



MINUTES

WSN Mining Advisory Committee

Date & Time: Thursday, Sept. 28 at 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 pm

Attendance: Chris Bamberger, Michael Ferguson, Don Langlois, Louise Lowe, Rob McVeigh, Tyler Neeley, Tom Rannelli, Dennis Sobey (Chair),

Regrets: Aaron Duckworth, Julia Salvalaggio, Darren Toner, Steve Wrixon (Vice Chair)

WSN Staff: Chris Serratore, Director Health and Safety Services
Cindy Schiewek, Director Health and Safety Services
Tricia Valentim, Executive Assistant, Health and Safety Services

8:00 am to 10:15 am - Lakeshore Room

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Approval of Agenda, Safety Share – Chair

APPROVED

Safety Share: Even professionals do not do things properly, so you still must make sure contractors are doing tasks properly. Dennis Sobey provided example of a stressed wood incident from company who is building his barn and the tie-offs that were needed.

Higher recordable injuries in the Fall from everything starting up in September after holiday time. Promoting Fall trend and reminder of transition time needed and to slow down and take your time. Example: simple injury from not focusing and worker tore something from a fall at same level.

2. Approval of Last Minutes – Chair

APPROVED

Action: Darren to share story/testimonial with Mike. [LifeVac Canada – Choking First Aid Device – Save a Life - COMPLETED.](#)

Action: Chris to follow up to see if LifeVac story was communicated to the mining camps and external sites. (Chris to follow up)

3. Regulation 854 Roundtable Discussion: how these legislation changes to diesel particulate changes are impacting your operations.

[New diesel exposure limit for underground mines in Ontario | Workplace Safety North](#)

- Question regarding testing on sights and how to track and log explosives as it is a federal requirement and are tight and zero tolerance.
 - Discussion on restricted access, log keys and logbooks. What is and is not accepted by Ministry Inspectors.
 - The supervisor must be knowledgeable and accountable.
- The thermal camera barrier system and the person who built it now has a demo unit. Michael Ferguson has been able to view it.
- Implementing dpm filters and some success. A type of filter must compliance there is a plan to meet the regulations.
- MDEC conference Micheal going and can share information. Moving to include hydrogen for electric vehicles.
- Tier 4 engines meet regulations, but others do not. Long term plan – test for everything. Ramp up.
- Regulations must change with the times.
- Hard to cut rock with electric machines.
- Swedish company reached out to WSN. Topic around cabin air filters. More focus on operator environment. Trials in Sweden and they are looking at North American markets currently.
- Mining contractors getting engaged into testing on workplaces. Agreed to participate to help support the data. Change preparing for in industry.
- Making sure that limits are understood when contractors come into the mine and working with them to understand. Increases monitoring and sampling.
- be applicable for the environment.

4. Risk Assessment & Root Cause Analysis Update – Chris Serratore

- Question last meeting: Risk category: MSDs listed as high risk. Would like more information on how risks are determined and if MSDs are determined based on a fatality lens, major to catastrophic fatality.
- Report is produced and available on website.
- Should look at more focused on airborne contaminated and lowering of limit. Assess appetite for it, risk assessment to dig in would make more direction.
- IDEA: More challenging to work on the health hazards vs. the safety hazards which is commonly done. Harder to be process. Lunch and learns or MH on this as it must be value behind it. Invite to virtual half hour session quickly learn and effort/resources there might be some value. 'Did

you know' type questions submitted ahead of time. Come back with some thoughts.

5. Mining Supervisor Common Core Update – Chris Serratore - slides

- Pilot done in January and changes have been made since then. Changes recently with legislative changes that occurred and were adjusted again from those in September. Good to go. Any not done will move to 2024 at this point.
- Prepare for emergencies have been started currently.
- Practice Effective Communications first draft is completed and pushed out to HSS for feedback and changes first before anything else. Team reviews first to see if ready for piloting. Done by end of the year.
- Manage Employees in draft form at this point. Marked to be completed by early 2024.
- Ground Control has had a lot of work done and is in good shape, same with Mine Ventilation.
- Most of the Specialists time goes to SCC courses. Duly diligent as not part of requirements as it is optional and only some mines use as part of their suite.
- Funding from Ministry for Health and Safety Associations. HSA's had to apply for this additional funding. WSN put a few in and we were successful with a couple - one for OMR and one for HSS which was for providing additional training at reduced cost to increase participation and reduce costs for some firms.
- Trends for frontline people coming into SCC who have already taken it from another association/company, and then they come to us as their supervisors not feeling like they know and understand the training. WSN's is more lengthy and more expensive sometimes, however firms understand the difference between the two styles and sending to us. must get the message out regarding the necessary signoff from employer.
- Toying with the idea of putting a Refresher out there with SCC, as part of our due diligence, as a reminder of what need to know. Agreed that it is not right that after 20 years a person is still qualified.

6. Risk Based Approach to 2023 WSN Recognition Awards – Cindy Schiewek

- Ministry and client reports from field and leaving engineering reports, not orders, and very descriptive from Risk Management guidelines. Going through everything and what high level of risk and having a full look. Clients contact WSN as they do not know what to do. When talking about Risk Management approach when Ministry in field we don't want to compete so we will shift to align with what ministry doing as it will cut down on the noise. Risk recognition award will mirror so at worst they will have guidelines so if Ministry shows up and if want award we can verify.
- Signing authority webinar, continue to host sessions like this.
- Please let Cindy know of any comments.

7. Events & Conference Update – Tricia Valetim – Meg's slides

[Events | Workplace Safety North](#)

8. Discussion on advisory committee future goals

Action: Chair Challenge: Come back with ideas for the next meeting that WSN could champion or partner with on a trend or industry issue.

Action: By the end of this year a new Chair with new voice. (Keep on agenda)

- Guidance on regulation changes to dpm, but also with supervisor training refresher.
- SCC and all the training when new to the industry.
- New worker and young worker. Spend the first few weeks going through training, and there is a lot of training when starting in the industry. So confusing and with a lot of industry skills shortage not attracting them to the industry. WSN have done initiatives over the years partnerships and employment programs. Is the employer helping them on the journey. We can help but employers must do work especially with new workers.
- Fitness review as well with mental health and different substances use. Fit for Duty as takes time to arm them to be effective in the fields. This program is hard to get people to come to however when do attend, they enjoy it.
- Voluntary surveillance programs and how the province is not progressive. It would be nice to have proactive conversations around their health and exposure claims. Nice to get support around that.
- Michael Ferguson – nominated – accepted and confirmed as new Chair. Dennis Sobey retiring next meetin.

9. New Business

- Occupational Disease risks. Top ten risk for each sector discussed.

- Historical data from 1964-2020. Rater groups all combined and came up with some similar themes across the board. Number one is silicosis as top risk. 12 issues
- How compared to other provinces but no one else tracking this. Ontario is the lead on this issue. Other areas the compensatory boards – only workers who made a claim. Spreadsheet summary individual cases, not just claims.

10. Best Practices/Meeting Roundtable/Wrap-up – Group Discussion

11. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 – Virtual

BREAK – Ontario Room A

10:30 am to 12 pm - Joint meeting - Lakeshore Room

1. Risk Assessment Modular Training (information attached and below)

[Mining Industry Signing Authority Audit Resources | Workplace Safety North](#)

- Explanation of why joint meeting between the two committees, how continue to see common trends and able to work with each other and go to each other for assistance whenever needed no matter the industries.
- Introductions of all joint committee members.
- Opioid discussion including substance use and mental health issues. What is the prevalence with Sudbury and Thunder Bay in the North. Cindy will send out the information for the meeting minutes in case you choose to implement at your workplace. The purpose is to see how bad it is and to determine the need for resources and where they should go.
- The information on the mining industry signing authority audit came out of the Ministry targeting the mining sector with signing authority and provide tools/resources to make sure companies successful. Ministry focus between June 1, 2023-March 31, 2024. Can be used for any industry, not just mining.
- Free Workshop link for November 22, 2023 and February 13, 2024: [Mining Industry Signing Authority Audit Workshop | Workplace Safety North](#)

Note: WSN brought many documents into one so please provide feedback on it to help make it even more efficient.



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2. Risk Based Approach to 2023 WSN Recognition Awards

Timelines were tight this year, however now looking for support for next year. When the application process opens for next year, the risk will have to do with the top sector hazard and managing that. Only six applications this year and only one crossed the line.

Topic based on mirroring what the Ministry has chosen to focus on.

Strategic planning and looking at risk management as we want to make sure what we do is what the need is for industry. Trying to make sure everything is the same and consistent.

Benefit to establishing advisory committee to lead this who can provide guidance support for risk assessment. Engage with this group to make sure we are heading in the same line where the industry is heading.

Roundtable on what important currently to you in your workplace:

- Engage proper people around table in safety, not just management, as want the safety people at the table. Hard to get to the safety people.
- Clients do not understand the state of the industry. Not starting with the first principles and looking at training foundationally.
- MSD's due to workers being overworked, late, hard to hire, manual handling material, automation,
- People do not take safety seriously when talking to them about what they are supposed to be doing and they do not respect that. Management and senior leadership need to be in the field, and they need to be accountable with the information, not shrugged off.
- Culture and caring with the little things. Hard to get leadership time in the field itself, struggle with Ministry for stop work orders, as sometimes it takes months trying to deal with all the orders and so hard to get to other things that need attention which would make more of an impact and difference for the company and workers. Moving vehicles as an example. Inconsistency in application of equipment.
- WSN Education Services challenge is to provide training programs that they can provide efficiently to meeting the demand in both French and English.
- Standardization of our processes, clients agree with processes. Example incident investigation with information on standards and corrective actions.

Challenge: Wait until the next day to ask what the previous day's safety topic was. The goal is to make it interesting and interactive enough for them to remember.

- The supply chain and prices going up and purchasing departments are scattered globally so technical know-how is not always with the team. It could be simple, and they could purchase somewhere else and then must reorder as not the actual specs which were needed. Costs are pushing everyone right now.
- Variability of inefficient leadership as lack of employee engagement which affects productivity and health and safety across the worksites. Boots on ground are needed so you can see the ones engaged. If workers not engaged, then we slow down and shut down as employees. Not just technical or tactical solutions as leadership issues.
- Continuous frontline leadership, as they have influence and have many inexperienced supervisors with so much responsibility and it is hard to arm them with the right tools and solutions. Ones who would be good leaders are not interested. Need to set up for success. Lots of well-intended initiatives however it is a time issue.
- WSN Mental Health Leadership+ about the basics of being a strong leader and basic awareness in mental health. Sessions on WSN website.
- Trying to get to impact with the work we do with WSN and advisory committee – keeping focus on what can have the greatest impact. Ex Rob gave with Ministry coming in with stuff that has no issues etc.

Robyn: Frontline supervision and issue of climate change for those who work outside and live outside. Air quality, heat stress, what that does to roads with large convoys. Planting and sunburns, Wildlife, driving them closer to towns and camps, increase bees and hornets as many not know they allergic.

Scotia: Workplace culture perceptions of health and safety: relationships with contractors and members of the general public (reinforcing safety practices with them as well as internally, which has been problematic); one preliminary solution may be the provision of training (e.g.: Safe Driving on Forest Roads); in addition, lack of skilled labour.

Dennis: Work has changed and how the world looks at their time. How society works and the hours they work. How they work time wise. Priorities are different now.

Jesse: Equipment and older workers who know how to use and fix them and use them. Missing the little things that are causing more frustrations. Challenge experienced millwrights. Bringing them up, they don't have a mentor to help them. Asking retirees to come back in and help.

How are we using AI in our workplaces.