

CFGP Public Operations Meeting

November 28, 2015

In Attendance:

CFGP Board Members: Kathy Francis, Kristin Scholfield-Sweet, Bruce Ellingsen, Kevin Peacey, Mark Lombard.

CFGP Staff: John Marlow – General Manager

Matt Cuscianna – Forestry Engineering Technician

Minutes: Corry Dow

32 members of the public.

Agenda:

Financial review of 2015 operations

Larsen's Meadow harvest review

Squirrel Cove harvest plans spring 2016

Presentation:

John Marlow presented a slideshow giving a summary of the harvesting operation at Larsen's Meadow including a financial summary, and an overview of log and firewood volumes and distribution. (See www.corteforestrypartnership.com/documents-maps for details.) Questions from the floor were taken throughout the presentation and addressed as relevant points were covered.

Next John gave an overview of the operation itself. Tree removal was done at a spacing of 10m or less. Replanting will take place in spring 2016 with an increased planting percentage of Western Red cedar where site conditions are favourable. Local log buyers were offered a \$25.00/m reduction in log price to account for the reduced cost of transportation.

Plans for 2016 are to harvest near Squirrel Cove, with site prep early in the year followed by felling in February. (See attached map).

The remainder of the meeting was open for public question and comment.

Public Questions & Comment:

How was the harvest pattern chosen in Larsen's Meadow?

The spacing for the harvest, based on John Marlow's experience in his woodlot on Quadra Island, was chosen to allow for effective growth of Douglas Fir seedlings once the area is replanted; Douglas Fir being the dominant species in the area. The harvest plan was submitted to and approved by the CFGP Board of Directors.

Where was white pine harvested from Larsen's Meadow sold?

The white pine logs were exported because no local or domestic buyers were found.

How much of the amount spent on the Larsen's Meadow Operation was paid to local workers?

Amounts paid to locals were limited by the local availability of machinery. Where skills and equipment were available, local workers were hired.

Request for more notice on the availability of private-use firewood permits.

Suggestion to put CF profits toward value-added ventures.

The CFGP supports local initiatives and invites the submission of project proposals at any time. Locals are encouraged to access public funds as available.

Has there been any objection from the MoF regarding plans that have been submitted thus far ie. current harvest rate?

No objections thus far.

What is the structure of the CFGP? (asked by an individual from Read Island where a community forest is being considered)

Kristin described structure and directed to CFGP website.

Where do the seedlings to replant Larsen's Meadow come from?

Sylvan Vale Nursery, Black Creek.

What was the outcome of the UBC Summer Student Co-op Placement?

One of the main tasks of the students was a timber reconnaissance of the entire CF land base. They also did fire watch, worked on engineering plans for 2016 and did some silviculture planning. Check the CFGP website to see the reports that the two students completed.

How is actual growth rate being measured and recorded in the Community Forest in order to set an accurate harvest rate?

Bruce spoke of the commitment to establish sample plots within the CF. Matt described the timber reconnaissance done by the summer students.

Concern expressed by member of public on planning to log in an area included in the Squirrel Cove harvest plan that has 10% old growth trees as listed on the Sensitive Ecosystem (SE) Inventory map. Request for the manager to have a second look to identify sensitive ecosystems and establish buffers.

This area is targeted for thinning with the adjacent area containing a large amount of blow down targeted as a potential source of firewood trees. John will be walking the area in the upcoming weeks and welcomes locals to accompany him to review for SEs and offer input.

Request from member of public to have the value of profit aside from monetary gain more clearly recognized and stated.

Discussion on possibility of the establishment of a public trail to the Squirrel Cove OGMA.

The proposal is under review by the CFGP and will depend on whether the OGMA has been designated to protect species sensitive to human foot traffic.

Concern expressed on potential erosion along the Larsen's Meadow access roads.

The entrance to the road will be blocked to prevent vehicle access.

Thanks for the work of the CFGP Board and staff was offered from the floor.

Meeting concluded with a reminder that those interested in giving input on the Squirrel Cove operations plan should contact John Marlow directly. Harvest blocks are currently ribboned off for those who wish to walk the area. Tours with John will be arranged. Application for cutting permits for the area have been submitted.