

SERNbc Annual General Meeting of the Membership

May 8th, 2015**Present:** See signup list (25 people)**Introductions:**

Broad representation from the resource sector.

Other Business:**Larry McCulloch moved, seconded by Wayne, that last year's meeting minutes be adopted as tabled. Unanimously approved.**

Participants agreed that they would become members as indicated on the signup list for the meeting unless indicated otherwise on the sheet.

Financial Statements:

John DeGagne provided a summary of the projects completed in fiscal 2014, including costs.

This document will be posted on the SERN website (www.sernbc.ca) – see the “Year in review”.

The Society's Treasurer provided recommendations as follows:

- **An annual financial review will be completed each year.**
- **The society will ensure that funder's insurance requirements are tracked.**
- **A memorandum of understanding with the BC Government's Wildfire Management Branch, will be solicited to clarify liabilities and roles and responsibilities. Brent Bye will lead this initiative.**
- **A subcommittee will be set up to ensure our conflict of interest policy is being adequately implemented and the Directors are looking for one or two members of the society to sit on this. Interested members should contact the program coordinator as per the email contact on www.sernbc.ca.**
- **A subcommittee will be setup to ensure applications for funding for projects is undertaken appropriately with the intent of developing a policy around this.**
- **The Board will develop a policy for developing a contingency reserve and administrative fees.**

Director's Reports:

President:

- Reviewed the likely highest priority projects in the coming year: treatment monitoring, whitebark pine management and seed collection, First Nations engagement and collaboration, improving second growth stand structure in the Interior Cedar Hemlock Zone, grizzly bear habitat restoration, berry production, invasive weed treatments.
- Project selection is driven by funders' criteria.

Strategic Direction:

Larry outlined that the strategic direction of the society is first driven by the Mission of the Society - to manage the structure and function of vulnerable and degraded ecosystems in the Omineca Region to achieve a desired future condition that will sustain ecological services and human socio-economic needs.

Forces that will be driving the need for ecosystem restoration include:

- timber supply pressures
- other land use and development
- changing climate and increased timber loss due to fire, insects, diseases, and mal-adapted species or ecosystems
- increasing pressures on wildlife

- reduced habitat that is disconnected/fragmented
- insufficient human and financial resources to acquire adequate data on natural resource conditions.

Program Focus in the Near Term

- Assisted migration: Douglas-fir, whitebark pine, larch, birch in mixed stands using appropriate seedlots, stock, and disease and insect resistant progeny.
- Re-introduction of fire into the landscape: on the timber harvesting land base and outside the timber harvesting land base.
- Improving stand structure in regenerated stands.
- Improving fish passage.
- Berry enhancement.

Methods SERN will employ

- engaging partners in program delivery.
- better engagement of stakeholders, particularly First Nations, in identifying ER needs.
- better monitoring of treatment results and data integration with the Provincial system.
- attracting more funding, particularly for core activities.
- supporting landscape-level planning and analysis.
- extension and training.

Comments from the Floor Included

- Need to be aware of political consequences of our actions.
- Need to make the economic case for habitat enhancement as well as the environmental and social rationale – perhaps this can be done as future a project.
- Outreach is important and the society needs to build profile.

Elections and Resolutions:

- **Andrea Erwin, Mike Tilson, Bernard McKay were elected by acclamation** after discussion about the numbers of people that should be on the Board.
- Suggestions from the floor that we should either include a maximum number of directors in the constitution and bylaws or continue to incorporate this in the Policy on Board Composition.
- **Olin Albertson moved that this issue be a point of discussion at the next Directors meeting and that recommendations be prepared for the next AGM. There was no opposition to this motion.**
- Michael Schneider suggested that some Directors in succeeding years be elected for only one year to stagger when the terms of Directors come up thus always leaving some experienced Directors in any given year.

Adjournment:

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Guest Speakers:

Two guest speakers provided presentations as follows:

1. Torsten Kaffanke: Reconnaissance of Ecological Function in the Sutherland Park
2. Duncan McColl: Regional Monitoring Initiatives.