

MINUTES
of a
Meeting of the BC Assayers Certification Program Council of Advisors
held at the
BCIT Campus, Room 166, South West 2 Building,
3700 Willingdon Ave., Burnaby, B.C.
on
April 27th, 2001, 1.40 P.M.

Present:

Manzur (Mac) Chaudhry	Victoria
Rob Stevens	BCIT, Burnaby
John Gravel	ACME Analytical Labs, Vancouver
Keith Rogers	Bondar Clegg Ltd., Vancouver
Ray Lett (Secretary)	GSB, BC Ministry of Energy & Mines Victoria.
Jim McLeod	Cominco Research Labs, Vancouver
Lloyd Twaites (Chair)	Bernica Ltd., Vancouver
Elaine Woo	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby
Lawrence Ng	ALS Chemex Ltd, Vancouver
Keith Errington	BCIT, Burnaby
Ron Smyth	GSB, BC Ministry of Energy & Mines Victoria
Ms. Terry Suen	BCIT, Burnaby

1. Welcome and Introduction Remarks

Lloyd - Meeting called to order at 1.40 p.m., Welcome to those present. No additions to the Agenda or changes to the October 20th, 2000 Assayers Council Meeting Minutes.

2. Approval of October 20th, 2000 Assayers Advisory Council Meeting Minutes and Agenda for the April 27th 2001 Meeting:

*Proposed (Keith Errington) and seconded (Jim McLeod) that the Minutes of the October 20th, 2000 Assayers Advisory Council Meeting and the April 27th, 2001 Advisory Council Meeting Agenda be accepted. **Accepted.***

3. Status of Action Items from October 20th, 2000 Meeting:

3.1 Assayers Council Logo Design

John Gravel - Proposed Council logo design (Assay Scales on B.C. map) distributed to members for comments. Logo design approved and to be added program web page.

Action: John Gravel to send digital version of logo design to Elaine Woo for addition to the Assayers Program page on the BCIT Web Site.

3.2 Introductory article on the Assayers Program and Council for the Assayers Program web site (Lloyd Twaites, Elaine Woo)

Lloyd - Working with BCIT staff to improve program web page. Members should review improvements including:

- a) Addition of Anachemia logo. Bico, CANMET and new Assayers Program logos to be added soon.

- b) Several member address changes. Future changes should be emailed to Terry Suen
- c) Message from Assayers Council Chair
- d) Links to other relevant sites (e.g. BC Ministry Energy & Mines).

3.3 Northern Miner Article (Lloyd Twaites, Elaine Woo)

Lloyd – Draft of article on the Assayers Program written for publication in the Northern Miner.

Ron Smyth – Group photo of Council members would add benefit to the article (photo taken by BCIT staff during meeting).

Lloyd - Photo could also be used on T-shirt promoting program.

3.4 Assayers Examination Test Material Preparation (Mac Chaudhry)

Lawrence Ng – Preparation of a series of Ca, Mg and Hg-rich test samples is almost complete. Sample consist of 10 lots each 25 kg. Homogeneity of samples could be improved by screening material.

Mac – Advise that size fraction analysis should be made before screening.

Jim McLeod – Will contact Louie DeRosa (Comino, Trail) to find out progress in preparing As-rich test material.

Action: Lawrence Ng to complete preparation and initial Round Robin analysis of Ca, Mg and Hg-rich test samples. Jim McLeod to contact Louie De Rosa (Comino, Trail) to find out progress in completing As-rich test samples.

4.0 Review of Issues raised at the October 20th, 2000 Meeting

4.1 Proposals Accepted (Lloyd)

Assayers Council Mission Statement approved

Administration expenses for the examiners chairperson increased and photo copier purchased.

Board of Examiners re-appointed for a 3 year term.

4.2 Financial Report (Terry Suen):

Financial report distributed by Terry. Budget surplus is now \$23,815.71.

Lloyd – Funding assistance requested for the Council Chairpersons administration expenses. Members agreed that administration expenses for the Council Chair can be paid by the program.

Ron Smyth – Some of the present budget surplus could be used to fund initiative for strengthening the program (e.g. conference booth fees, publicity). The program operating cost are typically only \$3000/year.

John Gravel – Part of the budget surplus could also be invested to fund an program sponsored scholarship. A spending plan is needed to best utilize the budget surplus

4.2 BCIT Assayers training program (Elaine)

Elaine – Presently there are 23 students in three groups in the training program. One group is finishing the last module of the program and there are 6-8 candidates for the September theory examination. A practical examination is scheduled for December 2001. Module 4 of the training program is being translated into Spanish.

Ron Smyth – BCIT should contact CIDA to see if training program can be better promoted internationally.

John – Assayers program brochures could be translated into Spanish for the 20th IGES in Santiago.

Keith Errington – BCIT could arrange for brochure translation.

Action: Keith Errington to arrange for translation of Assayers Program brochure into Spanish for overseas conferences such as the 20th IGES.

4.3 Assayers Examination Update (Mac Chaudhry)

Expect to have 8 plus candidates for theory examination in September 2001 and 10 to 12 candidates for the December, 2001 practical examination.

4.4 Dialog/Chat room site Update (Mac Chaudhry)

Mac – Web dialog/bulletin board site for answering questions and exchanging ideas on assaying problems discussed at the last Council meeting. Site would be a resource center and would also help promote the assayers program. The site would need a coordinator for handling the questions and answers. Other topics such as environmental issues could also be handled through the site.

Ron Smyth – Each Council members should send some question and answers on different assay topics to Mac to start dialog.

Mac – Dialog site should also invite donations out of print assay text books and key articles.

Keith Errington – Set-up costs for site are small. Existing BCIT library catalogue should be reviewed to find out what books are most needed.

Rob Stevens – An advert should be placed on the program web page inviting donations of books. Part of budget surplus could be used for cataloguing and rebinding.

Action: Members asked to send questions and answers on different assay topics to Mac Chaudhry for review. Elaine Woo will arrange for questions/answers to be added to the dialogue site.

4.5 Guidelines for companies with candidates writing the assayers examination (John Gravel)

John – Preparation of guidelines in progress.

4.6 Leco carbon-sulphur analyser

Elaine Woo – Thanks to Keith Rogers (Bondar, Clegg Ltd.) for donating a Leco carbon-sulphur system for student training.

5 New Business

5.1 Membership Fees (Lloyd Twiates).

Lloyd – Membership fee renewal notices will need to be sent out soon. Decision needed if the discounted fees for 2000 is still to be offered in 2001.

John – Council should keep the discounted rate for 2001 and invite ideas for adding value to the program using the budget surplus.

Lloyd – Corporate membership fees should be \$500 in 2001/2 to encourage membership growth. Assayers at Kemess and Eskay mines have expressed an interested in becoming members.

Rob Stevens – Smelters (e.g. Hudson Bay) should also be invited.

Ron Smyth – Reduced fees should be extended beyond 2002 in view of present budget surplus.

Proposed (Jim McLeod) and seconded (John Gravel) that 2001-2002 corporate membership fee is \$500, associate member fee is \$250 and individual fee is \$50. All in favour.

5.2 Quality Control Article in Explore

Keith Rogers – Quality control article in Explore (AEG) distributed for comments.

5.3 Training Costs (Mac Chaudhry)

BCIT should have a registration rate for each training module rather than a cost (\$3000) for all modules to be more available to students.

5.4 Ideas for Program promotion and utilizing budget surplus

- Web site
- PDAC and Cordilleran Round-Up Booth displays
- Promotion through PDAC
- Share program promotion through BCMEM booth at PDAC & Round-Up
- Meet Ontario labs and explain Assayers program (Elaine Woo Ontario trip partly funded from program budget)
- Sponsor student to attend CMA meeting
- Decrease training module registration fees
- Create award for top student in course

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be preceded by a tour of the BCIT labs and will be on Friday October 19th, 2001 at 1.30 p.m. at BCIT.

7. Adjournment

*Proposed (Ray Lett), Seconded (Mac Chaudhry) that the meeting be adjourned at 3.27 p.m. with thanks to those present for attending. **All in favour***

Chair Person, Lloyd Twaites

Secretary, Ray Lett

Date: _____