

# Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee

October 28, 2021

7:00 – 9:00 pm Via Zoom

Attendees: Ron Furlong, Peter Spicer, Emily Haynes, Jonathan McClelland, Alice Pugsley, Steven McLelan, Carole Blenkhorn, Matthew MacGillivray, Kevin Merriam, Allan Bonnyman, Ernie Gilbert, Jason Stewart – and Jeff Black meeting chair.

## Call to order 7:01 pm

### Meeting Chair – Jeff Black

**Item 1** – Jeff opened the meeting. He welcomed and thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. He asked if anyone had additional agenda items. No items were added to the agenda

**Approval of Agenda:** Alice Pugsley moved for the approval of the agenda, seconded by Jonathan McClelland. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2021, meeting was made by Ron Furlong and seconded by Peter Spicer. Motion carried.

### Item 2 – Business Arising from the Minutes

#### Action Items:

**Letters of Congrats (Ron & Kevin)** – It was reported that letters of congratulations to the Premier and the 2 legislative members from Cumberland Country were shared with the Committee members. Kevin shared his screen during the meeting and the Committee members on the call agreed that the content of the letters after a couple of changes was good and should be sent out. Ron and Carole will make sure that the letters are addressed properly and add the co-chairmen signatures. The letters will be sent out from the CFAC email.

**Reformatted agenda ( Ron & Jonathan)-** Jeff thanked both Ron and Jonathan for working on the agenda and opened the floor for discussion. Jonathan explained the reason for the reformatting of the meeting agenda was to focus on Pathway #5 – Education. The Committee of the Whole focusing on education will be on every agenda. Also, specific lengths of time have been added to each agenda item with the hope of keeping the meeting on track. Jeff added that this was the first meeting using the new agenda and there were some items were left blank. He hoped that these items will have content for future meetings.

#### Reports:

**CFAC as a Society update ( Ron )** Ron reported that all necessary paperwork had been completed and the next step would be setting up the bank account. This step required the Committee Chairmen and the Secretary going to the bank to complete the paperwork necessary to open a new account. Ron recommended the Credit Union as the bank for the CFAC.

**Newsletter updates ( Emily )** Emily reported that the draft edition of the November newsletter had been distributed to the committee members. Currently the Newsletter has 199 subscribers. Emily asked for information on a tree for the November issue. Steven McLellan suggested the yellow birch. He also suggested that the tree of Nova Scotia alternate between hardwood and softwood in the monthly newsletter. Kevin committed to sending Emily information on the yellow birch and he also will give Emily a copy of the Trees of Canada book.

### **Item 3 – New Business**

**Discussion regarding a letter to the Premier about the situation around low-grade wood (ie. Poplar) ( Steve )—** Jeff opened the discussion by reporting that the market for poplar has dried up. Buyers of poplar in NB were focusing on purchasing from NB suppliers first. Posing the question “Is the NS Premier aware of the situation regarding poplar markets?” Steven continued by adding that the NB market was being shut down and nothing was moving to Quebec or Maine. The committee discussed the necessity of sending a letter to Premier Houston.

***ACTION ITEM #1: Steven and Jeff will draft a letter to the Premier regarding poplar and a market for low grade fibre and will circulate the letter to the committee.***

Steven added that the letter should contain a statement about the loss of the pulp mill and how the mills will be affected after the pandemic. Alice suggested that the letter be copied to Tory and Elizabeth. The Liberal Forestry Critic – Carmen Kerr should be copied as well. Ron suggested that

**Discuss CFAC involvement regarding request to Gov. about contractor working group. (Matt)** A request was made to the CFAC to help facilitate a contractor working group. Matt has been involved in discussions with government regarding the added costs to contractors with the implementation of the Lahey Report. Matt explained that the CWF had a meeting with government officials in early summer of 2021 and some Cumberland contractors had participated in the meeting. Two items arose from the meeting. Contractors who had applied for funding from the Transition Team had been denied. Also, individual meetings were set with contractors and government officials Jon Porter and Blair Clark. Matt participated in one of these meetings and asked if there was any appetite by the government to have a separate contractors committee created. There were many committees and groups indicating that they spoke for the contractors, but some of the contractors felt it necessary to have their own voice. Contractors needed information on how to properly access the funding that was available through the Transition Team. The Committee members discussed the avenues that the CFAC could use to help facilitate the creation of a Contractors Committee. It was suggested that the CFAC could reach out to contractors and start the process of getting them together. Jonathan suggested that the contractor group should be provincial. He also commented that the contractor group would fall under Pathway #4 – upgrade of equipment. **A motion was made by Ron Furlong that the CFAC invite provincial contractors and government representative to meet to identify the best path forward for contractors. The motion was seconded by Matt MacGillivray. Motion passed.**

**Update on Next steps regarding NS Forestry Economic Task Force (Stage 1) Work plan (Kevin)** Kevin reported that the Task Force have a signed agreement regarding stage 1 of the application and the business plan had been approved for 2.6 million dollars to cover phase 1 and maybe phase 2. The Task Force are in the process of interviewing for an Executive Director. Kevin reminded the members that the CFAC had been mentioned in the plan and the CFAC would be involved going forward.

### **Committee of the Whole**

#### **Item 4 : Education and Relationship Building with the general public (Pathway # 5)**

– The committee discussed the placement of the CFAC sign at Harrison Home Hardware. Should the sign be moved? Jonathan suggested that the sign be rotated between Harrison locations. Matt indicated that he would determine if there was space available in his area for a sign.

#### **Action Item # 2: Jeff committed to contacting Keith Thompson and ask for information on where the CFAC sign had been made and how much it had cost.**

Jonathan suggested that the Newsletter updates be moved in the agenda for the next meeting to Item 4.

- Alice had suggested that someone could make a presentation to the CFAC regarding outdoor classrooms. She had also read about someone taking students into the woods and experiencing different things. She will try to find out more information. Kevin added that Don Cameron had recently taken an elementary class out to the woods for the day. It was well received by the students.

-Ron suggested that the CFAC should try to get idea of what the perception of the community was on forestry. Jonathan suggested that teachers known to Committee members be asked to poll their students. The committee discussed questions that could be posed to the community.

#### **Action Item # 3 – Jeff will contact Mac Davis to determine what questions would be appropriate for the student survey.**

The committee discussed the Teachers Tour hosted by the CWF. Alice suggested that Peter Robichaud be contacted regarding statistics on the tour. Where were the teachers from urban or rural?

#### **Action Item # 4 – Kevin will contact Peter Robichaud to make a presentation to the CFAC regarding the Teacher’s Tour and Don Cameron to discuss the education pathway.**

**Item 6 – Closing Comments** Jeff thanked everyone for participating and commented that a lot of content has been covered.

**Next Meeting- Thur. December 2, 2021, at 7pm Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm**