

Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee

February 13, 2020

7:00-9:30, CCUBIC Boardroom, Amherst, NS

Attendees: Amherst Deputy Mayor Shelia Christie, Jonathon McClelland, Ian Ripley, Norman Paupin, Matthew MacGillivray, Darrin Carter, Jason Stewart, Velda Fromm, Barry Tupper, George Dorm, Keith Thompson, Ron Furlong, Kevin Merriam, Jeff Black - Meeting Chairman

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Co Chair Jeff Black

Item 1 - Jeff Black called the meeting to order. Meeting agenda was approved.

Item 2 - Prior to approval of the minutes of the February 2, 2020 meeting, Kevin Merriam asked to discuss the publication of the Committee minutes on the Cumberland Business Connector's Forestry page. Kevin asked the committee if everyone was comfortable with the minutes being posted, since the minutes contained committee member names. Committee was polled and no one had a problem with the posting of the CFAC minutes, however, the subcommittee minutes should be funnelled through the Advisory Committee.

Kevin Merriam made a motion that the subcommittee meeting notes be filtered into the Advisory Committee before being made public. Seconded by Jeff Black. Voted by the membership. Motion passed.

Discussion continued regarding the minutes. Ian Ripley indicated that there was a gap in the process of the Action team receiving feedback and decisions back from the Advisory Committee. Ron Furlong thought that the Action Team Chair's were part of the Advisory Committee and the information flowed through the chairs, but this is not always the case. Jonathon McClelland suggested that recommendations brought to the Advisory Committee should be shared with all the Action Team. He suggested that it may be possible to have a "members" only section on the website. Jonathon would check with his staff to determine possibility.

Item 3 - Business arising from the minutes. Kevin Merriam reported that the letter to the Kelliann Dean, Transition Team was sent on February 7, 2020. The letter was also sent to Doug Ledwidge, Jeff Bishop, Premier MacNeil and Minister Rankin. As of meeting time, there had been no acknowledgement or response to the letter.

Action Item: Kevin Merriam to send a follow-up email asking for confirmation of receipt of the correspondence and a definitive timeline for a response.

There was discussion about the growing frustration with the lack of response from the Transition Team. Many hours of work by the group and necessary to get some type of response. Over 1000-man hours as a committee and a response was needed. The committee was getting a response, but not in writing. Had had spoken with Kelliann Dean during the Forest NS AGM in Halifax earlier in the week and she acknowledged the work that has been done in Cumberland County. It was suggested that a letter be drafted to the Transition Team suggesting that a

response was required and that the CFAC was not satisfied with the Transition Team. Correspondence has already been sent the Transition Team requesting a response. The Transition Team should be asked

how they planned on responding to the correspondence and get a timeline. It has been a very busy week which involved the Forest NS AGM and many of the Transition Team members were in attendance. Several members of the Transition Team have said that they had received a lot of correspondence from individuals and it takes time to go through it all. Cumberland County was one of the few organized groups. Kevin then asked what a reasonable response time was for MLA's offices and was there a standard for MLA's and Committees. There is no uniform standard. Some MLA's try to respond within 24 hours for an email and 72 hours for written correspondence. The CFAC should not lose focus based on the lack of response as good positive things are coming out of the Cumberland County meetings. Is it time to go to the media, regarding the lack of response from the Transition Team? Ian will be speaking with Darrell Cole, Amherst Daily News and could report that the CFAC had sent recommendations to the Provincial Transition Team and were anxiously waiting for a response.

There has not been a response regarding the request for funding for a staff person. Perhaps the transition team may be waiting for the February 23rd meeting to provide a response. Minister Rankin and Kelliann Dean had both been invited to participate in the Feb 23rd meeting, but neither had responded to date. Robin Wilber, Elmsdale Lumber Co. Ltd., would be the 3rd speaker to attend the meeting and provide an industry perspective.

Jeff Black reported on the negative sign that was on the Thompson Station overpass. The sign was removed very quickly and hopefully was not seen by many. The co-chair told the group that he had posted on social media that the action was not condoned by the CFAC. It was very beneficial that the communication leads were in place to react to the situation and the response has been immediate and positive. There is a lot of negativity in Nova Scotia and need to have a method of educating more people. A letter to the editor of the Halifax Herald could be used to provide an update on what is happening in Cumberland County and put a positive spin. Ron Furlong and Shelia Christie will work with Ian Ripley to craft a positive letter to the editor.

Item 4 - Committee Reports

Immediate Action Team – Keith Thompson provided an update. Group is wondering if Port Hawkesbury Paper is maximizing the value of their harvest? Action Team was established for the immediate to 30 days timeline. 30 days have expired, where to go from here? Group discussed the impending road closures. Could there be discretion on the part of TIR to base closures on temperatures and not be date specific? It was suggested that TIR be asked to recognize the reality of temperatures and to set the road closures based on timing and temperatures to allow for fiber to be supplied to mills. The CFAC co-chairs should write a letter to TIR directly regarding road closures. A copy of the letter should go to the Transition Team. This should be done as soon as possible.

Action Item: Correspondence be sent to the Minister of TIR asking that road closures be based on temperature and timing and not on a specific date.

Policy Action Team: Jonathon McClelland provided an update on the committee meeting held on February 6, 2020. (please refer to the committee report attached to these minutes for further details)

Market Action Team - Update provide by Barry Tupper. Team discussed many ideas but had set aside some due to timing and projects that were not feasible to pursue. The team is looking at the feasibility of a small log mill – 3x3 market, pallets and retail store. The Trenton Works facility could potentially be

used to produce bio diesel, this facility could consume some of the volume that previously had gone to Northern Pulp. It was reported on a pilot commercial plant for bio diesel in Quebec that produced fuel used for heating in Maine. A large cement plant in Quebec had converted from petroleum to bio- mass. Interesting concept.

Long Term Planning Team – Norman Paupin reported that the team was still getting their feet wet and were working on Terms of Reference. Next meeting on February 23, 2020.

Item 5 - New Business

Ian Ripley reported on the February 9th meeting. Over 50 in attendance, great to see young people getting engaged. Those in attendance looked at the 12 pathways and the shared vision.

Keith Thompson briefed the Committee on the Bio Mass Conference. He and Bill Davidson had attended the conference in Nashville, TN, February 3-5. Over 900 delegates participated. A lot of interesting ideas and common problems with residuals and markets. Contacts were made and will be an asset moving forward.

Kevin Merriam provided a report on Forest NS AGM. The AGM was held in Halifax, February 11 & 12th. Attendance was higher than previous years. Great representation from MLA's at the dinner on the 11th of February. Last session of the AGM included Kelliann Dean and Julie Towers. Jeff Bishop was the moderator. This session engaged the audience. Clear message to the Transition Team from industry. Need solutions now, Stop the Bleeding. Set the guidelines – No vision, no path forward. Need more support from the government.

Jeff Black opened a discussion regarding the frequency of the CFAC meeting. Could the meeting be held every 2 weeks? Good group discussion and decided that the next meeting would be February 26th unless a response was received from the Transition Team.

Jonathon provided a draft document prepared by Ron on the Industry Challenge. Item was discussed and tabled until the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned by Jeff Black at 9:15pm