Highlights to the Spring 2013
Board of Directors and Annual General Meeting

May 21, 2013

On April 25, 2013 the Board of Directors and on April 26, 2013 the Annual General Meeting was held. The following summary highlights the key issues discussed and the decisions taken at the meetings.

1. At the AGM elections were held for positions on the board of directors and we are pleased to announce the following:

   Ron Johnson (Whitehorse) has accepted the position of president
   Bill Bowie (Dawson City) has accepted the position of vice president
   Dan Reams (Watson Lake) has accepted the position of secretary/treasurer
   Romeo Leduc (Haines Junction/Whitehorse) will continue as member of the board
   Ivan Thompson (Haines Junction) will continue as member of the board
   Doug Van Bibber (Watson Lake) is a new member of the board.

2. During the summer of 2013 the following action items will be addressed:

   a. The association is committed to the development of policy with government regarding biomass energy. In the fall of 2012 executive members of the board met with Minister Cathers to express our interest in this business development opportunity. The association will be meeting with Yukon Government Cabinet members. We will focus on the need to develop a strategic plan for enhancing business opportunities to provide woody biomass heat in large buildings.

   b. During the fall meeting with Minister Cathers the association raised the issue of reforestation fees and the need to amend the regulations to allow for a stronger and healthier lumber manufacturing sector in the Yukon. This has resulted in a joint review of reforestation fees with participation of the association with the forest management branch. The review committee is currently being formed and work will commence soon.

   c. Land Use Planning is being undertaken in a variety of forms in the Yukon and the association has determined that direct participation is important to the success of current and future forestry operations. The association has committed to actively participating in the Dawson Land Use Plan.

   d. In early January 2012 the association and forest management branch jointly developed an allocation policy for fire wood cutters in Haines
Junction. As part of this policy a commitment was made to review it after it has been in place for one year. The association will be contacting affected members requesting comments regarding any issues and concerns they may have with this policy. A summary of member’s comments will be forwarded to the forest management branch for their consideration.

e. The woodlot license was discussed and there does not appear to be a significant need for developing the administrative processes for this license at this time. Should there be an immediate need a woodlot license the associations will participate in any policy discussions the government requests.

f. The government is developing a regulation for with regard to the requirement for obtaining a permit to operate or build a timber processing facility. The association is concerned that this regulation will become an additional layer of red tape for small and pioneering operations in the Yukon. Therefore, we have suggested the government only require this permit for larger operations with a significant annual allowable cut awarded in forest tenures.

3. A very interesting discussion with the members present took place at the AGM. The focus of the discussion was on the use of locally produced lumber products in construction projects. There was interest expressed by a local engineering firm regarding the use of Yukon produced lumber. It was pointed out that the reason local projects cannot use Yukon lumber is the lack of lumber grading to meet building code requirements. There were a number of strategies discussed regarding how to solve this problem. There will be follow up conversations and ideas developed that may lead to a solution. Inputs from members will be solicited in the future.

Myles H Thorp RPF
Executive Director