

MINUTES OF SIFCo'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, August 6th, 2020 7 p.m.

SIFCo Garage, 5645 Hoodikoff Rd., Winlaw, B.C., with social distancing in place.

Members Attending

Lisa Farr	Tom Bradley	Sam Tichenor
Stephan Martineau	Thomas Armstrong	Rachael Bone
Moonbow	Lesley Mayfield	Winlaw W. Committee
Randy Cofer	Miriam Mason-Martineau	RMRA
Sall Hammond	David Liske	EACT

Tyler Abbott and Gary Parkstrom attended as members without voting rights.

Meeting is called to order.

Lisa Farr is introduced as Chair.

Quorum is satisfied.

Lesley Mayfield is appointed as Recording Secretary.

Minutes from Last year's AGM, May 17, 2019

Moved to accept the minutes from May 17, 2019: Moonbow

Seconded: David Liske

No business arising from the minutes.

Carried.

President's Report

Presented by Lisa Farr

Moved to accept the President's Report: Moonbow

Seconded by Stepan Martineau

Carried

Discussion arising from the President's Report:

Moonbow: SIFCo prescribes various treatments for site cleanup and WUI work, identified as "Type 1, Type 2, etc. It would be helpful to have a printout with simple definitions of the Types, to help with explanations for the general public.

Lisa: this has already been done. She will email the document to all board members. The Types are also defined on SIFCo's website.

Sally: She has heard some grumbling on Red Mountain regarding the "mess" at the recent work site on Hewitt Mine Rd., and also about the condition of the road. Is SIFCo responsible for fixing the road?

Stephan: The burning has not yet been done (and cannot yet be done) on this site, so piles are still present. Regarding the road; the standard for maintenance of Forest Service Roads (FSRs) is very broad. Many gravel roads were damaged this year by earlier heavy rains. SIFCo's road maintenance focus is water control, i.e. keeping ditches and culverts unclogged, and water bars functional. These measures do not add to smooth travel. Also, if a road surface is holding firm, we do not grade it just

to make it smoother. This helps to avoid adding more sediment to the flow through ditches, culverts, etc. Sometimes intervention on a road causes more damage than leaving it alone.

Sam: There is still a problem with public perception of SIFCo as “just another logging company.” Also, many are familiar with the Community Forest model as interpreted elsewhere, in which the licence is treated as a “cash cow” for community improvements such as hall upgrades. People don’t understand “where all the money goes.”

Staff response: there are other funding sources (notably CBT) for hall upgrades and the like. SIFCo's philosophy, since inception, is that any revenue generated from the forest resource should be reserved to continue the work we have identified that will improve forest health long-term, adapt to climate change and mitigate our immediate danger from forest fire. That is the function of the Reserve Accounts to be detailed in the Financial Statement.

Grant monies received for specific projects can be spent only on those projects – indeed SIFCo sometimes tops up project expense from our own funds.

Sam: Sometimes public expectations do not match the results of our work. For example, some thought that “only” beetle trees would be removed from the fir beetle control block. This reflects lack of understanding of the scale of the fir beetle infestation.

Sally: Did the Hewitt Mine Rd. Fir beetle control block cut go as planned?

Tom B: It was challenging, because there just weren’t many large leave trees available. Most were infected. So yes – it did go according to plan, in that all infested trees, as well as the trap trees went to the sawmill.

Sam: Some people do not believe that Type 1 Understory Treatment can be effective in stopping a fire.

Stephan: True, it will not stop a raging crown fire, but it has been proven to significantly slow, or actually stop, a ground fire. SIFCo accepts the evidence that removing ground fuel surrounding communities improves both the safety of residents and wildlife habitat.

Sally: There is some feeling that the northern region has contributed more than its fair share to SIFCo’s timber supply.

Stephan: The location of all the SWPI-funded wildfire mitigation work was tied to the areas surrounding the villages. SIFCo's Wildfire Mitigation Plan was approved in June 2016 and we have been following it, we plan on doing 12 Landscape Scale Fuel Breaks between Lebadoh Flats and New Denver. 5 in the North and 7 in the South. 4 are completed in the North and none are fully completed in the south although all seven have been started. Over the next several years much more work will happen in the South than in the North.

An internal timber supply analysis was also finished in 2011 to determine the sustainable AAC for each area. That continues to be the guide. Public perception as to what is acceptable forestry goes in waves – a fresh wildfire mitigation block looks disturbing, but after a year or so of green-up, it becomes acceptable. The level of general dissatisfaction with forestry practices is much less under our tenure than it was in the 1990’s under SFP and other large companies. Many newcomers are not able to make this comparison.

Rachel: There are also many southern residents who would appreciate having some fire safety work done in their area, and wonder why so much of the work has been up north.

Lisa: No matter what we do, there is always potential for polarity. Education and communication is an ongoing requirement.

Tyler: How does SIFCo showcase the work they do? People may see unfinished work and form an opinion, but long-term results can take years to become evident.

Stephan: The main source of information is our website. There are public meetings whenever a new area comes up for treatment.

Rachel: It might be possible to create short time-lapse videos, from original conditions to results. Many people view social media, but keeping that current would be a significant job.

We finished by viewing of one of our documentaries, "The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society." General appreciation was expressed, both for Rachel's excellent work, and Sally's ongoing efforts to "deepen general environmental consciousness." The video emphasizes ecosystem unity, from mountaintop to lake.

Sally reports that this video is widely viewed. The Society is still dealing with individual attitudes of "don't tell me what I can do on my property."

Financial Report

Moved to accept the financial report: Tom Bradley

Seconded: Miriam Mason-Martineau

Carried

The year end financial statement was presented.

Members are reminded that this is an internal document.

Discussion: Two new Reserve Accounts; Post Harvest Cleanup and Wildland Urban Interface Retreatment have been created. They join the Silviculture Reserve, in the "restricted cash" section. The work we are currently doing as Post Harvest Cleanup and Wildland Urban Interface treatments is funded by grant sources specific to that work. The purpose of the new accounts is to set aside funds from our earnings to ensure that such work can continue even if the funding sources are lost. The WUI areas will only serve as effective fire protection if they are retreated over time. The cost to retreat is much less than the cost of the original work. The formula used to allocate funds for this is \$800/ha., on a 10 year cycle. Although there is no legislated requirement to maintain treated areas beyond 15 years, we see it as a responsibility to all who live here, human and otherwise.

Sally: requested clarification for the line item "Other Subcontractors."

Detailed breakdown was given by Lesley.

Tom A: Did COVID significantly impact us this year?

Yes. New protocols had to be created to manage crews and staff. This was time consuming. The ban on all burning (in what was otherwise a good year for it) meant the terrestrial component (prescribed burn) of the Winlaw restoration project had to be postponed to next year. All other WUI projects were stalled as well. It now costs slightly more to do everything.

Special Resolution

A Special Resolution was put forward from the Board of Directors:

"that the association waive the appointment of an auditor under Section #109 of the Cooperative Associations Act for the year ending January 31, 2021."

Moved to accept the Special Resolution: Moonbow

Seconded: Tom Armstrong

Carried

New Business

None was raised.

Election / Appointment of Directors

The Board has set the # of seats on the Board of Directors for the upcoming year, at seven.

The following directors have one year left in their two-year term:

Lisa Farr	(appointed by EACT)
Moonbow	(appointed by RMRA)
Lesley Mayfield	(appointed by WWC)

The following directors have been appointed for a two year term:

Gary Parkstrom	(appointed by RMRA)
Stephan Martineau	(appointed by EACT)
David Liske	(appointed by WWC)

Tyler Abbott is being mentored by David Liske and will replace him on the Board of Directors later in the year.

By acclamation: the two year term for the “member at large” position on the Board of Directors is being filled by Tom Armstrong.

Sincere thanks and appreciation go to Sam Tichenor, who has ably served for RMRA, and to David Liske for WWC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30