



# CCFC Board of Directors

## Minutes of CCFC Board Meeting Nov 14, 2022

Board Members Present: Carrie Saxifrage, Aaron Ellingsen, Sadhu Johnston, Maureen Williams, Nick Gagnon, Mark Braaten

Also present : Lisa Ferentinos, Forrest Berman Hatch, Bruce Ellingsen

Meeting Called to Order @ 7 pm via ZOOM

## Agenda Items

### 1. Climate action heat pump group

- a. Introduce Forrest and Lisa - Sadhu
  - i. Cortes Planning for Resilience in partnership with FOCI are developing ideas group for climate remediation initiatives
  - ii. for example; purchasing water systems, e bike rebates
  - iii. Forrest is supported in this role by a My-Tax grant (university financial support for students.
  - iv. Lisa and Forrest share some of the research
  - v. Sadhu is also involved as he feels compelled to support installation of heat pump

### 2. Heat Pumps - Lisa

- a. Initiative started by Karen Mahone Climate Hope
- b. some regional district grant money remains
- c. Cortes Planning for Resilience led by Max Thayson coordinated funding.
- d. Winter residential heating needs are not being met by the local supply of firewood
- e. Carrie sent a bunch of questions which Lisa and Forrest addressed

### 3. Heat Pumps - Forrest

- a. Heat pumps are supported as part of a climate change and adaptation strategy
- b. different government rebates are on offer to assist homeowners with costs
- c. The Cortes Seniors Society has identified an urgent need for home heating
- d. survey among seniors 40 respondents 82% use wood 10% have heat pumps
- e. more money is available for owners who are replacing primary use of electric baseboards

- f. Seniors average 2.9 cord/person/year
- g. 50% of seniors struggle to get firewood
- h. 60% require assistance
- i. Of all the seniors contacted 29 seniors were interested in having a heat pump installed.
- j. There is a need to identify contractors who can install and energy advisors to identify best strategies and confirm success
- k. Our organization needs to hire a Climate Change Advisor to help apply for rebates
- l. cost ranges widely depending what you are transitioning off of.
- m. *Transition Saltspring* has provided a wealth of information from a similar initiative on Saltspring Island. Owners paid an average price \$6000 to \$14000 for their renovations and received rebates ranging from \$1000 to \$4500
  - i. Carrie - how do they qualify? How are they funded
  - ii. Lisa - climate action coaches help figure out rebate programs. Funded through grants and rebates
  - iii. Federal Rebates are offered up to \$5000.
  - iv. *The Clean BC Initiative* funding is now matched by BC Hydro grants with different thresholds
  - v. you only qualify for the largest rebates if you own your own home
  - vi. when wood heat has been the primary source these applications qualify for smaller rebates.
- n. Lower income thresholds can access more money
- o. estimates for DIY heat pumps are lower cost but do not qualify for grants
- p. Our aim is to focus on local Cortes rebates for those who don't otherwise qualify.
- q. We would need to perform an Energy efficiency assessment before and after installations
- r. Monthly hydro bills \$250 cost /yr saving \$400 compared to baseboards
- s. Mitigation and adaptation worth noting heatwaves and high summer temperatures heat pumps also cools houses efficiently.
- t. Climate impacts of firewood - states are unfortunate more carbon intensive/energy than coal. 1 cord releases 2 tons of C) 2 x 2.9 % tons per person carbon footprint average canadian 13 tons ½ of annual carbon impact.
- u. People will still have fires but reduce wood consumption
- v. Aaron we are interested in providing some funding, are any grants impacted by local funding
  - i. F- no grants emphasise other funding sources
- w. Sadhu - what would a local program look like?
  - i. Lisa - preliminary ideas: have a trained home energy consultant to assist
  - ii. aim for \$25000 to hire consultant
  - iii. identify people who need assistance - how? 25 x 1000
  - iv. assistance for DIY \$1000 workshop and funding for those in need ie

- \$1000 for 15 people
- v. total \$75 000 need additional fundraising for total budget
- x. Sadhu- other opportunities such as Greener homes program up to \$5000
  - i. need auditor to consult
- y. Maureen - does Transition Salt Spring island offer training for climate coaches?
  - i. L - goal is to spread their model to other islands, very generous in offering to help Cortes. Funding to hire at an hourly rate on a short term basis so that people don't have to pay.
- z. Sadhu - is there interest from the board?
- aa. Carrie - thanks to Forrest and Lisa
  - i. discuss in context of treasurer report
  - ii. first exploration of these ideas

#### 4. Treasurer's update - Maureen

- a. Carrie - how much money do we have available for funding heat pumps?
- b. What do we feel comfortable with?
- c. Website domain zoom account corporate registry etc annual must do \$3000
- d. does not include extra like branding
- e. Committed \$20,000 roadmap project. Including Kate
- f. Have 150K
- g. 100k remaining
- h. Meeting with Bank and Manda what to do with money until ready to spend
- i. either going in taxes or to cortes foundation
  - i. bank option cashable investment account after 30 days can access like bank account yields 2% linked savings account 1%
  - ii. can spend when we want
  - iii. pay 9% corporate tax on balance
- j. give to cortes foundation they take 10% as their fee of doing the work of allocating funds.
  - i. we can be involved in decision making panel evaluate application
  - ii. partnership with them for extra money to support our projects
  - iii. we would not make interest and would lose some autonomy
  - iv. registered non profit no additional tax
- k. 10,000 cushion in savings account and 30-40K to cover other needs in future 2%
- l. still leaves 100k to determine what to do
- m. Sadhu acknowledges potential conflict of interest married to a director, abstain from voting. But he is free to comment.
  - i. foundation is interesting but not the time to engage
  - ii. wait for roadmap will reveal funding opportunities
  - iii. if all we want to do is give it away then we can let the foundation do it. we

do want to use to leverage value added sector

- iv.
- n. Maureen sees benefit connected to foundation, 10% to foundation is better than taxes
  - i. creates local employment and spreads benefit to community
- o. This could be one of the largest income years and we need to hold funds for low years
- p. **Motion (Sadhu/ David)** - That the CCFC open a savings account for longer term deposit of surplus funds ~ passed unanimously
- q. Board votes to wait before allocating funds to the Cortes foundation

#### 5. ICET Grant RFP - Sadhu

- a. a CCFC committee is not needed to support the process
- b. only one proposal has been submitted
- c. Carrie -requests feedback from past clients and references
  - i. Sadhu will ask Kate to seek personal references from future clients
  - ii. will report back to the Board for decision by email

#### 6. Mother Tree Network carbon credits - see email from Sadhu

- a. Brionee and Allan Larocque have initiated a discussion with the CCFC about carbon credits
- b. Due to our harvesting under our AAC we may be eligible for carbon credits substantial enough to justify a project and join other projects
- c. SRD municipalities are buying carbon credits
- d. Cheakamus Community Forest is currently making more money from carbon credits than from logging. The cost benefit analysis may be enticing enough to want to cut less
- e. worth exploring but does not commit us to anything
- f. MTN is offering to do analysis for free worth exploration
- g. MTN community service identifies 5 different avenues of eligibility more than just reduced cutting, including enhanced silviculture
- h. expressing interest in working with us a sort of a pilot
- i. Mark feels partnership has already expressed interest in working with MTN
  - i. Sadhu agrees CCFC can explore to investigate value and present findings to partnership
  - ii. Aaron - no action immediately proposals of action to partnership
- j. Sadhu will evaluate high level economics
  - i. **Motion (Maureen/Nick)** - That the board request assistance from MTN to explore our options

- k. MTN offered a seat at a 3 day think tank on Saltspring Island at the end of the month
  - i. Bruce, Mark Lombard, Sadhu and Carrie are interested

## **7. CFGP Update Aaron**

- a. Anvil Lake operating area renamed Gorge Harbour Operating Area
- b. road building is now complete
- c. Community Firewood Day was hosted on the weekend
  - i. 65 - 70 loads were delivered
  - ii. it's been a hard few months
  - iii. glad to get to the end of activity, and great to be out there
  - iv. best way we have to get together and give to somany people
- d. CFGP has scheduled a Meeting on Wednesday Nov. 16
- e. Maureen - Progress on the 5 year plan?
- f. Aaron anticipates hearing more soon
  - i. emphasized importance of 5 year plan to build larger understanding
  - ii. people will be more likely to support individual cuts in context of the 5 year plan.
  - iii. Aaron will bring that request to the partnership
- g. Suggestion - Tie together MTN report, 5 year plan, and input and consultation process with community members.
- h. Bruce reminds of the importance to notify adjacent neighbours, make sure the meeting with locals happen early and they are properly informed.
  - i. without a 5 year plan the risk of community feeling uninformed is higher
  - ii. so much more positive if we take the initiative to communicate early
- i. Aaron - treaty negotiations shifted the planning process which created urgency to shift plans, and this resulted in short notice.
- j. Proposal for public consultation on future harvesting in the area may need to happen prior to completion of 5 year plan
  - i. help spread the word to all who need to know well in advance
- k. Carrie read motion from last meeting to support early public consultation

## **8. Meeting adjourned 9pm**