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**Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
"Mini Feast Hall" Witset, BC**

**Present:**

David de Wit, Gary Hanson, Lindsay Lange, Colin MacLeod, Lorelei Smaha and Steve Howard.

**In Attendance:**

Jay Baker – General Manager, Dave Louwerse – Operations Manager, Crystal Trembelas – Recording Secretary, Michael Mehr – Accountant (Edmison Mehr), Allan Harris – CAO Town of Smithers, Debbie Joujan – CAO Village of Telkwa, Community Members: John Knight, Chris Howard.

**Regrets:**

Christine Bruce

**Call to Order:**

Co-chair, David de Wit, called the meeting to order at 12:05pm 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 Witset resides. Thanks were also expressed to Tony Naziel who provided the catered lunch.

At this time the Directors on the Board introduce themselves to those in attendance.

David invited everyone to help themselves to the provided lunch, after which the meeting would proceed.

**Agenda:**

The proposed agenda was reviewed:

- David motioned to approve the agenda
- None opposed

MOTION CARRIED

David shared a brief history on the meaning of "Wetzin'kwa" as well as the structure of the Board along with an overview of the core values with reference to the website; [www.wetzinkwa.ca](http://www.wetzinkwa.ca). He then took the time to say thank-you to all of those who remain engaged with the ongoing operations such as Board members, contractors, shareholders and support staff.

David invited Jay Baker to present the General Manager's Report.



### **General Managers Report:**

Jay welcomed the group, thanking everyone for taking the time to attend the AGM. Jay then presented the General Manager's Update for 2018/2019 as per the attached Annual Report, with a brief overview of each section (see attached). The group was then invited to ask questions. No questions were presented at this time.

### **Community 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. In 2019 WCFC was able to sustain the increased amount available at \$250,000 to fund the wide variety of projects within the community. Approx. \$1.77 million has been awarded to grant applicants as well as over \$845,000 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 2019 Board Meeting.

### **Reserve Funds:**

Gary explained the various reserves set aside and the purposes of those reserves as outlined in the financial statements of the annual report. Wetzin'kwa was organized with the expectation to continue operations when the income levels might not be as expected or unforeseen loss occurs so the community can still continue to benefit.

David invited those in attendance to ask the Board any questions or state any concerns they may have at this time, the following questions were presented;

Chris Howard: In the event of wildfire, who is responsible for replanting in plantations that are not free to grow?

- Jay Baker: The Crown has protocol set in place for those who have fulfilled their report obligations on growing status and will receive funding to reforest.

John Knight: On Wetzin'kwa's Carbon Strategy, what has been the findings thus far?

- Steve Howard: Wetzin'kwa has developed a Carbon Strategy in the form of a living document which will be updated and altered as the Board sees fit. This document is available for anyone who wishes to review it, and will be available on our website in the near future.

Chris Howard: In the Wood Creek area, the decked wood is small diameter. Are these logs used for sawlog or are they being brought to Pinnacle Pellet? When is it decided where it will be used?



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- Dave Louwse – Distance does play a large role in where logs are used, however Wetzin'kwa now has an agreement with Pinnacle Pellet to utilize more of the smaller fiber. All factors such as distance, location, quality, etc. are considered when harvesting, to utilize as much fiber as possible, leaving the least amount behind.

Chris Howard: Did the Forest Enhancement Society offer allowance for expanding the range to receive more fiber?

- Jay Baker: Mills have received allowances to be able to expand the radius of where fibre comes from to allow for more to be utilized and less left behind.

John Knight: Are there any considerations for providing the town with proper wood to discourage community members from burning unseasoned wood?

- David de Wit: Firewood has been set aside in some locations and opportunities have been made to the public, however these have not been heavily advertised, to avoid issues with liability for those cutting from the piles.
- Gary Hanson: Quality firewood is getting harder and harder to supply as well.

Alan Harris: The Town of Smithers would not like to see firewood come to Smithers. The purpose of the Stove Exchange Program is to increase the air quality over Smithers, encouraging the community to burn much less wood, if any.

David thanked everyone for attending the 2019 AGM and for the questions and comments presented.

### **Wrap Up**

The next meeting will be discussed via e-mail.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.