

# Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm Tuesday, 11 March 2019  
Grand Forks Public Library

**Called to order:** 7:00 pm.

**Chair:** Kathleen Gabelmann

**In attendance:** See sign in sheet

1. Approval of Agenda by Dave Milton. Seconded by Dave Raho. All in favour. Motion passed.
2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting held 20 February 2019. First, Jennifer described access to minutes. Jennifer Houghton approved Minutes. Seconded by Lynn Bleiler. All in favour. Motion passed.
3. **Old Business:**
  - a. BFWSS application to become registered society – Courtney Redding explained the application was submitted on Feb 27, 2019 and can take up to 15 business days for a response.
  - b. Progress of BFWSS Strategic Plan – Kathleen Gabelmann
    - i. Kathleen explained Strategic Plan. Our current Mission and Vision Statement were shared.
    - ii. Vision Statement; our 4 visions:
      1. By 2021, citizens of the Boundary region will have its forests managed/ stewarded solely using principles of restoration forestry, that, in turn supports an ecologically sound and vibrant watershed.
      2. New forestry legislation that reflects the highest standard of care and directs a duty of long-term stewardship for all forest values will be in place and will have supported these achievements.
      3. A Citizens Commission with regional representation will actively participate in all decisions regarding the stewardship of our forests and watershed, and monitoring of both will be a public sector function.
      4. Individuals, families and communities will have the security and safety of a rich, resilient and healthy environment that offers opportunities for sustainable economic, social, cultural and recreational activities within the region and beyond.
    - iii. Mission Statement:
      1. The BFWSS is a grassroots group of Boundary area residents advocating for culturally and ecologically sustainable forestry practices in our watershed. We support data driven, long-term stewardship of the

timber and non-timber values of our forests. We advocate for forest management on long-term landscape level planning, a mandatory shared decision-making process with our citizens, careful incorporation of public needs and values, and full recognition of our forests' on-timber values including water, wildlife, education, safety, tourism, recreation, grasslands, and parks.

- iv. Open discussion defining terms in the Vision and Mission Statement.
- c. Motion to strike a committee about education. Kathleen explained the purpose of our need for the education and how committees work. **Jennifer Houghton made a motion to strike a committee for education. Stan Swinarchuk seconded.** All in favour. Motion passed. Hand for volunteers: Donna, Roy, Tara, Forrest. Lynn requested donation of tv and electronics. Larry has a monitor. Kathleen has a computer. Courtney has a DVD/ USB player.
- d. BFWSS Position statement on Cumulative Effects Study – Ray Hanson
  - i. Recommendation from Herb – put out a mission statement to establish ourselves as a credible organization. Ray has worked with a group and come up with 4 items to address:
    - 1. No more cut blocks over 40 hectares
    - 2. Zero roads – Larry Hudema spoke of terra mats. Made from recycled tires. Ideal for delicate soils and allowing drainage. The objective for terra mats is to reduce the effects of traffic that cause erosion.
    - 3. Cumulative Effects Study
      - a. No hydrological study will be completed. Ray is following up on reports done in Terrace and Okanagan.
      - b. Our request is to have two members of our group on the Advisory Group.
      - c. Currently the group includes a hydrologist, analyst, two BCTS members, and industry mangers.
    - 4. Best practices

Discussion Lynn suggests we need a page for access to information. Jennifer has already setup google drive for all of us and once we have a name we will have a website with all access to all the information, links, reports, etc.

- e. Forest March BC – Overview of event – key purpose, key messages, BFWSS banner; motion to form a group of volunteers to engage groups across BC;
  - i. April 6. Inaugural launch of Forest March BC. Bringing groups together across BC to all march together on the same day.
  - ii. The Forest Range Practices Act – the government is in the process of making changes to FRPA. We want to support these changes and have the government include eco system restoration, sustainable forestry, and meaningful community engagement in our forest management.
  - iii. Tonight's meeting will include planning for the march. Jennifer shared her ideas and goals for the march. **WE ARE NOT FIGHTING AGAINST ANYTHING. WE ARE MOVING FORWARD WITH CHANGE.**
  - iv. **We need a byline for our slogan. Everything think on this.**

- v. We need volunteers to reach out to all the other groups across the Province. Joanne is a team lead for this project. Dorothy will assist. BCFRR will also assist. Jennifer will send out Joanne's contact for anyone who may be able to assist.
- vi. Larry suggests reaching out globally for more like minded groups. Yes! Part of the plan. We are currently a model region; we are an example.

#### 4. **New Business:**

- a. Cowichan meeting attended by Jennifer Houghton and upcoming changes to Forest & Range Practices – Jennifer Houghton report
  - i. WhereDoWeStand.(com or ca). Jennifer attended a meeting last Tuesday with ~ 400 people including their mayor supporting the agenda of the group. Jennifer will share the video which includes Ray Traverse and other experts.
- b. Upcoming public consultation on FRPA – Ray Hanson (info and discussion)
  - i. For ~ 19 years the forests have been managed by FRPA. The new government has mandated a council to look into making changes to bring the act up to date and modernize. This council has done a Phase I revision. Details not yet revealed. The announcement will be in the spring. They have set another act to respond to Professional Reliance. In other words; “we” are relying on the professional to make good judgment to allow change to guidelines. These professionals are paid by the forest industry. The government has been getting a lot of feedback on this system so they are enacting an act to oversee the Professional Reliance.
  - ii. Phase II of legislation – the council is calling for feedback on the forest and range management practices. **This is our opportunity.**
  - iii. List of current council members include:
    - Garry Merkel (co-chair), First Nations Leadership Council
    - Diane Nicholls (co-chair), ADM, Chief Forester
    - Shannon Janzen, Major Licensees (Coast)
    - Mike McConnell, BC Cattlemen's Association
    - Brian McNaughton, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations
    - Brian Frenkel, Union of BC municipalities
    - Stirling Angus, Logging contractors (TLA, NWLA, ILA)
    - Jeff Mycock, Major Licensees (Interior)
    - Sally N. Aitken, Professor and Associate Dean, UBC
    - Jennifer Gunter, BC Community Forest Association
    - Lisa Matthaus, Provincial Lead, Organizing for Change
  - iv. A better Forest Practices Board....
  - v. Kathleen – we need oversight with integrity. This is part of our mission.

NOTE - Stan and Lynn have received calls regarding a teleconference for Clean Air. Another avenue for us to be heard.

- c. Structural Complexity Enhancement- an option for managing forests – Roy Schiesser (info)
  - i. Lacking – a definitive description of what we want in managing our watershed/ forest.
  - ii. Ted Talk by a representative of Vaugan Industries
  - iii. When people refer to management practices people think it means environmental. And they shut down.
  - iv. Ray and Roy found a study from Vermont. Structural Complexity Enhancement. Another word for Eco System based management. In words that industry will listen to. Reporting on; horizontal and vertical complexity strategies for old growth, carbon, biological diversity. The data has been gathered and studied. Roy will share the link. With this forestry practice in Vermont, when they leave the management area the amount of carbon and biodiversity left would equal almost the same as if never touched. This practice has gone on for over two decades.
  - v. There is another study where they've recorded the sounds between clear cut, selective, and uncut forests.
  - vi. This is about the structure of the cut for structural integrity and biological diversity. Not necessarily clear cut versus selective logging versus no cut. Proper management. Improved legislation.
  - vii. In the USA if you can prove you are putting more carbon back into the soil there is a financial compensation.
- d. Request to create a letter from BFWSS supporting Stop the Spray BC - to stop glysohate spraying in forests – Stan Swinarchuk presented:
  - i. Glysohate is used to kill aspen/ birch, so pine and spruce will grow faster. Spraying since 1980. That glysohate is in our water, food, soil, mother's milk. Killing off wildlife. Moose and deer eat aspen bark, lily bulbs, berries.... It's all sprayed so the evergreens can grow.
  - ii. Last year 12,000 acres were sprayed. Jack pine doesn't die because it's genetically altered.
  - iii. Another effect is the spraying is killing our natural fire break.
  - iv. Mike Morris, MLA Prince George. Ian shared that Mike was reported on the ABCFP (Association of BC Forest Professionals) website today regarding his charge against the no spray. ABCFP is a private organization with public access to the website. ABCFP.ca
- e. Stan, Dorothy and Dave Milton will draft the letter.

5. **Breakout groups: Forest March BC – 6 April 2019:** Tasks, Activities – (what and who)

- a. Signs – what to say, how to say it, key messages (Team Lead Jennifer)
- b. Logistics team – permission, where march (Blair)
- c. Education – what we are about (e.g. booth, handouts) (Committee Team Lead)

6. **Report from breakout groups** to whole meeting and discussion, next steps

a. **Logistics**

- i. Blair will contact RCMP to notify.
- ii. Blair has sent a letter to City Hall requesting Gyro Park.
- iii. Security – traffic
- iv. First aid – Jesse
- v. 4 volunteers to wear high visual.
- vi. Music and sound – Jim will inquire.
- vii. Route Gyro Park to 2<sup>nd</sup> St to Market to City Hall to Gyro Park.
- viii. Lynn is on advertising
- ix. Pop up tent - ....
- x. Tables – Bob Keep

b. **Education**

- i. Our booth: cover, tent, table
- ii. Info: handouts, maps, loop video, photos
- iii. Other booths:
  1. Invasive species
  2. KRWA
  3. First Nations
  4. Tree educator
  5. Forest ecologist
  6. Forest economist
- iv. \*\*\*Everyone in the group – please pass on any material to assist \*\*\*

c. **Signage**

- i. POSITIVE (not using not, no...)
- ii. Forest Forever, Make forests forever a reality, protecting community jobs, creating community jobs, big trees matter, selective logging, healthy forests = more forests for wildlife, robust resilient watershed, green trees/ clean water, keep our country beautiful, more job, forests are the lungs of the earth, clean water/ good flow, support FRPA innovation, forests for flood protection, sustainable forestry, long term future for our forests, forests hold water, biodiversity, healthy forests for healthy wildlife, forests enable healthy ecosystems, hydrology is a forest value, stable stream flow, ETC
- iii. A meeting for preparing signs will be set.

7. **Proposed dates** for next 2 meetings: Monday, March 25 and Monday, April 1. YES.

8. **9:04 p.m.** Adjourn