

Assayers Foundation of British Columbia



MINUTES
of a
Meeting of the British Columbia Assayers Foundation Advisory Council
held at
1486 East Pender Street, Vancouver, BC, February 9th, 2007

Present:

Manzur (Mac) Chaudhry	Victoria, BC
John Gravel	Vancouver, BC
Ray Lett (Secretary)	Victoria, BC
Jim McLeod (Chair)	Vancouver, BC
Lawrence Ng	Vancouver, BC
Elaine Woo	Burnaby, BC
Alice Pang	Vancouver, BC
Scott Daniels (via phone)	Trail, BC

Meeting called to order at 1.36 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks (Jim McLeod)

Those present welcomed especially Alice Pang (ALS Chemex) & Scott Daniels (Teck-Cominco) via phone conference link to Trail. Noted that 2006 was a banner year for mining activity and that among challenges facing assaying industry is an inadequate supply of trained laboratory staff.

2. Approval of the Meeting Agenda and Minutes of the Advisory Council Meeting April 21st, 2006. No additional Agenda Items.

Moved (Ray Lett) and seconded (John Gravel) that the February 9th 2007 Advisory Council meeting Agenda and the Minutes of the April 21st, 2006 Advisory Council meeting be approved. **Discussion:** None. Unanimous acceptance of the Agenda and approval of the April 21st 2006 meeting Minutes.

3. Status of Action Items

- a. Ray Lett to request that the Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources contribute \$3000 to cover examination expenses and make a \$500 contribution to the Assayers Foundation:**

Ray Lett: The MEMPR Act provides for the Ministry to pay reasonable expenses for Assayers Examination Chair. Presently expenses are paid by

Assayers Foundation of British Columbia

Foundation. MEMPR (Geological Survey) was asked in January 2007 to assist funding the Assayers program.

Jim McLeod: Recommend that \$5000 be requested and that if no funds are received by April 15th, 2007 then an Advisory Council representative will repeat the request.

Action: Ray Lett will monitor the request for a \$5000 contribution from MEMPR to fund the Assayers Program in 2007.

b. Ray Lett to send a \$500 cheque to the BCIT Foundation for a graduate achievement scholarship and to revise the “invitation for apprentice assayer” award with a July 15th, 2006 deadline for responses from applicants

Ray Lett: A \$500 BCIT graduate achievement scholarship was awarded to En Qi Wang and a \$500 apprentice assayers award made to Elgaz Altybayeva in 2006. Similar awards for 2007 need to be approved.

Moved (John Gravel) and seconded (Lawrence Ng) that the Assayers Advisory Council fund a \$500 BCIT graduate achievement scholarship and a \$500 apprentice assayers award in 2007. **Discussion:**

Jim McLeod: Since Canadian Mineral Analysts meeting is in eastern Canada in 2007 another, more local, meeting would be more appropriate for presenting the apprentice assayers award. Some other options for presenting the award are the Kamloops Exploration Group (KEG) and the Minerals North meeting.

Mac Chaudhry: Deadline for application should be March 15th, 2007.

Unanimous acceptance of the motion to fund the scholarship and award.

Action: Ray Lett to work with Elaine Woo and Susan Wallace (BCIT Foundation) to expedite a BCIT graduation achievement scholarship.

Action: Ray Lett to send an application notice for the apprentice assayer’s award to commercial laboratories and to the assayer’s web page ASAP.

Action: Jim McLeod and Ray Lett to determine where and when the apprentice assayers award would be made.

c. Jim McLeod, Elaine Woo and Mac Chaudhry to develop a curriculum guide for non-BCIT students planning to sit the assayers examination

Jim McLeod: The curriculum is still being developed and a status report will be given at the next meeting

Action: Jim McLeod, Elaine Woo and Mac Chaudhry to continue developing a curriculum guide for non-BCIT students planning to sit the assayers examination and to report progress at the next Advisory Council Meeting.

4. Examination Report (Mac Chaudhry): There are 16 people in various stages of completing Elaine’s BCIT course. Expect 8 to 10 candidates for the theory examination to be held within 2-3 months. There are 3 candidates ready for the practical. One candidate for the theory examination is an Ontario resident and will

Assayers Foundation of British Columbia

need a local invigilator. Five candidates are needed to make the practical exam cost-effective. The practical examination would be held by December 2007.

5. Secretary-Treasurer Report (Ray Lett): Since the Assayer Foundation Annual General Meeting on April 21st 2006 the Secretary - Treasurer has:

- Assisted Elaine Woo in updating the Assayers Web page on the BCIT web site.
- Registered the Foundation for 2006-07 with the BC Corporate Registry.
- Expedited re-appointment of the Certified Assayers Program Board of Examiners to the Minister of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources for a three year term starting in October, 2006.
- . Maintained and updated the Foundation's membership list. There are presently 17 Foundation members including the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, the British Columbia Institute of Technology, the Chair and members of the BC Assayers Certification Program Board of examiners, commercial assay laboratories, equipment suppliers and mining companies.
- Assisted Elaine Woo in arranging for the award of a \$500 graduation achievement scholarship to En Qi Wang, a BCIT student in June 2006.
- Arranged for the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum to sponsor the Canadian Mineral Analysts Annual Meeting with a grant of \$1000.
- Expedited the issue of a \$500 apprentice assayer award to Elgaz Altybayeva at the Canadian Mineral Analysts annual meeting in September, 2006.
- Reinvested \$14,000 of Foundation capital in a one year cashable GIC at 2.65% per annum at RBC. The GIC matures on April 10th, 2007. A balance of \$2,423.14 remains in the current account.

Moved (Elaine Woo) and seconded (Lawrence Ng) that the Secretary-Treasure Report be accepted. **Discussion:**

Ray Lett: Voluntary contributions are \$500/year for large companies; \$250/year for small companies; \$50/year for individuals. Recommend that schedule be the same for 2007. All agreed.

Elaine Woo: Canadian Mineral Analysts have agreed to donate \$2000 to the Assayers Foundation and need a request letter from the Foundation. The CMA logo should be added to assayers web page.

Action: Ray Lett to correspond with W. Clifford (CMA) and request \$2000 & CMA logo.

John Gravel: Placer Dome (Barrick), IPL and G&T should be contacted as possible new members of the Advisory Council. Also, receipts should be sent to companies who make a contribution to the Foundation.

Action: Ray Lett to ensure that receipts are sent to Foundation contributors.

John Gravel: The Certified Assayers profile needs to be enhanced by arranging a meeting to exchange ideas and to strengthen communication between assayers. A meeting during a major convention such as the Vancouver Cordilleran Round Up could be successful where there is a greater

Assayers Foundation of British Columbia

probability of attracting a critical mass of assayers. The Cordilleran Round Up convention might also be a venue for awarding a lifetime achievement award to a certified assayer.

Mac Chaudhry: Criteria for making a lifetime achievement award could be making an outstanding contribution to the assaying industry and to the Assayers Certification Program. An inaugural forum would stimulate new ideas about strengthening the program.

Lawrence Ng: More contact between assayers is needed to arrange a forum.

Alice Pang: Would be willing work with Lawrence to compile an email list for systematically contacting analytical companies and certified assayers with a view to encouraging contributions above a basic \$50/year. The ultimate aim of the contact list would be to organize a future forum.

Scott Daniels: Will be willing to assist in compiling contact list by providing information from the Assayers Foundation to assayers working in the Teck Cominco, Trail laboratory. Teck Cominco have developed comprehensive succession plan to address attrition due to retirements. Presently Teck Cominco, Trail has 16 certified assayers on staff. Also, since 1960 of the 191 assayers who were granted certificates, 92 worked in the Trail laboratory. The high practical examination pass rate was reflective of a former training program at Trail.

Action: Alice Pang and Lawrence Ng to compile an email list for systematically contacting analytical companies and certified assayers with a view to encouraging contributions above a basic \$50/year. A list of certified assayers working in the Trail laboratory will be requested from Scott Daniels.

6. BCIT Training Report (Elaine Woo):

6.1. New website homepage - www.assay.bcit.ca. Home page content:

- The BCIT assayer training website
- The Assayer Certification program website
- The BC Assayers Foundation web page (in progress)
- A link to and from the MEMPR website – (work in progress)
- Spanish translation of the page (in progress)
- Input from industry needed - visit site and send comments to Elaine.

Action: Ray Lett to write an update on the Assayers Foundation for the BCIT homepage.

6.2 Program enrollment

- 24 students in new intake for January and March 2007
- 16 students eligible to write the Provincial Theory exam
- About 62 other students in various stages of completing modules
- About 102 students in program as of February 9th, 2007.

6.3 Assayer Training Co-ops

- **Kemess mine** - 1 student successfully completed the 8 months term (May - Dec/06). A second was hired and will start in March/07 for 8 months

Assayers Foundation of British Columbia

term. Special THANKS to Bill Smith, Chief Assayer of Kerness for his help and support.

- **Teck Cominco Analytical Services, Trail** – Interviews are taking place to hire a summer co-op a 4 month term with Teck Cominco. Special THANKS to Scott Daniels, Superintendent of Analytical Services, for his help and support.
- More support from industry is needed to take on the task of hiring co-ops.

Scott Daniels: Teck Cominco management have approved plan for hiring 1 trainee assayer each year until 2018 (about 11 new hires) plus 5 experienced assayers to deal with expected retirement of laboratory staff.

John Gravel: Notes that Acme has hired Simon Fraser University chemistry co-ops for 8 month term to assist during lab busy period.

Mac Chaudhry: Smaller labs would be better suited for co-op training because there is more opportunity of learning a wider range of skills.

Jim McLeod: Teck Cominco, Vancouver, lab encourages co-ops by paying tuition fees.

6.4 New assayer upgrading training proposed:

New selective training programs are proposed based on interest from Eastern Canada laboratories in upgrading their employee skills. Proposed training programs are:

- Certificate in fire assaying (module 1, 2 and 5) – upgrade.
- Certificate in classical assaying (module 1, 3 and 5) – upgrade.
- Certificate in analytical instrumentation (module 1, 4 and 5) – upgrade.
- Certificate in QA/QC (module 1, CHSC 7827, new course IS017025)-upgrade
- Certificate in Assayer Training (module 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) – BC Certified Assayers examination
- Other part-time training - Plasma Spectrochemistry - ICP-OES/ICP-MS

Propose upgrading training would be offered as distance education for the theory component with the lab hands-on offered in the lab or on-line via multi-media.

6.5 Relevant BCIT updates

- Programs to be suspended at BCIT because of declining enrolment are nurse practitioner, forest ecosystems, forest technician, plastic engineering, tool & die technician and industrial maintenance mechanic.
- Programs that will see a reduction in the number of classes offered are financial management, tourism, professional sales, real estate, business administration (post diploma), technology teacher education, electrical and computer engineering technology, wireless communications, gas turbine & aircraft structures.

BCIT is also trying to offer part-time Advanced Analytical Chemistry training (very similar to the assayer training) & is attempting to get contact information from all mining companies (advisory council members might be contacted). Might cause confusion among students and result in cancellation of Advanced Analytical Chemistry and Assayers training programs due to low enrollment. The issue is being investigated by Paul Morrison, BCIT Associate Dean.

Assayers Foundation of British Columbia

6.6. Examination Curriculum Revision (Mac Chaudhry): Revisions to the curriculum are in progress with input from Elaine Woo. The emphasis of revisions is to keep course current. The revisions will be discussed at the Examiners Board Meeting on February 23, 2007.

7. Other Business: Succession (Ray Lett): Will continue succession dialogue with Advisory Council members.

6. Next Meeting: April 27th, 2007 at BCIT: Annual General Meeting at 11.30 a.m.
Advisory Council Meeting at 1.30 p.m.

7. Adjournment. *Proposed (Mac Chaudhry), seconded (Elaine Woo) that the meeting be adjourn at 3.20 p.m. Unanimous agreement*

Summary of Action Items

- a. Action:** Ray Lett to monitor the request for a \$5000 contribution from MEMPR to fund the Assayers Program in 2007.
- b. Action:** Ray Lett to work with Elaine Woo and Susan Wallace (BCIT Foundation) to expedite a BCIT graduation achievement scholarship.
- c. Action:** Ray Lett to send an application notice for the apprentice assayers award to commercial laboratories and to the assayers web page ASAP.
- d. Action:** Jim McLeod and Ray Lett to determine where and when the apprentice assayers award would be made.
- e. Action:** Jim McLeod, Elaine Woo and Mac Chaudhry to continue developing a curriculum guide for non-BCIT students planning to sit the assayers examination and to report progress at the next Advisory Council Meeting.
- f. Action:** Ray Lett to request \$2000 from W. Clifford (CMA) and to ask for the CMA logo to post on the BC Assayers web page.
- g. Action:** Ray Lett to ensure that receipts are sent to Foundation contributors.
- h. Action:** Alice Pang and Lawrence Ng to compile an email list for contacting analytical companies and certified assayers with a view to encouraging contributions above a basic \$50/year. A list of certified assayers working in the Trail laboratory is to be requested from Scott Daniels.
- i. Action:** Ray Lett to write an update on the Assayers Foundation for BCIT homepage

Chair: Jim McLeod _____

Secretary: Ray Lett _____

Date: _____