



Dunster Community Forest Society 8252 Dunster Croydon Road, Dunster, BC V0J 1J0
Registered Society # S- 0049465 Incorporated 21 July, 2005

MINUTES: the MARCH 7, 2016 DCFS Annual General Meeting

March 7, 2016 Board of Directors of Dunster Community Forest Society
Meeting beginning at 6:30 PM, Dunster School.

Directors present: Larry Stamm, Archie McLean, Michaelynn Kyjonka, Chuck McNaughton, Richard Chambers, Chantal Swets, Stefi McLean.

Manager present: Ray Thiessen

Members present: Nancy Taylor, Deb Reimer, Eric Gauthier, Donna Hampson, Pete Amyoony.

Guest present: Dannielle Alan, Regional District Area H elected representative

Meeting started with reading of the agenda printout.

1. **Motion:** by Chantal, 2nd by Stefi, that we adopt the agenda. Carried.

AGM minutes from Jan. 21, 2015 read.

2. **Motion:** Michaelynn moved, Stefi seconded, to adopt the January 21st, 2015 AGM meeting minutes.

Larry read a Summary from the Chair for the previous year, and goals for the next year. Good Report!

3. Treasurer's Report: Donna presented the treasurer's report with typo correction on Page 2 of the Budget Projections (should read \$9,000 total, last line). Chantal moved we accept the Treasurer's Report, 2nd by Michaelynn, Carried. Congratulations to Donna on the thorough reporting and financial details.

4. Manager's Report by Ray Thiessen: Printed Manager's report was handed out to all present. Ray presented his report; the Forest Stewardship Plan is being advertised, starting tomorrow, March 8, and running for 60 days. The FSP approval process seems to have been a moving target. Other licencees and Community Forests have experienced delays of up to 1.5 years to receive approvals from MOFLNR for their Forest Stewardship Plans. Ray's report includes; Planning, Visual Quality Objectives, Mixed Wood Stocking Standards, Silviculture 2015 and 2016, Harvest, Development, Recreation, Grants and a Summary.

5. a) Mixed wood stocking standards.. a discussion of the existing Poplar population, birch stands, and how these species may fit in with the Dunster Forest.

b) Silviculture: Planting has succeeded; the final survey results showing 1400-1500 stems/hectare. Blocks A01(Croydon) and G01(Raush Valley) replanted with 70% spruce and 30% Cedar. Shere replanted with 10% Spruce and 90% Pine.

c) Harvest: Maps presented are showing the blocks done till now.

- d) Development: 14 km of road built in 2014, which makes us 1/2 year ahead in road building, to keep going and get 1 year ahead in road building.
- e) Internet Technology: Valemount indicates they would hire Dunster CF to do the visual analysis and mapping when we get it working!
- f) Recreation: Trails were cleared of danger trees by D. Salayka and his boys.

Question: How much cable vs conventional coming up? Answer: 30% Hoe Chuck, 10% Cable logging, 60% Skidder logging.

Motion: Chuck moved, Eric seconded that we accept the Manager's Report. Carried.

8:00 PM: Lunch break with good food and coffee, maps were perused.

- 6. Pete Amyoony took over the meeting, all directors resigned.
- 7. Nominations for 2016:
 - 1) Larry Stamm... acclaimed as Chair.
 - 2) Archie McLean... acclaimed as Vice Chair
 - 3) Michaelynn Kyjonka... acclaimed as Secretary
 - 4) Donna Hampson: acclaimed as Treasurer

The following Directors were nominated, all were acclaimed;

- 5) Richard Chambers
- 6) Chantal Swets
- 7) Eric Gauthier
- 8) Chuck McNaughton
- 9) Sam Phillips was appointed in absentia to continue as Simpc'w representative

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. Next AGM date and location to be announced.
See You There!

Dunster Community Forest Society

Chair's 2015 Year End Report

For the past year, the DCFS Board has again been focused on getting policies and procedures in place to create a solid foundation for the organization. We now have a Community Grants policy in place which clearly outlines the qualifications and procedures for potential applicants, and specifies the amount and source of the grant funds.

We have also made progress in setting up accounting procedures to better record the financial activities of the organization, which will aid in analyzing our operations and guide our decision making.

The Board spent some time in debating the value of our membership in the BC Community Forest Association in light of the costly annual membership fee. We decided to maintain our membership for the time being because of the stronger voice we would have as part of the Association. In June, I attended the the BC Community Forest Association annual conference in Clearwater, along with our manager Ray Thiessen. I learned more of the diversity found in Community Forests, and how critical log hauling costs could be in determining success or failure of a Community Forest. We are not alone in our struggles to find a viable path.

Negotiations with Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources regarding the unaccounted timber volumes that were harvested from the DCF footprint prior to 2009 came to a dead end this past year. Ray and I met with our MLA Shirley Bond this past July to explain our situation to her. She was receptive and sympathetic, but could offer no immediate solution. We will likely have to deal with the reduced current timber supply as best we can for the foreseeable future.

With the constraints imposed by our timber supply, Visual Quality Objectives, ecological concerns, and the high cost of log hauling, it is becoming apparent that we cannot rely on market logging alone as a revenue source. One option might be to develop technological forestry expertise ``in house'' that we could then market as a service to other forestry companies. The high cost of hiring contractors to develop visual models of proposed logging activities makes it appealing to develop that capacity locally, so we will be investing in technology and training towards that end. Ideally, we will be creating another local job as well as a service that can benefit other forestry operations in the Valley.

Cooperating with other Community Forests in the Valley remains a goal, with the objective of combining resources to help promote local processing and retaining more value from our forests within our local communities.

Improving community communications and updating the website are challenges that DCFS will need to address in the coming year.

Although the future seems challenging, I believe that DCFS is making steady progress towards the goal of a viable, sustainable organization that can benefit the Dunster community through careful forest management.

Larry Stamm
Chair, Dunster Community Forest Society
07 March, 2016

DCFS

Manager's Report to The Board of Directors: (2016 AGM)

Ray Thiessen, Manager

March 7, 2016

Planning

The FSP is advertised and set to begin the 60 day public review and comment period on March 8, 2016. The FSP can be viewed on the website and I will be sending copies to stakeholders with shared tenures.

This was an arduous process, as the Ministry (FLNRO) has moved to a legalistic document that is incapable of relaying the qualitative aspects of stewardship preferred by most local interests. These interests can be more fully described in a companion document, such as a Policy Manual or Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) going forward. The plan is to start incorporating specific values into Site Plans for Harvest SOPs, and Contracts for planting and other activities. These values can then be collated into a Policy Manual or General SOPs.

There are 2 main developments in this FSP. They are summarized below.

Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) have become a dominant aspect of planning as we no longer have a blanket exemption related to damaged timber. The large (> 12 ha) patches of high mortality Pine are mostly addressed and we are encountering a mix of species in types which allow for more diverse retention and subtlety in design. We are still dealing with VQO constraints going forward. The Retention and to some degree Partial Retention VQOs are difficult to meet on this landscape. The FSP includes a request to vary from these objectives in specific cases where we show damaged timber can't be removed without it. We will be able to request these variances based on Visual Impact Assessments (VIAs) by next year using modelling tools and capacity in development.

Mixedwood Stocking Standards are included in this FSP submission. These Standards were developed in collaboration with Mike Jull of UNBC and Aleza Lake Research Forest. DCF has significant proportions of deciduous over the licence area which be difficult and expensive to convert to conifer in 1 rotation. The new Standards will allow for succession to occur in a manner that relates to current conditions as well as an ability to plan for a diverse forest on the whole Community Forest Agreement (CFA) area. The Rationale and relating Stocking Standards can be viewed as Appendix 3 in the FSP submission.

DCF has 3 years of layout accomplished in 2 years. By the end of 2016 we will be a full year ahead. The budget accommodates this target. The goal is to get ahead enough to initiate our own seedling program using our own cones. We can also consult with stakeholders better when we are ahead in planning.

Silviculture

2015: Planting occurred on 3 areas in 2015. Shere blocks, S 01-05 harvested in 2013, were planted with Pine (PI) 90%, and Spruce (Sx) 10%. Blocks A 01 and G01, harvested in 2014, were planted with Sx 70%, and Cedar (Cw) 30%. There are small sections of A 01 and G 01 which were not planted as the cable component of each of these blocks was not complete. 87,000 seedlings were planted. Planting density was set at 1200 Stems per Hectare (SPH). Final survey results showed 1400-1500 SPH as a result of acceptable naturals retained on the blocks. With all seedlings tallied, DCF can expect a mixed conifer forest to emerge.

There were some quality issues that came to light as a result of third party surveys. Remediation of most of these issues occurred when the contractor went in to replant. There were, however, some issues that remained after secondary inspection. The contractor was issued a fine of 7% gross pay based on the FLNRO Planting Quality Inspection Guide, Appendix 2. Further inspection in September 2015 showed seedlings in good shape consistent with TSS in the Site Plans of 1200 SPH.

An SOP for is in development and will be employed for the 2016 season to mitigate issues and bring clarity to DCF expectations for planting activities.

2016: Integrity Contracting will be planting for DCF in 2016. Seedlings are mostly secured by acquiring overruns from MCF and the IFS Nursery in Prince George. DCF will be planting 60,000 seedlings over 4 areas. R 01-05, A 01 and G01, harvested to completion in 2015, will be stocked with Sx, PI, and Fir (Fd) with a small component of Cw if we can find some. These species compositions are consistent with current Stocking Standards for these types. Along with Naturals we can expect mixed conifer stands to emerge.

Harvest

DCF harvested 12,000 m³ in 2015. The species composition was 80% PI, 13% Sx, and 7% Fd. The majority of the Sx and Fd component came from Road development.

We are set to harvest 10,000 m³ in 2016. This is a lower projection as we move from PI recovery towards a more realistic harvest level that can be maintained over the long term. The target areas are still on the area above the Rausch Valley Road. New infrastructure will be put

in place as well as that developed in 2015. The blocks for 2016 are G 02-03, C01-04 and R10. All blocks except R 10 are <11 ha. All of these blocks meet VQOs for design elements.

R 10 is 38 ha with 3 Standards Units (SUs). SU 1 is 22 ha and will meet VQO targets for design, but will not meet Partial Retention (PR) objectives (see VQO section of Planning). SU 2&3 are Partial Cuts and will meet PR objectives.

C 01-04 are a series of 4 blocks from 1-7 hectares each. These blocks are marginally able to meet PR objectives, so a variance is being sought as with R 10.

G 02&03 are above G 01 and will not meet VQOs as they are in a Retention (R) area. G 03 and the cable section of G 02 may be dropped if there is any difficulty with a variance.

The variance to VQOs sought is written in the relating section of the FSP submitted for approval. This variance is for the blocks with R and PR VQOs, to be measured as Modification (M), for the purpose of removing Beetle killed PI. The M VQO will allow for harvest at a level consistent with PI mortality as it occurs on the landscape.

Development

The DCF built 14 km of road in 2015. The goal to meet our harvest objectives was < 7 km. The logging contractor, R&V Pepper went above and beyond to move the infrastructure program forward. We now have about ½ of 2016 road built ahead in 2015. The goal is to be ahead 1 year by the end of 2016. The budget reflects this goal.

There is another aspect of development to address. The development of our own IT capacity is a crucial part of success going forward. We are now close to producing our own data products to interface with government input and reporting requirements as well as the capability to service needs in our area. The budget includes provision for the remaining tools to reach these goals. Mapping and VIA products are 2 of several that are needed in the valley, and I have been given indications that we can sell these to other Licensees.

Recreation

We took our trail program forward in 2015 by intensive danger tree removal on the 3 trails we maintain. The program will be up to standard this year by some cleanup and final gps recording of attributes and pictures. Dave Salayka and his crew did the work and we hope to have that same level of expertise on the trails again in 2016.

Grants

DCF has received the first phase of grant money to address NSR salvage areas from the past. The sum for this Phase is \$19,700.00, to be administered by us to insure the work is done locally. The first phase is for surveys and mapping.

We also received a grant towards trail maintenance FLNRO Rec. division. This was for approx. \$2,800.00 and covered about ½ of our trail expenses.

Summary

The finances are slowly accumulating value for the DCFS. There is a small increase in the price of PI projected for 2016 (5%). This increase will add to our 'bottom line'. The budget and other analysis prepared with Donna Hampson will further show our status. Thank you all for a great year and Thank you for the work.

Ray Thiessen

DCF Manager