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## Community Information Session

### Meeting Summary

<b>Applicant:</b> Community Government of Behchokò	
<b>Location:</b> Behchokò Culture Centre	<b>Application:</b> Water Licence W2014L3-0002
<b>Date:</b> September 10, 2014	<b>Time:</b> 5-8pm
<b>Subject:</b> Community Information Session	

#### Attendees

- Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (WLWB) Board members and staff
- Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources Water Licence Inspector
- Community Government of Behchokò council member, staff, and consultants

#### Agenda

- WLWB Chair's Opening Comments – see attached.
- WLWB Presentation – Available on the WLWB Online Registry under “W2014L3-0002 - Behchokò – Community Information Session – WLWB Presentation”
- Community Government of Behchokò Presentation - Available on the WLWB Online Registry under “W2014L3-0002 - Behchokò – Community Information Session – CGB Presentation”
- Questions from the Public – A summary list of topics discussed is shown below:
  - Possibility of moving water intake location to Russell Lake
    - Community staff responded that the intake is already located in the channel that comes from Russell Lake

- Location of Solid Waste Facility and Rae Lagoon
- Possible impacts on water and/or fish due to:
  - Climate change
  - Recent forest fires
  - Mining
- Water or fish monitoring
  - Community staff responded that there is monitoring carried out regularly for drinking water quality and that Behchokò won a drinking water taste competition in recent years.
  - Community consultants responded that monitoring is proposed around the new Solid Waste Facility and explained the plan for drainage/runoff control.
  - WLWB staff and the GNWT Inspector responded that there are water quality monitoring requirements under the Surveillance Network Program part of the Water Licence and explained that this is one of the parts of the Water Licence that could be improved in the new Licence.
  - WLWB staff also explained that the Wek' èezhii Renewable Resources Board leads a community-based fish, water, and sediment quality monitoring program in a different Tłıchq community each year, in Whatì in 2014 and scheduled to be back in Behchokò in 2015. The Tłıchq Government also leads a similar program that is focused on the Marian River, in the area around the proposed Fortune Minerals NICO Mine and downstream to Marian Lake. The program focused on Hislop Lake in 2013 and Shoti Lake in 2014.

**WLWB COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION**  
**COMMUNITY OF BEHCHOKO WATER LICENCE RENEWAL**  
**Behchoko Culture Centre**  
**September 10, 2014**

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**Opening Prayer**

**Community Welcome (Noel Bishop)**

**Opening Comments:**

- Good evening everyone, thank you to Noel for the welcome.
- For those requiring translation there are receivers available with English on channel 1, Tłjchq is on channel 2.
- I would like to begin by welcoming everyone to this community information session. My name is Joseph Mackenzie and I have been designated as the Chair of the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board for the Board's review of the Community of Behchoko's new water licence application.
- First, I would like to remind people that Emergency Exits are behind me to my right and bathrooms are at the back
- In a few moments we will give a presentation about the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board.
- For now, I will just say that the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board was established after the Tłjchq Agreement came into force on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

- The Board has authority over land use permitting and water licensing within the Wek'èezhii Management area under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* and the *Waters Act*.
- The Board has the objective of: *“regulating the use of land and waters and deposit of waste so as to provide for the conservation, development, and utilization of land and water resources in a manner that will provide the optimum benefit generally for all Canadians **and in particular for residents of the Wek'èezhii management area.**”*
- The Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board's authority over the use of water and deposit of waste applies to industry, such as the diamond mines, and also to the Tłıchq communities of Wekweeti, Gameti, Whati, and Behchoko.
- I would now like to introduce the members of the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board and our staff:

### **Introductions**

- Board members Mr. Mike Nitsiza and Ms. Rita Mueller (who will be joining us in a few minutes) are federal appointees to the Board, Mr. Mason Mantla and I are Tłıchq Government appointees. Violet-Camsell Blondin is the Chair of the Board, but because Violet is also the SAO of Behchoko, she is not participating in Board decisions related to Behchoko's water licence, and I have been designated as the Chair of the Board for the Behchoko Water Licence process.

I now will introduce the members of our staff and support people who are present today.

### **Staff**

Brett Wheler – Executive Director for the Board  
 Sarah Elsasser – Regulatory Specialist  
 Elissa Berrill – Regulatory Specialist  
 Ryan Fequet – Regulatory Manager  
 Jessica Pacunayen – Regulatory Intern

Kathy Racher – Technical Director  
Heather Scott – Technical Advisor

Tłjchq Translators

Celine Football and Violet Mackenzie

And thank you also to our sound technician.

- The Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board is here because the Community of Behchoko's Water Licence will expire at the end of November, which means a new licence is needed to use water and deposit waste – such as sewage in the lagoon and garbage in the solid waste facility.
- Staff at the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board and the Community Government have been working together for a long time to prepare for the new water licence process.
- With guidance from Board staff, the Community Government submitted an application for a new water licence. The Board then received written comments and hosted a technical session here in Behchoko with the Community Government, Environment Canada, GNWT (MACA and ENR), and the Inspectors.
- Today, the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board is hosting a community information session. The session was advertised through newspaper, radio, and the Board's website and distribution lists.
- The Board is hosting this community information session for two reasons:
  - To explain the water licensing process to community members; and
  - To give community members a chance to speak to the Board about water licensing and waste management in the community.
- The Board would like to thank the Community Government for being here and participating in this information session. After the Board's presentation, the Community Government will give a presentation about Behchoko's water licence application and waste management plans.
- After the presentations, community members will have an opportunity to speak to the Board.
- We would also like to thank the GNWT Inspectors for being here to support the Board and to help answer questions from community members.

- The Board carries out its all responsibilities in a fair and respectful way. There may be differences in opinion about the water licence process or the water and waste issues we will be discussing today, but we expect everyone to be respectful.
- Also, the Board understands that there may be a variety of issues that community members would like to speak about, however, today we are here to talk about the community water licence and community water and waste management that is related to the water licence.
- Please always direct all your questions and comments through me, as the host of this information session.
- Also, Please be mindful that we have interpreters and that these proceedings are being translated into Tłıchǰ and English, so please speak clearly and speak directly into the microphone.
- We will now have a presentation about the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board, followed by a presentation from the Community Government, and then time for community members to speak. We will finish at 8:00 pm.

## CLOSING COMMENTS

- Thank you everyone for participating in this community information session. Working with the Community Government and hearing from community members is very important to the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board.
- The Board plans to make its decision about the community's new water licence at the end of October. The licence will then be sent to the GNWT Minister of ENR for approval.
- We look forward to continuing to work together with the community in the future.
- Masi.
- We will finish with closing prayer.