

# **WELCOME TO OUR READERS!**

We are pleased to announce that the newsletter of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Boards (Gwich'in, Mackenzie Valley, Sahtu, and Wek'èezhii Land and Water Boards) has officially relaunched!

This digital newsletter will be sent out four times a year to bring you the latest news, informative articles, and other items we think might be of interest. The intent of the newsletter is to further our commitment to outreach, education and knowledge-sharing.

Our hope is that this newsletter reaches anyone interested in what the LWBs do; including, proponents, community members, educators, youth, elders, and anyone else who has an interest in the

land and water of the Mackenzie Valley.

In this issue you will find introductions to the Chair for each of the Boards, an overview of some of the materials available on our website, as well as a summary of what is currently going on in each region with recent water licences and land use permits.

Should you have any questions or wish to connect with one of the Boards regarding what is going on in that region specifically, we invite you to check out the last page in the newsletter where you will find contact details for each of the Board offices, including information on how to reach the Executive Director for each of the Boards.

We hope you enjoy the relaunch issue of this newsletter, and that you find it informative and helpful. We welcome your feedback, suggestions, and insights on anything you see here, as well as things you would like to see included in upcoming issues.

Mavis Cli-Michaud, Chair, MVLWB

Please forward your comments or questions to Tanya Lantz,
Community Outreach Coordinator, MVLWB tlantz@mvlwb.com

# **MEET THE CHAIRS**



#### Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board: Mavis Cli-Michaud

The Chair of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB), Ms. Mavis Cli-Michaud, was appointed in March 2017 and has been serving on the Board since 2014. She has more than 30 years of experience working for the federal government with a focus on communications, finance and human resource management, as well as socio-economic planning.



#### **Gwich'in Land and Water Board: Elizabeth Wright**

The Chair of the Gwich'in Land and Water Board (GLWB) is Liz Wright, from Fort McPherson, NT. She was first appointed as a member of the GLWB in July 2007 and appointed Chair in March 2018. Liz has worked for the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Mackenzie Delta riding for the past 12 years and enjoys her job, mostly getting out to communities, meeting old friends and gaining new friends.



#### Sahtu Land and Water Board: Larry Wallace

The Chair of the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) is Larry Wallace, who was originally appointed to the Board in October 1996. Larry brings to his role as Chair vast experience gained from being part of the founding group, and subsequent Director, of the Norman Wells & District Chamber of Commerce; President of the Norman Wells Community Association; Manager of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Norman Wells; General Manager of Norwel Developments; and President of Rayuka Developments Ltd. He has also served as a member of the Premier's panel on employment and the economy.



#### Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board: Joseph Mackenzie

The Chair of the Wek'èezhìı Land and Water Board (WLWB) is Joseph Mackenzie. He was born in the old hospital in Rae in 1950. Growing up, he lived with his parents on the land in the winter months and spent summers in Rae until the age of 8, when he went to the residential school in Fort Smith. Joseph eventually made the move back to his home community where he spent 12 years trapping with his father until he became employed with GNWT Renewable Resources. He retired in 2011 and spends his time doing things he enjoys such as hunting, fishing and trapping, as well as taking his grandchildren out and teaching them how to live on the land. Joseph was appointed to the Board by the Tłilcho Government in 2011, and now serves as the Chair.

# MEET THE NEW COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR



In December 2018, a Community Outreach Coordinator position was added to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board office. Tanya Lantz is leading the LWBs' ongoing efforts toward supporting community outreach opportunities to help improve community and stakeholder understanding of the regulatory process. The Community Outreach Coordinator provides advice on engaging stakeholders and coordinating LWB participation in external initiatives such as community visits, school visits, regional Open Houses, leadership meetings, and other events that may arise.

Tanya is originally from Hay River and is a Band Member of the Łutselk'e Dene First Nation. She has 20+ years' work experience in Northern Canada in areas of governance and culture where she has balanced and

maintained relationships throughout Denendeh. Tanya's training is through the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta, with emphasis on Aboriginal Governance and Partnerships. Some of her previous experience includes the Chief Executive Officer of the Dene Nation and Assembly of First Nations Regional Office (NWT), Senior Advisor at the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, Senior Administrative Coordinator for the Department of Lands, in addition to other positions within the GNWT.

In this new role with the LWBs, she will be working on community outreach initiatives including delivering community workshops and presentations. If you would like more information or would like Tanya to visit your community to discuss the processes of the LWBs, she can be reached at: tlantz@mvlwb.com or at 867-766-7452.

# **HAVE YOUR SAY!**

#### **Online Review System For Public Comment**

The Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley (LWBs) rely upon information and expertise provided by members of the public, NGOs, and aboriginal, territorial, and federal governments, through our fair, effective, inclusive, and transparent processes. A key part of the LWBs' process is to seek public input on items submitted to the Board for approval. These items may be water licence and land use permit applications, including renewals and extensions, guidelines, management plans (and others), annual reports, and preliminary screenings. By selecting the "Go to review" link on the LWBs' websites, reviewers can submit comments and proponents can respond to comments in real time

#### How do I become involved or take part in this process?

All water licence applications received by the LWBs are posted for public comment on the Online Review System (ORS) and a public notice is placed in a local newspaper. Advertisements in local newspapers are typically published only for water licence applications but can include other documents of public concern as well. All land use permit applications received by the LWBs are also uploaded to the ORS. We often have other documents posted for public comment on the ORS. By submitting comments and recommendations to the ORS, you and/or your organization become a Party to that Proceeding and, as such, are expected to follow the Boards' Rules of Procedure. All documents that are uploaded to the ORS for review can also be found on our public registry. The public registry houses all authorizations and documents that are issued and submitted to the LWBs and can be accessed from the home page of the Boards' websites (mylwb.com, slwb.com, glwb.com, and wlwb.ca).

#### How do I submit a comment?

Comments can be uploaded to the ORS for each LWB. Simply register as a user on the ORS homepage for each of the LWBs. When registering, please include your full contact information, including name, address, email, telephone number, when you would like to be notified, and on which application. All comments about an item under review must be received by end of day on the established public comment deadline date. If you have questions or comments regarding the ORS, including how to use it, please contact our Regulatory Coordinator, Jen Potten at <a href="mailto:jpo@mvlwb.com">jpo@mvlwb.com</a> or at (867) 766-7468

#### What information should I include?

Each comment or recommendation should clearly state who it is for (e.g., the proponent, the Board, or another organization), what it is, and why the recommendation is necessary. If reviewers need clarification on the submission, they are encouraged to correspond directly with the proponent before submitting comments and recommendations. If reviewers do, however, submit questions or are seeking clarification, they are asked to provide specific recommendations on how the Board should consider the proponent's response in their decision. Reviewers may also wish to consider providing an overarching recommendation regarding whether the Board should approve the submission, to provide context for the comments and recommendations, and to assist the Board with its decision-making.

#### What will happen with my comment?

All comments or recommendations provided to the LWBs become part of the public registry and are considered as evidence for the decision before the Board. Anyone will be able to view your comments and recommendations while the review item is on the ORS, or afterward via the public registry. Proponents have an opportunity to respond to all comments and recommendations before a submission is considered by the Board.

#### What do I do if I need more time to prepare my comment?

Extensions to deadlines will be considered and must be submitted in accordance with the Boards' Rules of Procedure. A Party that cannot provide evidence within the time specified by the Board must submit a written request to the Executive Director for an extension prior to the relevant deadline. An extension request must include the facts and rationale supporting the request. If an extension is granted, timelines in the Proceeding will be adjusted accordingly for all Parties and Notice of the change will be provided. Evidence provided in accordance with an approved extension request will be entered onto the Public Record of the Proceeding



# REVISED RULES OF PROCEDURE

The revised Rules of Procedure were released December 17, 2018 with approval from the LWBs. The first version of the Rules came into effect in January 2004. The revised Rules are clearer and more user-friendly, reflect the Boards' current practices and changes in technology, such as the online registry and Online Review System, and incorporate the public review process. During the revision process, Board staff collaborated with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB), and where practical, used similar general Rules and Parts. Here are some highlights from the revised Rules of Procedure.

- The revised Rules are now divided into three parts, rather than five.
- Part three applies to the Public Hearing Phase only. Eligibility for different types of participation, with defined rights, is "automatic". Any person or organization can become a Party during a Board Proceeding by submitting comments on the Online Review System (as set out in Part Two of the Revised Rules) and become an Intervenor during the Public Hearing phase by submitting an intervention (as set out in Part Three of the revised Rules by the deadline specified in Directives).
- MVLWB

  Rules of Procedure
  Including Public Hearings

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- The definition of Application has been expanded to include a Request for Ruling, a plan approval, or any step to advance a Board Proceeding.
- Different types of Public Hearings Formal or Community Public Hearings have been incorporated and clarified.
- A process of late filling of evidence is included in the Rules.
- The Rule of Order of Events at a Public Hearing has been simplified and is now more flexible.
- Rules relating to water compensation claims have been added.

The LWBs can make rules under Section 30 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA). The MVRMA provides for an integrated and coordinated system of land and water management in the Mackenzie Valley. The system needs to be integrated, coordinated and monitored based on the principles of co-management. Communication between entities and parties is a cornerstone of the MVRMA and encourages constant feedback and improvement.

The revised Rules of Procedure are available under the Resources pages of the Boards' websites: mvlwb.com, slwb.com, glwb.com and wlwb.ca



## INTRO TO THE MVLWB'S TEMPLATES

### TEMPLATES FOR MUNICIPAL WATER LICENCES

In March 2018, the updated MVLWB/GNWT Operation and Maintenance Plan Templates for Municipal Water Licences were released. The updated templates include the <u>Sewage Disposal Facilities (SDF)</u>, <u>Solid Waste Disposal Facilities (SWDF)</u>, <u>Water Treatment Plant (WTP)</u>, and <u>Spill Contingency Plan (SCP)</u>. These tools are available to municipalities with water licences and are intended to simplify the process for submitting these plans. These templates can be found under the Resources page of the LWBs' websites (<u>mvlwb.com</u>, <u>slwb.com</u>, <u>glwb.com</u> and <u>wlwb.ca</u>).



### TEMPLATE FOR STANDARD LAND USE PERMIT

The Standard Land Use Permit Template (Permit Template) was updated October 2, 2018 and is used when developing draft land use permits. Various staff from all the Board offices participate on the Land Use Permit Conditions Team. In addition to the work of the Team, the standard conditions forming part of the Permit Template were developed through engagement with inspectors, the public and Board staff. The Permit Template is used during the review and approval process for new permits, renewals (i.e. new permits for ongoing projects), requests to amend conditions of existing permits, and amendments to conditions that may be made upon assignment of permits. Reviewers are encouraged to refer to the conditions and rationale on this list when making recommendations to the Board regarding mitigation measures for specific projects. The Team also welcomes feedback at any time from applicants and reviewers regarding specific conditions and rationale. The Permit Template can be found under the Resources page of the Boards' websites (mvlwb.com, slwb.com, glwb.com and wlwb.ca).



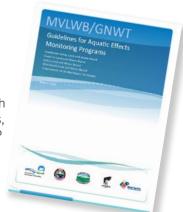
# DOCUMENT SUBMISSION STANDARDS

The revised MVLWB Document Submission Standards was released in January 2019. The Mackenzie Valley, Wek'èezhii, Gwich'in, and Sahtu Land and Water Boards (the Boards) receive over 2500 documents each year related to land use permits and water licences. These documents (including applications, management plans, and reports) are in turn filed, posted to our online registries, and often distributed for review. The Document Submission Standards outlines the formats, specifications, and copy requirements for documents submitted to the Boards, with the goal of improving the consistency and efficiency of the submission and review process. The Standards can be found under the Resources page of the Boards' websites (mvlwb.com, slwb.com, glwb.com and wlwb.ca).



# GUIDELINES FOR AQUATIC EFFECTS MONITORING PROGRAMS

The Guidelines for Aquatic Effects Monitoring Programs (the AEMP Guidelines) were released on March 5, 2019. In the Mackenzie Valley the Boards have the authority to require AEMPs in water licences, which encompass monitoring, analysis, reporting, and responding to the results of monitoring. AEMP requirements are set by the Boards based on the specific project description and the evidence presented during the licensing process. Water licences for projects that require an AEMP will contain a series of conditions that, collectively, allow the Board to adaptively manage a project's water licence in a formal and systematic manner based on monitoring results.

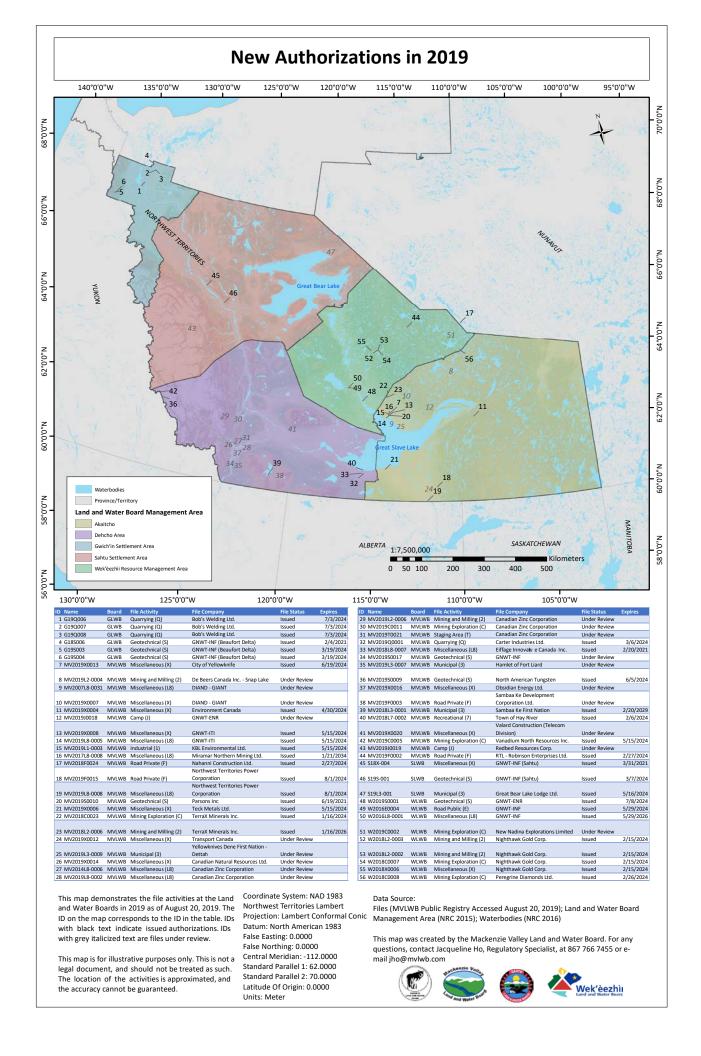


In recognition of their collective responsibility for water licensing, the Boards and the GNWT collaborated in the development of these AEMP Guidelines. The Guidelines clarify the role of the AEMP in water licensing and describe the expectations of the Boards and the GNWT for AEMP design, implementation, and adaptive management. The Guidelines are generally required for mining/milling, oil/gas production, and other undertakings that require a Type A water licence. The Guidelines apply to new applications and submissions made to a Board after the effective date. They may also apply to existing licences, depending on the submissions in relation to those licences.

Although the AEMP Guidelines supersede Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's (now CIRNAC) *Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of Aquatic Effects Monitoring Programs for Development Projects in the Northwest Territories* (the INAC Guidelines) that were published in 2009, the INAC Guidelines do provide valuable technical advice and information that may be useful to proponents. The AEMP Guidelines describe existing practices, reflect past Board decisions, and aim to enhance transparency, process efficiency, and consistency, in developing an AEMP. Many changes were made to the draft Guidelines to address reviewer recommendations, resulting in a document that we believe will better serve all parties. The AEMP Guidelines are available under the Resources page of the Boards' Websites (mvlwb.com, slwb.com, glwb.com and wlwb.ca).

Subsection 27 (1) of the Waters Act (for projects on territorial lands) and subsection 72.04 (1) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (for projects on federal lands) state that a Board may include in a licence any conditions "that it considers appropriate, including but not limited to...(d) conditions related to studies to be undertaken, works to be constructed, plans to be submitted and monitoring programs to be undertaken..."





# **CONTACT DETAILS**

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