

**MINUTES**  
**of a Formative Meeting of the**  
**BC Assayers Certification Program Board of Advisors**  
**held in the**  
**BC Ministry of Energy and Mines Office,**  
**302-865 Hornby Street, Vancouver**  
**March 27th, 1998, 1.10 P.M.**

***Present:***

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Mr. David Chiu            | International Plasma Labs, Vancouver    |
| Mr. Manzur (Mac) Chaudhry | BC Ministry of Energy & Mines, Victoria |
| Mr. Rob Edmunds           | BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby     |
| Mr. Keith Errington       | BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby     |
| Mr. Ross Fletcher         | Highland Valley Copper, Logan Lake      |
| Mr. John Gravel           | ACME Analytical Labs, Vancouver         |
| Mr. John Hoffert          | Gibraltar Mines, Mcleuse Lake           |
| Mr. Ross Kean             | Cominco Research Labs, Trail            |
| Mr. Keith Rogers          | Interek Testing Services, Vancouver     |
| Dr. Ray Lett              | Geological Survey Branch, Vancouver     |
| Mr. Jim McLeod            | Cominco Research Labs, Vancouver        |
| Mr. Norman Monteith       | Eco Tech Lab, Kamloops                  |
| Mr. Duncan Sanderson      | CDN Labs, Burnaby                       |
| Dr. Ron Smyth             | BC Ministry of Energy & Mines, Victoria |
| Ms. Terry Suen            | BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby     |
| Mr. Wilfred Tsang         | Min-En Labs, Vancouver                  |
| Mr. Lloyd Twaites         | Chemex Labs, Vancouver                  |
| Ms. Elaine Woo            | Member, Assayers Board of Examiners     |

**1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks (Lloyd Twaites):**

Lloyd Twaites welcomed those present . He stated that the concept of the Advisory Board had originated because industry concerns that the Assayers Certification Program would be canceled. A government-industry -BCIT partnership had been proposed to improve the program. He stated that there had been a very good response from industry representatives to this proposal.

**2. Approval of the Meeting Agenda (Lloyd Twaites):**

Lloyd Twaites asked those present to approve the meeting agenda. **All in favour**

**3. Background to the Assayers Certification Program (Ray Lett):**

Ray Lett described the history and background to the Assayers Certification Program (copy of outline attached)

#### **4. Partnership Proposal (Ron Smyth):**

Ron Smyth reviewed the partnership proposal (copy attached).

Lloyd Twaites invited discussion on the Proposal

Ron Smyth thanked Lloyd Twaites for acting as *ad. Hoc.* Chair and recommended that a Board Chair and Secretary should be formally elected.

Elaine Woo asked what would be the term for the Board Chair

Lloyd Twaites stated that the term of the Board Chair would 1 year or until a successor could be appointed.

Ross Kean suggested that the BOA Chair be appointed for 2 years and the term could be renewed.

Jim McLeod expressed concern that a BOA of up to twenty members could be unwieldy. He suggested that a seven member Board would be more manageable.

Lloyd Twaites stated that he assumed one BOA meeting each year would be held and that representatives from companies contributing to the partnership should have a voice on the Board. Consequently, there would be no limit to the size of the BOA. However, he suggested that the BOA could be made smaller if some members sat on BOA sub-committees.

There was general agreement that there no limit would be set on the BOA size, but that the effectiveness of the BOA function would be evaluated after the first year.

Ron Smyth noted the structure of the Mineral Deposits Research Unit Board where financial contribution from a member allowed a seat on the Board. He stated that all contributors should be given a seat on the BOA .

Lloyd Twaites asked for opinions on how successors to the BOA would be appointed.

Ron Smyth stated that any contributor should be allowed to nominate Board members.

Ross Kean suggested that the number of representatives from a company would be governed by the size of the financial contribution, but that a company would only have one vote.

John Gravel recommended that Membership of the BOA should be recognized by a statement in Assay Company fee schedules and literature.

Ross Kean asked the extent of the proposed BOA mandate specifically to:-

- A. Re-certification of Assayers
- B. Specialization in certain areas of analysis and assaying
- C. Laboratory accreditation

Lloyd Twaites stated that the BOA did not intend to make changes in these areas at the present time

John Gravel comment on the introduction of laboratory accreditation by the Canadian Standards Association under the ISO 25 guidelines. He suggested that the BOA should discuss this issue with CANMET.

Lloyd Twaites asked if BCIT planned to offer refresher training for certified assayers.

Elaine Woo stated that if 6-8 people were interested in refresher or any other re-training then BCIT could tailor a course to meet the need.

Mac Chaudhry asked for comments on requests from Out-of-Province assayers for Certification or exemption from certification.

Ron Smyth suggested that out-of Province candidates should take the BCIT training course and sit the ACP exam.

David Chiu asked if a representative from an Out-of-Province Cooperation could sit on the BOA.

Elaine Woo noted that employees of a US Company had expressed an interest in Certification.

Ron Smyth stated that a representative from an Out-of-Province Cooperation should not sit on the BOA.

Ross Kean suggested that higher fees be applied to Out-of-Province applicant for certification.

Duncan Sanderson asked if a non-BCIT training course candidate could take the examination.

Mac Chaudhry replied that any one could take the examination and could apply for exemption if from outside of the Province.

Ron Smyth suggested that the Board of Examiners should evaluate a request for exemption and the BOA would confirm the BOE recommendation.

Keith Errington noted that members of other professions were required to sit exams in BC before practicing in BC.

Lloyd Twaites asked for a vote accepting the Partnership Proposal. All in favour

#### **5. Election of the Chair of the Board of Advisors (Ron Smyth):**

Ron Smyth invited nominations for Chairperson.

John Gravel nominated Lloyd Twaites, Seconded by Jim McLeod

There were no other nominations. Lloyd Twaites was nominated BOA Chair by acclamation.

The BOA agreed that Keith Rogers would serve as Vice-Chair and Ray Lett as Secretary

## **6. Approval of the 1998/1999 Business Plan (Lloyd Twaites):**

Lloyd Twaites invited discussion on the 1998/1999 Business Plan previously presented by Ron Smyth and asked for comments on the proposed levels of contribution from partners.

John Hoffert stated that companies should not be asked to make contributions in view of the taxes already paid to government by mining companies.

Ron Smyth stressed that the BOA was a partnership between BCIT, government and industrial members and was not a government program.

Elaine Woo suggested that government should pay a \$5000 contribution as a corporate patron.

John Hoffert suggested that Assayers could form a self regulating body similar to the Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of B.C.

Lloyd Twaites stated that there was a preference for government continuing with the certification of assayers.

Ross Kean stated that an association could be formed, but in the future.

Mac Chaudhry noted that an attempt had been made to form an association of assayers 2 years previously, but had not been successful because of the wide geographical distribution of assayers.

John Gravel recommended that a sub committee of the BOA look into formation of a self regulatory body of assayers.

Ron Smyth asked for comments on the process for inviting financial contributions from partners.

Ross Kean recommended that an information package containing the Partnership proposal, invitation to contribute funds and an application to join the partnership should be sent out to companies to enable review by senior staff.

John Hoffert stated that an incentive was needed for companies to join the partnership. Those mining companies involved in defining ore reserves would have a vested interest to join the partnership.

Ross Kean stated that the ACP needs support from the mining industry so that a core of certified assayers was always available.

John Hoffert recommended sending the information package to all operating mines and assay labs in the Province.

Jim McLeod noted that Cominco required in-company assay results to be approved by a BC certified Assayers

Mac Chaudhry noted the previous Cominco, Trail training program based on the ACP which gave advanced skills to Cominco staff.

John Hoffert asked if a committee should be formed to gather information about potential partners.

Lloyd Twaites stated that the first priority would be to locate certified assayers and inform them of the formation of the BOA.

Mac Chaudhry noted that on average 3 assayers were certified each year due to the rigorous administration of the examination.

Keith Rogers commented that more the Arizona assayers registration program was less strict and that consequently more assayers were registration in that jurisdiction.

Terry Suen asked who would be responsible for compiling the information on assayers and companies

Ron Smyth offered support from the GSB in compiling names.

Lloyd Twaites asked if the financial contribution levels were considered reasonable.

Ross Kean notes that the levels could change depended on the response to the invitation letter.

Ron Smyth suggestion a \$100 contribution level for individuals.

David Chiu asked in the register of Assayers published in information Circular 1992-2 had been updated.

Mac Chaudhry stated that the register presently recorded 613 registered assayers and that funding would be needed to update the register to date.

Lloyd Twaites asked for approval of the Business Plan and Fee Structure including a letter of application to potential partners outlining the benefits of joining the BOA. Proposed contribution rates would be \$1000 for corporate members, \$500 for associate members and \$100 for individuals.

Approved Unanimously

## **8. Discussion and Approval of the 1998/1999 ACP Budget.**

Lloyd Twaites invited discussion on the 1998/1999 ACP Budget previously presented by Ron Smyth.

Elaine Woo notes that there are 2 theory examinations each year and the cost shown for holding the theory exams should be increased.

Mac Chaudhry stated that there was sufficient stock of test sample material for two more practical examinations (2 years) and that a cost should also be included in the budget for umpire assay of test samples before examinations.

Wilfred Tsang suggested that the umpire assay of examination test samples could be carried out at no cost by partner laboratories.

Lloyd Twaites suggested that a request for support with umpire assay services of examination test samples and for material to replenish the test sample inventory be included with the invitation letter to potential partners.

Ray Lett confirmed that the GSB will continue to act as custodian of the test sample materials.

Ron Smyth recommended that Ray Lett and Mac Chaudhry carry out an inventory of the existing examination sample materials. He noted that there would be no costs for the coming year because of the existing stock, but the ate BOA would have to deal with the issue in the future.

Lloyd Twaites recommended that \$1000 be included in the budget as a contingency for purchasing and assaying test materials.

John Hoffert suggested that the letter to laboratories ask what assays and analyses the laboratory is capable of performing and the type of test sample matrix available. He recommended finding out the present industry needs for assays and analyses.

Lloyd Twaites asked for approval of the 1998/1999 ACP Budget subject to the proposed changes.

Approved Unanimously

## **9. Approval of the Program Brochure (Lloyd Twaites)**

Lloyd Twaites asked for comments on the Brochure.

Ron Smyth stated that only approval in principal was needed at this time and suggested that those present send revision to ray Lett by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Lloyd Twaites suggested those present give consideration to a BOA Logo for the Brochure and asked for approval in principal of the Brochure

All in favour.

## **10. Other Business**

### **10.1 Examination Fees and Examination Candidate Liability**

Mac Chaudhry recommended that the examination fees should be increased from \$50 for the theory examination and \$100 for the practical examination because the present cost to examine each candidate was \$680. He also stated that a disclaimer statement should be signed by each candidate for the practical examination because of the possibility of litigation if a candidate were injured during the examination.

Keith Errington noted that additional insurance for BCIT could be needed because the ACP examinations are not considered as a course.

John gravel stated that the examination fee should be set to reflect the real costs for examining candidates especially those from out of the Province.

Ron Smyth recommended that BCIT examine the question of examination liability and identify additional costs and that the Board of examiners study the issue of the examination costs.

Mac Chaudhry proposed that the BOE and BOA examine the examination fee structure and the legal implication of the examinations at BCIT

All in favour.

Elaine Woo recommended that Ray Lett act as treasurer to the BOA and liase with Terry Suen to record fees transferred to BCIT.

### **10.2 Promotional Committee**

Mac Chaudhry recommended that a promotional committee be formed to gather names of assayers and potential partners for the BOA.

The committee was formed comprising Keith Rogers (Chair), ray Lett and Ross Kean.

BOA members agreed to send information on assayers to Keith Rogers.

Ross kean suggested that an article on formation of the BOA be sent to the Northern Miner and the Canadian Mineral Analysts.

### **11. Next Meeting (Lloyd Twaites)**

The next meeting was proposed for June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1998 at BCIT.

All in Favour.

### **12. Adjournment (Lloyd Twaites)**

**Lloyd Twaites proposed the meeting be adjourned at 3.13 p.m. He thanks those present for attending.**

**All in favour**

Lloyd Twaites, Chemex Labs

---

Ray Lett, Geological Survey Branch, Ministry of Energy and Mines

---

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

