

MINUTES
Meeting of the BC Assayers Certification Program Advisory Council
Room 118, South West 9 Building, BCIT Campus
3700 Willingdon Ave., Burnaby, B.C., May 24th, 2002.

Present:

Manzur (Mac) Chaudhry	Victoria
Rob Stevens	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby
Ray Lett (Secretary)	GSB, BC Ministry of Energy & Mines, Victoria.
Lloyd Twaites (Chair)	WCM Minerals, Vancouver
Elaine Woo	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby
Lawrence Ng	ALS Chemex Ltd, Vancouver
Paul Morrison	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby
Dean Willows	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby

1. Welcome and Introduction Remarks (Lloyd Twaites)

Meeting called to order at 1.30 p.m. Those present welcomed especially Paul Morrison (Assistant Dean of the School of Manufacturing and Industrial Mechanical) and Dean Willows, (Administration Manager).

Regrets for absence received from John Gravel, Glen Armanini, Keith Rogers and Jim McLeod.

Assayers Certification Program briefly reviewed for Paul and Dean. Noted that this is the 10th Advisory Council meeting since council was formed

No additions to the Agenda. Minor changes to the November 30th, 2001 meeting minutes noted by Paul Morrison.

2. Approval of November 30th, 2001 Assayers Advisory Council Meeting Minutes and Agenda for the May 24th 2002 Meeting:

Proposed (Mac Chaudhry) and seconded (Elaine Woo) that the Minutes of the November 30th, 2001 Assayers Advisory Council Meeting and the May 24th, 2002 Advisory Council Meeting Agenda be accepted subjected to correction. All in favour.

3. Status of Action Items from November 30th, 2001 Meeting

3.1 Assayers Examination Test Material Preparation (Lloyd)

Preparation of eight mercury test samples completed by ALS Chemex and WCM Minerals.

Round-robin analysis of materials completed by ALS Chemex, Cominco and Bondar-Clegg methods. Results given to Mac for review. Analysis at ACME to be completed. Ray will take samples for storage at BC Energy and Mines, Victoria.

Lawrence: Preparation of Ca-Mg test samples nearing completion. More mixing needed to improve homogeneity of material.

Mac: Ca-Mg test samples will be needed for next Assayers Certification practical exam.

Action: Lawrence Ng to complete preparation an initial round-robin analysis of Ca-Mg test samples.

3.2 Translation of Assayers Program Brochure into Spanish

Lloyd: Copies of translated Assayers Program Brochure circulated for review by members. Brochure has been distributed at several technical meetings.

Paul Morrison: BCIT International Group could review brochure and suggest improvements.

3.3 Update on setup of an analytical questions dialogue site

Mac: Concept of chat-room for question/answer dialogue on analytical topics was discussed at last meeting. Co-ordination needed to direct questions to specialists on topics that will include laboratory safety and quality control.

Lloyd: BCIT Assayers Training Program page now has a form for entering questions on analytical topics.

Ray: A link to the Association of Exploration Geochemists newsletter Explore could encourage dialogue. Agreed to talk to Steve Amore (AEG Web Master) to try and establish this link.

Action: Ray to establish link between analytical dialogue site and AEG web page.

4.0 Review of Issues raised at the November 30th, 2001 Meeting and Updates

4.1 Web Pages (www.assay.bcit.ca) & GSB Information Circular

Copies of web page circulated for discussion. Mark Gendron will continue to update site.

4.2 Financial Report (Dean):

Financial report distributed. Budget surplus now \$22,312.21.

Lloyd: More discussion recommended at next meeting about the use of the budget surplus (e.g. for scholarships). Membership in Advisory Council within other sectors of the mining industry must be encouraged because the number of commercial laboratories is declining.

4.3 Membership Fees and Renewal Notices (Lloyd)

Proposed that membership fees remain as last year and renewal notices will be sent out soon. Administration support from BCIT is very much appreciated by Council.

Action: Lloyd to send out membership renewal notices to members.

4.4 BCIT Assayers training program (Elaine)

Presently there are 27 students in the training program. The program consists of five modules. Revisions are being made to Module Four (analytical instrumentation) to make it more effective for interactive distance instruction. Typically students are part-time and take two years to complete the five training modules before being considered qualified to sit the Assayers Certification examination. Completion of the training could give a student credit towards existing BCIT advanced diplomas such as a B.Tech (Technology Management).

Paul Morrison: Is presently responsible for part-time studies and will be working to streamline process of course management including student registration for Assayers Certification examination and fees payment.

Elaine: Ontario Geological Survey and MaKay School of Mines (Reno, Nevada) have expressed interest in assayers training since BCIT can offer this practical instruction. Has had opportunity to visit Teck-Cominco Trail, B.C. laboratory

4.5 Assayers Examination Update (Mac Chaudhry)

The next practical examination tentatively scheduled for September 2002. An Assayers Examiners Board meeting will most likely be held in August when Board will review the BCIT training course curriculum and the Certification Examination syllabus.
Action: Mac to arrange Assayers Examination meeting for August-September.

5 New Business

5.1 BCYCM-EM Prospecting Field School Update (Rob Stevens)

The prospecting field school at Oliver, B.C. attracted 20 students. More information on geochemical analysis and assaying methods for prospectors to be included in future courses.

5.2 Additions to Analytical Equipment for training (Elaine Woo)

Six new assay furnaces purchased making total of 13 available for training and the Assayers examination. BCIT has acquired an ICP system and a Dionex ion chromatograph. Instruments are expected to be operational in time for next assayers examination and for training.

5.3 Council of Advisors Changes (Lloyd)

Members should be aware of the BC Government and BCIT reorganizations and their possible impact on the Assayers Certification Program and Advisory Council.

Ray: Assayers Certification Program is identified on Energy and Mines organization chart, but long-term effect of Ministry staff reductions is unknown.

Paul Morrison: BCIT re-organization is not expected to affect the Assayers Program beyond changes to the administration procedures. BCIT is encouraging industrial-government partnerships and on-line distance education.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be preceded by a tour of the BCIT labs and will be on Friday November 15th, 2002 at 1.30 p.m. at BCIT. A pre-meeting tour of the BCIT assay teaching labs is proposed.

7. Adjournment

Proposed (Mac Chaudhry), Seconded (Lawrence Ng) that the meeting be adjourned at 3.06 p.m. with thanks to those present for attending. All in favour

Chair, Lloyd Twaites

Secretary, Ray Lett

Date: _____