

Annual General Meeting of the Membership

May 14th, 2014

Present

Olin Albertson, Louise Bett, Lori Borth, Matthew Braun, Brent Bye, John Degagne, Jim Hesse, Mike Jull, Torsten Kaffanke, Duncan McColl, Larry McCulloch, Al Neal, Mike Pritchard, Wayne Salewski

Reports

Financial:

- John Degagne presented a summary of the previous years expenditures. Financial statements, including a profit and loss statement, balance sheet, and project financial summaries, have also been provided by Kirsteen Laing, the SERNbc book keeper.
- Expenditures last fiscal, not including in-kind amounts, totalled \$186,156.00
- In-kind expenditures were estimated by John Degagne to be \$135,000.
- There was a request from the floor to make the financial statements available to Directors. (This was completed May 15th). John underscored that the intent of the Society is to ensure financial management is completely transparent.
- Mike Jull suggested that the Society consider looking into Liability Insurance for Directors (completed May 21st, 2014 - \$1 million in coverage).

Funding:

- A number of proposals, amounting to requests of \$319,420.00 were submitted the Peace Williston Habitat Compensation Program (approved \$4999 in seed funding) and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (approved \$76,900). Discussion ensued on reasons for the limited success.
- In addition to these funding sources, the Provincial ER program will be asked to continue their funding support and an effort will also be made to find other potential funders.

Operations:

- No prescribed burning was completed under the program, primarily because of difficult spring and fall burn conditions.
- Planning and survey activities were completed as scheduled however, including:
 - Development of an ecosystem restoration strategic plan for the Omineca Region.
 - A habitat enhancement assessment of an ungulate winter range along the Blackwater River in the Prince George District.
 - A habitat enhancement assessment of a large wetland complex in the Laidman Lake area of the Vanderhoof District.
 - Prescribed burn assessments in the Blackwater Kluskus area in the Vanderhoof District.
 - Reconnaissance assessments of prescribed burn opportunities in the Bevel area of the MacKenzie District.
 - A preliminary habitat assessment of grizzly habitat that may be suitable as a wildlife habitat area.
- Pre-burn piling, pruning, and thinning treatments were also conducted in the Savory Ridge area of the Vanderhoof District in preparation for burning in 2014.
- Meetings with many stakeholders regarding the SERN program to provide information on the mandate and mission of the Society and explore interest in participating in the Society.

Focus In 2014/15

John DeGagne outlined four areas the program should focus on in 2014/15:

1. Prescribed burning and the relationship SERN has with other agencies, particularly with respect to coordination of prescribed burning activities. Brent Bye from Wildfire Management Branch has been undertaking preliminary work on this concept with Client Services. The SE Fire Centre has

a formal agreement with the Ecosystem Restoration Society in the Rocky Mountain Trench according to Al Neal. Duncan McColl suggested that a process map for prescribed burning be completed showing how the land manager is protected and the process is streamlined.

2. Develop a better understanding of landscape linkages in terms of ecosystem restoration priorities.
3. Reach out to a broader group of interests/stakeholders to develop partnerships (especially with First Nations) and funding sources.
4. Work with current funders to better understand and meet their needs.

The Strategic Plan

- Duncan McColl summarized the key elements of the newly completed strategic plan and how John's vision was in keeping with it.
- *The mission of SERNbc is to manage the structure and function of vulnerable and degraded ecosystems in the Omineca Region to achieve a desired future condition that will sustain ecological services and human socio-economic needs.*
- John noted that the strategic plan will be posted on the SERN website very soon.
- In ensuring discussion, Directors agreed that they will need to work through the process of project prioritization in more detail following the guidance in the strategic plan.

Elections and Resolutions of the Assembly

Elections

- Larry McCulloch who acted in the capacity of nominating committee presented the slate of candidate Directors and handed out a document summarizing where candidates were from, their affiliation, and interests in the Society.
- There were no further nominations from the floor.
- Following discussion and questions, John Degagne moved that the slate, as provided, be accepted by acclamation. Wayne Salewski seconded and the motion carried.
- The following Directors were nominated for a two year term: **Olin Albertson, Matthew Braun, Brent Bye, John Degagne, Bob Frederick, Hardy Griesbauer, Mike Jull, Anna McIndoe, Duncan McColl, Jim McCormack, Wayne Salewski, Ken Watson, and Don Wilkins.**
- Discussion amongst the Directors that were present was to determine officer positions at a subsequent meeting of the Directors.

Resolution on the fee for Membership

- Larry McCulloch moved that the fee for membership in the Society be set at zero.
- After some discussion, an amendment was requested by Wayne Salewski and seconded by Olin Albertson. Larry McCulloch moved that the fee for membership in the Society be set at zero until the next AGM. This was seconded by Olin and the motion carried by show of hands.

Resolution on appointment of an Auditor

- Larry McCulloch moved that the appointment of an auditor be waived.
- After some discussion, this was seconded by Duncan McColl and the motion was unanimously carried by show of hands.

Adjournment

- John DeGagne declared the business portion of the AGM to be closed.

Addenda

- Two presentations were made over dinner: Al Neal on the Provincial Ecosystem Restoration Perspective and Mike Pritchard on Prescribed Burning – Lessons Learned at the Stuart River Site.
- Both presentations were very well received. Power point slides are available from Al and Mike by email request at: al.neal@gov.bc.ca and mike.pritchard@gov.bc.ca.
- Al also presented a momento of appreciation (framed photos) to John DeGagne and Wayne Salewski in recognition of their efforts in the ER program.