

**Cortes Forestry General Partnership  
Board Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2020**

**Present:** Kevin Peacey  
Georgina Silby  
Kathy Francis (10-10:20)  
Bruce Ellingsen  
Carrie Saxifrage  
Aaron Ellingsen (by Zoom)  
Mark Lombard

**Agenda:**

- Klahoose Partner Update – Kathy Francis
- Operations update – Mark Lombard
  - Challenges
  - Gates
  - Firewood day
- CFGP "in good standing" policy
- Cork lake
- Donation to outdoor learning structure at the Cortes School
- Branding for value-added wood products
- CCFC AGM
- Mosaic Update

**Discussion:**

KFN update by Kathy Francis: Good progress in treaty negotiations.

Operations update - Mark Lombard:

The Carrington cut is near completion.

- 75% of wood at roadside.
- Operators did an excellent job.
- Trees didn't get marked up.
- Two thirds of road has gravel, all adverse slopes covered, more needed on far side of the creek. Within budget: additional rock will use \$2K of the remaining \$5K

The Carrington operation experienced some challenges.

- Started a little late because equipment wasn't ready.

- Guy Bentley created a dangerous situation at the worksite
  - Disrupted and threatened the crew
  - Broke a tail light on Nick's truck
  - Went to Matt Cuscianna's home and exhibited aggressive behaviour which gave Matt concern for the safety of his family.
  - Guy has exhibited similar behaviour at other CFA operations
- Laurier chose to include Guy on his crew and he seems to have done a decent job bucking firewood. However, the CFGP needs a policy to put people on notice of consequences for acting against the CFGP's tenure rights and/or the safety of its operational crew. See next item.

Squirrel Cove improvements:

- A gate was installed into the Squirrel Cove operation area as of this morning
- The nw road in Squirrel Cove was reactivated and the road culverts reinstalled to enable silviculture work in back blocks.
- Rebar pins were installed for Community Forest sign.

Larson Meadows:

- The gate installation is incomplete because two lock posts were stolen.

Community firewood day November 14, 2020 was very positive

- Organized by Mark and Corry, helped by many other volunteers
- 76 pick up loads of FW to elders in both communities
- This is a record.

Nick Gagnon may contract for remaining firewood.

- \$30/m3
- Directors expressed support for this

“Good standing” policy – Georgina and Mark

This discussion was triggered by Guy Bentley's disruption of Carrington operations and the failure to complete in a timely manner the restorative justice agreement between CFGP, Ira

Ellingsen and Logan Spitler dated June 20, 2020 (in response to Ira and Logan cutting a tree on CFA lands).

- As of the date of this meeting, one gate installation is complete (Squirrel Cove), two are not (Larsons Meadow and Carrington)
- CFGP Letter of November 17 imposed deadline of November 25
- Ira states that two of the three posts were stolen. Mark informed him that he and Logan will responsible for replacement because the posts were their responsibility at the time.

In addition, firewood theft has increased in recent years and the CFGP would like the public to know there are consequences for this activity.

CFGP needs a policy which states that persons not in good standing with the partnership will be suspended from employment in the community forest. This policy will be sent to persons who have engaged in harmful or potentially harmful actions in the past to put them on notice that there will be consequences for such actions. (Guy, Ira, Logan).

The Good Standing Policy will be drafted by Georgina and Carrie based on the directors' suggestions:

- The policy will be clear that CFGP is not the direct employer for all jobs (for example, bucking) and that the policy extends to all employment under all contracts with the CFGP.
  - The policy and listed of suspended persons will be include in contracts
- People suspended can return to good standing by
  - community service under a restoration agreement with a time frame for completion
  - expiration of a certain period of time (for example, letter to Ira and Logan states suspension of 24 months if agreement not fulfilled. . People on good standing list
- Certain actions will result in permanent suspension if they indicate a general level of care that may result in unsafe conditions during operations

#### Cork Lake - Carrie

Slides regarding impacts of the road built through the community forest by Quartzbay.com:

- More than half of Cork Lake's shoreline lies within the community forest, including the access by the new road.
- Historically, there has been no easy access to Cork Lake by boat or road while the island's other lakes have been greatly impacted by human activity.

- The island's most remote and pristine lake with unique ecological values.
  - Provincially designated sensitive ecosystem – wetland/floating peat bog
  - Large population of nesting loons due to undisturbed location
  - Part of a cross-island linkage of wetlands buffered by mature forests, a community value
  - On the migratory bird flyway
- Quartzbay.com's activities include:
  - 1.5 km of cleared road
  - Disturbance of delicate lakeside area, including cutting trees, an invitation to invasive plant species
  - a U-bolt anchored in rock to secure a future dock
  - Theft of community forest trees
  - Blue barrels at lakeside

Response of Hugo Sloos, Natural Resources Officer, Sunshine Coast, Compliance and Enforcement Branch FLNRORD:

- “The landowner is cooperating with the requirements for tenuring their various enterprises on Crown land.”
- “I am also aware that the property is for sale. Any tenures will also be required by any future landowner.”

Directors expressed dismay that Quartzbay.com can simply get permission after the fact for harm to CFGP's tenure rights, particularly when for the purpose of commercial profit at the expense of the community forest. This lack of consequences doesn't set a positive precedent for the community forest and shows disrespect for our tenure rights. Activities by others within the community forest should require notice and comment due to impacts on our tenure, values and planning. Will there a comment period regarding the application for these tenures? If it were private land, there would be a public hearing in which tenure harm, ecological impacts and community values would be considered. CFGP is not satisfied with this outcome. Carrie will draft a strongly worded letter for review by the board.

#### Cortes School Outdoor Learning Structure – Georgina and Mark

Georgina and Mark explained that the Cortes School needs a place for outdoor learning during bad weather to reduce risk to students and teachers during the COVID 19 pandemic. The CFGP wants to respond to this need.

Chris Cook designed a Coast Salish style canoe shed with the help of Mark Lombard. The CFGP set aside wood from the Carrington operation for this purpose: 10 inch diameter cedar poles; fir for rafters, sheathing and cross ties.

The project needs a manager but the school cannot hire this person due to labor union regulations. Principal Brent Wilkens proposed that CFGP invoice Cortes School for the wood and use the payment as an honorarium for project manager/designer.

Directors agreed to this.

Mosaic update- Kevin

The log dump may be useable in the spring. Mosaic states no plans to log on Cortes for the next few years.

Branding – Carrie

As part of its effort to promote value added wood products, CCFC would like to develop a CFGP brand, including a logo and catchphrase. Carrie presented one of her ideas as an example. The board supported use of that logo and catchphrase. Georgina took them home for further consideration and refinement.

CCFC AGM – Carrie

Monday, November 22, 7 pm by Zoom. Carrie extended invitation to partners, no need to attend but they are warmly welcome. She will send Zoom invite to Kevin and Georgina.

Adjourned, 12 pm.