



CCFC Board of Directors

Minutes of CCFC AGM May 22, 2022

Board Members Present: By ZOOM Carrie Saxifrage, Maureen Williams, David Shipway, Mark Braaten Aaron Ellingsen

Members Present: Andy Ellingsen (elections official), Andrea Lang (presentation), Mark Lombard (managers report), Hannu Huuskonen (woodworkers presentation) Kate Maddigan, Mike Moore, John Blaxal, Bob Tracy, Bruce Ellingsen, Jeremie Ellingsen, Roy Hales, Ralph Garrison, Wayne Roberts, Judith Weaver,

Meeting Called to Order @ 7 pm

AGM AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Andy Ellingsen declaration of quorum for AGM, 19 members present**
2. **Mark Braaten - Welcome**
 - a. We gratefully acknowledge that that the Cortes Community Forest is within the traditional and ancestral territories of the Klahoose, Tla'amin and Homalco peoples
 - b. **Approval of 2021 AGM Minutes** - distributed by email and posted to CCFC website
 - i. **Motion (Aaron/Maureen)** That the CCFC members present approve 2021 AGM Minutes as posted to the CCFC website ~ carried
 - c. **Approval of 2022 AGM Agenda - *distributed in advance by email***
 - i. **Motion (Aaron/Maureen)** That the CCFC members present approve the agenda for the 2022 AGM as posted ~ carried
3. **Carrie Saxifrage**
 - a. [President's Report](#)
4. **Andrea Lang RPF Presentation**
 - a. [Cortes Community Forest Timber Supply Forecasts](#)
 - i. Forest Cover and Age Class distribution over time calculated with consideration of different annual harvest volumes
5. **Maureen Williams**
 - a. [2022 Treasurer's Report](#)
 - b. [2020 Financial Statements UPDATED](#) note- this document is added to the 2022 AGM minutes on 2022.08.10 following review by our accountant and assessment by the CRA

- c. [2019 Financial Statements UPDATED](#) note- this document is added to the 2022 AGM minutes on 2022.08.10 following review by our accountant and assessment by the CRA

6. Aaron Ellingsen - challenges and opportunities as a miller

- a. Aaron runs a local value added processing business including a sawmill, planer mill, kiln and associated services, that produce value added wood products such as paneling using community forest wood.
- b. The operation requires regular source of fiber each year from all species available in our community forest
- c. One of the major advantages is the ability to have first choice of all the logs harvested
- d. local millers and builders were able to select individual logs that met their needs also
- e. It is a matter of personal pride, satisfaction and ethics to know where the trees came from that were used to build your own home
- f. In recent years it has become very difficult for smaller operations on Vancouver Island to acquire the smaller volumes they need due to competition from larger companies.
- g. With Community Forest wood available for local small to medium size businesses, an annual harvest average of 3500m³ is more than ample to supply local needs for high quality wood.
- h. Larger beams will be available on a regular basis
- i. Wood from our Community Forest is old wood by current BC standards. There is a growing percentage of younger aged forests on Vancouver Island
- j. Old wood is desirable for many reasons and the high quality is easily recognised
- k. The Cortes Island Community Forest brand and history adds interest and value to value added products
- l. Partnership with The Klahoose Nation is a source of pride and satisfaction.
- m. Interest in collaboration is high from other organizations such as The Wood Innovation Group (TWIG) and Emily Carr University
- n. Cortes Island has a small market and therefore limited incentive for investing in set up costs. Difficult to factor how much product needs to be sold where the market will be.
- o. The logistics of shipping off island to remote markets and importing any needed materials increases costs
- p. There is a limited availability of skilled labour on island
- q. There is also limited local expertise and knowledge resources, but experienced local people have expressed willingness to share resources

7. Hannu Huuskonen opportunities and challenges in value added

woodworking with local wood

- a. Hannu is a local woodworker and cabinet maker running his own business *Counter Intuitive Design* on Cortes Island for the past 15 years
- b. He always recommends the use of local wood to his clients
- c. To date all of his products have been sold on the island directly to local clients. It has always been popular among locals to use local wood in their cabinetry.
- d. Using local wood of all the available species yields exceptionally beautiful results that have contributed to the development of a unique style on Cortes
- e. There is a relatively small local market for these services
- f. The largest challenge has been limited shop space and dry storage for raw materials and finished products
- g. Local wood is most often supplied with a high moisture content and there has been limited access to kilns while air dry is not dry enough for fine woodworking
- h. There has been a limited demand for this needed infrastructure among small suppliers.

8. Mark Lombard - Managers Report

- a. It has been great working with Andrea Lang to confirm accuracy of ministry data.
- b. In the past 5 years the average volume of harvest has been 2,100m³/yr
- c. Harvest volumes in the past 9 years have totalled just under 19,000 m³ which yields a similar annual average
- d. The availability of the log dump has been limited and restrictive of our abilities to carry on operations
- e. CFGP completed the VON1 project this past spring and totaled 6,600 m³ of merch and 400 m³ of firewood. There were 7 loads of local saw logs and the rest went to Howe Sound for scaling and sorting; 1/3 went by barge in November 2021 and the other 2/3 went over the skidway in February.
- f. A highlight of the VON1 project was that the falling was done as part of a new faller training for 4 Cortes Island residents, three of whom completed the training and received their certification.
 - i. As part of the VON1 harvest, the community forest paid \$78,000 for the new faller training. Normally the course costs roughly \$30,000 for each student, and
- g. Another highlight was that log markets are very strong and the revenue less cost for the project will likely be close to \$950,000. This will go a long way to getting the community forest back on sound financial footing, which has been a challenge over the past couple years as there was no access to the log dump.

- h. The cost of using the skidway was about \$8/m³ vs almost \$20/m³ for using the barge. That \$12/m³ difference would equate to roughly \$60,000 of lost profit for the community on a 5,000 m³ project.
- i. see Cortes Currents which has recently published an interview with Mark Lombard about this years operation in the Vondonop area (VON1)
- j. Firewood is expensive to produce and can't be free on every project. For the VON1 project, the firewood logs were sold to a contractor to be bucked, split and delivered for sale.
 - i. The cost of getting firewood logs to the roadside as part of a typical harvest in the community forest is around \$215/cord. Once you include the cost of bucking it for the free firewood day, the cost to the CFGP is close to \$300 per cord.
 - ii. The quality of logs used to make firewood would otherwise be sent off island for sale as pulp logs. It is more profitable to sell pulp logs than it is to make firewood
- k. Harvest prescription - every area on the landbase is different
 - i. Coulter Bay/Carrington operating area was suitable for higher retention
 - ii. This year's harvest in the Vondonop Operating Area (VON1) was not suitable for Intermediate Cut (partial retention) due to the prevalence of root rot and high concentration (80%) of Douglas Fir.
 - iii. Prescriptions include identifying priority areas for wildfire remediation, mistletoe hemlock remediation and alder management

9. Elections officiated by Andy Ellingsen

- a. Sadhu Johntson was not able to attend but confirmed his willingness to stand for 3 year term
- b. Maureen Williams declares her willingness to stand for reelection for a 3 year term
- c. Nick Gagnon declares his willingness to stand for reelection for a 3 year term
- d. **Calls for further nominations to stand for a position on the Board of Directors (Andy)**
 - i. 1st call for further nominations
 - ii. 2nd call for nominations
 - iii. 3rd call for nominations
 - iv. There were no further nominations. Andy declares nominations closed
- e. **Motion (Bruce/Aaron)**- That the CCFC elect Sadhu Johnston, Maureen Williams and Nick Gagnon by acclamation, each for 3 year terms ~ all in favour/carried
- f. Andy declares end of elections

- g. Carrie thanks to Andy for his excellent and ethical support of the elections

10. Question period from the membership

a. Noba Anderson

- i. Expressed gratitude to the organization for the phenomenal commitment and difficulty of decisions to be made by the CCFC.
- ii. She feels that the current board members are the very best group to do it and has great confidence and trust.
- iii. Q - would Bruce Ellingsen speak to Mosaic activities

b. Bruce Ellingsen

- i. The Cortes community has been dreaming of ways to take over the management responsibility for the privately owned forest lands on the island for over 30 years. Purchasing these lands from the companies that own them is one viable option.
- ii. CCFC board members recently met with Doug Makaroff and Ann Mortifee from Trust For Sustainable Forestry (TSF) who have also participated in a series of meetings to discuss the possible role of TSF in negotiations with Mosaic.
- iii. The CCFC board has follow up on their agenda
- iv. There is a necessity for a lead organization to carry on any further discussions or negotiations with Mosaic
- v. Some consideration is being given to the potential that the CFGP or the CCFC could be the organization to fill that role.
- vi. The “earth is rising to meet our feet” as off island interest in carbon and ecology values are growing
- vii. “dream into being” would be a remarkable feat
- viii. Discussion of possible management strategies for the Mosaic lands range from outright preservation of the entire area to including clustered residential development in suitable areas, long term research such as UBC’s Prof. Suzanne Simard’s “Mother Tree” research, education, light industrial, and forest management and landscape level planning aligned with the Community Forest General Partnership with The Klahoose First Nation
- ix. Prof. Suzanne Simard unsuccessfully applied for a federal grant to establish 75 research stations across Canada. She is now receiving support from UBC for establishing research sites (number unknown at this time). Cortes Island is a suitable candidate for 1 of these stations. Her associate, Robin June Hood who is involved in the project, will be on Cortes from June to October as part of the effort to establish these sites.
- x. Bruce would like to host monthly conversations about “what do we mean by sustainability?” He would personally like to see it

enshrined in a clear prescriptive formula describing “what is happening and why its happening” before older members pass the torch and hand over the rights to future members of the partnership.

- xi. In summary Bruce has concluded, based on his research, that there is a balance observed in healthy natural populations where predator species sustainably consume between 15% and 20% of the annual reproductive growth of the respective prey. His hypothesis is that the same will hold true with respect to the forest, where 15% of the mean annual increment (MAI) growth can be sustainably harvested each year without negative long term consequences to the ecosystem. See Andrea Lang’s presentation (item 4 in these minutes)
- xii. Bruce will introduce his ideas to Suzanne Simard to see what she thinks

c. **Wayne Roberts** by email

- i. Can you put a logo onto a piece of nice wood, business cards, bulletin board posters to show off to visitors, get a brand that craftsmen can use to heat stamp their work.
- ii. Roadside placards at job sites that say for example." This site is using cfgp local sustainable wood"
- iii. Is there a value added working group? Regular meetings, events.
- iv. Add Chestnut trees and other food trees into alder firebreaks
- v. Who on Cortes really aspires to a life career as a wood factory worker, standing in front of a volume oriented machine, making money for the owner? Interim jobs at best, which is a good anchor for many, really, but should be guided to higher function. Therefore, foster the creative side, the independent small shop woodworker, like Ralph, Hannu, Rocco and Genoa. Create a buzz, through promotion,
- vi. Woodwork shows, sponsored installations, competitions, presentations, training, business assistance for apprenticeships.
- vii. Most of all, a Maker Space COOP or rental shop, esp. a kiln and storage. Incentivise this somehow.
- viii. Plant hemp fibre instead of wood fibre, maybe in between harvest and tree planting, as interim for soil building or fallow crop, or to address root rot , if it fits somehow. Don't really know, but could be a precedent setter, or demonstration to the world.
- ix. Determine non wood forest product value per hectare, mushrooms, deer hunting, recreation.

11. Motion to adjourn (Carrie/Mark) ~ carried

12. Thanks to all who participated in this year's AGM!