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Monitoring Committee Report Annual General Meeting of CMEI, May 7, 2020

During the past year, CMEI has continued to advocate for improvements in the monitoring system at the Crane Mountain Landfill in order to protect the environment and the water supply of those living downgradient of the site. We are particularly encouraged by the addition of two important features to the monitoring program at the landfill: trigger mechanisms and a numerical model. Both of these features have been promoted for years by CMEI. Peter Baxter, environmental engineer for New Brunswick's landfills, has done an excellent job of designing an appropriate system for analyzing data at the landfill. The creation of a numerical model of the groundwater flow and transport downgradient of the landfill has been a cooperative enterprise between CMEI and the Fundy Region Services Commission.

After the numerical model was completed, the next step for CMEI has been to determine our path forward in terms of the findings of the model. John Sims and Fred Baechler, hydrogeologists at **exp.** Services, Ltd., provided some suggestions, and the CMEI Board decided to engage them to perform two tasks. First, they will assess the monitoring programs of the landfill in light of the numerical model, looking at issues such as groundwater-surface water interaction and climate change. Second, they will regularly appraise the annual reports of the landfill to ensure that appropriate actions are being taken in response to the reports, and to ensure that adequate monitoring is taking place.

During the past year, the top priority of the CMEI Board has been examining and opposing the Fundy Region Service Commission's Crane Mountain Clay Source Development EIA and proposed Project—to purchase land in the watershed downgradient of the landfill, in order to acquire clay for landfill liners. A quarry on the property would also be used for landfill construction purposes. CMEI engaged **exp.** to review the EIA. We placed notices about the Project and the upcoming public meeting in the mailboxes of residents from South Bay through Martinon, because only a few people had been notified. Several of our Board members spoke and asked questions at the public meeting on May 28th. After the Public meeting, the CMEI Board prepared a document that clearly stated the reasons for our opposition to the project and backed up each of our arguments and sent it to the landfill and to the Environment Department.

We then contacted our MLA, Andrea Anderson-Mason, and the NB Minister of the Environment, Jeff Carr, asking if representatives from CMEI could meet with them about this issue. Several of us did meet with the two of them on July 17th for about an hour and a half in a boardroom in Marysville, along with the Deputy Minister of the Environment, and a number of environmental department staff. CMEI sent a shorter version of our arguments against the EIA to members of the Saint John Common Council and spoke at a Council meeting on November 4th.

Since then, CMEI has been appraised of various requirements that have been placed on the landfill because of our intervention. We have recently heard that the EIA did get accepted, with Conditions. We have accepted the offer to have a virtual meeting with DOE staff to ask questions about those Conditions and are awaiting to be informed about a date and time for that meeting. Going forward, it will be important for CMEI to make sure those Conditions are adhered to.

CMEI has clearly made a difference through its actions in the past year and pledges to continue the important work of monitoring the landfill in order to protect our environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Lee, Chair Monitoring Committe

