

Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee

March 12, 2020

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

Attendees: Jonathan McClelland, Ian Ripley, Norman Paupin, Velda Fromm, Ron Furlong, Deputy Mayor Shelia Christie, Jason Stewart, Steven McLelan, William Davison, Mac Davis, Jeff Black - Meeting Chairman

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by meeting chair – Jeff Black

Item 1 – Jeff Black welcomed everyone to the meeting. Approval of Agenda: Additional items added – Update the Tantramar Marsh and Presentation on the Biomass Conference. Agenda Approved.

Item 2 – Approval of the minutes of the February 26, 2020 meeting. This process was delayed until the next meeting. Most of the committee members did not have an opportunity to read the minutes prior to the meeting.

Item 3 – Update on meeting with the Transition Team.

The committee members had been provided with one hour on the agenda of the meeting. Actually, spent one hour and 15 minutes. The Transition Team was provided with an overview of the structure of the CFAC. The members of the Transition Team were very interested in the Pathways and Strategies and asked to see the Vision Statement. Gave them a copy of the statement and gave it to the Transition Team. Key issues were discussed with the Transition Team: forestry loan board, PHP utilization of fibre, low value fibre for energy. The need for a short-term fix for chips was stressed to the Transition Team. There was a discussion on the request for funding for a research assistant for CFAC. It was determined that this position could be funded through the Cumberland Business Connector with the understanding that the Transition Team would consider funding for other studies if deemed necessary. Transition Team explained the reason behind the time involved to respond to requests, all suggestions submitted to the Transition Team were funnelled to the appropriate provincial department. This created a response lag. Overall, it was a very positive meeting. Was asked on clarification regarding the research assistant. Jonathan explained that this position could be funded through the CBC. Asked about the progress on getting the position filled. Committee was informed that the criteria would be determined shortly and hopefully the position would be filled quickly.

Action Item: Committee to ask be back on the Transition Teams' agenda shortly after the March 29th meeting.

Item 4- Update on meeting in Bridgewater with the NS Chambers of Commerce

Gave the presentation to the 12 Chambers attending the meeting. Chambers were all from Nova Scotia. The presentation was very well received. The meeting attendees were very

interested in the work being done in Cumberland County. All were invited to attend the March 29th meeting in Amherst.

Item 5-9 Review of the 12 step pathways, pathways and strategies document to date, storytellers for videography, Future of Forestry Strategic Plan from strong (new) contributors, Drive people to the March 29th meeting. A survey was put together which asked the committee members to prioritize the pathways identified. To date, 14 responses had been received. The goal was to have the pathways ready for the March 29th meeting.

Step 2 - The suggestion was made to reach out to others in the community to complete the survey.

Step 3 - The responses to the survey that had been received to date have been consolidated and had produced an initial list of priorities. When more survey results were received the results will be distributed. The Policy Action Team had met and have identified seven strategies policy items. The results of the survey would feed into the focus for the March 29th Meeting.

Step 4 – Presentation to the Transition Team.

Step 5- Develop draft framework for Future of Forestry.

Step 6 – secure stories for forestry.

Step 7 – The goal was to have the Future of Forestry Strategic Plan ready by March 23rd and that it would be advantageous to have the document critiqued by influencers from the region.

Feedback from these individuals would be used to finalize the document prior to the March 29th.

Step 8 – Planning a getting together with committee members, probably via email or conference call to determine roles for the March 29th meeting. Important that everyone is on the same page.

Step 9 – There is a need for guest speakers for the March 29th meeting. Potentially someone that would be a draw for attendance. Three speakers would each be given 10 minutes during the meeting to speak and answer questions. There was much discussion regarding who should be asked to participate.

Action Item: Committee members were asked to submit all suggestions regarding influencers to critique document and potential guest speakers for March 29th meeting.

Action Item: Approach Bill Lahey about presenting at the March 29th meeting.

The poster for the meeting would be ready soon. Need to have as many people as possible at the March 29th meeting. Social media would be used to promote meeting. It was suggested that they should try and get something in the Amherst paper about the meeting. It was suggested that the information be added to the weekly flyers in Cumberland County.

Item 10- New Business. March 11 2020 CBC article “Northern Pulp shutdown could affect province’s approach to high-production forestry “ by Michael Gorman. Implementation of the Lahey reports recommends the use of the triad model for ecological forest management. The committee discussed the triad model and it was pointed out that the model suggested that 30% of crown land be held for conservation purposes, 50% be subject to light touch ecological

forestry and 20% be subject to high production harvesting. It was asked if a triad of forestry should be looked at by the Policy Action Team. The committee members discussed the implementation of the triad approached to forestry in Nova Scotia. The suggestion of 50% of crown lands harvested using the light touch ecological methodology would effectively reduce the value of the forest.

Action Item: A letter be written to the Transition Team regarding the implementation of the proposed percentage of crown lands subjected to high production harvesting and the harm this could cause to the value of the land.

A report was provided on the meeting regarding the dike system on the Tantramar Marsh. Very disappointed with the meeting. Focus is on keeping the trade corridor open. This is not acceptable to Amherst or Sackville.

An update was provided on the Canadian Woodland Forums meeting with contractors. Meeting was attended by 25-30 people. CWF had brought in speakers to discuss potential solutions finding a market for low grade and chips. Main purpose of the meeting was to determine how the CWF could assist contractors.

A report was provided on the Biomass Conference. Very interesting participants and presentations. Highlights of the conference: looked at emerging technology, networked with other delegates to determine like hardships and solutions. A CD was given to the committee that contained presentations from the conference.

The next meeting will be at 7pm on March 25th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.