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WSN Mining Advisory Committee – Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Location: Innovation Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Prototyping (iCAMP)
Canadore College - Commerce Court Campus; 60 Commerce Crescent, North Bay, ON

Attendance:

Member	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Michael Ferguson (Chair)	Prospectors & Developers
Steve Wrixon (Vice Chair)	Ontario Mine Contractors Safety Association
Darren Toner	Ontario Mining Association
Louise Lowe (partial)	Diamond Drilling

Regrets:

Member	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Chris Bamberger	Contractors
Don Langlois	Health and Wellness
Rob McVeigh	Softrock
Tyler Neeley	Hardrock
Julia Salvalaggio	Mining Equipment Manufacturing
Tom Rannelli	Underground Drilling

WSN:

Tiana Larocque, Manager, Education Services

Tricia Valentim, Executive Assistant, Health and Safety Services

NOTES

1. Welcome and Safety Share

- **Safety Alert Incident:**
 - **Incident Description:** A worker was rolling up a cable on a highway. During the shift, a car caught the end of the cable, dragging the worker down the highway. The worker sustained a broken collarbone and road rash on his forehead and shoulder.
 - **Safety Concerns:** Concerns expressed about road workers not paying attention to their surroundings, which can lead to accidents.
 - **Safety Measures:** Emphasized the need for better safety measures on highway construction sites, including having barriers and ensuring workers are aware of their environment to prevent such incidents.
- **Pressurized Lines Safety:** Discussion on the importance of safety measures for pressurized lines, including proper installation, barricading, and ensuring that workers are aware of the hazards. They mentioned a past incident where an operator was injured due to a pressurized line not being secured properly.
 - **Importance of Safety:** Highlighted the critical importance of safety measures for pressurized lines, emphasizing proper installation and barricading to prevent accidents.
 - **Past Incident:** Recounted an incident where an operator was injured because a pressurized line was not secured properly. The line kicked up like a spiral, causing the operator to be hospitalized with shoulder injuries.
 - **Preventive Measures:** Discussed the need for ensuring that workers are aware of the hazards associated with pressurized lines and the importance of keeping people out of hazardous areas to prevent accidents.

NOTES

- **Mental Health and Worker Support:** Highlight was shared on the ongoing efforts to support workers' mental health and reframing workers' mindsets. Also mentioned the importance of educating workers about the impact of mental health on their job performance.
 - **Impact on Job Performance:** Emphasized the importance of educating workers about how mental health affects their job performance and the need for ongoing support and education.
 - **Worker Education:** The efforts to educate workers on the importance of mental health and the impact it has on their work, including bringing in speakers to share personal stories and experiences.

2. & 3. Approval of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes:

***Quorum was not met for this meeting. The following are notes from discussions held and do not constitute formal meeting minutes.

4. Review of Action Items and Recommendations (Tracker)

- **Promotion of Advisory Committee:** Discussion on committee composition and recruitment were discussed.
 - Noted that Julia stepped down from the committee. Message was sent to Chair and WSN.
 - Meeting with WSN, Michael Ferguson, and Steve Wrixon will be booked for evaluation and shared for feedback and agreement with the committee before sending to Marketing and Communications team for promotion of open spots.
- **Incident Reporting and Hazard Alerts:** Discussion on the importance of incident reporting and hazard alerts. They mentioned the need for a more immediate hazard alert system and the involvement of the Ministry of Labour in generating smaller hazard alerts.

NOTES

- **Immediate Hazard Alerts:** Emphasized the need for a more immediate hazard alert system to quickly inform workers and management about potential dangers.
- **Current Practices:** Participants discussed the current practices in incident reporting and the need for improvements to ensure timely and effective communication of hazards.
- **Action:** Steve Wrixon has been working with WSN and will be providing approximately 10 incidents that have occurred to start the building of the hazard alert resource.

5. Technical Advisory Committee Updates

Chair shared slide presentation on the technical advisory committees.

6. WSN Update

- **Marketing and Communications:** Tiana shared a presentation.
- **Supervisor Common Core Refresher:**

Feedback was addressed on the Supervisor Common Core refresher course, noting that participants wanted more focus on legislative updates and new regulations. They acknowledged the need to revisit the learning objectives and incorporate more relevant content.

 - **Feedback on Course:** Acknowledged feedback from participants who wanted more focus on legislative updates and new regulations in the Supervisor Common Core refresher course.
 - **Revisiting Learning Objectives:** The need to revisit the learning objectives of the course to incorporate more relevant content and ensure it meets the needs of the participants.
 - **Course Improvements:** Tiana discussed potential improvements to the course, including adding more content on recent legislative changes and regulations to better prepare supervisors.

NOTES

- **Joint Health and Safety Committee Effectiveness:** WSN offers a half-day course on Joint Health and Safety Committee effectiveness, which covers criteria for proper workplace inspections and effective committee meetings. They suggested that this course could be converted to an e-learning format for greater accessibility.
 - **Course Offering:** Highlighted the half-day course offered by WSN on Joint Health and Safety Committee effectiveness, which includes criteria for proper workplace inspections and effective committee meetings.
 - **E-learning Format:** Discussion around the course being converted to an e-learning format to make it more accessible to a wider audience.
- **Occupational Hygiene Upskilling:** Discussed the WSIB-funded project focused on occupational hygiene upskilling, which includes modules on silica dust, diesel fumes, noise, and other hazards. The project aims to support frontline personnel with ongoing hygiene monitoring and training.
 - **Project Overview:** WSN provided an overview of the WSIB-funded project focused on occupational hygiene upskilling, which includes modules on various hazards such as silica dust, diesel fumes, and noise.
 - **Support for Frontline Personnel:** Emphasized how the project aims to support frontline personnel with ongoing hygiene monitoring and training to ensure their safety and health.
 - **Training Modules:** The specific training modules included in the project, which cover important topics related to occupational hygiene and hazard management.

Events/Workshops:

WSN provided an overview of upcoming events and training sessions, including the Battery Electric symposium, ventilation workshop, and risk management training. They emphasized the importance of these events in enhancing workplace safety and knowledge.

NOTES

- **Battery Electric Symposium:** Scheduled for September 11th at Laurentian University, which will focus on the safe operation of battery electric vehicles.
- **Ventilation Workshop:** Scheduled for September 2nd to 4th in Timmins, which will cover important topics related to mine ventilation and safety.
- **Seismicity Workshop:** Scheduled for September 23rd to 25th in Timmins.

7. Health and Safety Information Exchange/Sector Update

Mental Health and Worker Support:

- Tiana introduced the "seven-day challenge" aimed at reframing worker mindsets.
- Stressed the importance of understanding how mental health affects job performance.
- Discussed ongoing education initiatives and speaker engagement.

Incident Reporting and Hazard Alerts:

- Highlighted need for a more immediate hazard alert system.
- Mentioned the role of the Ministry of Labour in issuing smaller, frequent alerts.

8. & 9. Advisory Committee Professional Activity and Next Meeting.

October 1: Advisory Committee Professional Development

[Workplace Mental Health: A Framework for Leaders](#) | [Workplace Safety North](#)

- Training is booked for the group on October 1st, 2025, at the WSN office in Sudbury (day before next meeting).

October 2: Advisory Meeting, Board of Directors, AGM, WSN Sudbury Office