

NAME TO BE DETERMINED

Meeting

Minutes

Date: Feb 20 2019

Location: USCC

Present: Kathleen Gabelmann, Dave Milton, Lynn Bleiler, Stan Swinarchuk, Tera Tessier, Courtney Redding, Jesse Redding, Klaus Bialon, Joanne Waite, Roland Kopas, Jennifer Houghton, Barry Brandow, Les Molnar, Dawsha Hunt, Wayne Tblus, Ray Hanson Donna Semenoff, and Bob Keep.

1. Meeting called to Order @ 7:02

Chair: Kathleen Gabelmann

Agenda: Prepared by Kathleen

Agenda approved by Dave Milton. Seconded by Lynn Bleiler. All in favour. Passed.

2. Minutes from last meeting approved by Stan Swinarchuk. Seconded by Tera Tessier. All in favour. Passed.

3. Jennifer's presentation:

Brain map – conceptualize our plan. River visualization from meditation practice. Point – old man – “I did not struggle. I went with the flow. I allowed the current to take. I did not struggle against the river.”

We have an unhealthy forest = flooding, fires, drought, habitat, pests, dying off trees, lack of food, unsustainable economy, stress, too many roads, human health...

Goal is a healthy forest = biodiversity, birds, wild life in general, better air quality, more consistent hydrological cycles, less roads, sustainable economy, resources, safer, security, less fires, prescribed burns...

Forest (in our discussion) is inclusive of watershed, wildlife habitat, etc

We will face opposition, alignment, fence sitters...

Ecosystem Based Conservation Plan (per Herb Hammond). Jennifer will use Eco Plan = Healthy Forest. Controlled by the Citizens and residents of the area.

Our Group. What we're doing.

We will educate & inform about the status quo, the problems, the benefits of changing legislation, the benefits of an Eco Plan, what we're doing, why we're doing this.

We need to gather data and disseminate data. We will call our opposition the little rocks. We will maneuver around them. We will not waste a lot of energy fighting them.

Who do we want to educate?

Local, provincial, federal levels of government

Citizens

Other groups

How to educate:

Emails

Newsletter

Social media campaign – website, facebook, twitter

Events

Field trips – photos, videos

Reports, including meetings

Kitchen table talks – one of the major drivers of successful grassroots campaigns

ACTIONS:

Form the group, including the strategic plan.

Regular meetings of the large group

Write letters to influencers, etc

Delegations to government

Write and conduct reports

Fundraising

Hire experts (state of our watershed and how to reach healthy)

Petitions, we need public support

Eco Plan – create it and implement it.

Complaints Board

Grants

CO-ALIGN:

With other groups, larger groups, provincial groups. They will offer support, feed us info, and help us connect.

With other local groups. Hunters, wildlife, ecologists, agriculture, etc.

Friends, family, neighbours, the people around us.

Influencers – Government, media, individuals

Once our Eco Plan is formed we will co-align with the Citizens Commission handling the Eco Plan.

COMMENTS:

Stan – we need to get those “co-align” people to these meetings. Granby Wilderness, Kettle

River Watershed Authority.... We need to get these people here.

Jennifer – Yes! We need to get organized and get them here.

Kathleen – and we can go to their meetings once we're organized.

Donna – at BFR meeting speaking about Watershed received the feedback from a Watershed rep that Gov't doesn't understand. We need to find ways to get people to understand.

4. KATHLEEN – STRATEGIC PLAN

This is in progress. Strategic Plan is often likened to a Road Map. We are creating a Road Map for our organization; providing clearly defined directions about our purpose, values, goals and priority initiatives. We can't do everything. We need to identify and agree upon our over arching goals. This is how we will be successful through the pressures we will face. The Strategic Plan becomes our guide to keep within our agreed upon purpose, values, goals and priority initiatives. This will include a work plan which will pull in all the things we are talking about and keeps it organized so all is manageable. For instance, a work plan to change legislation, to create our Eco Plan. Tasks will be detailed in the work plan. Individuals and teams can be assigned to tasks with team leads and time lines and monitoring. The Strategic Plan explains how everything we are doing is linked. And it's never etched in stone. It's a dynamic plan. It creates control, so we are not feeling overwhelmed or feeling "burnt out". It will also give us legitimacy.

5. COURTNEY – SOCIETY

Quick briefing on becoming a Society. We need a name, bylaws, and directors. Quick open discussion on names. Jennifer will send out an online poll so everyone is included in name decision (absentees).

DAVE MILTON – Have we gained legal advice for forming our Society? Lawyers often do pro bono for Society work.

6. JENNIFER – MEETINGS/ COLLABORATIONS

What has been happening:

BCCFR – Jennifer is on their steering committee. Their mandate is forestry reform.

Barry Brandow – he read his note to Tim Coleman in Colville, WA requesting contact info for Washington influencers and the current state of affairs with local logging practices.

Developing the social media items.

Applying for grants and fundraising to get Jennifer hired as a full time job.

RAY

UBCM update (Union of BC Municipalities)

We can bring resolutions forward to present to these ministers. Lobbying. We need to get something prepared for our local government, so they can take it UBCM.

Stan has tried to get in touch of Roly Russell. No answer.

KATHLEEN - We need to approach our local officials throughout the Boundary area.

Open discussion on goal of this group.

Fred suggests calling a meeting of all the local government with (his recommendation) 4 immediate demands:

1. No net new roads
2. No cut blocks over 40 hectares
3. Implement best management practices sited in Best Practices Report and Graham Watt's report
4. Cumulative Effects Study – get 2 members of our Board added to the Advisory.

Motion by Jennifer to strike a committee to create a Position Statement. Courtnay seconded. All in favour. Motion carried.

Angie would like to have a statement drafted that it is criminal to allow the same cuts after the effects of the past two years.

Roland – Who is this position statement being presented to? Jennifer – local government, ministry, RDKB, Chief Forester, Forest Practices Board, and anyone else she can get on the list.

Donna – reminder – anyone can join BCCFR for free. Jennifer has joined as a representative of our group.

Call for ideas - tabled.

7. Breakout groups:

Fundraising – Lynn guiding

Education – Joanne guiding

Field work planning – Courtnay guiding

Breakouts 8:20 – 8:45

Summary presentations on breakouts.

A summary of the breakout groups will be provided separately.

Open discussion.

Hornet Creek logging could be an opportunity for us.

Jennifer's concluding points:

1. Ben Parfitt – Narwhal journalist – publishing article in the next couple weeks.
2. Initiating a Province Wide BC Forest Day demonstration.

Next meeting: TBD. Jennifer will poll.

Barry Brandow – Recommends everyone read the final report on Professional Reliance

Adjourned: 9:03pm