



---

**Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Moricetown Band Office – Small Feast Hall**

**Present:** David de Wit, Allan Cormier, Gary Hanson, Colin MacLeod, Marc Steynen, Lorelei Smaha

**Regrets:** Dave Jacobs

**In Attendance:** Jay Baker – General Manager, Crystal Trembelas – Recording Secretary, Dave Louwerse – Operations Manager, Michael Mehr – Accountant (Edmison Mehr), Christine Bruce, Sybille Haeussler, Linda Hansen, Alana Harris, Una Kim, Waurner Williams.

**Call to Order:**

- Co-chair, David de Wit, called the meeting to order at 12:22pm welcoming everyone to the meeting on behalf of Wah tah K'eght – Henry Alfred who is House Chief of Laksilyu Clan - Tsee K'al K'e yex (House on the Top of Flat Rock) with recognition of Wet'suwet'en Territory, in which Smithers resides. Also, a thank you to Doris Rosso who provided the catered lunch.
- David de Wit invited the Board members to introduce themselves as well as their position on the Board.
- David also paid respects to the family who experienced a loss; as a body was being returned back to Hazelton at the time of the meeting.

**Agenda:**

The proposed agenda was reviewed:

- Gary motioned to approve the agenda
  - None opposed

MOTION CARRIED

**Minutes:**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from November 2015 AGM.

- Colin motioned to approve the November 2015 AGM minutes.
  - None Opposed

MOTION CARRIED

**Operational Report:**

Jay presented the Operations Update for 2015/2016 as per the attached Annual Report, with a brief overview of each section.

- Jay further expanded on the Harvesting section in the report with regards to the end of the uplift period in the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC). In the past there had been an increase in the AAC due to the Mountain Pine Beetle devastation in the area. That is now coming to an end which will result in a much lower AAC for WCFC. Less harvesting will also result in decreased amounts of waste wood left for slash pile burning.

### **Grant Program:**

Colin shared details on the WCFC Grant Program and the Board's role in that process 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. \$150,000 is set aside every year to fund the wide variety of projects within the community. Approx. \$1.1 million has been awarded to grant applicants as well as over \$600,000 gifted to the stakeholders.

- David de Wit updated the Board from a meeting he attended for SD#54 on their release of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Wet'suwet'en textbook, which received a grant from WCFC. They acknowledged WCFC for their support on the project.

### **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 2016 Board Meeting.

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

- Linda Hanson took the opportunity and thanked the Board on behalf of the Telkwa Museum for their continuing encouragement and funds granted to the group and community.
- Sybille Haeussler directed a question to Colin MacLeod on what type of input the board has with the on-goings of the Community Forest?
  - Colin responded explaining briefly how the Board meets together every month to discuss the on-goings of the Community Forest, giving input on any decisions which need to be addressed. He acknowledged Silvicon, especially Jay Baker and Dave Louwerse with the ability to make day to day operational decisions including the Board on any decisions which need further decision making. The Board is contacted via e-mail or presented the questions at the next Board meeting.
  - David added that for him, as both, a Office of the Wet'suwet'en representative and a manager for a natural resource department, multiple staff members have had the opportunity to work with Dave Louwerse (Operations Manager) to look at alternative ways to look at cultural resources, it is a unique opportunity which with most licensee's would not be given the opportunity to experience.
- Sybille also inquired as to the discussion (if any) on the aesthetics of the McDonnell Lake Road, which has been heavily logged in previous years?

- Jay responded assuring the group of the objectives of visual quality in all harvesting operations. To the specific area in question, as a heavy impacted location of mountain pine beetle, intense harvesting was completed, with little understory present to retain the aesthetics once that had taken place. Areas that have a diversity of species that have not been so heavily affected by the mountain pine beetle, there is the opportunity and much more availability for retaining the understory throughout harvesting.
- David applauded Sybille with her questions and responded with assurance of the importance of re-planting and forest health in all operation and harvesting methods. The Board encourages the community to come forward with ideas, thoughts and concerns on forest management to be considered.
- Linda added a suggestion to the Board for areas that have been harvested, to have signage posted to indicate the number of trees harvested, planted, the species of trees etc. As a member of the community, she finds it very encouraging to see information and over the years watch as the trees grow to fill in the areas which have been harvested.

David thanked everyone for attending the 2016 AGM and for the questions and comments presented.

### **Wrap Up**

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

### **Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.