

Draft Agenda for the Upcoming Shuswap Foresters Working Group Meeting to be held in Williams Lake

Soda Creek Restaurant
Friday August 11, 2000

*Minutes -
Sara Cousins*

1. 9:00am ✓ Introductions
2. 9:15am ✓ Review of goals/needs identified at the Kamloops Meeting
3. 9:45am ✓ Expansion of goals/needs-input from the northern communities
4. 11:15 ✓ Presentation: ~~Tom Alphonse?~~ *Cliff Wyatt? Sugar cane wood products*
HENRI JACK
- 12:00 noon ✓ Lunch
5. 1:00pm × Discussion/brainstorming to determine a literal implementation plan of the identified goals. (a realistic one year plan)
6. 1:30pm × Discussion of goals that should be met within the next five years
7. 2:00pm ✓ Mentorship program
8. 2:30pm Certification process *Aug. 24 will send us agenda news group internet Chris Kolstead FRBC Kamloops our interest*
9. 3:00pm ★ ✓ FRBC Think Tank provincial research needs. *Aug. 15, 16 & 17 Silverstar-Vener inventories - table for funding*
10. 3:30pm ✓ Southern Interior Forestry Extension Research Partnership
Aboriginal Salish Traditional and Cultural Use Conference
Henry Michel Forestry Extension Officer SIFERP. *TEX*

workshop

*Other - Duran research + our web page - marketing NTFP
Woodlot assoc. - Dave Nordquist has info
★ Goods for all woods - handbook
NTFP marketing - value added*

what about FSC?

→ Aug. 24 Canim Lake

get more info. on Mashon working with IBC - Ida project. no trapping in PG. Steven Shepard John Lewis.

- archaeology referrals

*604-732-8655
Don White side*

*FRBC funds + Forestry Council
6 regional meetings - not specific to FN
5-10 days each.
(get Bob to go)*

Shuswap Nation Forestry Working Group

Minutes – Soda Creek Meeting

August 11, 2000

Minute Taker: Sara Cousins, Williams Lake Band

Attended By: Jeff Eustache, Henry Michel, Joe Thomas, Faro Thomas, Shirley Rosette, Aaron Higginbottom, Dave Nordquist, Francis Seymour, Teena Sellars, Terry Young, Donna Hill, Reg Michel, Shane Wardrobe, presentations and partial attendance by - Cliff Wyatt, Arnie Jack, Jake Thomas, Darcy Kobelt

Introductions:

- Westbank First Nation agreement – for withdrawing their case they received a \$300,000 Interim Measure to “work toward consultation and forestry related capacity building”. This agreement also includes 2,000 m³/ month. Okanagan First Nation was offered a similar deal but refused and will pursue their case.
- Ulkatcho First Nation in partnership with Carrier Lumber. Fees coming back into community. James McGrath (Canim Lake) has met with them.
- Lignum has made \$175 million in profit in our region. They are currently seeking Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification but are stalled on Principle 3. In the meantime, they are trying to meet the remaining principles. Donna pointed out that Principle 10 is also relevant, as it discusses the introduction of foreign plants into the territory. ✓
- Teena Sellars is now working at Soda Creek as a forest technician with funding through their MOU with Lignum. She intends to bring up the possibility of administration fees for silviculturalists working in the territory at the SISCO meeting.
- Shane Wardrobe pointed out he is the alternate for Dave Monture on the FSC board. ✓
- Henry Michel is involved with the Forest Extension and Research Partnership. He is working on assessing how that group can work with First Nation partners. He is funded by FRBC. He has workshop money and wants to organize something. ✓
- Silva has requested public input into their certification standards by September 15, 2000.

— S.F.F.

Review of goals/needs identified at the Kamloops Meeting:

- Gathering Strength proposal being put forward by SNFWG for September 1st. This funding is available to all First Nations, band or tribal council level. It is for capacity building. For example, governance and administration, such as Chief and Council orientation packages, training for boards, building better consultation processes, secondments with government

agencies, or the development of First Nations networks and professional associations. This is where the SNFWG fits in. Need to know what the goals and objectives of the northern Secwepemc communities are. Plan to have an administration office and an executive director with the funds. The position would be contracted to a community member. The person would coordinate training and workshops, facilitate meetings, develop plans and write proposals.

- Donna sits on the review panel and suggested that we will need to describe our mandate, vision, goals and membership to the board. We should also change our name from a "working group". We will also need a host community to funnel the funds through.
- Draft proposal handed out with questionnaire. Response requested.
- ❖ **Jeff needs our responses to his proposal ASAP.**
- Requested letters of support for our proposal, and for our working group. Bob Moody, CTC Natural Resources Director would be the appropriate person to write this letter.
- ❖ **Bob Moody to write letter of support for SNFWG and proposal. (Discuss with Jeff.)**
- SNTC would be a good place for TUS, resume etc. database – newsgroups – www.shuswapnation.org.
- We will need a chair for the northern communities since Bill Chelsea can no longer fill that role.
- ❖ **Volunteers for chair?**
- Recognition need professional foresters etc., not only technicians. We want to do 100% of the work.
- It was noted that Canoe Creek has own archaeology/heritage consulting company and is completing contracts, with assistance from IR Wilson. Cindy Matthew at North Thompson may be able to hold an archaeological permit on her own.
- ❖ **Need to put list together of First Nations people/companies who can hold archaeology permits.**
- Lillooet have their own cultural heritage crew as well and sub-contract archaeologists as necessary. They have done PFRs for small business blocks.
- Workshop suggestion: how to fill out applications for small business etc.
- There is a video available about the process the Tl'azt'enne (in Fort St. James) went through to get there TFL. They also have grant money from FRBC to do presentations if anyone is interested. The video is called "Without the forest we are not Tl'azt'enne".

- Francis Seymour is involved in land use (specifically forestry) planning workshops for First Nations. He is working with Jessica Clogg from Westcoast Environmental Law.
- Jeff met with Lignum and requested a joint forum regarding FSC. That will take place at the proposed meeting at Canim Lake on August 24th. The plan is to meet ourselves in the morning and then Lignum would field questions in the afternoon. (*Note: This meeting has been postponed.*)
- Jeff pointed out that First Nations should not say yes to certification unless they are getting something out of it. The province will get more money through expanded markets and we must be involved for jobs, training, revenue and management.
- Williams Lake Band office may be able to host the administration office of our group for next year.
- ❖ **Sara will check if there is office space and interest.**

Arnie Jack (T'exelc/Williams Lake Band) presentation:

- Arnie gave an update on his harvesting activities and handed out a "press package". He also introduced us to Jake Thomas, the hereditary chief of T'exelc, who supports his logging efforts. He has taken the no-stumpage position of the *Bernard* case on the East Coast and does not currently have the support of the band or tribal councils. He intends to continue logging, however, "to bring fibre home for our people to give them an opportunity to house themselves".
- Although he understands that our group is not political and does not make policy, he wanted us to know what his views are with regard to FSC and collective consent.
- He does not feel that the elected chief and council, or their staff, speak for him. (He noted that he does not speak for them either.)
- He is looking for our endorsement to make a submission to FSC that collective consent cannot be considered when a phone call is made to a DIA elected chief or their staff. He pointed out that this was the approach taken by Silva and Rod Blake for a woodlot certification.
- ❖ **He asks that our communities not put out press releases of non-support, which state that Arnie is infringing on our collective rights. (This has occurred in the past.)**
- Jeff stated that we cannot give formal support at this point. We are simply here to network and support each other at an operational level. We are not directly linked to the tribal council and so on, for example.

- Arnie also asked for clarification on what the Westbank case and new agreement means to each community. Should we each go after such a deal? Should we work together?
- It was pointed out the Adams Lake and Okanagan First Nation were also offered this deal and refused. They will continue their court case.

Cliff Wyatt (Manager of Sugar Cane Wood Products) Presentation:

- Wyatt Marketing Inc. (WMI) has made an agreement with Sugar Cane Wood Products and has provided the money to get them up and running again after a period of severe financial difficulty. It took 8 months and they now have 17 regular employees and considerably less debt. They currently make pellets.
- The company has the potential to bring in \$800, 000 in profit per year. The problem is they do not have their own timber harvesting license. They are not considered to be a value-added or small business industry, for example, and cannot make enough product to qualify. By using another company's license, they lose most of the control and the profit.
- Cliff wonders if this group might be able to apply for licenses for bands as a centralized agency...
- ❖ **Cliff requested that we might be able to help Sugar Cane Wood Products through marketing or proposal writing.**
- Sugar Cane Wood Products will work toward self-sufficiency and then WMI will pull out.

Joe Thomas (Shuswap Indian Band) Presentation:

- Joe passed out some handbooks for mentors and mentees. The program is currently being used by the Stl'atimc. The handbooks were put together as a result of Joe's experience with Ministry of Forests, individual bands and aboriginal contractors. Numerous sources were reviewed.
- The handbooks cover a generic process to help guide individual work-plans.
- Mentoring could assist technicians to get into management, for example.
- Would like to eventually have someone in the Natural Resources Canada office in Vancouver.
- Group intends to put in proposal for mentorship program.
- ❖ **Joe will do up a letter to each of our political leaders requesting support to initiate a forestry mentorship program.**

- ❖ We will send our ideas to Joe with regard to mentoring.

Research:

- Research needs to be controlled by the aboriginal community. (Note: Canadian Forest Service has money for research...)
- Need a forum for research ideas.
- Need a database on researchers interested in working with First Nations.
- Make sure have copyright.
- Need an annotated bibliography of what research is currently available. (Note: Rhandi Alphonse and Carl Mashon are working on this. They are meeting at Silverstar for the FRBC think tank from August 15-17th.)
- The first step in proactive planning is to complete an initial Traditional Use Study. The digital information can then be overlaid on Forest Development Plans etc. (There was some discussion as to whether an incomplete TUS was useful. It was generally agreed that even an incomplete TUS is useful, and will hold up in court if certain standards are met. Apparently, the Adams Lake Band made sure they met those standards and so far have been able to use their information.)

Name Change:

- For the purposes of our Gathering Strength proposal several new names were suggested and voted on. For example, *Shuswap Natural Resource Commission*, *Shuswap Resource Board*, *Secwepemc Nation Forestry Commission* and *Secwepemc Resource Board*.
- The new name will be *Secwepemc Resource Board*.

Henry Michel (Southern Interior Forestry Extension Research Partnership) Presentation:

- Henry is looking for help from our group in organizing a workshop/conference on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).
- He would like to see FRBC, Science Council, MoF Research Branch, industry and First Nations meet on this issue and start a dialogue.
- General principles could then be developed and worked from.

- ❖ **We need to ask our communities for input first. What is indigenous science? Are we ready to share it?**
- It was decided that this group will help Henry to organize the conference for the late fall or early spring.
- ❖ **Shane, Jeff, Dave and Aaron will be on the sub-committee.**
- There will be a larger conference in March with Dennis Martinus to discuss what is happening in the rest of the world. Article 8j, for example.

Final Comments:

- Regardless of changes in who is running the band office, this group will remain stable. That is valuable.
- Dave Nordquist suggested that we might like to travel to Colville to meet with the First Nations people there. They took over a large amount of land 5 years ago (court settlement) and have 100's of people employed in their forestry operations, for example. Will look into a trip. Perhaps we could be billeted. Learn about their planning and so on.
- ❖ **Sara and Jeff will help to organize trip.**

Next Meeting:

September 29, 2000 – SNTC Kamloops (boardroom)