

# Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee

January 29, 2020

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

Attendees: Amherst Deputy Mayor Shelia Christie, Keith Thompson, Steven McLelan, Mac Davis, Jonathon McClelland, Wade Adshade, Ian Ripley, Norman Paupin, Matthew MacGillivray, Darrin Carter, Ron Furlong, Barry Tupper, Jason Stewart, David Copus, Velda Fromm, Peter Spicer, Jeff Black– Meeting Chairman

Allan Bonnyman, Tory Rushton, Marcus Zwicker via teleconference

## **Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM by Co Chair Jeff Black**

Jeff opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and then introduced Carole Blenkhorn. Carole will be taking minutes during the meeting and recording required action items and motions. Ron Furlong will distribute all correspondence to committee members. Dave Copus from Nova Scotia Business Inc introduced himself to the committee. NSBI has 4 senior managers working with stakeholders to determine what needs to be done for the forest industry. He indicated that NSBI was waiting for guidance from the Transition Team and the Premier.

The meeting agenda was approved and the minutes from the January 22, 2020 meeting were also approved.

## **Business Arising from Minutes**

Co Chairman Jeff Black reported that the Communication Strategy was sent to the Transition Team. Ian Ripley indicated that the information was well received.

The committee discussed the requirement of an additional communications person. Still no response from Linda Cloney. Jonathon McClelland suggested that any communications requirements could be handled by the Committee Co-Chairs.

Mac Davis thought that it would be a good idea to reach out to local media and explain that the committee exists and the function of the group. Cumberland County should be made aware that there is work being done on the issue.

**Action Item: Prepare Press Release on the Structure of the Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee. Contact local media for distribution.**

Ian Ripley reported on the Industry Committee meeting held on January 26, 2020. Good meeting with 51 people in attendance. A lot of discussion and positive ideas were brought up during the meeting. The group discussed the sub-committees and they were reorganized as follows:

- Immediate Action Team
- Marketing Action Team
- Policy Action Team
- Long Range Action Team

Allan Bonnyman suggested that it would be beneficial to have one person taking minutes at all committee meetings. Allan asked if Carole would be interested in taking on this task. Carole declined.

## **Committee Reports**

**Immediate Action Team:** Keith Thompson yielded to Ian Ripley to report on committee activities.

Suggested ideas: Landowner Engagement – ask for clarification from Transition Team. Suggested 3 programs that could be implemented – private land fund, private land ecological forestry training site and demonstration fund, training fund for contractor’s regarding modernization and education as a possible transition to ecological forestry. This idea of ecological forestry should only be considered as a small portion of the future of the industry.

Group discussion: Need clarification from the Transition Team regarding the future of the forestry industry in Nova Scotia. We need this clarification before suggesting programs from the Immediate Action Team.

**Marketing Action Team:** Barry Tupper provided a briefing on the committee’s activities. Need to determine the role of the committee. Several ideas have been discussed and committee is still searching for additional solutions.

Marcus Zwicker, WestFor reported on a meeting with the Transition Team. His group reported on the state of the industry in western Nova Scotia and what was required to maintain the industry. Asked Transition Team on where the forestry sector in Nova Scotia was going – no reply. Jeff Black thanked Marcus for provided the update.

**Action Item: Make request to get the CFAC on the meeting agenda of the Transition Team**

Ian Ripley suggested to the group that a before the CFAC when to the Transition Team, a clear message regarding what CFAC wanted the forest industry to look like in 5 years. We have a vision, need a bridge to get there.

**Action Item: A few members of the committee put together a document outlining Cumberland County’s vision for the future and bring it to the next meeting.**

Lengthy discussion on how to engage the public. Norman Paupin suggested an Innovation competition on residual usage. Jonathon McCelland indicated that the Cumberland Business Connector had administered competitions in the past and with guidelines it could be easily implemented.

**Action Item: Prepare criteria for Innovation Competition – possibility of asking Transition Team for prize money.**

Cumberland Business Connector will provide funding for delegates to participate in a Bio-Mass Conference being held in Tennessee February 3-5, 2020. It was suggested that Keith Thompson, Bill Davidson and Jonathon attend the conference.

Next meeting: February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 7pm

Meeting adjourned by Jeff Black at 9:30pm