

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
October 20th, 2000, 1.30 P.M.

Present:

Mr. Manzur (Mac) Chaudhry	Victoria
Mr. Rob Stevens	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby
Mr. John Gravel	ACME Analytical Labs, Vancouver
Mr. Keith Rogers	Intertek Testing Services, Vancouver
Mr. Ray Lett (Secretary)	GSB, BC Ministry of Energy & Mines Victoria.
Mr. Jim McLeod	Cominco Research Labs, Vancouver
Mr. Lloyd Twaites (Chair)	Bernica Ltd., Vancouver
Ms. Elaine Woo	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby
Mr. Lawrence Ng	ALS Chemex Ltd, Vancouver
Mr. Derek Blundell	Kamloops (via phone link)
Mr. Glen Armanini	Vancouver
Ms. Terry Suen	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby

1. Welcome and Introduction Remarks (Lloyd Twaites):

Lloyd - meeting called to order at 1.35 p.m., welcome to those present. Any additions to the Agenda?. Any comments on the April 14th, 2000 Meeting?. Minor corrections to the Minutes noted and corrected by the Secretary.

2. Approval of April 14th, 2000 Assayers Advisory Board Meeting Minutes and Agenda for the October 20th 2000 Meeting:

Proposed (John Gravel) and seconded (Ray Lett) that the Minutes of the April 14th, 2000 Assayers Advisory Council Meeting and the October 20th, 2000 Advisory Council Meeting Agenda be accepted. All in favour.

3. Status of Action Items from April 14th, 2000 Meeting:

3.1 Mission Statement and Program Logo Design (John Gravel)

Lloyd - any comments on the draft mission statement previously distributed to Council members by the Secretary?.

John - recommend that "To ensure that the assayers Program receives adequate funding" be changed to "To oversee that the assayers Program receives adequate funding".

Lloyd - any further discussion on the following Mission Statement:-

" We, the members of the Advisory Council, make the following commitment to the people, industry, academic institute and the Government of British Columbia, that we shall hold the B.C. Assayers program to the highest standards of quality and integrity while ensuring that it continues to serve the needs of all stakeholders.

We therefore pledge the following:

- To provide good council on the direction of the assayers program

- To oversee that the assayers Program receives adequate funding
- To promote public awareness of the assayers program
- To encourage participation of individuals, industries, institutions and government”.

No further discussion. Motion to approve Mission statement requested.

Proposed (Keith Rogers) and seconded (Glen Armanini) that the Council of Advisors Mission statement be accepted. All in favour.

John - any comments on the three options for a program logo previously distributed by the Secretary?. After general discussion, all agreed that the final logo would incorporate an analytical balance design on a BC map. John agreed to finalized the design and send the logo to Elaine Woo for addition to the Assayers Program brochure on the BCIT Web Site.

Action: John Gravel to finalized the Program logo design and send it to Elaine Woo for addition to the Assayers Program brochure on the BCIT Web Site.

3.2 Introductory article for the Assayers Program web page (Lloyd Twaites, Elaine Woo, Derek Blundell)

Elaine - some progress made towards writing the article. Direction needed for size and theme.

Mac - article need be only one page introduction to Assayers program for the web page.

Rob Stevens - BCIT assayers training program should be mentioned in the article.

Lloyd - corporate sponsors should be also recognized in the article. Will revise existing article text and send it to Elaine for the program web page.

Keith - clarify if the object of the article is to attract students or to promote the program.

Mac - students need only basic information about examination requirements. Links to corporate sponsors can address program publicity.

John - should ensure the programs sponsors have no objections to being hot-linked to the web page through the BCIT site.

Jim - Cominco will have no objections. Program web page should be constructed as soon as possible. The aim should be to encourage corporate sponsors and candidates. The web page can be modified with new information in the future.

Rob - a blind, temporary web page can be constructed first for review by Council before being activated.

Action: Lloyd Twaites to complete introduction article for the Assayers Program web page and send it to Elaine Woo for the BCIT website.

3.3 Revisions and reprinting of the 1992 Assayers Program Information Circular (Ray Lett, Mac Chaudhry).

Ray - GSB Information Circular 1994-2 (Assayers Certification Program) has been revised and digital version available linked to the Assayers web page on the BCIT site. Hard copies can be printed from the page when needed.

3.4 Article for Northern Miner about the BCIT assayers training and BC Assayers Certification Programs (Lloyd Twaites).

Lloyd - minor progress made with Northern Miner article. Need to discuss material with Keith Errington.

Terry - willing to help with writing the article.

Lloyd - will check with Northern Miner to see if any limitation to size of article.

Action: Lloyd Twaites to write a draft article on the Assayers Program for the Northern Miner with assistance from Keith Errington and Terry Suen and to check with the Northern Miner if there are any limitations to article size.

3.5 Guidelines for Companies with candidates training and writing the assayers examination (John Gravel)

John - no progress with this item. Any suggestions for guidelines from Council.

Derek - companies should carefully screen candidates. Appears to be absence of dedication by some candidates for assayers examination. Only four people passed examination in December 1999.

Elaine - BCIT has requirement for assayers training course students by insisting that students pay fees at start of course and reimbursement of fees by student sponsoring companies depends on passing each course module.

John- student sponsoring companies may have historical information about exam success rate for their candidates.

Mac - student sponsoring companies should have in-house screen programs to determine most suitable students and also have between module reviews. The aim would be to improve the existing 50% pass rate of the Assayers practical examination. Also, sponsoring companies should commit funds and time to ensure candidates have adequate lab training in all areas of that assaying process. Rotation between different tasks is essential for training.

Jim- rotation of staff between different assaying tasks can only be of benefit to a company because it increases flexibility and limits problems caused by staff absences.

Keith - Bondar Clegg have established core staff with multiple skills. Allows rotation in response to changing job priorities.

4.0 Review of Issues raised at the April 14th 2000 Meeting

4.1 Financial Report (Terry):

Updated financial report and 2000 contributions distributed to Council.

Terry - net budget now \$22,828.49

Lloyd - still waiting for a cheque from CANMET. 2000 membership fees were reduced by 50% for one year only to help labs and to encourage new members. Presently phoning existing and prospective Council members and expects more contributions before year end.

4.2 BCIT Assayers training program (Elaine)

Elaine - Seven new students started training this fall. Total of 22 students at various stages of completion. New students represent:

Cominco -2; Ontario - 2; Kermess - 2; Manitoba - 2; Highland Valley Copper - 1.

John - any data on success rate for students taking course by correspondence versus on-campus?.

Elaine - no data yet. Success appears to reflect students commitment to program.

Lawrence - any plan to accept students several times during year?.

Elaine - no, number of students limited to keep course manageable.

Elaine - Module 6 on ARD to be finished May 2001 with assistance from Mac.

4.3 Assayers Examination Update (Mac Chaudhry)

Mac - expect to have 6 plus candidates for theory examination in March 2001.

4.4 Assayers Examination Test Material Update (Mac Chaudhry)

Mac - calcium, magnesium and iron test samples urgently needed. Anticipated receiving arsenic test samples from Cominco. Also, would appreciate offers to carry out round-robin analysis of test materials from Corporate member labs. Source material for Ca and Mg samples can dolomite. Range should be 1 to 20% Ca or Mg in 10 increments. Ideally, bulk, milled sample can be diluted with silica. Each sample should be 3-4 kg size. Iron samples are available, but need preparation

Lawrence - ASL-Chemex can prepare samples and carry out check analysis

Jim/Keith/John: Cominco/Bondar Clegg/Acme can also help with check analysis of test samples .

Action: Lawrence Ng to assist Mac in preparation of Ca, Mg and Fe examination test materials.

5 New Business

5.1. Office administration expenses for Board of Examiners Chair (Lloyd Twaites).

Lloyd - is present \$50/month sufficient for Mac for Board of examiners business?.

Mac - \$50/month not sufficient. Phone line rental alone costs \$50. Photo copying is also costly and inefficient. \$100/month for operating expenses and purchase of a desk top copier (estimated \$1500) would solve problem. The copier would be a Council asset.

Proposed (Ray Lett) and seconded (Jim McLeod) that \$100/month be allocated to Mac Chaudhry for Assayers Examining Board operating expenses. All in favour.

Proposed (Elaine Woo) and seconded (Keith Rogers) that up \$1500 be allocated to Mac Chaudhry for purchase of a photocopier for the Assayers Examining Board. All in favour.

5.2 Board of Examiners - New Term (Lloyd Twaites)

Lloyd - present Examining Board term expires on October 31st, 2000. Has Council any recommendations or could existing members be appointed for a further 3 year term.

Elaine - would like to compliment Mac Chaudhry and Derek Blundell for their efforts as examiners.

Proposed (Glen Armanin) and seconded (Lawrence Ng) that the Council of Advisors recommend to the Minister of Energy and Mines that Mac Chaudhry, Derek Blundell and Elaine Woo be appointed to the Assayers Examining Board for a three year term starting November 1st, 2000. All in favour.

5.3 Establishing Assayers Program Dialog site (Mac Chaudhry)

Mac - Recommend establishing dialog/bulletin board site for answering questions and exchanging ideas on assaying problems. Ultimately an association could be formed.

John Could dialog site/bulletin board be attached to an existing site

Terry - BCIT can already provide this and provide technical support

Mac- Council members can identify skills so that question on different topics can be directed to them

Lloyd - Topic will be tabled as an agenda item for the next meeting

5.4 Training Course Equipment needs

Module 6 ARD lab work needs Leco sulphur system for student training. Can Council members check to see if unused Leco system available for training in their labs.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday April 6th, 2001 at 1.30 p.m. at BCIT.

7. Adjournment

Proposed (Jim McLeod), Seconded (Derek Blundell) that the meeting be adjourned at 3.21 p.m. with thanks to those present for attending. All in favour

Chair Person, Lloyd Twaites

Secretary, Ray Lett

Date: _____