



# Meeting Minutes -DRAFT

## PURPOSE

SEEC 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Business Meeting

## DATE / TIME / LOCATION

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Hybrid – via Teams and IN-PERSON, Blaine Boating Centre, Blaine, WA

## COMMISSION ATTENDANCE

USA	CANADA	
Lynn Best Diana Bob Matt Love (remote) Tim Reynon (remote) Jon Riedel Rob Smith	Shannon Bentley Peter Chapman (remote) Karen Dunstan Brodie Guy	Sue Hammell (remote) Stephen Hui Anna Sears Warwick (remote; in person)
<b>Administration Support</b> Kate Engel	<b>Administration Support</b> Amy Dewar, Ann Eastman, Rudy Kehler	

Regrets: Leo Bodensteiner, Richard Brocksmith, Bob Chamberlin

### 1. Call to Order/Territorial Acknowledgements/Introductions/Agenda Overview (Shannon)

- Call to order at 9:57AM.
- Territorial Acknowledgements for Coast Salish, Samish, Nooksack, Lummi
- Diana Bob’s first in-person meeting

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

***Motion to approve corrected Minutes for Oct 29, 2023.***

Shannon (Motion) Brodie (First) Stephen (Second)

Decision: Approved unanimously, Motion Carried

### 3. Co-Chair Updates (Shannon)

- Silver Skagit Road will open April 2024.
- Public Disclosure Request – Leo is leading. US lawyer opinion received. Awaiting BC lawyer opinion. Leo requested today’s mtg include a closed

session to discuss.

**Action Item:** Closed meeting to be scheduled within week for a briefing and decision on next steps.

- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) - draft provided; for internal controls and other governance matters; Peter to support ad hoc Committee for Governance.
- **Action Item:** Commission review of SOPs draft and feedback requested. Send comments to Shannon.
- Silverdaisy ("Donut Hole") – Shannon, Brodie and Sue re-engaging with BC ministries on status; Matt and Lynn interested in participating. Lynn asked about the current status of the land; is it protected? Note there is a mineral reserve and land reserve already in place for the area.
- 40-year anniversary of Ross Treaty, halfway through the 80-year Treaty term – How to recognize? Perhaps a ceremony/recognition at International Point? Treaty did not include Indigenous peoples. Decision tabled regarding if, how, and when to consider 40<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4. Finance Committee Update (Peter)**

- Documents shared in meeting materials; YTD and draft 2024-2029 budget.
- Asset management underperforming.
- Advisor Allen Biller will lead the approach with committee education.
- Engaging with other PH&N clients on PH&N recognition of climate change, reconciliation, equity impact on investment.
- Proportion of Administration (asset management, billing, meeting costs, audit, insurance, and now, legal fees) is 20%.
- Does "Communication" count as Administration? No; Communication is under a Project; Projects mostly delivered by partners.
- If current insurance covers public disclosure legal fees, it is important to properly document. This needs to be a topic of discussion involving the Commission at a future meeting.

**Action Items:** Review current SEEC Directors' insurance, insurance by BC government and City of Seattle; SEEC policy to be renewed in March 2024 (automatic renewal)

#### **5. Communications Committee update (Sue and Rudy)**

- Karen is a new member of this Committee.
- Public disclosure request made to SCL related to the Commission.
- Matt and Leo spoke with a lawyer and are anticipating a letter stating the Commission not subject to requests but happy to cooperate.
- Video project recommencing when road opens again; Report requested; Commission to preview

- Work planned with Sto:lo, NNC, Swinomish; Indigenous peoples reviews needed before going public.

#### **6. Recreation Committee Update (Lynn)**

- All previous projects except for bear boxes are completed.
- Changes to draft Strategic Plan for 2024-2029 to be provided including water use and wildlife conflict, recreation impact reduction, and restoration.
- Stephen mentioned the idea of an educational trail.
- Look at impacts due to unplanned or misused recreation sites. 4WDs, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles can be destructive.
- Stolo assessing a rediscovered berry-picking trail; Concern regarding the understanding of shared territory and need to consult with other Nations first and independently to protect and respect archeological and historic trails.
- Tim noted that SEEC should consult with Tribes on anything that could potentially impact sacred sites.

#### **7. IPEC Committee Update (Shannon)**

- Karen has been added to the IPEC.
- Committee mandate to support the review of ideas and submissions and consider potential impacts on First Nations rights and title.
- Important that internal control documented in written process; Part of SOPs.
- 2 projects, both impacted by the road washout. Of projects recommended by IPEC, one is complete (NNTC), report received and posted; Can anticipate future applications from NNTC to build on work.
- Other multi-year project (Sto:lo) completed Phases 1 and 2, will complete Phases 3 and 4 over 2024/25.

#### **8. Education Committee Update (Rob)**

- One third of Commission's budget is spent on outdoor environmental education although this is not a specified Treaty mandate.
- Most funding goes to NCI (US) and Hope Mountain Centre (BC); Both seek continued support.
- Questions on larger partners BC Parks, NPS – all committed funding spent.
- International Point interpretive center was impacted by road closure. NPS used funds for interpretation at another location.

#### **9. Watershed Integrity Committee Update (Jon for Richard)**

- Revising strategic plan wording; Goal to improve understanding of watershed by identifying partners to host and share data with SEEC.
- Focused on finding out what's there using Lidar; looking for partners that could host.

- BC is interested in getting Lidar for the BC side. Wants to work with the Commission.
- BC government prototype (Amy); Other partners Skagit Climate Consortium, Avalanche Center.
- Cautions on access and sharing of culturally sensitive data; Diana questioned whether the SEEC should be “entitled” to the privileged information.
- It would be helpful for the Commission to get educated on Lidar and its uses in a 15-minute presentation.

**Action Item:** Schedule online meeting for Commissioners to view the GeoBC maps

### **10. Ecosystem Committee Update (Jon for Leo)**

- Have not met recently.
- List of potential projects (e.g., fish genetic studies) discussed with SCL for potential funding under Memorandum of Agreement.

### **11. Ad Hoc Relicensing Committee Update (Lynn for Richard)**

- Commissioners recused themselves: Matt, Diana, Tim and Karen.
- A lot of meetings at Comprehensive Settlement Table and sub-groups (e.g., water level regulation, environmental education center, fish passage).
- NPS have huge recreation matrix; Committee requested to share this.

**Action Item:** Distill relicensing impacts to SEEC’s mission in one-page; Ideal approach for all committees.

### **12. Committee Membership Review and Update (Shannon)**

- Standing committees – Watershed Integrity, Education, Recreation, Ecosystem Science, Communications, Finance and Audit, and Indigenous Engagement.
- Ad hoc committees – For specific timeframe and topic e.g., Donut hole,
- Ad hoc Re-Licensing committee to continue until June 2024.

**Lunch:** Map slides of sample work from GeoBC on-screen.

### **13. Climate Change Program for Strategic Plan (Jon)**

- Document developed to start the conversation and inform decision-making.
- Any questions, ask Jon.

### **14. Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029 review (Brodie/Rudy)**

- Discussion on budget re-allocations, use of merit-based proposal requests, criteria for decisions; managing for inflation; and clarity on what SCL will fund so that SEEC doesn’t need to fund.
- Established some overall principles.
- Goal to be clear and concise without losing anything important.

- Commission asked to review to ensure they “hit the mark”.
- Tried to articulate the strategic priorities.
- After the Strategic Plan is approved by the Commission, then each Committee can develop an annual plan; it’d be great to have a 1-page memo each year.

**Action item:** Final call for Committee edits due Jan 25, 2024

***Motion to increase inflation rate from 2% to 3%***

Stephen (Motion), Bodie (Second)

Decision: Two Commissioners against; Approved, Motion Carried

***Motion to move \$75,000 from 2023/2024 to 2024/2025 budget***

Peter (Motion), Jon (Second)

Decision: Approved, Motion Carried

***Motion to increase proportion of budget to IPEC and direct IPEC to work with the Finance & Audit Committee to model options***

Shannon (Motion), Brodie (Second)

Decision: Approved, Motion Carried

**Next Meeting: March 15, Q4 2023/24 Business Meeting (Blaine WA)**

**June 21 Q1 2024/25 Business Meeting** to be re-scheduled; Conflicts with National Indigenous Day (in Canada).

**Adjourn**

**MEETING END 3:53PM**