

Annual General Meeting
May 5, 2017

Members Present:

Vlad Petrlak, Louise Blanchard, Chris Schmidt, Ron Johnson, Ivan Thompson, Richard Annett, Gerald Strobo, Bill Klassen, Myles Thorp

Meeting called to order by Ron Johnson president at 10:02 am

1. Review of the agenda.

Two items were added:

- the a review of the minutes to last year's AGM
- Discussion item with regard to lumber grading and log grades or log quality sorting

Motion to accept the amended agenda by Louise Blanchard

Seconded by Vlad Petrlak

Carried

2. Review of the 2016 AGM minutes from May 6, 2016

- Ron Johnson walked the attendees through the minutes some discussion of various points ensued with regard to the fire smart program and utilization of the timber.
 - Moved by Richard Annett to accept the minutes as presented
 - Seconded by Vlad Petrlak
 - Carried
- Myles Thorp presented an outline of the activities YWPA has been involved with during the past year.
 - This information was outlined in the report to FMB with regard to obligations under the funding agreement (letter attached)
 - Highlights from the Dec 1/2016 board meeting were outlined
 - Discussed Carbon tax in the context of the YWPA and biomass business and impacts re: extra costs we should seek an exemption; some discussion of the cost structure of the current wood industry ensued and it was felt this should be highlighted to the Minister in a future meeting.

- Discussed fuel abatement program and implications for the industry; this subject should be highlighted to the Minister and other senior managers.
 - Non-Forest Resources Act wood on clearing projects was discussed from the perspective of utilization. There is an issue that it should be utilized but sometimes there is no one to use it. Needs further discussion with FMB after lunch.
 - The 2017/18 funding agreement work plan was presented.
- The budget for 2017/18 was presented by Myles Thorp
 - Moved by Ivan Thompson to accept the budget as presented
 - Seconded by Gerald Strobo
 - Carried
- Waiving of the requirement to hire an accountant to audit YWPA books.
 - Moved by Vlad Petrlak that “the requirement to audit the books by a professional accountant be waived. The Forest Management Branch reporting requirements are strict enough that this function is fulfilled by them.”
 - Seconded by Gerald Strobo
 - The motion was carried unanimously
- Ron Johnson led the discussion with regard to the election of directors to the board for 2017/18 fiscal.
 - The current board:
 - Ron Johnson President
 - Ivan Thompson Vice president
 - Dan Reams Secretary/Treasurer
 - Vlad Petrlak director
 - Byron Gagne director
 - Floor was opened for nominations for five directors.
 - Myles Thorp has received emails from Dan Reams and Byron Gagne indicating they would serve as directors again if nominated.
 - Vlad Petrlak nominated Dan Reams
 - Richard Annett nominated Byron Gagne

- Ron asked the present board members if they would continue as directors Ron, Ivan and Vlad agreed to continue. All members present were asked if they would allow their name to stand for nomination. All declined the opportunity.
 - Gerald Strobo moved that Ron Johnson, Ivan Thompson, Vlad Petrlak, Dan Reams and Byron Gagne be acclaimed as directors for the coming year.
 - Seconded by Richard Annette
 - Motion was carried unanimously.
 - Bill Klassen moved that Ron Johnson be President, Ivan Thompson be Vice president and Dan Reams be Secretary /Treasurer
 - Seconded by Chris Schmidt
 - Carried

3. Meeting broke for lunch at 12:00

4. 13:00 meeting reconvened with Forest Management Branch

Ron, introduced FMB staff

In attendance from FMB:

Manon Moreau ADM Sustainable with EMR, Lyle Dinn FMB Director, Kirk Price FMB Operations manager, Marc Myer FMB Operations Manager, Gavin Dykstra Tenures and Neal Allison Haines Junction Area Forester

Ron led a brief discussion of the recent machine purchase by Bear Creek Logging Inc and Myles showed some pictures of the machine loading biomass fuel into Raven Recycling truck. The Bandit 3680 Beast recycler is a key piece in the supply chain for biomass fuel and the association is confident we can produce the fuel for boiler systems across the Yukon.

Gavin Dykstra provided a review of the current timber tenures issued in the Yukon (please see the attached review document he presented)

- He discussed the countervail with USA and it may affect small producers in the Yukon this time e.g. core box producers
- Myles Thorp mentioned that he will be participating in conference calls in the future regarding this issue
- Americans have widened the blanket of products to be included in the countervail and it is not just lumber
- FPInnovations will be looking for more subjects to present this year we are looking at scaling, green timber drying methods and possibly redoing the small scale harvesting operations session in Whitehorse this time.
- A member asked about small sawmills and if the branch has a notion of how many small sawmills there are in the Yukon. Branch does not know how many there are but it seems like there are a lot of them. This led to a discussion of how much secondary manufacture is going on and we briefly talked about lumber grading etc.

Kirk Price provided an overview of the TSA processes going on in Haines Junction and Dawson.

- Haines Junction and Dawson are in final stages of developing the detailed TSA reports.
- The TSA is a part of the AAC determination process. Please refer to the attached AAC procedures note attached to these minutes.
- YWPA should see some information by the fall and will be asked to provide comment on the summary and analysis documents.
- The process will require formal submissions so YWPA will have to provide any comments, issues and concerns in writing.
- Briefly discussed the difference between apportionment and AAC partition. Apportionment is about designating parts of the AAC to specific uses or industry sectors; Partition refers to a division of the AAC into specific amounts of timber in each part of the AAC almost always driven by things like underutilized species of timber on specific terrains or other problem timber types that are part of the AAC but not being targeted for harvest by industry.

- In the Yukon there are no obvious reasons to partition the AAC or apportion it to specific uses. The Director is open to it if there are compelling reasons but would have to be provided with a good rationale.

Marc Myers discussed forest planning both FRMP and THP.

- Reminded everyone that there is an implementation agreement with CAFN. With planning priorities for fuel abatement, AAC determination, wood supply development (THP), and implementation of a monitoring plan for the FRMP.
- WSL FRMP is being drafted and that there was a roll back in timing as the joint planning team felt there was new information coming out on TK and fuel load data. It will be about another year in process and YWPA will be asked to provide review comment.
 - This led to a brief discussion of the timing of planning versus the risk associated with a catastrophic fire event in the region. The Branch shares the concern and recognizes that this in some ways is beyond their control.
 - YWPA will be meeting with the minister in the near future and this topic will be on our agenda to talk about.
- Watson Lake
 - Lyle responded to a question from Watson Lake members.
 - The branch is making every effort to engage with LFN but is difficult especially now that there is considerable confusion in the community with regard to the current elections process.
 - In many of the attempts over the years the forest management issues often get wrapped up in a host of other issues that LFN raises which adds to the complexity of the situation. Senior managers in the department are working with LFN on these issues.
 - This led to a brief discussion of the realities of trying to develop an FRMP for the area. Lyle pointed out that they are working on timber projects to cover local needs and that YESAB recently recommended approval of a THP in the Watson Lake area.

Neal Allison talked about THP development in Haines Junction

- Preliminary work on a THP is underway
- Encouraged YWPA to engage in the process, cannot understate the importance of industry input.
- There are some comments from the public and others on the current THP that should be responded to by the industry. This led to a brief discussion of how the YWPA can engage. It was pointed out by Ron that the members are all busy running businesses and have some difficulty with finding the time to keep an eye on YESAB assessment's. This includes Myles's time as the contract Executive Director. This is an area that may require some type of targeted funding to have a member monitoring the website on an ongoing basis and provide direct input on behalf of the industry. Lyle responded by saying if that is what it will take he would be willing to discuss this with the Ron and others to see if a solution can be found.

Lyle and Myles talked briefly about the Forest Sector Trust Fund.

- Myles is a member of the committee as an independent member and not representing the industry.
 - He mentioned that there will be a letter coming out under Terry Wilkinson's as chair of the committee asking for feedback from industry. Some will get the letter twice as licensees and members of the association.

Ron Johnson provided feedback to the FMB folks regarding the topics we see as important for the industry. These topics will be part of our discussions with Government Ministers and senior staff.

- Fire smart and timber utilization, planning processes and risk levels.
 - Need greater emphasis on the urgency and the planning process should be expedited where possible
 - FMB cannot drive the process as the FRMP is the primary connection but it is other departments and FN governments who must buy in at the pace they find acceptable.
 - YWPA very concerned that the pace of planning is clearly out of step with the level of risk for a catastrophic fire event. (we will be raising this with Government)

- Bill Klassen reminded all present of the 2004 fire season review and this is a key recommendation that has not been addressed which raises the liability on Government to act.
- YESAB and THP development
 - This was discussed earlier in the meeting and Ron, Lyle and Myles will get together to explore solutions to the problem finding a way to provide input on all projects not just THP's this should include non-FRA harvesting as well.
 - This is a two tiered issue. 1. The need for the YWPA to develop a long term communications statement with regard to timber utilization, and 2. Direct input to YESAB projects.
- Non-FRA timber utilization
 - issues related to this especially support for utilization as biomass
 - some discussion of wood decked along the Robert Campbell highway there were issues but now Parks Yukon is taking it for use in parks for firewood.
 - One of the problems is that FMB does not hear about the clearing projects until late in the process. This problem is improving but if anyone sees something please let FMB know so they can look into it.
 - Department of highways has hired a forester who worked at FMB for several years to look after land clearing issues. YWPA is encouraged to talk to him.
- Carbon Tax
 - This is not an FMB issue but Ron wanted them to know that we will be raising it within higher levels of government.

The meeting was adjourned at 15:40 hours