

# Wells-Barkerville Community Forest Ltd.

## Minutes: Open Board Meeting

April 4, 2017

## Held at District of Wells Municipal Hall

Attendance: John Massier (Board Chair); Margaret Inoue; Paul Galliazzo, RPF; Ian Macdonald; Councillor Virginia Wilkins; Andrew Young, CAO, District of Wells

Public Attending: 4, plus Mayor Sharpe and Councillor Kuch

Guest Presenter: Chris Elden, RPF, West Fraser Mills (WFM)

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- a. The Meeting of the Wells-Barkerville Community Forest Ltd (WBCF) Board was called to order by the Chair at 6:05 PM
- b. Agenda – Moved by Paul Galliazzo, Seconded by Andrew Young that the Agenda be adopted as amended by adding correspondence:
  - i. Email from Tim Hathaway dated March 25, 2017  
Passed Unanimously

### 2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

- a. Adoption of Minutes from March 6, 2017 Board Meeting  
Moved by Virginia Wilkins, seconded by Paul Galliazzo, that the minutes of the March 6, 2017 Board meeting be adopted as presented.  
Passed Unanimously

### 3. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS:

- Chris Elden (RPF) presenting draft conceptual plans for forestry work in the WBCF by West Fraser Mills (WFM); the presentation began at 6:10 pm
- Key Points raised during the presentation:
  - WFM has been preparing a long-term cutblock and roads design for the WBCF area
  - Noted that there is some potentially unstable terrain in the area
  - To meet the Annual Allowable Cut about 20 hectares of forest will need to be logged each year. Overall there is about a 150 years supply of wood in the

- WBCF. Given that it takes 60-90 years to regrow it means that the projected annual cut should be sustainable.
- Biodiversity in the area is managed at a regional scale by the Quesnel Forest District. No harvesting is permitted in:
    - Mountain Cariboo habitat areas
    - Riparian Management areas
    - No Disturbance areas
    - Wildlife Tree reserve areas
  - West Fraser Mills is eventually looking at constructing between 2-3 kms of roads in the area per year for a total road system of about 50 kms. A consideration for roads will be what standard of road should be implemented. In order to answer that it will be necessary to think about what future purposes and uses might exist in areas where new roads are constructed. Prior to road construction there will be geotechnical analyses needed to look at slope stability
  - Visual Resources and Protected areas: there is between 30-40 hectares of forest lands near the Wells Townsite that has been identified for experimental forest work. There are also some lands near the Townsite that are identified as preservation areas. In addition, there are lands, for example the Sugar Creek loop, that are to be protected for tourist uses.
  - Forestry and Silviculture Systems:
    - Clearcuts are easy to plan and economic. One advantage is that clearcuts are easy to replant, to plant what is desired (species) and easy to monitor. Clearcuts, however are negatively viewed by the public (visual blights).
    - Selective Cutting involves harvesting single trees. It is complicated to plan and implement. It involves additional work and monitoring to ensure that environmental goals are achieved. Avoiding degrading the stands of trees is a challenge. Selective cutting is beneficial if there are other goals that need to be met; for example, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, or areas that have important visual qualities.
    - Hybrid System: larger patches are more efficient and economic to manage. They are a compromise between clearcuts and selective logging systems. If a hybrid system were used it could result in a 240 crop rotation instead of a 60-90 year rotation.
    - WBCF Harvest Plan for first 20 years (some suggestions for further action)
    - More timber cruising is required to assess the existing timber resources in the area to develop a detailed harvest plan. There is some variability in the quality of timber in the forest stands that needs to be looked at carefully.
  - Trails Mapping, Planning and Development

- For the purposes of the current contract the assumption is to cut some of the desired ski trails and recreation trails near the Townsite.
- It is up to the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) to approve the development of trails in Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs).
- There can/should be close integration of forestry proposals with the existing trails system and with future trails plans for the area
- Typically the width of trails is 5-7 meters minimum
- What is Next?
  - Public Meeting in Wells in 4-6 weeks
  - Complete referrals to First Nations and others
  - Apply for one cutting permit
  - Complete field work to locate future roads and cutblocks for the first harvest
  - Road building and harvesting in the fall – early winter 2017
  - Seek to minimize overlaps with main recreational season
  - Future burning of waste debris piles depends on the waste collected and residue surveys
  - Replanting will probably begin in Spring 2018
  - Replanting of 20 hectares of forest would take about one month to complete by a skilled contractor
  - Mechanical brushing vs chemical brushing preferred
  - Future Presentations (Public etc)
  - Walls Maps to assist with explanations
  - Visual Quality chart illustrating examples
  - Copy of PowerPoint presentation
  - Presentation to take place at the Wells Community Hall in the Banquet Room
- Chris Elden’s presentation concluded at 7:20 pm

Following the presentation the meeting recessed at 7:20 and then resumed at 7:30 pm with Full Board present. Also present were Councillor Kuch and two members of the public.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

5. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Nil

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Wells Area Trails Society – letter dated March 20, 2017 regarding “Continued Implementation of the Master Plan for the Cornish Mountain Cross-Country Ski Area (1997)”

Moved by Andrew Young, seconded by Virginia Wilkins that the Board receive the letter dated March 20, 2017 regarding “Continued Implementation of the Master Plan for the Cornish Mountain Cross-Country Ski Area (1997)”.

Margaret Inoue noted the WBCF Management Plan notes there is a need to look at trail planning. A question that needs to be addressed is the cost and budget to construct and maintain trails in the WBCF. The Board should think about seeking input from different trail user groups for example non-motorized users (e.g. skiers, sno-shoers), and the motorized (e.g. ATV and sno-mobile users). Input should also be sought from Desi Cheverie, District Recreation Officer, FLNRO.

Paul Galliazzo noted that the WBCF should not automatically take on responsibility (and liability) for planning, applying for, and managing trail tenures in the community forest. There are many groups that have taken on this role in the past and they should be encouraged to continue to do so. The WBCF may be involved in the planning process as a stakeholder and may choose to provide support in some form. But its direct involvement should be limited.

Carried Unanimously

Moved by Margaret Inoue, seconded by Ian Macdonald to consider the development of all forms of recreational trails (including trails maintenance) in the WBCF budget, and to work with trail user groups non-motorized and motorized).

It was observed by the Chair that the Board should invite Desi Cheverie (FLNRO) to work with the WBCF to help support the planning of future recreational trails.

Carried Unanimously

- b. Email from Tim Hathaway dated March 6, 2017 entitled “WBCF Concerns”.
- c. Email from Tim Hathaway dated March 25, 2017 regarding WBCF

Moved by Virginia Wilkins, Seconded by Paul Galliazzo that both Emails from Tim Hathaway be received. Passed Unanimously

Moved by Virginia Wilkins, seconded by Ian Macdonald that letters thanking Kate Sulis and Tim Hathaway for their letter and emails regarding trails and concerns respectively be sent by the Chair.

Passed Unanimously

Moved by Paul Galliazzo, seconded by Ian Macdonald that a brief summary be prepared regarding types of meetings and why some are open and why some are closed (with examples; e.g. contracts for land purchases, legal matters, human resources matters).

Passed Unanimously

8. CLOSED MEETING - was deferred to the next WBCF meeting due to time constraints
9. RECALL TO ORDER AND REPORT - Nil
10. NEXT MEETING
  - a. It was agreed that the next meeting of the WBCF Board would take place soon (TBD)
11. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:25 PM it was moved by Margaret Inoue, seconded by Virginia Wilkins that the Board meeting be adjourned. Passed Unanimously.