

Cheakamus Community Forest Board of Directors Meeting
July 6, 2011 10:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Ullus Community Complex, Mount Currie

Attendance:

Lucinda Phillips, Lil'wat Nation
Geordie Ferguson, Lil'wat Nation (Lil'wat Business Corporations, Forestry Operations Manager)
Jeff Fisher, Squamish Nation
Peter Ackhurst, RMOW
Ken Melamed, RMOW
Tom Cole, Richmond Plywood

Peter Ackhurst chaired the meeting
Heather Beresford, RMOW, Secretary

Regrets:

Chief Bill Williams, Squamish Nation

MEETING AGENDA:

July 6, 2011 Meeting Agenda approved by all.

February 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes Approved by all (JF/KM)

1. 2011 Administration Budget Review

Budget approved at February 17, 2011 meeting.
Revenue and expenses approved at \$45,000.
Spent \$13,000 to date, budget on track.

Forest Stewardship Council certification cost has increased significantly, therefore unlikely to go ahead.

ACTION: Redistribute the administration budget to Directors.

2. Five Year Business Plan

Tom and Peter updated five year business plan as per February meeting request. Actuals for 2009 and 2010 are real numbers. Shows that if we can continue harvesting, will make a profit over next 3 years including paying \$65,000 back to RMOW for admin expenses.

2009 - 823m3 harvested, 2010 - 2400m3 harvested. Even though undercut, CCF is showing intention to harvest and increasing levels.

Discussion re: **Whistler Blackcomb harvesting activities**. At MOF meeting, agencies and First Nations discussed that CCF would be responsible for harvesting WB timber in future. Final decision not made at this time. CRA tenure gives right to harvest for activities but doesn't convey ownership of the timber. Could do something similar to how CCF is involved with RMOW wildfire thinning project.

ACTION: CCF follow up with MOF.

Discussion re: **Geordie Ferguson, new Lil'wat Director.** Board welcomed Mr. Ferguson.

MOTION: Board recognizes appointment of Geordie Ferguson as second Lil'wat Nation director. (KM/LP) Passed.

ACTION: Update society paperwork.

3. 2010 Income Tax Return

Maureen Muentner-Anderson prepared and filed the return on behalf of CCF. No taxes required to be paid.

4. 2010 Financial Statements

Maureen Muentner-Anderson prepared financial statement. Combines CCF and Richmond Plywood figures, gives more complete picture. Sets up template for future reports. 2010 revenue at \$180,000. CCF Board decided at February meeting not to have an audit. Ms. Muentner-Anderson is a CGA, very thorough in preparing documents. Confidence in accuracy.

MOTION: Receive 2010 financial statements. (KM/LP) Passed.

MOTION: Defer annual audit. (KM/GF) Passed.

5. 2010 Richmond Plywood Log Summary Report

Report documents income, where logs went, average log value, profit, overhead, silviculture account, etc.

- Silviculture account balance ~\$4000 because of payment from VANOC. Invoice pending for NSR project.
- RichPly professional fees high because of required start up work (FSP, etc.). Approx. \$90,000. Need to log 18,000 m³ to cover it. Discussed pay back timing and approach – should \$8/m³ be lowered? Agreed to continue at \$8/m³ rate to pay off more quickly
- Report recommendations discussed:
 - Support role of Graham Fitch (independent log price reviewer). Board discussed its own ability to monitor prices, but decided that hiring Graham Fitch doesn't cost a lot, it aids transparency, and confirms that CCF getting fair priced market transactions.
 - Steve Miles commission rate of 3%. This rate is on the high side but CCF is providing small bundles which are not efficient to handle. Steve combines with others to get better price. CCF and RichPly will continue to watch prices received.
 - Board decided that if the situation changes, CCF may change system but continue as is for now. Ask Graham Fitch to look at prices received for small bundles handled by Steve Miles.

MOTION: CCF Board accepts Richmond Plywood report. (GF/LP) Passed.

6. 2011 Harvesting Progress

Two areas completed to date:

- Rainbow03 – Harvested 800m³. Spent \$4.50/m³ rebuilding the bike trail. Expensive but money well spent in public eye. BC Hydro assisted with \$6000. RMOW composter contributed. Consider this style of harvesting for wildfire thinning.
- Brew02 – Found another 3 hectares for a total in 2011 of 3500m³. Spent \$18,000 building roads to access timber. All planted except 2 hectares. All roads rehabbed, including 2 km in the watershed.
- Wedge – Bridge cost \$50,000. Check signs at Lost Lake as people who were lost came through Wedge looking for Lost Lake. Prices received to do work are too high, so RichPly doing it with Atwell which has 2 excavators and moving timber to the road. RichPly wants to delay until fall (after fire and recreation season). Could try as a winter show, access not bad. Mostly ground based, hoe chucking.
- Powder01 (McGuire) – ready to submit permits. Going to RichPly Board meeting on July 19 – may need \$65 – 70,000 more to open Powder.
- Fee03 – high elevation, ridge top. First undeveloped area using silviculture strategy. Road in late August, work in September. Helps to cut roads in one year, and work on it next to let road harden up. Discussion re: visual impacts from Highway 99. Tom thinks it will blend in. Even from Whistler peak will see texture change, not big openings.

Have 13,000 m³ more to go, will get close to the 18,000 m³ forecasted. Whistler Olympic Park (WOP) may generate some volume with its trail cutting.

WOP wants to build easier cross country ski trail from top of jump to Madeley Lake. Going through permitting now but unlikely to log this year (but George McKay is on it). Trail will be 18 – 20 metres wide for grooming machines. WOP will log and give logs to CCF. Some are in WOP, some in Wildlands zone (CCF). Argument being made that it's not commercial harvesting but trail building. On edge of Canadian Snowmobile tenure. RichPly will assist where possible, will pay for loading and hauling the ~4,000 m³ of logs.

CCF and WOP drafted a Letter of Agreement to establish protocol for working together. Plus asked for logging access through WOP in future.

7. Cutting Permit Approvals

BC Community Forest Association and MOF looking into a single cutting permit system.

Lil'wat Nation has replied to March compartment area referral letter, but Squamish has not. To make the planning most efficient and cost effective, Richmond Plywood needs up front assurance that cultural and heritage resources can be accommodated appropriately and that logging can happen in an area so that it can safely spend money on detailed field planning. Early information sharing regarding cultural resource potential would assist the situation. Request to create a preliminary field reconnaissance on compartments to identify risk/probability level. MOF consultation process will still take place.

Squamish Nation director agreed to rely on preliminary field reconnaissance from Lil'wat technical staff to determine necessity for further archaeological and cultural resource investigation work and recommend appropriate accommodation.

RichPly requires clearance from Lil'wat and Squamish Nations for each compartment cutting permit application. Clearance letter should also include comments on consideration of timber harvesting, roads and access within compartment areas, e.g. impacts of opening old road(s) vs cutting new road(s).

ACTION: Lil'wat Land and Resource staff will carry out preliminary field reconnaissance on compartments and provide recommendations to Squamish Nation staff.

ACTION: Each First Nation partner will supply a clearance letter to accompany all compartment cutting permit applications.

8. Cultural Management Areas

What progress since February meeting?

Lil'wat's small scale forestry plan fits EBM well.

What needs to be in place before work can be completed? Squamish Nation wants a plan in place. Identified 3 cultural areas in Cheakamus through LRMP. Trying to determine how to distribute this information appropriately.

RichPly should wait until the CMA plan is complete before doing any planning, but the Cheakamus CMA is the bulk of the 2012 plan. Other areas need more road development which costs more money. Need to be sensitive to asking First Nations to move faster when concessions are being made for Whistler concerns over old growth and visuals. No complaints from Whistler residents this year.

May be sensitivity around logging trucks going past Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood but road still bypasses development. A future phase where the road would go through the middle is on hold.

Access management is a big part of CMA planning – where do the First Nations want people to be able to go by road?

ACTION: Squamish and Lil'wat Nations will focus on Cheakamus CMA and provide draft by September.

9. EBM Plan/Old Forest Plan

EBM is first step of Old Forest Plan. Ecotrust produced a revised EBM earlier this spring. Indicates 30% of old growth should be protected. In two of the three BEC areas, CCF is well above old growth targets, but in third BEC area (very small area of ds1), it should all be saved. For Old Forest Plan, take that info and add a few areas that are heavily used for recreation, eg. Train Wreck, climbing wall.

In the EBM plan, make clear statement that 90% of the Whistler LU will not be harvested due to a variety of mechanisms.

Discussion: What do we need to do to approve the EBM and begin to use it to plan harvesting? Board needs to decide on target percentages that won't be harvested in recognition of First Nations values, recreation, special ecosystems, etc. and include those in the EBM. Draft complete within one month.

ACTION: Hold Old Forest Plan public workshop in autumn. Continue to work with First Nations' land use plans to identify areas of interest to include.

10. Forest Stewardship Council

Audit prices went up from \$10,000 for initial audit to \$20,000, and from \$5,000 for annual follow up auditing to \$14,000. Too expensive. Can't get the money back out of increased value for the wood. Ecotrust group certification only for woodlots under 5,000 m³. CFOW funding of \$10,000 paid for the 2010 pre-assessment. Remember that the audits trigger further work, with further spending. Tom commented that based on what he learned at the carbon conference, FSC could be considered a carbon project.

ACTION: Defer further work on becoming FSC certified until a new pricing structure/model can be found.

11. Composter

Composter crew removed wood from Brew and WFP sites. Expensive. Costs are being analysed and different scenarios tried to determine best option.

12. Western Forest Products Timber License

MOF approved the TL transfer of 1500 hectares in March 2011. Mainly unmerchantable old growth. TL doesn't exist any more. Process was to cancel TL, return to Crown Land and then add Crown Land to CCF.

At same time, added horseshoe over Callaghan Park. No real timber harvest added but helps management. Rent on CCF will go up slightly, need to do a new AAC calculation within 12 months. Should try to get exempted because THLB in flux – TL addition may make AAC go up, but other things make it go down.

ACTION: Write MOF a letter requesting to wait five years to do new cut calculation. (Jeff Fisher will draft letter in the fall).

13. Open House

Will continue to hold open houses in Whistler. Willing to do in Squamish and Mount Currie if wished.

Old Forest Plan open house – scheduled for fall. Need Directors to determine targets from EBM plan and then include other areas of interest to partners and community.

14. BC Community Forest Association Annual Conference

BCCFA has asked the Cheakamus Community Forest to hold the 2010 AGM and conference. Preliminary research shows that approximately \$10,000 - \$15,000 additional money may be required beyond budget that BCCFA can provide.

Discussion: general interest, but concern over financial commitment, timing and resources required. Would need to hire an event organizer, no partner can commit human resources to do all the work required. Ken Melamed willing to talk with Tourism Whistler/hotels about putting a

good package together. Lil'wat staff could be made available. Richmond Plywood would help with tours.

ACTION: Continue to research possibility and report back to Board ASAP.

15. Non-Timber Forest Product Workshop

Requested that Squamish and Lil'wat Nations take lead on organizing. Could possibly tie in with the annual Fungus Among Us festival in Whistler (September or October). Present in context of community forests being the first forest tenure with rights to manage NTFP.

ACTION: Geordie Ferguson will follow up with BC First Nations Forestry Council re: facilitation and organizing capability.

16. Firewood Policy

Lots of interest in cutting/gathering firewood. Tom Cole not comfortable with making decisions on who can go where. MOF doesn't want merchantable timber removed as firewood. Could consider creating "firewood woodlots," very small scale, 1 – 3 year contracts. Could bring in some revenue. Challenging to administer, monitor, place proper signs, liability concerns. Give First Nations first opportunity. Good public relations to advertise firewood.

ACTION: Advertise/sign local firewood availability.

17. CCF Website

RMOW is paying/organizing a stand alone CCF website. Largely using existing text from whistler.ca.

MOTION: CCF will contribute \$500 toward the website creation. (LP/JF) Passed.

18. Strategic Retreat

Do we want to do it again? Yes, but not overnight. Opportunity to carefully review the Old Forest Plan, CMA draft plan, EBM, 5 year financial plan, etc.

ACTION: Organize one day session sometime in mid-September to early October.

19. Other Business

None.

20. Next Meeting

Same day as strategic meeting. For example, first two hours are for business, then 6 hours for strategic work. Date and location TBD.

Meeting Adjourned.

Task Timeline Identified at September 2010 Meeting

Year	Project
2010	Communications piece around VANOC parking lots and red legged frog habitat
2010	Western Forest Products Timber License transfer complete. Win: a majority of low elevation old growth will come from these areas.
2010	Whistler Off Road Cycling Association (WORCA) letter of understanding
2011	Get FSC Certified (Further funds required for FSC: \$10,000 for audit by Smartwood; \$7500 annual audit, Richmond Plywood will pay out of logging revenues).
2011	Composter – wood waste to regional composter at Callaghan
2011	Canadian Snowmobile – develop plan together and sign off.
2011	Whistler Olympic Park – Letter of understanding developed
2011	Recreation Site Improvements Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do work complementary to S2S Trail? • Build a trail • Powerline Hill pullout – interp sign re: First Nations Black Tusk myth (Johnny Jones/Tom Cole idea) • Field Guide to Special Ecosystems in CCF – Bob Green (identify red/blue listed sites, create a handbook for public) • Family toboggan hill along Callaghan Road (glade a plantation)
2011	Develop integrated program with Firesmart (RMOW Fire Services & CCF)
2011 – 2013	Land Based Investment Program – complete the 2010 spacing project, receive more funding
2013	FWAC trail subcommittee identifies/rebuilds trail with CCF involvement
2013	CCF is financially secure with \$50,000 in the bank