

MVLWB

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
MACKENZIE VALLEY LAND & WATER BOARD

June, 2008

Nahendeh Gondi News of Our Land



Message from the Chair

MVLWB Chair, Willard Hagen

This is the first edition of the MVLWB's restyled newsletter. The new name, *Nahendeh Gondi* is from the South Slavey language and means "News of Our Land". We thought this would be an appropriate title as the work of the MVLWB is directly connected to the land, water and people of the NWT. It is the Board's responsibility to issue Water Licenses and Land Use Permits for the areas in which land claims have not yet been settled (Akaitcho and Dehcho areas) and for projects that overlap regional boundaries. We base our decisions on many factors; we are concerned not only with how a certain project might affect the natural environment but how it will change the lives of the people closest to the development's location.

Although Board members are the final decision-makers, they cannot do their jobs without the assistance of properly trained staff. The educational backgrounds of these professionals include a wide variety of disciplines such as environmental sciences, administrative procedures, management, engineering and computer programming. Collectively, and before joining the MVLWB, they have taken on various roles in industry and government such as nature guides, journalists, environmental specialists, site reclamation consultants and managers. It is this extra perspective derived from work and life

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Arctic Winter Games

Part of the Community...

Staff at the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board kept busy during the Arctic Winter Games this past March in Yellowknife. Staff volunteered over 100 hours helping out with a variety of tasks, from setting up beds for out-of-towners to the coaching of NWT representatives! ■

Revised Video Available

The MVLWB has updated its video. First produced in 2002, the 7-1/2 minute video outlines the history of the Board, the reasons for its existence and how it handles its obligations to listen to and incorporate all points of view. This edition features interviews with Board Chair Willard Hagen, Senior Regulatory Officer Adrian Paradis and other staff and Board members. The program will be available in DVD format and is currently in production at YK Films studio. It will be available free to the public. Call 669-0506 for a copy. ■



New Arrivals

1

Manik Duggar

Manik Duggar started working at the MVLWB as Senior Policy & Communications Advisor in January 2008. His responsibilities include policy

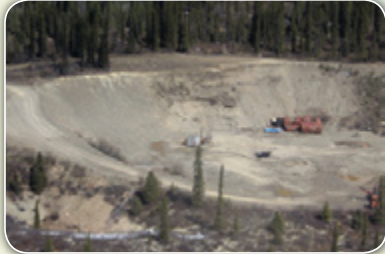
research, developing policy, guidelines and procedures, and writing briefs and policy papers on issues identified by the MVLWB. Manik also advises the communications

and consultation aspects of the Board's activities. Manik is a part of the MVLWB's Management Team.

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MVLWB Public Hearings



Cantung mine site



Fort Simpson Public Hearing, 2006



Fort Simpson Public Hearing, 2006



Cantung mine site

The public hearing is the most visible part of the work the MVLWB carries out. It is an opportunity for any interested person to give his or her views on a proposed activity. The public hearing is an important element of the democratic political system in which we live - it is one of the valuable privileges we enjoy as residents of Canada.

It is not mandatory that the Board hold a public meeting for every application; in some circumstances, it may choose to hold a hearing only if it ascertains that doing so would be in the public interest. However, the Board must convene a public hearing if a Class "A" Water License is under consideration. The "A" designation means that the activity at the work site will exceed certain specifications for items such as explosives, vehicle weight, earth moving machinery, fuel storage and campsites.

The MVLWB will hold its next hearing in Nahanni Butte on July 22 at the Dene Band Office and on the 23rd and 24th in Fort Liard at the Community Hall. At issue is North American Tungsten's renewal of their Type "A" Water License for their Cantung Mine site operations. You can review information submitted by the applicant at the online Registry at www.mvlwb.com or at our Public Registry facility in our office.

Any person can be an intervener at a public hearing – affiliation with any recognized group is not necessary. However, the MVLWB must receive written interventions in advance; deadline for submissions for the Cantung Mine Public Hearing is 5:00 p.m., June 30. ■

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New Arrivals

2

Anne Umpleby

Anne Umpleby completed her B.Sc. in Environmental Science at the University of Calgary. Prior to starting at the MVLWB, she was the Environmental Manager

for well site reclamation and remediation and the Regulatory Coordinator for facility and pipeline construction within Alberta. She came to the Board

in September of 2007; her current position is Regulatory Officer for Oil and Gas projects.



New Arrivals

3

Jonathan Churcher

Jonathan Churcher joined the Board in January 2008 as Community Liaison/ Consultant Officer. He will create PR material,

including various print and electronic media, provide writing support services for Regulatory Officers and will organize visits

and give presentations to communities affected by resource development.

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NRRI and the MVLWB Harmonization Initiative



Words from the MVLWB Chair, Willard Hagen

The Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative Workshop held its final meeting in Yellowknife in early March. The goal of the NRRI is to recommend changes (if any are needed) to the Minister of INAC concerning the regulatory regime in the NWT. A report with the contents of the Yellowknife meeting is available at: www.mveirb.nt.ca/reference_lib/index.php?section=33

Representatives of the Land and Water Board attended this event. The following are excerpts from MVLWB Chair Willard Hagen's comments to the participants.

Opening Remarks

The majority of the perceived problems in the regulatory process would be reduced if province-like powers were devolved to the GNWT. There is a disconnect largely as a result of legislation and regulations being lost in translation and implementation due to the distances between the NWT and seats of power (Ottawa). Capacity and funding are huge problems, which were highlighted in 2 reports from the Auditor General. We still haven't gone far enough. Perhaps 75% of the problems could be solved by devolution.

The history of the NWT is complex. Explorers came to find us; the second wave came to save us. Both revolved around the natural wealth of the NWT. The regulators still fill this role – trying to strike a balance between development and the environment. I suppose that if enough people cry regulatory wolf, then perhaps there really is a wolf. There are no regulations that can't be improved, but there is one reality – the constitutionally protected land claim agreements that give fee simple title to over fifty percent of the lands and resources of the Mackenzie Valley.

Closing Remarks

Our Board hasn't been sitting back and waiting for a report to come out showing us our strengths or our weaknesses. We've initiated, in partnership a few months ago with all the regional boards, an initiative to develop consistent policies, procedures and practices on how we do our business through the whole Mackenzie Valley. We are focusing on six areas: application review processes, terms and conditions, planned guidelines, data management, water quality guidelines, and public engagement. The goal is to provide certainty for all our clients - industry, First Nations, communities, and all stakeholders and participants - involved in our processes.

~ end of Chair's comments~

The six working groups assigned to the areas referred to above are all 'up and running'. They will look for consistencies and try to resolve inconsistencies in the Mackenzie Valley regulatory processes. Each working group will write policy papers with recommendations about harmonization of regulatory procedures. ■

Staff Participation In Cancer Relay

MVLWB staff is taking part in the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay For Life; it's an overnight, non-competitive relay that celebrates cancer survivors and pays tribute to the lives of loved ones. It involves teams of 10 people who take turns walking, running or strolling around a track to raise money to support the work of the Canadian Cancer Society. It's a night of fun, friendship and fundraising to beat cancer.

Funds raised through Relay For Life make a difference. They help the Canadian Cancer Society fund the most promising research projects in the country, provide information services and support programs in the community and advocate for public policies that prevent cancer and help those living with it. You can help make cancer history by getting involved by joining a team, sponsoring a participant or volunteering at the event. Take your first step by going to the following link: http://convio.cancer.ca/site/PageServer?pagename=RFL_AB_about_relay ■



New Arrivals

4

Jason Ash

Jason Ash, Regulatory Officer, started employment with the Board in November 2007. Jason brings a diverse

range of experiences to the Board, with degrees in Mining Engineering and in Management, as well

as work experience as a consultant for the Nunavut Water Board and Halliburton. *Continued on next page*



2009 Complimentary Calendar

Our 2009 calendar is now available. Each month features a photograph of our northern landscape and information about the MVLWB. Next time you are in our office or visiting our booth at a trade show, make sure you pick up a copy. The calendar is designed to sit on a desktop or any flat surface ■



Final Quarter Fiscal Year 2007

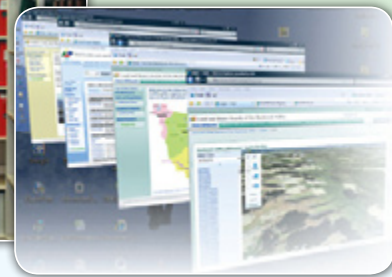
MVLWB Summary of Activities:

- 2 Amendments
- 2 Assignments
- 24 Closures
- 8 Extensions/Renewals
- 8 Land Use Permits
- 4 Water Licenses
- 12 Preliminary Screenings
- 0 Referrals to Environmental Assessment

Message from the Chair

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experience (plus the professional skills) that brings an important dimension of strength to the entire MVLWB regulatory team. It is to these staff members that I dedicate the first edition of *Nahendeh Gondí*. ■



Public Access

The Public Registry

The MVLWB is a quasi-judicial agency, and it acts as a forum for regional decision making. Therefore, the Board's activities are open to public scrutiny at all times. This is accomplished in two ways – through the Public Registry and via the website.

The Registry is located in our office on the 7th Floor of the YK Centre building in Yellowknife. It is stacked full of thousands of hard copy and CD-ROM files reflecting the past and current dealings of the Board. The content is up-to-date and reflects the daily transactions between the Board and development proponents, other regulatory agencies and the public. Members of the public are invited to examine the registry and while it is not necessary to call ahead to inform the staff of your visit, doing so can be helpful. Call Rhonda at 766-7458.

The Website:

www.mvlwb.com

The overriding goal of the website is to provide up-to-date information on all regulatory activities of the Board which impact land and water use in the Mackenzie Valley. The website attempts to be as user-friendly, accessible and transparent as possible. You can read about the philosophy of the Board, permit and license application processes, public hearings, notifications and items for review, job and contract opportunities and much more.

To locate our online Registry, visit www.mvlwb.com and browse to Public Registry. You will find over 25,000 MVLWB and WLWB documents that we have taken from the Public Registry and made available online, with more being added each day. Please direct any comments about the website to our IT Specialist, Rob, at 766.7455. ■



Sharing Responsibility –
Working together to make the best decisions for the land, water and people.

For more information please contact the MVLWB:

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Thank you to all the photographers who contributed to this newsletter.

Departure

1 Peter Lennie-Misgeld

Peter worked as the Board's senior regulatory officer for eight years. He managed, led and coordinated regulatory and technical support activities for the Board. Peter

also provided assistance to the Board on regulatory and technical matters and also provided advice to applicants regarding regulatory applications and processes.

Peter is now working with Jacques Whitford AXYS as a Senior Environmental Planner in Yellowknife.

