

## Terrestrial Environmental Working Group (TEWG) Meeting

**Meeting ID:** T-10072025  
**Group / Organization:** TEWG Members and Observers, Baffinland and Consultants  
**Meeting Location:** Virtual – ZOOM  
**Meeting Chair:** Cortney Oliver

Organization Name	Participants
Member Organization	
Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization (MHTO)	Present – Jonah Kunnak [JK]
Clyde River (Nangmautuaq) Hunters and Trappers Organization (NHTO)	Present – Nysana Qillaq [NQ]
Igloodik Hunters and Trappers Organization (IHTO)	Absent
Hall Beach (Sanirajak) Hunters and Trappers Organization (HB HTA)	Absent
Arctic Bay (Ikajutit) Hunters and Trappers Organization (IHTA)	Absent
Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland)	Cortney Oliver [CO], Jesse Manufor [JM], Todd Swenson (TS), Andrea Trischuk (AT), Brad Rasmussen (BR) and Lizzie Phillips [LP]
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	Melissa Pinto [MP], Paul Smith [PS]
Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and Consultants	Tom Williamson [TW], Bruce Stewart [BS], Andrew Jaworenko [AJ], Jeff Higdon [JH], Richard Nesbit [RN], Sarah Kromberg [SK]
Government of Nunavut (GN)	Jessica Waldinger [JW], Krista Shofstall [KS]
Environmental Dynamics Incorporated (EDI)	Mike Settingington [MS], Patrick Audet [PA]
Stantec	Sarah de Kemp
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)	Absent
Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)	Clarrisa Fiset [CF]
Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor)	Absent
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Devin Holterman [DH], Kim Dunn [KD]

AGENDA – JULY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

Time	Agenda Item – Day 1	Lead	Materials	Purpose
11:00 – 11:30	Welcome and Roll Call	C. Oliver	N/A	N/A
11:30 – 11:45	Review Minutes and Action Items	J. Manufor	Minutes Action Log	For Approval For Information
11:45 – 12:45	2024 Terrestrial Environment Annual Monitoring Program Results <i>Questions and Answers</i>	M. Setterington/ P. Audet	2024 TEAMR Presentation	For Discussion
12:45 – 1:30	Lunch Break			
1:30 – 2:00	2024 Annual Report <i>Questions and Answers</i>	EDI/BIM	2024 Annual Report	For Discussion
2:00 – 2:45	2025 Monitoring Program Plan <i>Questions</i>	M. Setterington	Presentation	For Discussion
2:45 – 3:00	<i>Health Break</i>			
3:00 - 3:20	Update on Deflection Definition	M. Setterington	Verbal Update	For Discussion
3:20 – 3:50	GN North Baffin Caribou Survey: Update and continued discussion on caribou collaring	Krista Shofstall BIM/EDI	Verbal Update	For Information
3:50 – 4:20	2024 Dust Audit Committee Report <i>Questions</i>	S. Kemp de Gereda	Verbal Update	For Information
4:20 – 4:30	Summary of Actions and Wrap-Up	C. Oliver	N/A	N/A

## SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Action ID	Responsibility	Item Description	Due date	Status
		<b>TEWG Action Items</b>		
T-13012025-01	BIM/EDI	To continue to refine the definitions of deflection for the Mary River project in the next TEWG agenda.	Not stated	In progress
T-13012025-02	BIM/EDI	Baffinland / EDI also committed to reviewing how to differentiate between the terms 'deflect' and 'delay' when speaking to caribou movement	Not stated	In progress
T- 13012025 -03	BIM	To circulate QIA comments on deflection to the TEWG	As soon as possible	Completed.
T- 13012025 -04	BIM	To organise a bi-lateral meeting with QIA to discuss and plan a supplementary baseline caribou study that determines ZOI for Steensby.	Not stated	
T- 13012025 -04	GN	GN (Krista Shofstall) to provide Baffinland with the GN's opinions on the definition of <i>deflection</i> . If not, Baffinland will gather the GN's position based on the meeting minutes	Not stated	Completed
T- 14012025 -01	BIM	To include in the Spring TEWG agenda to go over IR comments discussions on what was reported including rationale for the focus on source control over operational changes in BIM dust mitigation	Spring TEWG	In progress
T- 14012025 -02	BIM	BIM to provide update on Tote road sediment trap pilot study when data is available.	When data is available	In progress
T- 14012025 -03	BIM	BIM to hold an information session on the ToR.	End of February or 2 <sup>nd</sup> week in March	Completed
T-14012025 -04	NRCan	NRCan to follow up with the QIA on if there is a maximum wind speed of which beyond, the Pas-DDs can no longer effectively collect data.	Not Stated	
T-14012025 -03	BIM	BIM to submit ToR to NIRB	Jan 20th	Completed
T-10072025-1	BIM	BIM/EDI to discuss and review the operational feasibility of conducting follow-up observations of caribou on the Tote Road, including collecting additional information on number and behaviour.		In review

	BIM	BIM to show on a map where the sedimentation traps are located in Sheardown lake and overlay it with locations where snow stockpiles have melted into the lake.		BIM will check if the data is available and update.
	BIM	Bird mortality from building collision, update mitigation measure.		BIM to internally discuss installing window decals and provide update
	EDI/BIM	EDI to continue to work with Kivalliq Inuit Association consultant on the work of redefining caribou deflections	When available	In progress

## MEETING MINUTES

The meeting started with a roll call of participants who are present at the meeting. Previous minutes were finalized with no further revisions. One action item: Pilot orientation training now includes snow goose molting area awareness from prior meetings was formally closed

### 2024 Terrestrial Program Overview

Patrick Audet presented results from the 2024 terrestrial environmental monitoring program, which were led by EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc., continuing over a decade of site-level effects monitoring.

- Presented results from the 2024 Terrestrial Environment Monitoring Program.
- Monitoring focused on climate & weather trends, dustfall, vegetation, and wildlife.
- 2024 was a record rainy year; dustfall levels generally decreased.
- No exotic invasive plant species detected.
- Caribou sightings increased significantly for the first time since 2013; 15 sightings confirmed through height-of-land surveys and wildlife cameras.

#### Questions Raised:

- **Overflights Compliance:**
  - Chris Wagner (QIA) asked for details on how non-compliant helicopter overflights were categorized.
  - Patrick clarified compliance assessment relies on flight logs with improved categorization.
- **Incidental Caribou Observations:**
  - Chris suggested recording group sizes, behavior, and locations to better understand interactions; EDI noted operational limitations but agreed to review feasibility-**Action**.
- **Camera Program:**
  - Devin Holterman (WWF) raised concerns about software limitations in identifying caribou; Patrick confirmed manual vetting by specialists and ongoing software improvements.
  - Paul Smith (ECCC) asked whether camera movement may cause false detections; Mike Setterington noted tripods are bolted but agreed to review.
  - Krista Shofstall (GN) suggested analyzing potential correlation between traffic volume and caribou sightings; EDI noted traffic volume has been stable and data insufficient for analysis.
- **Dust Monitoring:**
  - Richard Nesbitt (QIA) inquired about program sensitivity to far-field dustfall trends; Patrick recommended submitting written questions for technical response.
  - Richard also asked about the influence of 2024 high rainfall on dust suppressant analysis; Baffinland confirmed precipitation was considered.

- **Bird Monitoring and Mortality Reporting**

- For reported bird mortalities across recent annual reports, numerous inconsistencies were identified. It was unclear in some documents whether the numbers referred only to project-related bird deaths or included total mortality rate across the broader region. The group agreed on the importance of clarifying definitions in future reporting to distinguish between natural vs. project-related incidents.
- Patrick and EDI noted that going forward, reports will aim to clearly separate categories of mortality and include detailed methodologies for how birds are found and identified.

**2025 Terrestrial Environment Monitoring Program**

Patrick explained that the team is preparing for the 2025 terrestrial monitoring program, which will continue Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat Monitoring.

- The program continues to monitor vegetation health and ground cover, particularly in areas close to high-traffic zones like the tote road and laydown sites.
- Field teams are composed of professional biologists and ecologists with northern experience to ensure scientific rigor.
- Monitoring includes visual surveys, photo plots, and repeat sampling at marked stations.
- In addition to caribou and bird tracking, surveys of invasive or exotic plant species showed no detections in the 2024 season, indicating current mitigation efforts remain effective.
- Future reporting will aim to include maps, group sizes, and community-requested details more consistently, as long as field conditions and logistics allow.

**Update on Definition on Deflection**

Mike Settingington (EDI) provided an update to the TEWG, he explained that the definition of caribou deflection and delay is an industry problem and that he is coordinating with Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) consultant who are still working on the definition. - **Action**

**GN North Baffin Caribou Survey: Update and continued discussion on caribou collaring**

The Krista Shofstall (GN) explained that the GN conducted a South Baffin caribou survey in 2024. She provided an update on the 2025 North and Central Baffin caribou survey that was organised in March. She thanked Baffinland for providing support to the GN team. The results are still being expected.

**2024 Dust Audit Committee (DAC) Report**

Sarah de Kemp (Stantec) presented the activities of the Dust Audit Committee for 2024. She explained that the committee is community-based and includes representatives from the impacted communities and its purpose is to increase transparency and accountability. The DAC committed to carrying out following:

- Providing regular updates on purple air monitor data.

- Planning a spring 2026 site visit for the committee.
- Ensuring Baffinland continues to help carry out the committee's recommendations.

Cortney Oliver (BIM) thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting adjourned.