

MINUTES OF SIFCo ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

April 18, 2012 Thursday 7 pm
SIFCo Office, Winlaw BC

Attending:

Lisa Farr, Stephan Martineau, James Rutkowski (Moonbow), Randy Cofer, Sally Hammond, Tom Bradley, Brett Pope, Daren Tremaine, Clarence Denbok, Lesley Mayfield, Peter Vogelaar, Paul Kelly
Quorum satisfied.

Meeting began 7 pm with a round of introductions.
Lesley Mayfield was designated as recording secretary this evening.

Last Year's Minutes:

were read by Lisa, including a summary of the discussion points. The main point made on general policy was to maintain the watershed-based focus by having the majority of directors appointed from the member groups.

Moved that the Minutes be accepted – Sally.

Seconded – Moonbow.

President's Report:

Lisa read aloud her clear summary of the past year, copies were also given to each participant.
Questions and responses arising were:

-Peter asked for info on the intention to apply for a tenure wide salvage licence. Tom explained that this decision was made to avoid having to deal with any outside application for salvage operations on a piecemeal basis. As things stand, any person designated as a salvage operator could apply to MoF to get dead trees anywhere on our tenure. This would require expensive trips by our forester to go and check whether the trees in question are intended as wildlife trees, and whether they are in a designated “no-go” zone. An example would be blowdown across a creek, where we have set policy limits on how close to the creek machine disturbance is allowed. By applying for the licence ourselves, we can specify that any operations must be carried out under our overall stewardship plan. This is significant, as “salvage” can be a big operation – there was a pre-existing salvage permit in the Trozzo area for 4,000 cubic meters, = 100 loads.

-Sally asked when work would proceed on the Winlaw block. The answer is likely next December, once there is sufficient snowpack on the ground. The goal is to minimize ground disturbance when taking out the fir, so as not to favour regeneration of more fir. This hot dry site is being managed as a longterm ponderosa open forest. It was intended for harvest last winter, but by the time there was enough snow at this low elevation site, the road restrictions were on, and it is too expensive to run partially loaded trucks.

-The other block in progress, in Trozzo area, will be completed this spring, as soon as snow has retreated enough to open the road. This higher block was shut down early to avoid too much expensive plowing.

-Clarence asked if Ellissa's excellent school presentation is available as an on-line package. The answer is no, but she did leave us thorough reports. A key part of it involves someone running interactive stations with the kids.

-There was discussion on a possible Biomass Recovery Project. This is something Corky has been investigating, as a way to use sawdust, bark, slab sides, and branches which are now burned as waste, or taken to a landfill. It costs \$2000 per day to burn at the Springer Creek mill site. Between N. Slocan and Nelson there is an enormous amount of material. The program is focussing on a composting option which would create a marketable product, and power production. SIFCo has applied to CBT to fund a feasibility study on both of these options, this will happen in the next 2 months. Whistler is currently processing 10,000 tons per year. SIFCo has investigated many value-added approaches to diversification beyond timber harvesting, such as building micro-homes, many of which turn out to be non-practical for us due to distance from the markets for the products. This is another option to look at.

-Sally asked if any of the workers hired on the Silverton WUI project are local to that area. Stephan responded that he made a great effort for that to happen, both by notifying people that they should apply, and then weighting the applications to favour local residents. However, only one applicant of 30 came from the Silverton area, and he was off on vacation at interview time. He is now first on the replacement list. The crew is working now till June, and will resume in October.

-Lisa remarked that there are some advantages to being a small, non-profit operation, in that we can pursue funds available for projects such as the Wildfire Urban Interface work, and we are nimble enough to take quick advantage of new opportunities as they arise.

Moved that the President's Report be accepted – Moonbow.
Seconded – Sally.

Financial Report:

The final report as prepared by our accountant Maureen Muentner-Anderson was presented by Lesley, and a few questions as to details were answered.

In general, it was noted that although we had a loss last year, two blocks on which all the preparation work has been done are ready for harvest this year, which will recoup the expenses, and generate some income. The WUI work is underway, sustaining cash flow sufficient for daily operations.

Moved that the Financial Report be accepted – Paul.
Seconded – Moonbow.

Special Resolution:

Moved that the association waive the appointment of an auditor under section 109 of the Cooperative Associations Act, for the year ended January 31, 2013 - Lesley

Seconded - Moonbow.

Election/Appointment of Directors:

The Board determined that there shall be 7 directors this year, leaving room for 2 more should the Slocan-Lemon group ever get organized.

Continuing into the 2nd year of their terms are Lesley Mayfield (Winlaw), Lisa Farr (EACT), and Jim Rutkowski (Silverton/Red Mountain).

Reappointed by their watershed groups to another term are Daren Tremaine (Silverton/Red Mountain,), Brett Pope (Winlaw), and Stephan Martineau (EACT).

There was an opening for the Member-at Large directorship, which has been filled with dedication for

6 years by Mark Septav. Stephan noted that Mark's participation all through the formative years was invaluable, and a sincere thank you is offered here.

Paul Kelly expressed interest in taking the position. He briefly described his relevant background, which includes a degree in Business Management, and being manager of a natural food store chain with 100's of staff. His stint as restaurateur in Winlaw came about from his desire to move to a rural area and become involved in the community. He is currently running the local bio-diesel operation. There being no other applicants, and no objections, Paul was acclaimed as the 7th director.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm

Next Board Meeting set for Wed., May 16, 5:30 pm, at the SIFCo office.