



**Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
November 24th, 2017
Telkwa Creamery**

Present: Allan Cormier, Gary Hanson, Colin MacLeod, Lorelei Smaha, Steve Howard

Regrets: David deWit, Dave Jacobs

In Attendance: Jay Baker – General Manager, Crystal Trembelas – Recording Secretary, Dave Louwerse – Operations Manager, Michael Mehr – Accountant (Edmison Mehr), Megan Peloso, Irene Cormier, Dawn Hanson, Shane Vandewater, Gladys Atrill, Christine Bruce, Anne Yanciw, John McKnight, Harold Reedy, Bob Mitchell.

Call to Order:

- Co-chair, Colin MacLeod, called the meeting to order at 12:15pm welcoming everyone to the 2017 Wetzin'kwa Annual General Meeting.
- Colin invited the other Board members to introduce themselves as well as their positions.
- Colin shared the Chairman's Report as presented in the Annual General Report (see attached).

Agenda:

The proposed agenda was reviewed:

- Lorelei motioned to approve the agenda
 - None opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Operational Report:

Jay welcomed the group, introducing himself as well as some of the other key Silvicon employees in attendances who contribute to the day to day operations of the WCFC. Jay then presented the Operations Update for 2016/2017 as per the attached Annual Report, with a brief overview of each section.

- In addition to the report, Jay informed the group of the current status of Spruce Beetle monitoring which is being noticed in areas surrounding the Bulkley Valley. Prince George, Mackenzie and Omineca areas have seen significant impact from the Spruce beetle. Wetzin'kwa is actively monitoring the situation and working hard to stay proactive on avoiding another catastrophic beetle attack.



Grant Program:

Gary shared details on the WCFC Grant Program as described in the attached report, as well as the Board's role in the process of selecting grants, with the largest impact happening during the grant review period in June of every year. The Board meets and spends a day discussing each individual grant assessing the benefit and feasibility within the community. All grants are rated based on specific criteria and from those ratings monies are given out until all monies are exhausted. Approximately \$150,000 is set aside every year to fund the wide variety of projects within the community. Approx. \$1.5 million has been awarded to grant applicants as well as over \$650,000 gifted to the stakeholders since 2007.

Year-End Financial Review: (Presented by Michael Mehr of Edmison Mehr)

Michael presented the Year-End financials which were pre-approved by the Board for this AGM at the October 2017 Board Meeting.

- Colin expanded on the reserves that are set aside and the purposes of those reserves as outlined in page 16 of the annual report. Wetzin'kwa was organized with the expectation to continue operations when the income levels might not be as expected so the community can still benefit

Colin opened up the floor to anyone who would like to add to the discussion or for any questions from the group.

- Bob Mitchell of the Smithers Community Forest Society shared a few words on who the SCFS is and their purpose as a society. The SCFS in conjunction with WCFC have been working to keep active trails safely maintained for community members to enjoy to which Bob thanked WCFC for being part of that success.
- Steve inquired if the SCFS is looking for funding, which Colin then encouraged Bob to submit a request to the Board as the SCFS falls within the boundaries of the community forest, informing him of funds set aside for projects within those boundaries.
- John McKnight also contributed to the question portion of the meeting with concerns on the amount of wood product being burned every year and asked the Board's opinion on the subject.

Colin replied with shared concern and assured John this is a topic which is discussed on a regular basis in board meetings. The Board is continually looking for ideas on how to better utilize the waste left behind to limit the amount of wood being burned.

- Bob Mitchell added his thoughts on Bio-char, and the possible opportunity for that to be utilized in the community forest. Jay also added some recent knowledge of a group; Voices of Clean Air, which is looking for groups interested in working together to use the Bio-char practice. WCFC is willing to discuss all possible options for alternatives to the burning of slash piles. The community annually expresses concerns for both the dangerous fire hazard associated with



the amount of dead pine within the community forest boundaries and the amount of slash piles being burned. Wetzin'kwa experiences many challenges in the utilization and management of slash, the Board is actively working to adopt the most viable practices.

- John also discussed the potential opportunity for WCFC to use some of the waste as firewood which could be safely stacked for community members to utilize. Although WCFC has recently completed a trial of this idea, unfortunately there was not as much uptake from the community as hoped.
- A third idea suggested by John is to reduce the amount being logged to encourage communities to actively contribute to utilizing the waste. A platform he feels is appropriate for WCFC to initiate.
- The group discussed the possibilities of other alternatives to limiting the amount of burning and ways to keep the air clean in the Bulkley Valley. It is recognized however that education to the community members on the proper wood to burn as well as how to properly use their stoves is also a large factor on air quality. WCFC has considered many options and is continually working on developing new ideas and practices.

Colin thanked everyone for attending the 2017 AGM and for the questions and comments presented.

Wrap Up

The next meeting date will be discussed via e-mail amongst the Board.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.