

# FOSTERVILLE GOLD MINE - ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015

## MINUTES

<b>Tour Undertaken at 9.30am</b>
<b>Attendance:</b> Morgan James (COGB) Jeff Cummins (Community Representative) Tim Harrington (Community Representative) Barrie Winzar (Community Representative) Alan Read (Community Member) Lynley Strachan (GMW)
<b>Areas visited:</b> Fosterville & Hunts Pits & TSF4

<b>Meeting Opened at:</b> 11.05am	<b>Minutes by:</b> Tegan Parsons
<b>Attendance: Chairman :</b> Cr Rod Campbell (COGB) Morgan James (COGB) Colin Thornton (DEDJTR) Bob Disken (DEDJTR) Lynley Strachan (GMW) Barrie Winzar – Community Representative Jeff Cummins – Community Representative Tim Harrington – Community Representative Ian Holland – Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM) Felicia Binks – FGM Tegan Parsons – FGM Steve Gannon – FGM	<b>Apologies</b> Ashley Elliott – Goldfields Revegetation Samuel Trowse EPA  <b>Observers</b> Alan Read – Community Member Erin Simpson Joseph Hughes Alison Campbell David Coe (SGM) Will Wettenhall (SGM)

**Meeting Commenced:** Cr Rod Campbell commenced the meeting and welcomed everyone to the ERC Meeting.

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

No Amendments/Corrections

### **Business arising from the Minutes: (Action Plan)**

- Chairman Rod Campbell updated members on the recommendation report from COGB about Community Representatives applications and that it's going to be decided on at tonight's council meeting and Morgan James will advise the representatives on the outcome. Thanked the Representatives for their time and efforts.
- Chairman Rod Campbell Congratulated the FGM Team on their Closure Plan Review Meeting. Staff did a great presentation but thought it was disappointing turn out with not many community members in attendance. Barrie Winzar was pleased to endorse this, as was Bob Disken who said he had been in attendance to a number of these evenings and thought this particular meeting was by far most outstanding, with the company showing leading ways into the future and was very impressed with the

presentation and the members of FGM presenting. Noted that FGM are certainly looking into the future with a vast range of possible projects/ plans. Ian Holland said FGM appreciated the feedback.

- Action Item 1. Ian Holland met with Tim Harrington to do a follow up inspection on areas that were likely to be historic tailings. FGM will now come up with a plan, to try to have an understanding of the extent of it and sampling may take place. Appreciate the assistance given by both Tim & Liz Harrington.
- Action Item 2. Felicia Binks to forward information to Bob Disken on arsenic excursion at BGL25 – will catch up after today's meeting.
- Action Item 3. Chairman Rod Campbell updated the members with information on an ongoing trial which will be finalised in March 2016 within the Hume/Northern Grampians Shires, but there is no new information to come out of it until that time. Discussed the trial in depth and spoke on how the culling would be provided as pet food but until such time the normal rules will still apply. Tim Harrington said that the Strathbogie Shire have started culling using a tagging method and feels it's now an extreme situation faced by farmers in our local area. Tim stressed that a broader outcome is needed and requires leadership either by the Council or relevant regulators.

### **Information Update:**

#### **1: Newmarket Gold Inc: Update by Ian Holland**

As of 10<sup>th</sup> July 2015 Crocodile Gold Corporation merged with Newmarket Gold Inc. Newmarket is a Vancouver based Company with no current operating assets. Newmarket Gold comes with a high profile board and will acquire further assets with existing production base at FGM, SGM in Victoria and Cosmo in Northern Territory. All operations generate cash which is a central part of business, with also the potential to increase capital and production. For operations though, the only change you will see will be branding.

#### **2: Update on Landholder [REDACTED] : Ian Holland**

Ian Holland confirmed that last quarter the landholder and Company came to an agreement to purchase the property and we can confirm the property settled in July. The Landholder has a 6 months transition period and is looking for land to relocate to, with this period ending in January 2016. From there the company will assess what is required for us to do in relation to EPA and construct a plan going forwards.

Jeff Cummins welcomed the news saying it's a good outcome, and asked if there are plans for the property e.g.: Mining?

Ian Holland said that there are no active plans, the house on the property stays and gives us a possibility to lease the house, but a plan will be developed over the next couple of months. Jeff Cummins wanted the company to keep in mind about the importance of a suitable buffer. Ian Holland agreed and the company will endeavour to do so.

Tim Harrington raised the question, that since coming to a resolution with the landholder, where is the EPA report and is there any knowledge of where that sits? Ian Holland said that EPA were notified, but have not heard. Colin Thornton said they are certainly aware of concerns but the process seems to have its own timeline.

Barrie Winzar noted that the lid had been kept on the incident and thought that most others would have put it all through the media. He also feels that the report should be shared with members of the ERC.

#### **3: Mine Water: Updated by Steven Gannon**

As per presentation slides:

- Updated every 3 months
- This presentation is where we are with our thoughts and giving updates as the plans are evolving.
- FGM need to find a sustainable process to manage mine water and working on getting approval to find the solution.
- There are 2 plans: 1 – Aquifer injections 2 – RO desalination plant which we do have approval for but could create other issues.
- Both circuits have some pre-treatment to remove Arsenic and Antimony.
- 1. Aquifer injection. AGT are helping with the study – completed the Community Bore Sensis and will start modelling, once that's completed information will be sent to the regulators.
- 2. Brine pond for RO plant. Worley Parsons will be looking into the climate at FGM to determined potential brine pond sizing.

A general discussion was held in regards to the aquifer injection priority site, the north end of Hunts Pit. Steve explained that this will aid in the current issue of Sulphate excursions along the fault line to the north of Hunts pit. Tim Harrington made reference to slips occurring on the western walls of all pits. He also asked which direction does the water flow from in regards to the pit, from the middle or along the fault. Ian Holland responded along the fault as it is the more fractured permeable layer.

Jeff Cummins queried whether the model is preliminary and what is the next step? Steve responded that work is currently preliminary and once the bore survey data has been completed AGT will supply information to Coffey's to update the model in regards to the movement of water and in particular sulphate.

## **OPERATIONS REPORT – Presented by Ian Holland – General Manager**

(As per Operations Report issued to members)

### **Safety:**

As per the report:

- A major emergency exercise was conducted involving all the emergency services.

It was an underground exercise and was a valuable process on what can happen in an event and also a practice for us with our Crisis Management Plan and making sure all our procedures are up to date.

Colin Thornton asked if there was an evacuation of staff & if refuge bays were used? Also if employees knew about the exercise. Ian Holland said the only ones who knew about the exercise was taking place was the management team and the emergency services. Underground employees were not aware of it and were evacuated and relocated to the refuge bays.

### **Environment:**

As per report and presentation:

#### **Incidents:**

1 Moderate Incident for the Quarter - vegetation leaf burn was noted to be becoming more evident on the leaves of trees and shrubs on the north-west corner of Falcon pit. The new nozzles are expected to increase the droplet size and therefore reduce the distance the droplets could be carried by gusts of wind. This incident was reported to the appropriate regulator.

Jeff Cummins asked if the nozzles had been fitted, in which Felicia had shown photos and had the information on the next slide on when they were order and when it was completed. Jeff Cummins thought it was fairly significant and asked if it was enough bang for the company's buck?

Ian Holland said it's a significant part in the Mine Water strategy for the company and needs to demonstrate that it is effective. At this stage it appears approximately 0.3ML/day is being evaporated.

#### **Surface Water:**

No results over Moderate/ High

Tim Harrington asked how long do metal elements in the Haul Rd Dams stay in the soil. Felicia Binks said it could be years. Mine Water is used on roads inside the operations for lowering dust. Jeff Cummins noted a good summary of data with using the Traffic Light System.

#### **Groundwater:**

Jeff Cummins stated that in terms of Ground Water Excursions, Sharkeys Pit & O'Dwyers had PH excursions and queried why there was no explanation. The Company responded it would look at the pit data.

#### **Dust:**

Felicia Binks explained the reasons there was no results for June on FA4 is located at private property to the east of the mining lease along the Axedale Goornong Road. Large scale clearing of the property, demolition of buildings and associated burning off have impacted the results at FA4, so the landholder asked that the monitor to be moved as it would not be picking up any results other than his burning off.

**Noise:**

Discussions were held on the number of exceedences and the percentage used on the table shown in the presentation is misleading. Jeff Cummins spoke on the public reporting set by the Company and feels there is an imbalance of reporting. Feels there is a high portion of noncompliance breaches when it comes to night time monitoring. Rod Campbell asked if the regulators set the frequency of monitoring. Colin Thornton responded and said yes, the frequency is set over a period of a month and is not a large number. Ian Holland responded that the Company does extensive monitoring for noise emissions.

Tim Harrington said noise has evolved since the 1990's and feels Ian Holland is right the company do extensive monitoring but suggested it could be once a week at each monitoring location. Tim also noted that the noise figures were higher in 2007-2009 periods and there is a difference when noise is audible to being offensive.

Jeff Cummins asked why more sensitive areas aren't monitored more frequently. Tim Harrington noted that the Noise technician is often located where trees and fences exacerbate the wind noise. Erin Simpson said the noise monitoring equipment actually picks up the wind noise itself, regardless of the trees and this noise is often louder than any other noises so noise readings for those cannot be deciphered. Jeff Cummins asked if there was a risk assessment on noise activity effect on the community. Ian Holland said follow up monitoring take places as soon as possible in regards to breaches and noise results are always variable.

**Community:**

As per report

Felicia Binks discussed community related activities that have been undertaken during the quarter. Jeff Cummins asked if the odour complaint came from the carbon screen area and if the landholder gave any feedback. Felicia said it was around the plant area but could not pin point where it was coming from and there have been no further complaints from this issue.

Barrie Winzar spoke on the Fosterville & Friends Day that will be held Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Also discussions held around the Fosterville sign in which Felicia is hoping it will be ready before the Open Day.

Tim Harrington noted that around the new area of the Road, parts of the old road have started to be revegetated but feels some of the land forming undertaken has not been well blended into the surrounding area, he feels it's a let down to the end of such a perfect job of the rest of the area. Ian Holland said he will follow up.

Colin Thornton asked when Fosterville Pit cover will be completed, Felicia Binks said it's in initial stages and the next step will be the monitor the cap settling and also the ability of the cap to retain moisture. Colin also noted concern about the exposed area of creating dust of summer and how this would be managed. Ian Holland said the company can use the water cart for dust became an issue. Tim Harrington asked if the Company will put a ream on it in which Felicia and Colin said it may crust itself, Felicia added that it will however be put on the inspection rotation to monitor the dust issue.

Colin also asked if there was any feel that the new road is being used more, Bob Disken thought there seemed to be a few more trucks. FGM response was that it was difficult to ascertain accurate numbers.

**Production Update:**

As per report:

**Exploration:**

As per report:

**Personnel:** As per report.

**Rehabilitation Report**

As per report:

Erin Simpson provided an update on behalf of Ashley:

Other information to add since the report was written is:

- RFS1 screening has been completed. A total of 2,569 trees and shrubs planted.
  - We are about 50% of the way through the road plantings – with this due to be completed this week.
- Bob Disken asked about in fill planting on McCormick's Waste Dump. Erin Simpson said that the Company is monitoring it to see how the latest Revegetation efforts respond.

### **General Business/ Questions from the Gallery**

#### **Public Reporting:**

Jeff Cummins feels the company could be more transparent in reporting and said he gave an update to Ian Holland and Felicia Binks prior to this meeting. Jeff feels the Incident Pie chart is too general and doesn't mean much to him and felt it would be better if a table with more information was also provided. Also if there was a breakdown of each incident. It would be really helpful for Jeff in some reference to know what the incidents are. Basically the Pie Chart/Tables need to be supported by baseline data and there would be no criticism of that.

Jeff Cummins also noted Crocodile Gold Corporation Annual Community and Environment Report which Felicia Binks made the following commitments:

- Keeping the community informed – FGM takes a proactive approach to community engagement and seeks to keep the local communities informed with accurate information on operations and activities related to the company.
- Environmental review Committee- the ERC's primary focus is to review environmental performance of the mining operation.

The current reporting on environmental incidents falls short of community expectations and the above commitments by FGM; Jeff also thought that the website wasn't updated and was only showing the report from 2013. The report was completed in April and Tegan Parsons will follow up with Corporate and will get it put on the Newmarket Gold website.

Ian Holland said that we are of a strong view we are being transparent and it's a question of materiality which has varied over the years and also how you classify things. Providing details on very small low risk minor incidents can at times overshadow the more moderate to high risk incidents which the Company currently provides information on. The Company will however take into consideration Jeff's comments.

The Kangaroo issue was then raised by Tim Harrington who would like to see some significant resolution in this area. Rod Campbell asked when was the last time the Company got feedback on this issue and Ian Holland said that the company would like to be a part of a solution but it has to be a regional response. Rod Campbell said that local council don't have much power but has an opportunity to draw attention to the impact it is having.

Colin Thornton said regular inspections were taken on TSF4. TSF4 Audit draft completed – a number of areas highlighted in compliance with the audit. Bob Disken spoke on Bond review and TSF4 is ready to go but Felicia Binks needs to do another modification, which Felicia said a full survey on the area will be undertaken to determine the exact footprint after completion of TSF4. Bob Disken said the Bond is approximately \$7 Million dollars and would have the definite number for the next ERC.

Lynley Strachan noted that the licence to operate may still be required if not already issued for TSF4.

David Coe commended the ERC on how well it was completed and how Fosterville are very fortunate to have long history with Community Representatives.

**Action Plan**

No	Action	Responsibility	When
1	Follow up on Revegetation around area of old road	Ian Holland	NOV 2015
2			
3			

**Meeting Closed:** 1.15pm

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015**

Site Tour at 9.30am followed by the meeting at 11am in the FGM Muster Room.