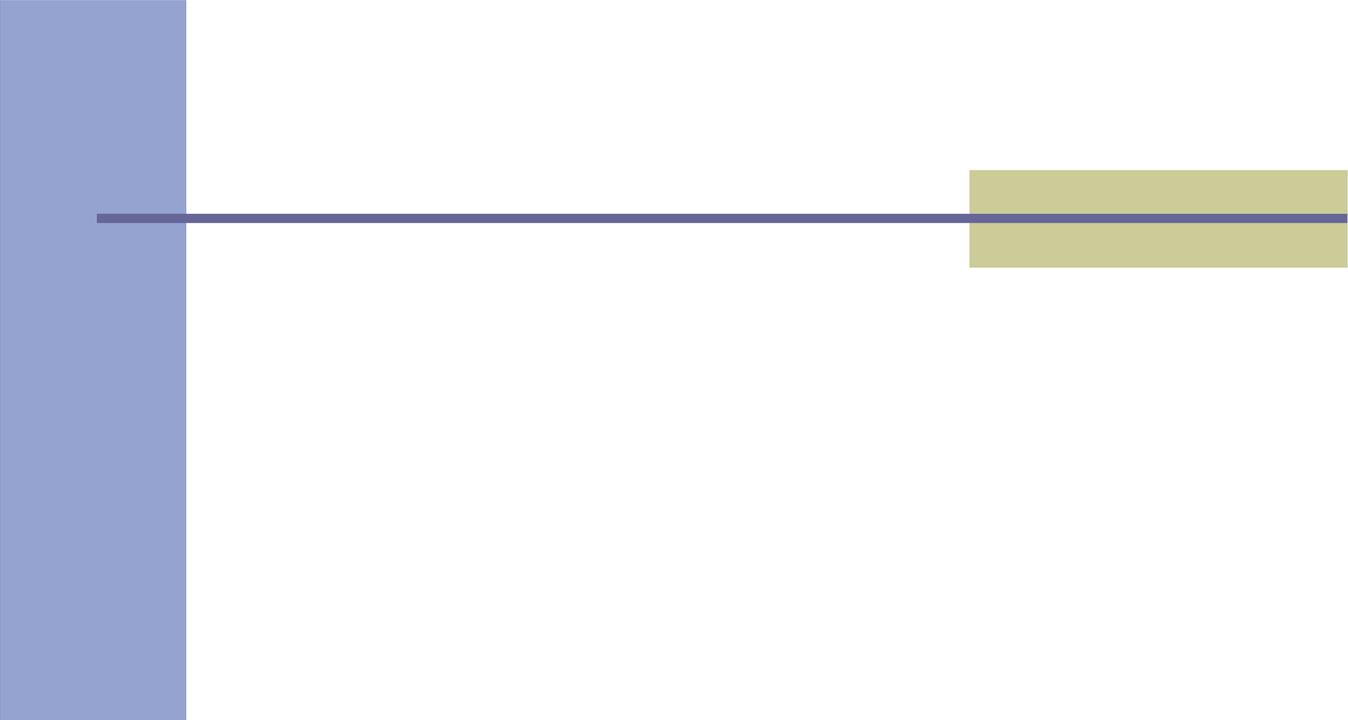
Time	Topic	Lead
		<i>Vern Christensen (20 minutes)</i>
2:15 – 2:30 pm	<i>Break</i>	
2:30 – 6:00 pm	<p>Strategic Planning & Reporting</p> <p>Regional Engagement Initiative Update</p> <p>Consultation Update/Status of Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MVLWB Experience • Questions & Comments <p>NWT Environmental Audit –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Update & Comments • Discussion <p>Communication Plan Update (Tentative)</p> <p>Uranium Technical Workshop Update</p> <p>Closing Prayer</p>	<p><i>Bob Wooley (30 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Bernie Hughes /Julie Jackson (10 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Julie Jackson (40 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>David Livingstone (30 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Vern Christensen</i></p> <p><i>Eric Yaxley</i></p>
6:00 – 7:30 pm	<p><i>DINNER/SOCIAL FUNCTION</i></p> <p><i>Sah Naji Kwe Wilderness Centre</i></p>	

DAY 2 – November 16, 2006 (Boards and Industry)

Time	Topic	Lead
9:00 – 10:30 am	<p>Opening Prayer</p> <p>Overview of Day 1</p> <p>Mining Sector Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview <p>Oil & Gas Sector Update</p> <p>CAPP Presentation – Activities & Trends</p> <p>Questions & Comments</p>	<p align="right"><i>Jim Micak</i></p> <p align="right"><i>Carolyn Relf A/Director, Minerals Division (20 minutes)</i></p> <p align="right"><i>George Green, Director, Oil & Gas Mgnt. Division</i></p> <p align="right"><i>Mike Peters (20 minutes)</i></p> <p align="right"><i>(10 minutes)</i></p>
10:30 – 10:45 am	<i>Break</i>	
10:45 – 12:00 pm	<p>Status of MGP Regulatory Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview • Comments/Discussion <p>Crown Consultation Report Update – Crown Consultation Unit</p>	<p align="right"><i>Brian Chambers (40 minutes)</i></p> <p align="right"><i>(Chris Loewen TBD)</i></p>
12:00 – 1:00 pm	<i>Lunch (to be provided)</i>	
1:00 – 2:30 pm	<p>Participant Funding Program (Pan-Northern)</p> <p>Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Guidelines Update</p> <p>Beaufort Sea Strategic Regional Plan of Action</p> <p>International Polar Year: Investment & Research Update</p>	<p align="right"><i>Janice Traynor (20 minutes)</i></p> <p align="right"><i>MVEIRB (20 minutes)</i></p> <p align="right"><i>John Reid (20 minutes)</i></p> <p align="right"><i>RRE (Bob Bailey & Helmut Epp)</i></p>

DAY 2 – November 16, 2006 (Boards and Industry)

Time	Topic	Lead
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Forum Wrap up Closing Prayer	<i>Jim Micak</i>
3:00 – 4:30 pm	<i>Post Forum Chairs Caucus</i>	



**Appendix B
Participants List**

NWT Board Forum

October 15 - 16, 2006

Edzo, NT: Cultural Classroom - Chief Jimmy Bruneau School

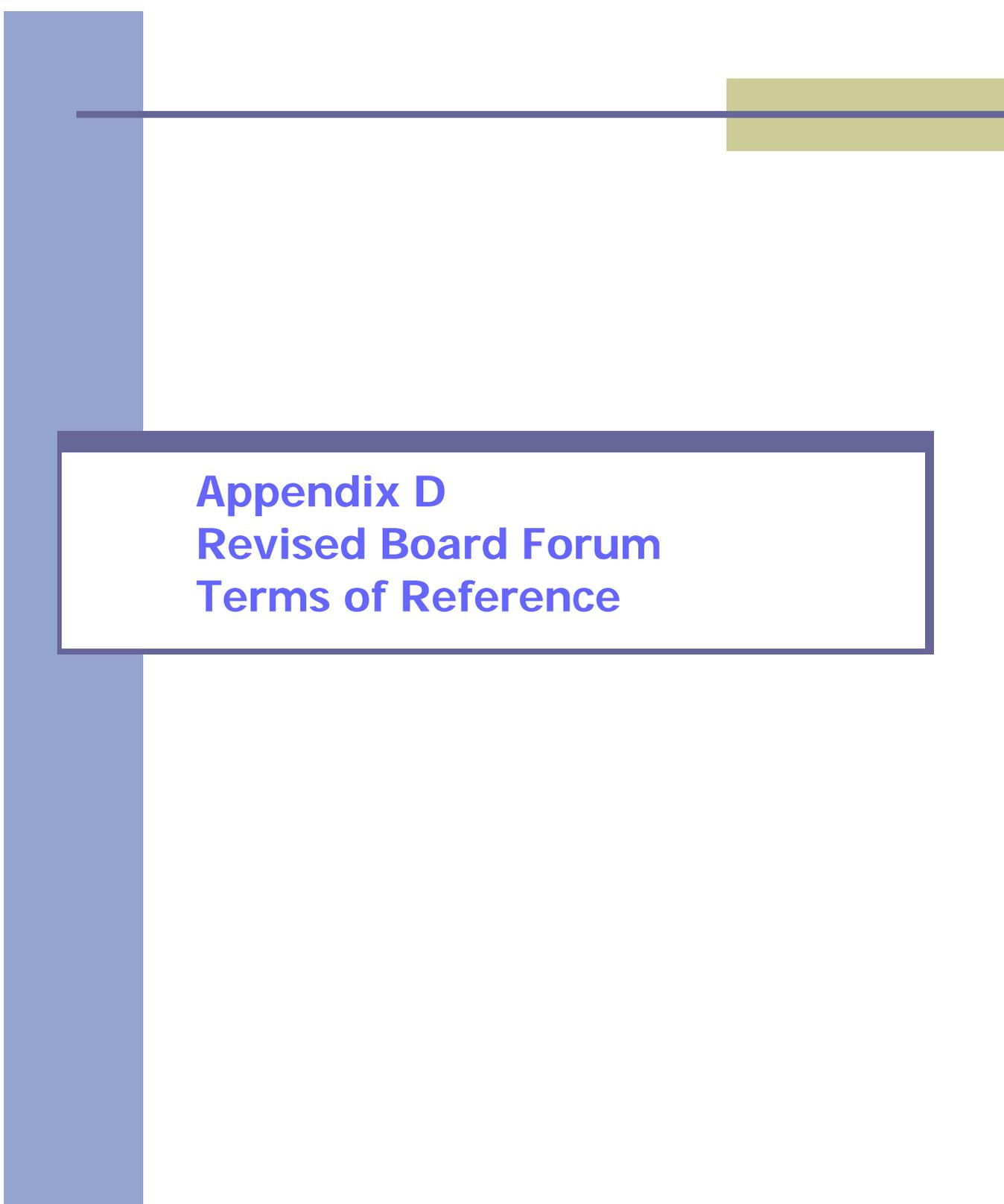
Participant List

Name	Affiliation
Bella T'Seleie	Director, SLUPB
Bob Bailey	DM of Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
Bob Wooley	Exec. Director, MVLWB
Charlie Snowshoe	Vice Chair, GLUPB
Elizabeth Snider	Chair, EIRB
Eric Yaxley	Manager, BRS
Frank Pokiak	Chair, IGC
Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott	Chair, MVEIRB
George Govier	Exec. Director, SLWB
Jann Atkinson	Regulatory Development, NEB
John T'Seleie	Exec. Director, SLUPB
Jim Donihee	Chief Operating Officer, NEB
Larry Wallace	Chair, SLWB
Stephen Van Dine	Director, Resource Policy And Programs , INAC, HQ
Vern Christensen	Exec. Director, MVEIRB
Vicki Losier	Finance Officer, NWT Water Board
Violet Camsell-Blondin	Interim Chair, WLWB - Host
Willard Hagen	Chair, GLWB
Yolande Chapman	A/Senior Analyst, BRS
Zabey Nevitt	WLWB
Zoe Raemer	A/ARDG, INAC



Appendix C
Presentations by Speakers

NOTE – Due to the number and size of the PowerPoint presentations given at the November 2006 NWT Board Forum, CD's have been created in addition to the following appendices that house the presentations given at the Forum.



Appendix D
Revised Board Forum
Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

NWT Board Forum

As

Revised December 11, 2006

1) Purpose

To establish a forum of NWT resource co-management/public boards to facilitate discussion on matters of common interest.

2) Objectives

- To increase mutual awareness by NWT resource co-management/public boards regarding their respective activities;
- To identify and develop collaborative approaches to resolve issues of common concern;
- To collaborate on strategic and operational planning initiatives where beneficial;
- To identify opportunities to share resources and expertise (e.g., cost sharing certain initiatives, sharing human resources and/or information technology, sharing “lessons learned” and “best practices”);
- To provide a forum for the NWT resource co-management/public boards to hear from industry, government and other interest groups on issues of common interest not specific to a development under active consideration by a co-management/public board; and
- To pursue collaborative training and development initiatives where beneficial.

3) Membership

Membership of the Board Forum comprises the Chairs, or designated alternates, of all resource co-management/public boards created under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA), the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), the NWT Waters Act (NWTWA), the Associate Regional Director General of INAC NT Region or designated alternate, a designate from the National Energy Board (NEB), and a designate of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

As land claims are settled, new co-management boards/institutions of public government are deemed to be added.

4) Organizational Responsibilities

Business Planning Agenda

The business agenda for the annual meeting of the Board Forum will be approved by the co-management/public board Chairs.

Meeting Host

The opportunity to host the annual meeting of the Board Forum will rotate from Board to Board.

Administration and Co-ordination Support

The Board Relations Secretariat of the NWT Regional Office, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development provides administrative and co-ordination support for the operations of the Board Forum.

Funding

Travel expenditures would be covered by board participants. The Board Relations Secretariat would support a share of common logistical costs.

5) Conduct Meetings

The Chair, or designated alternate, of the host Board shall Chair the annual meeting of the Board Forum.

The Executive Director of the Board hosting the next annual meeting of the Board Forum shall Chair the annual Executive Director's meeting.

If necessary, Robert's Rules of Order shall apply to the conduct of Executive Directors' and Board Forum meetings.

6) Meeting Schedules and Locations

A minimum of two meetings will be held each year, as follows:

1. **Executive Directors' Meeting:** To be held in April/May of each year. The purpose of this meeting is to take stock of progress that has been made on direction of Board

Chairs since the previous meeting of the Board Forum; to recommend to the Chair of the Host Board a business agenda for the next annual meeting of the Board Forum; and, to recommend a host Board for the subsequent annual meeting of the Board Forum.

The Executive Director's meeting is to be held in the community selected by the host Board to be the location of the next annual meeting of the Board Forum.

2. **Annual Meeting of the Board Forum:** To be held in September/October of each year. The purpose of this meeting is for the NWT co-management/public board Chairs to pursue the objectives set out for the Board Forum with the support of the co-management/public board Executive Directors.

At each annual meeting of the Board Forum, the host Board will be selected for the next annual meeting of the Board Forum. The host Board will select the community in which the next annual meeting of the Board Forum will be located.

7) Forum Secretariat – Working Group

Operational support for the NWT Board Forum will be provided by a Secretariat comprised of the following individuals:

1. Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
2. Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
3. Executive Director, Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat
4. Manager, Board Relations Secretariat – NWT Regional Office, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
5. Associate Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Northwest Territories

The Forum Secretariat is responsible to:

- Plan and organize the business agenda for the annual meetings of NWT co-management/public board Executive Directors, in consultation with (to the extent possible) NWT Board Forum members;
- Transmit the draft business agenda recommended by the board Executive Directors for review and approval of the host Chair of the annual meeting of the Board Forum;
- Maintain the records of the Board Forum;
- Facilitate day-to-day communication within the Board Forum; and
- Facilitate communication between the Board Forum and other interested individuals and organizations.

8) Review of Terms of Reference

The Board Forum will review its Terms of Reference as a standard agenda item at its annual meeting and make modifications as deemed necessary by the member co-management/public boards.