



SERNbc Annual General Meeting: November 30 2023

Meeting Purpose:

- Introductions
- Financial Review
- President/Treasurer Report
- Coordinator Reports
- Nominations/Elections
- Presentations

Meeting Called to Order: 10:00 am, November 30 2023

Directors Present

John DeGagne – Chairman/President
Duncan McColl – Vice President
Sean Rapai
Oline Albertson,
Wayne Salewski,
Warren Eastland
Andrew Erwin
Dave Hooper
Adrian Batho
Gerd Erasmus
Andrea Erwin
Scott Schilds (virtual)

Directors Not Present

Nathan Prince
Brad Martin

Coordinator(s) Present

Brandon Geldart



Introductions

In person (20):

John DeGagne, Brandon Geldart, Brittney Grunerud., Ashely Sutherland, Adrian Batho, Sean Rapai, Duncan McColl, Teresa Brewis, Melissa Mjolsness, Vanessa Uschenko, Shelby Roberts, Wayne Salewski, Warren Eastland, Olin Albertson, Juan Cereno, Shellie Gleave, Tori Ross, Stephanie Wilford, Gerd Erasmus, David Hooper.

Online (7):

Scott Schilds, Ray Klingspohn, Frank Doyle, Sybille Haeussler, Steve Gordon, Irene Ronalds, Micah May

Introduction Presentation from John DeGagne.

Topics covered

- Discussion of interconnectedness of food webs, with the aid of a food web figure
- Resilience – managing for resilience may mean managing for the impacts of climate change, or other changes we need to consider in our land management. However, resilience may mean changing and shifting in order to sustain resilience in a change world/climate. How can we incorporate resilience in our planning?
- Governance – the AGM is a legal requirement of a society, and a core part of governance. This is a continual work in progress, driven by directors and members
- Project Implementation – a core focus of SERNbc,
- Collaboration – many partners, including communities, industry, government, academia, and other professionals etc., to help SERNbc learn how to do this work better. SERNbc is anyone who is interested
- Focus is on project planning and implementation
- Directed by our Strategy
 - Existing strategy goes from 2020 – 2025
 - Currently informing the direction, but to be revisited before 2025

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Financial Review

Sherry Coffey from KPMG

- Provided a financial review (review engagement not audit) on the finance summary provided by SERNbc
- Nothing has come to the attention of KPMG during review that is cause for concern.

Conclusion from KPMG LLP: “Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC as at March 31, 2023, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. “

Balance Sheet

SOCIETY FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION IN NORTHERN BC

Balance Sheet

March 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 812,340	\$ 1,044,357
Accounts receivable (note 3)	476,932	151,229
Prepaid expenses	1,711	-
	<u>\$ 1,290,983</u>	<u>\$ 1,195,586</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 114,611	\$ 196,504
Deferred revenue (note 4)	410,853	705,945
	<u>525,464</u>	<u>902,449</u>
Net assets:		
General fund	765,519	293,137
	<u>765,519</u>	<u>293,137</u>
	<u>\$ 1,290,983</u>	<u>\$ 1,195,586</u>

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Statement of Earnings

SOCIETY FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION IN NORTHERN BC

Statement of Earnings

Year ended March 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Revenue:		
Funding	\$ 1,443,649	\$ 466,296
Grants	532,254	373,463
Other	16,844	97,762
	<u>1,992,747</u>	<u>937,521</u>
Expenses:		
Advertising	2,591	230
Business fees and licenses	40	40
Contributions	600	-
Insurance	2,596	2,465
Interest and bank charges	24	24
Materials and supplies	-	466
Office and general	11,996	5,385
Professional fees	9,475	6,150
Project coordinator	106,994	106,430
Shallow water wetland	-	8,000
Subcontracts	1,384,845	938,673
Training	1,204	-
	<u>1,520,365</u>	<u>1,067,863</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	<u>\$ 472,382</u>	<u>\$ (130,342)</u>

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Statements of Changes in Net Assets

SOCIETY FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION IN NORTHERN BC

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 293,137	\$ 423,479
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	472,382	(130,342)
Balance, end of year	\$ 765,519	\$ 293,137

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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Statement of Cash Flows

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Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ 472,382	\$ (130,342)
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(325,703)	(20,122)
Prepaid expenses	(1,711)	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(81,893)	21,905
Deferred revenue	(295,092)	305,945
(Decrease) increase in cash	(232,017)	177,386
Cash, beginning of year	1,044,357	866,971
Cash, end of year	\$ 812,340	\$ 1,044,357

Questions:

Duncan McColl – statement of final line of statement, that we primarily work in the Prince George area. The comment from Duncan is that SERNbc is now more diversified than that, working across northern BC, so the statement could be updated.

Sherry indicated that yes, this can be updated next year.

No further questions.



Coordinator Report:

Brandon Geldart

- Photograph of moose habitat enhancement project, where there was natural fire that occurred, but resulted in patchy small scale fires that appeared limited by some treatments.
- Moose enhancement project led by Jeff Werner, SERNbc, with partnership with UNBC
- WS question: How is SERNbc benefitting from this?
 - BG - Strategic partnership with WLRS, UNBC, SERNbc
 - Creation of different habitat types, pushing for progressive treatments
 - OA – logging is reducing, and predicting in the future years (30 years), this is a long term strategy for creation of early seral habitat, that may be applicable
 - Shelby – why not use hemp in restoration? It is forage for wildlife, many uses,
 - GE – restoration is the goal
 - Traditionally, old cut blocks were the best habitat for moose, but this is no longer true, because new cutblocks are not the same as old cutblocks – not providing the same forage or habitat, largely due to quick planting of conifers and use of herbicide
 - Also question if there are moose in high enough population to find this suitable habitat if SERNbc creates it
 - WE – raises topic of quality of forage, where Jeff Werner previously presented evidence that forage quality in these large cutblocks is potentially lower quality than the disturbance near forest edge
 - So all forage looks good, but may not be equal, and potentially applies to moose?
 - BG – expecting to see a different response in McLeod Lake Trial example, as it is a richer (high nutrients, higher moisture) site than the example shown, and anticipating a different result
 - Juan – there is evidence that there were open and managed landscapes by First Nations. Currently we are moving toward monoculture, that are heavily manipulated
 - Suggest it's the way we are treating the land that has led where we are today
 - If projects are not leading towards changing the way we change management of the landscape, we are wasting our time
 - JD – presentation to be led by Brandon Geldart, important of keeping to the scheduled business

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- David Hooper – seeing decline in habitat value with 1st, 2nd and subsequent forest harvest. Many challenges to managing wildlife
- OA – important to understand legacy during site selection – herbicide use, availability of deciduous component? For root based regeneration,
 - Questions about aspen component, and raises concern about whether the trial is examining aspen, as it is moose forage
- Brandon reviews SERNbc budget for 2022/2023
- Excel spreadsheet is primarily used for budget tracking amongst projects

Summary of Projects below. Budget allocated by SERNbc for all, but some have carry over from year to year.

Admin Projects Funded By SERNbc	
Enhancement of Sharp-tailed grouse habitat	The overall goal of the Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Restoration Program is to restore and enhance sharp-tailed grouse lek, nest, and brood habitat. Program objectives include: use prescribed fire to restore natural grasslands and shrub-steppe habitat in the Peace Region; 2) use mechanical treatments (e.g., brushing) to decrease shrub encroachment around lek sites; 3) identify opportunities to restore abandoned or deactivated oil and gas lease sites within sharp-tailed grouse habitat; 4) work with private landowners to manage agricultural areas to improve habitat for sharp-tailed grouse (e.g., change in crop type, creation of retention areas); 5) measure the effectiveness of applied habitat treatments on sharp-tailed grouse populations and habitat. Expected outcomes of the project include the restoration of approximately 50-100 ha of sharp-tailed grouse habitat in the Peace Region, and completion of pre- and post-treatment monitoring.
Fish Passage Restoration capacity building	Support this one. \$16k left on this after last invoice. Maybe \$10k left after March/April?
Shovel Lk ERP implementation	Ongoing work. Recovery of plant communities in wildfire area.
Whitebark Pine Restoration	No LBI funds. Important to continue to support their WBP restoration work.
Whitesail Reach Monitoring	Support annual camera monitoring (mainly access, batteries). If this is funding that could be used across more than this FY, then this same funding could be used in 2022.
Telkwa caribou herd Road Restoration	Based on outcomes from the TC tactical restoration plan, identification of this herd area as high priority, complex engagement environment and interests FNs, this project will work with stakeholders and FNs to identify road candidates for restoration from within the priority zones. This will also

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	support contractor to field verify road conditions and develop prescriptions.
Wet'suwet'un FN Moose Enhancement	WFN has been interested in moose habitat enhancement and road restoration for moose enhancement. I am not sure what the scope of the project could be, but there are areas identified with enhancement activities ongoing that may benefit from additional resources and are within high value moose habitat areas.
Alder Seedlings for South Ootsa Road Restoration	Seedlings needed for planting roads ripped this spring/summer 2021. We have need additional seedlings to plant the total road surface (machine work to be completed this FY) and we will be looking to order seedling in Q4 (16k). Funding partner on road rehab is not able to plant alder and not able to plant on old fireguard. Looking for alternative funding options for these situations. Anticipated seedling purchase on fireguard (6K) and alder purchase for specific roads and functional restoration would be (~8K – this cost depends on a couple things). This cost would cover the purchase of these - if the funding was possible to cover multiple years, then would be also interested to know if planting of the alder and old fireguard would be options for 2022 (not costed here)
Coordinator in Omineca	1 contract person representing sernbc in each regional, coordinating discussion, project identification, building ER program, project proposals. Build projects that collaborative in nature, follow up scoping work, go to person to build projects. Seed funding. Local specialists in each of the 3 regions. Assistance and delivery. Huge for the NE. Oil and gas and legacy \$5million spent in the next 2 years.
CNC Partnership Development Amphibian Project	Restoration of ditch lines to create road side ponds for amphibians
Fencing Projects Skeena & Omineca Regions	Fencing on private land. Private land owners contribute time and or equipment to the project. AI delivers funding on our behalf and makes decisions related to best use of these funds. Approved.
Capacity building with Frank Doyle-Goshawks	Intent is to work with like minded contractor to build capacity around delivery of terrestrial habitat restoration specifically for goshawk, recognizing there are a multitude of overlapping benefits to other values such as fisher, moose, grouse, etc. Contractor to ccess out projects that are of mutual values, develop relationships with FN and partners, develop project proposals, secure project funding from supporting funding organizations. This is seed funding intended to plant and

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	grow into larger project for delivery. Tentative approval pending more information. Send out river styling information.
CNC Pond Leveller Training	Help provide training for installation of pond-levellers. To provide a training opportunity for MLIB, Nazko, and Saik'uz.
Shovel Lake, Island Lake Stocking Standards	Effort to compile stocking standards to hit restoration targets set out in the ERP.
Moose Enhancement Masters Student	Support a Masters Student in creating a restoration based research project.
SERNbc- Director	Support Hiring a Northern Director. 3 month contract for Cathy Scott May
Restoration Support Tools	Support the creation of spatial tools to account for BRAT, road restoration, and fish passage. Creation of a reproducible sharable tool.
Nazko Road Restoration Mycillum wood waste pile	Create a restoration trial that uses waste wood piles and mycillum to create an organic layer to reduce sedimentation and promote vegetation. Monitoring can be assisted through CNC. Funding is requested to be available in order to match external contributions
Whitebark Pine Restoration Project	Restoration of whitebark pine in SIMPCW traditional area.
Capacity building	Investment into additional coordinator to expand ER
Growing Plants at Woodmere	Growing of red osier dogwood
Shovel Lake ERP 2023	Building zonation logic for turn key ERP systems.
Goshawk Project Coordinator	Investment into additional coordinator to expand ER into the Skeena
Website update	Update website

Project Implemented by SERNbc through external funds.

Projects Implemented by SERNbc through External Funds			
Project ID	Title	Description	Funder
OM-ERP002-C	Moose Enhancement	Fire mitigation of remaining debris left over from PG South Moose Enhancement	HCTF,
OM-043	Nazko Road Rehabilitation	Planning and implementation of road restoration project within Nazko's Traditional Territory.	HCTF
OM-044	MLIB Moose Enhancement	Planning, layout and permitting of restoration treatment in Traditional Territory of McLeod Lake Indian Band.	FWCP

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OM-045	Sugarbowl Caribou Restoration	Restoration of 20km of legacy logging road withn Sugarbowl Provincial Park.	HCTF
SK-011	Skeena Fish Passage 2022-2023	Support of various projects to improve fish passage within the Skeena	HCTF, FPTWG
NE-004	Peace Fish Passage	Support of various projects to improve fish passage within the Peace.	FWCP, FPTWG

- There are projects where funds are allocated, but proponent has not spent the funds – largely due to permit challenges, wildfire disruptions etc.
- Pond leveller opportunity near Fort Nelson, learning from CNC,
- Gerd Erasmus has some areas that may be appropriate for pond leveller
- Review of all projects
- OA – funding is being used to employ forestry workers, who were previously cutting down trees but now working in restoration
 - Is there a mechanism where we can add value? Showing economic develop opportunities for restoration to generate work
- BG – moose enhancement opportunities with MLIB and FWCP, being implemented very carefully
- OA – are there changing paradigms in forestry that we can look at? Whethere it is research forests an dpartial harvest etc.,
- WS – “Restoration Economy” – there is an imbalance of the scale of forests harvest and companies, but also government investment in that industry. There needs to be an appropriate scale
- Shelby - Non timber products, such as hemp should be looked at
- David Hooper – questions around commercial thinning
- BG – size uncertain
- DH – has seen sall scale examples of thinning that have been profitable
- GE – economic reality of having financed heavy equipment, what happens to the heavy equipment if industry slows?

Review of HCTF, FWCP large projects.

- Fish passage, road restoration, moose enhancement.
- Lots of opportunity

DH – emphasizing the importance of planting deciduous in road restoration projects, potential for habitat enhancement



SR – request for presentation from Jeff Werner regarding moose enhancement work, as there are many questions and interpretations of the project results being described

Shelby – how do we navigate required access for wildfire fighting etc., where access is needed.

BG – doesn't see issue with access, as there are so many roads on the landscape. Brad Martin (BC Fire contact), has told Brandon in the past that the most important roads are north/south because fires tend to go east/west

Juan – raises questions about water temperature. Is there any focus on trying to rehabilitate riparian areas? BG – goal one for reducing hydrological impacts is 2 linear kilometers per square kilometer. The literature also notes that 600m per square kilometer is a recurring figures that comes up

- Exploring discussions with hydrologists, as it is an important baseline, and will likely be a larger consideration moving forward

Juan – hydrology and stream temperature is so important to salmon

GE – observation that most forage for beaver is near roads, where other areas are barren (e.g., cutblocks), So perhaps there is an issue with a lack of beavers on the landscape? This may be related to the hydrologic issues.

Nominations and Elections - Adrian Batho

Standing for re-election – Olin Albertson, Wayne Salewski, Brad Martin, Warren Eastland, Sean Rapai

Retiring – Andrea Erwin, Gerd Erasmus, Micah May, Richard Kabzems

2023 Nominations – Ashely Sutherland and Stephanie Wilford

AB – all in favour of those standing for re-election

JD – any appose?

AB – hearing no opposition, the new board has been appointed.

Re-instated - Olin Albertson, Wayne Salewski, Brad Martin, Warren Eastland, Sean Rapai

New board of director additions in 2023 – Ashely Sutherland, Stephanie Wildford



Andrew Irwin – notes the good opportunity, that she has learned a lot, and has a desire to stay involved.

- This will open up opportunity to new people to join the board

Presentations:

Dr. Karen Hodges – University of British Columbia - Wildlife after the Fire.

Melissa Mjolsness, Vanessa Uschenko: CNC Research Forest – Habitat Monitorign and Enhancement Studies.

Final Motion and Wrap Up

No final motion made, but John DeGagne adjourns meeting. 3:00 pm, November 30th, 2023.

Notes by Sean Rapai, November 30, 2023