

MINUTES OF SIFCo BOARD MEETING

July 23, 2009 Thursday, 4 p.m.
SIFCo Office, Winlaw

Board Members Present: Bruce Charlton, Stephan Martineau, Lisa Farr, Phil Larstone, Suzanne Schroyen, & Marc Septav

Absent: Luce Paquin

Guests: Jean Patterson & Tom Bradley

Proposed Agenda:

Minutes from Last Meeting

Agenda

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Business Manager Report | 2. Woodlands Manager Report |
| 3. Communications Protocols | 4. Secretary/Treasurer Report |
| 5. Public Access Policy | 6. Signage |

Minutes from Last Meeting

Agreed; *that the minutes from June's Board Meeting are correct as they stand.*

Agenda

Agenda is accepted as is.

1. Business Manager's Report

a) BCTS Cutblock

The BCTS logging that occurred on our landbase in June of 2009 happened up Pedro Creek Forest Service Rd., on the Nelson side of the slope. The two Forest Districts, Kootenay Lake and Arrow/Boundary, are moving towards using the height of land as the boundary between the two districts. There is a letter between the two districts, dated February 7, 2007, that indicates their agreement to this adjustment. Our landbase goes over that height of land into an area which is in the process of being considered as part of Kootenay Lakes District. When we signed our agreement with MOFR, this area was considered to be part of the Arrow/Boundary District. Larry Peische is returning as District Manager of Arrow/Boundary. Stephan will meet with Larry or with Jim Guido later in August to discuss this.

[Stephan will let the Board know when a meeting is set so that others can attend.](#)

b) JOP – WUI Project

The crew is about ½ way through the project. The 2nd portion of the grant is still pending. MOFR inspected the site today and were pleased.

[Marc will research requirements to qualify as a fire-fighting crew.](#)

c) JOP – IAP Project

Our IAP crew started last week with an S-100 fire course and a day with invasive plants expert Barbara Stewart from Rock Creek. They spent the day learning about IAP identification and why it is such important work. Deb Corbett from Mirkwood is supplying supervision work. The crew is five people. Grading work will also be done on roads.

We have purchased a hydro-seeder and a customized blend of seed for road-side seeding to out-compete the invasives once they are pulled and graded. The crew thought that it would be a good idea to do a bit of a community education day on a Sunday, and pull the invasive plants in the Spicer Centre parking lot. Yann also thought a water station at the office site for cleaning the undercarriage of our trucks would be a good idea.

[Lisa will follow up with regards to a water station.](#)

[Stephan will co-ordinate a community education day in the parking lot later in the summer.](#)

d) Community Adjustment Funds

We passed the first phase of the application then were served with 14 new questions which required significant processing. Villages of Silverton and Slocan supplied letters of support after Stephan gave presentations to both councils. Original budgets submitted required reworking. We are now waiting for their decision.

e) UBCM

Both Villages of Silverton and Slocan have agreed to work with SIFCo to access UBCM \$ to do wildfire interface work. Both villages have areas of concern identified.

f) Mistaya Country B&B

Mistaya B&B, between Slocan and Silverton, has a 1 km. long hydro line that they are concerned is a fire hazard. SIFCo has provided them with a quote for 5 to 7 days for the whole crew, to do fuel reduction work.

g) Red Mt. Mining

Red Mountain residents have done a walking tour with representatives of the mining company. For now they will keep a fairly informal relationship with the company and are not asking for SIFCo's involvement.

h) FIA Grant

Stephan has been working with Clarence from RMRA and the Slocan Lake Shore Stewardship Society to refine a vision for work to be done at Bannock Point. He has spoken with Dan Reiben of Ministry of Tourism, who supports the work to be done. We have applied for current monies available in the amount of \$7500. Work will include information kiosks at top and bottom of hill, and redefining access trails and general clean-up. The project will have to happen in two phases due to funding availability. We should eventually receive a total of \$25,000 for the project if the provincial FIA budget is approved as in other years. If phase #2 happens we will be building a new outhouse and 10 campsites.

2. Woodlands Manager Report

a) Red Mountain Block

Tom has been refining the block to be logged on Red Mountain with input from residents. Walk about was a good first step. An inclusive process is definitely more work but worth the effort. Bruce requested that SIFCo use this process with Red Mountain to create a more comprehensive template for further development processes.

b) TSA

RMRA wants the harvest rate in RMRA to reflect the productivity and silvaculture realities in their area. This implies the need for a TSA. The TSR was insufficient to give us enough information. Tom is capable of generating a good picture of our landbase, he already has lots of data. How we proceed depends on what we want the data for.

[Tom and Marc will get together to discuss possible approaches.](#)

c) Removal of Firewood

Tom noticed a small operation taking place up Trozzo Creek, salvaging blow-down, without a license. MOFR compliance personnel is clamping down on firewood extraction.

[Tom will research legal options and other CF approaches.](#)

3. Communications Protocol

SIFCo has a policy that requires that all official public communications, especially those that may end up under the scrutiny of the media, be handled by our president.

Jean will fax a copy of her monthly report to the Village of Slocan Council, to Stephan prior to submitting it. Stephan will amend it if deemed appropriate.

Lisa will email copies of minutes, from the time Jean started to attend Board Meetings, to Jean.

4 Secretary/Treasurer Report

Lisa presented a financial report to the end of June 2009. We now have three bank accounts, one for each grant, which are kept track of separately. She shared how much money is in each account. We now have a revolving line of credit of \$100,000.00 This will cover grant hold-backs and GST rebate wait times.

5 Public Access Policy

Phil, Suzanne, and Lisa met as an ad hoc committee to discuss the issue of gating.

They suggested that gating be included as part of a bigger picture "Public Access" policy, which in turn should be part of a bigger picture "Roads Policy". Following is a suggested preamble to the Public Access Policy.

Policy Purpose: SIFCo must balance the multi-use nature of its tenured lands with the potential impacts and associated financial and environmental costs of human usage. Much of our landbase is part of sensitive domestic watersheds that require special consideration. In writing our Public Access Policy, we have considered the following:

- Access for traditional wildcrafting
- Access for recreation and wilderness enjoyment
- Respecting historical access opportunities
- Firewood gathering
- Access for scientific work
- Access for mining

- Managing the spread of invasive alien plants
- Potential spread of waterborne pathogens
- Sustainability of wildlife habitats
- Loss of standing trees, including wildlife trees and merchantable timber
- Garbage
- Fire hazard
- Road erosion and maintenance
- Peace & quiet for local residents and wildlife

6. Signage

Leslies has received the watershed zone signs and is generously willing to provide customized creek names on them. SIFCo has agreed to pay for 20 signs, that is 5 signs per area. Each member organization needs to identify creek names, or other identifying information, for Leslie to include.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING IS AUGUST 20TH, at 4 p.m., at SIFCo's office.