



SERNbc Annual General Meeting: November 24, 2022

Meeting Purpose:

- Update from President and Treasurer
- Overview
- Review of Financial Statements
- Sub-committee Updates and Introductions
- Nominations/Elections
- Presentation – Roy Rea

Meeting Called to Order: 10:05 am, November 24, 2022

Directors Present

John DeGagne – Chairman/President
Duncan McColl (Vice-President)
Sean Rapai – Secretary
Andrea Erwin
Adrian Batho
Micah May
Wayne Salewski
Scott Schilds
Brad Martin
Tobi Anaka

Directors Not Present

Gerd Erasmus
Warren Eastland
Olin Albertson

Coordinator(s) Present

Brandon Geldart



Introductions

- Intro from John DeGagne, president of SERNBC, and Stewardship Forester with Ministry of Forests
- Introductions from all attendees in room (15) and online (16)

In person:

John DeGagne
Dave Hooper
Frank Doyle
Brandon Geldart
Nick Hamilton
Sean Rapai
Patrick Ferguson
Adrian Batho
Andrea Erwin
Don Wilkins
Brad Martin
Ralph Hausot
Jesse Laframboise
Melissa Mjolsness
Vanessa Uschenkov

Virtual:

Richard Kabzems
Duncan McColl
Wayne Salewski
Diane Gagne
Teresa Brewis
Nathan Prince
Sybille Haeussler
Sherry Coffey
Tom Wilms
Micah May
Joe Wong
Tobi Anaka
Scott Schilds
Carl Pollard



Ray Klingspohn
Jeff Morgan
Stephane Dube

Update from President and Treasurer - John DeGagne

- Project implementation
 - o Many supporters in the room – HCTF, FWCP – Peace, BC, ECCC, which has all opened the door for financial support to SERNbc
 - o In kind services from licensees and BC, which has gone a long ways to support SERNbc, which relies on volunteers
 - o Working to keep 50% of the BoD as non-government
 - o A lot of work on moose currently, from willow hinging to dietary studies
 - o Road rehabilitation is a big part of the work
 - o Unless there is a plan for the landscape, how do you know what needs to be restored? as planning allows you to understand what work needs to be done
 - o Wildfire, silviculture, goshawk, whitebark pine, caribou, beaver restoration assessment tool, fencing along riparian areas and better managing riparian areas, river styles and fluvial geomorphology which results in river restoration opportunities, pond leveller training by CNC
 - o Reliant on funding from outside financial support, with a small amount of admin. Spent on meetings etc., but seed funding is intended to grow funding from elsewhere (e.g. grant based funding)

- Subcommittees delegations
 - o Need to hire a new manager
 - o Want to continue to build capacity
 - o Continue to work on relationships, so we all understand what each of us are doing (Nations, Stakeholders, BC regulators) to make sure everyone is on the same page, and what is being proposed is accepted

- Directed by strategic plan
 - o In year 2 of 5 year strategic plan

Financial picture – John DeGagne

- SERNBC is looking to secure a treasurer for the BoD
- Further delineate and enable-cross referencing of deposits with expenditures
- Secure GST rebates, applied for by KPMG, and received by SERNbc

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- there is a deficit, because need to identify up front which revenue source is supporting which project, to balance
- The \$130,000.00 deficit was located
- Maintain financial review and book keeping
- Sustain our position as a trusted delivery agent and leader of restoration activities in northern BC
 - o Good financial accounting is important, so SERNbc will continue with this

Questions

Dave Hooper – what would it cost to hire someone?

JD – SERNbc has hired a bookkeeper, and KPMG. Suggest that SERNbc goes looking for a BoD member that is interested in being Treasurer

Review of Financial Statement – KPMG LLP – Sherry Cofee

- Review engagement report, not an audit, because audit is not required of SERNbc
- So the focus is analytical and inquiry focussed
- No indication that information is not being presented fairly
- Statement of financial position review – and presented with screen captures below
- Deficiency of \$130,000.00 identified, which was funding that had not yet been received, which should be resolved at the end of 2023.
- March 31, 2022 financial report reviewed
- Sherry indicated that the Financials need to be approved by BoD

Statement of March 31, 2022 Financial Position

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Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2022, with comparative information for 2021
(Unaudited)

	2022	2021
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 1,044,357	\$ 866,971
Accounts receivable (note 3)	151,229	131,107
	<u>\$ 1,195,586</u>	<u>\$ 998,078</u>
Liabilities and Net Asset		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 196,504	\$ 174,599
Deferred revenue (note 4)	705,945	400,000
	<u>902,449</u>	<u>574,599</u>
Net asset:		
General fund	293,137	423,479
	<u>293,137</u>	<u>423,479</u>
	<u>\$ 1,195,586</u>	<u>\$ 998,078</u>

Statement of March 31, 2022 Operations

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2022, with comparative information for 2021
(Unaudited)

	2022	2021
Revenue:		
Funding	\$ 466,296	\$ 152,741
Grant	373,463	167,644
Other	97,762	63,279
	<u>937,521</u>	<u>383,664</u>
Expenses:		
Advertising	230	250
Business fees and licenses	40	-
Insurance	2,465	2,317
Interest and bank charges	24	24
Materials and supplies	466	-
Office and general	5,385	3,556
Professional fees	6,150	6,037
Project coordinator	106,430	62,485
Shallow water wetland	8,000	-
Subcontracts	938,673	326,074
	<u>1,067,863</u>	<u>400,743</u>
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	<u>\$ (130,342)</u>	<u>\$ (17,079)</u>

Statement of March 31, 2022 Net Assets

Statement of Changes In Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2022, with comparative information for 2021
(Unaudited)

	2022	2021
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 423,479	\$ 440,558
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(130,342)	(17,079)
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 293,137</u>	<u>\$ 423,479</u>



Statement of March 31, 2022 Cash Flows

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2022, with comparative information for 2021
(Unaudited)

	2022	2021
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ (130,342)	\$ (17,079)
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(20,122)	151,283
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	21,905	148,577
Deferred revenue	305,945	271,221
Increase in cash	177,386	554,002
Cash, beginning of year	866,971	312,969
Cash, end of year	\$ 1,044,357	\$ 866,971

JD – any questions?

- No questions
- Can we make a motion to approve the financial review statements?

Motion brought forward by John DeGagne

Second Dave Hooper

JD – any opposition?

- No opposition, so all in favour, and motion passed

Sub- Committee Updates and Introductions

Academic – Andrea Erwin

- Update from Andrea Erwin
- Objective is to look at research streams and furthering connections for what opportunities are available through restoration
- Met in January, February, discussed funding models to support UNBC students and other institutions
- Focus on PG area
- Looking at summer student positions with CNC
- Creation of opportunities for students
- Brandon Geldart gave presentations to students, to help show examples of restoration type projects that they could get involved in

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- Duncan did work with Cathy Lewis, and put together the spring SERNbc symposium
- Duncan and Cathy discussed other research and collaboration ideas

Duncan McColl

- Successful symposium delivered
- Opportunities for collaborations and symposiums exist
- Most presentations were ~ 20 minutes, so just provided a bit of an overview of what SERNbc has been up to
- Since that symposium, there have been inquiries about collaborations
- Work needs to be done to get the awareness of the work in the academic landscape, instead of questions to SERNbc of “do you have projects for us to research?”
- There is great opportunity, and if the board is willing, this could become an annual event, to demonstrate work by SERNbc and other collaborators

John DeGagne

- Tom from Merrit, similar projects, so there may be opportunities for collaboration

Brandon Geldart

- Brought UNBC staff to the moose enhancement project
- Looking at browse enhancement opportunities
- Scale is large, biggest in province?
- Sam Bartell(spelling uncertain; UNBC) proposed a research project, and will submit a formal proposal for \$15,000.00 for a masters student on the project, and he can lever up that funding

Project lead/Coordinator development committee – Dave Hooper

Dave Hooper, took on chair position from Wayne Salewski

- Interested in implementing on the ground projects
- Has time, is willing to get out there

Wayne Salewski

- Important work, but the how to is uncertain
- Started well, but dropped off
- Micah May is most in tune



John DeGagne notes

- Without this committee, there is uncertainty of where to look and work
- There has been work in recent years (goshawk, beavers, moose),
- Having a group working on expansion of what restoration work is done, and pursuing opportunities, is the concept of this committee

Wayne Salewski

- Can't be successful, without looking at the landscape level
- Doing boutique fixes, while trying to influence at a larger level
- Mayor of Vanderhoof is understanding the need for sustainable resource development, which Wayne believes will all lead to incremental progress on restoration discussion
- Next step is a big step
- Believes Salmon and salmon funding is going to be the opportunity, if it becomes listed
- Suggests moving from land restoration, to water restoration

Brandon Delgart

- This is a very important committee, for building projects, and making connections with others on the landbase
- The only way of expanding what we do is to cast a wider net, which is the important part of what we do

David Hooper

- This is what we want to do, remove silos

Wayne Salewski

- Recent shift in government, and you can see the change, to take big steps/shift that is very important

Sean Rapai

- Request for experimental design and monitoring methods from moose project to be shared on website

BG

- this is coming, currently working on summaries
- Concern is hunting pressure

JD

- has showed pictures of road restoration work in the past, and it is impassable, so effective



- Also manages access
- But the primary goal is managing road density, revegetating landscape, predator management

BG – 70 km of road restoration around the moose restoration work

Operational structure and benefits – Duncan McColl

John DeGagne

- Priority sub committee, to increase capacity of SERNbc
- A key position, that goes beyond coordinating projects, to managing
- First step is to hire new manager, as the capacity on management is needed, to coordinate the overarching aspects of the society
- Objective of the committee is to establish a vision for the desired operational structure
- Operations on the ground
- Questions around Hierarchy, employees or contract positions, and how much to pay
- Are we providing benefits? Vacation?
- These questions have not yet been resolved
- Sub-committee is working together to sort these things out
- First step is to likely to hire a manager, then have them help work through the other details for ongoing structure

WS – could the position be contractual?

JD

- yes if hired as an employee, there are benefits and other expenses (e.g. vacation, benefits)
- Understand the going rates for contractors, and it is not cheap
- Process is underway, but the committee requires more organization, as it is high on the importance

David Hooper

- Suggest an employee is hired

JD

- Agrees that an employee is the goal
- But SERNbc is not ready to hire an employee
- So will be working to hiring through contract



BG

- Safety certifications an impediment

Sean Rapai

- Can assist with setting up a safety program for SERNbc, for the SEBASE audit with BC Forest Safety Council

Joe (guest)

- Questions raised about how SERNbc strengthens relationship with Indigenous Nations

JD

- Indigenous collaboration is a foundation of SERNbc work. Not always successful, but a big focus on SERNbc
- Primary goal of the society is to incorporate more indigenous people in the direction of the society

DH

- Both the hinging program and burning program he works on involves indigenous nations

Frank Doyle

- Works with guardians program (mentions multiple nations)
- Focus is working on the guardian program, and restoration projects are always with the nations
- Always asks, what do the nations want? And the guardian programs are often a good pathway in to start that relationship for professionals
- That route has been very rewarding for him, and he has found success with this approach
- Lessoned learned, from time in Yukon

Resolution and Policies Committee Update - Sean Rapai

- Board travel -updated reimbursement and expectations – update from 50c/km to 59, following BC government guidelines.
- See update details on Policy on Expense Reimbursement file regarding travel, accommodation, food, etc.
- Appendix not reviewed – changes regularly. Per diem is: \$___/day
- John – questions or comments before we approve changes?

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- Richard – brought up that rates/costs can vary by city/destination – can we use appendix to capture variations in cost of various locations.
- Adrian – costs in remote communities or Vancouver can be much higher
- Dave – can board adjust allowance per circumstance
- Duncan – province has negotiated rates so difficult to use as our baseline, board should be able to approve a reasonable accommodation
- Sean – change wording to a low cost economy
- Adrian – not honourous to review individual requests
- John – can leave up to secretary/treasurer to approve
- Dave – suggested keep the \$125/night accomodation but Sean suggested we leave it an open rate – must be approved by board to limit need to update regularly (inflation).
- Adrian – leaving it open, are we opening ourselves up for a mess if we don't require prior approval.
- John – formality can be simple – an email/phone call
- John made changes to accommodation reimbursement policy to “with costs prior approved by the secretary or treasurer”
- Martin – brought up the accommodation if can not return home by 10pm point in regards to seasonal travel risks (dark, winter, etc)
- John reminded us we are a small society with limited funds but want to reasonably cover costs for our board but keep in mind to not abuse.

Sean proposes approve updated changes: Adrian seconded. All are in favor. No objections.

Adrian Batho seconds it. No opposition. Passed

Communications Committee Update – Micah May

- Objective, to ensure updates to the website are completed, advertising new positions, advertising agm, updating library
- How to communicate what SERNbc is doing, and getting students involved
- Met earlier in year, and highlighted points for effort included website update, revamps,
- Brand and Michelle, who oversee the website, have been working on updating the project library
- Also discussed ways of improving membership tracking, and how to become members
- If we are doing an AGM., we can then send out to an email list
- Also discussion about creating a video, or some form of media, of what SERNbc is, to share with potential partners
- Earlier this week, met to discuss the website



- Work is on updating projects, and after this AGM, going to add a Directors list and bio, photo for each

Brandon Geldart

- Last update to the projects page was in 2014, so Brandon started re-writing all projects
- Expects to complete this in January

Micah May

- Hiring of a manager discussed
- But also potential for hiring a communications person
- SER wc has a communications person, who updates media, and an approach that could be considered

WS

- Supports the social media aspect
- Does not necessarily engage, but sees value, and would consider some cost sharing
- Project summaries are 2018, so missing last few years
- How many people are visiting the SERNBC website?

Micah May

- Updates from projects best to come from Brandon and or manager
- The other side of communications, outreach etc., is different and open to more ideas on this and can help implement this when there is time

Ray Klingspohn

- Recently attend Nechako roundtable
- SERNBC may want to consider how to link with their communications methods, and framework, that everyone can access
- Does not know enough about it, but saw the opportunity
- Minimizes the need for groups like this to do that themselves, so consider partnering with those groups already in play

Nominations and Elections - Adrian Batho

- 3 nominations – Richard Kabzems, Nathan Prince, Dave Hooper
- Have space for 2
- Tobi Anaka is not renewing term, which leaves 3 vacancies on board

Opportunity given to all those being nominated



- Dave Hooper – been working on projects for a long time. Wildlife for the future, wildlife for tomorrow, on the wildlife committee for bulkily valley rod and gun club, guide outfitter since 1979
- Richard Kabzems – since 1987 has lived in NE BC, background and work in NE BC was integrating soils, plants and forestry. Has worked with soils and ecologists, and can help bring integration and variety of knowledge bases to get projects off the ground successfully
- Nathan Prince – Sekani, from Mcleod Lake Indian Band, and background in data management and automotive industry. Working on digitizing TLU studies for MLIB and create a digital system. Uses the database to conduct desktop reviews, in review permits applications. Has recently started working with SERNbc, John DeGagen and Alan Irvine with newgraph, on a bull trout fish passage pilot project, and moose enhancement project west of carp lake provincial park

Adrian Batho

- Do the nominations individually

John DeGagne

- Lets do it as a group
- 15 people total
- Open the floor to discussion, for any other nominees. Are there any other nominees?

No additional nominees came forward

John DeGagne

- opportunities available for members at large, to sit on meetings
- If there is interest, then can go through the nominations and elections committee

Adrian Batho

- Members at large not afforded a vote, in instances, where there are votes

John DeGagne

- In the past, generally working on consensus
- Opportunity for members at large to provide perspective, which is valuable

Adrian Batho

- Hearing no other nominations from the floor

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- 8 people standing for nomination (John DeGagne, Adrian Batho, Duncan McColl, Scott Schilds, Micah May, Richard Kabzems, Nathan Prince, Dave Hooper)
- Motion has passed, new board of directors for the new year

JD

- Lunch has arrived, will mute microphone, back at 1pm for Roy Rea.

Meeting Concluded 2:45.