



Meeting Minutes

PURPOSE

SEEC Quarterly Business Meeting

DATE / TIME / LOCATION

June 17th, 2022/9:30AM to 2:30PM/Blaine Boating Center

COMMISSION ATTENDANCE

| USA | | CANADA | |
|------------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Leo Bodensteiner | Rob Smith | Thomas Curley | Sue Hammell |
| Keith Kurko | Lynn Best | Bob Chamberlin | Shannon Bentley |
| Richard Brocksmith | | Gail Ross | Peter Chapman |
| Administration Support | | Administration Support | |
| Kiyomi Morris | Kate Engel | Danielle Courcelles | Rudy Kehler |

Absent: Matt Love, Amy Trainer

Guest: Ronda Strauch (SCL)

Call to Order/Introductions/Agenda Overview *(Leo)*

- Call to order at 9:30

Minutes of Last Meeting *(Leo)*

- Review of minutes
- Changed Government of Canada wording

Motion to approve the Q4 meeting minutes from March 18, 2022 with changes.

Richard (Motion) Sue (Second)

Decision: Motion Carried

Finance Committee Update *(Peter)*

- Review of dashboard and year-to-date payments.
 - Expecting money from WA to come at beginning of August.
 - Discussion around NPS being pre-paid \$30,000 last year to be used for this year's programming.
- Value of the endowment is down because:
 1. Spent money on retirement of mineral tenures.

2. Cash moved out of endowment into the CAD account to minimize Line of Credit.
 3. Markets are down.
- Reached agreement with CIBC regarding non-compliance issues.
 - Committee decided to keep status-quo, as SEEC is moving to a new manager shortly.
 - Commissioners agree with the committee's decision.
 - ESG Championship.
 - SEEC participated in a joint tender for a new investment manager.
 - Finance Committee will review the top 4 finalists in the multi-asset class and have invite two or three to present to the Committee. The Committee will present its recommendation to the Commission in September.
 - Audit.
 - Audit is underway with an update to be provided in September.
 - Revised budget presentation.
 - Discussion around how the budget was determined for each funding stream, how proposals from grantees are solicited, and how organizations become partners and grantees. Challenges for increasing involvement of Tribes and First Nation organizations and groups were noted. Tom said the Commission will review how partnerships are identified and created as part of the upcoming Strategic Plan discussions.
 - Discussion around the ability of SEEC to add new streams not outlined in the treaty.
 - Imperial Metal tenure surrender costs in last fiscal year, except for interest payments.
 - \$7000 under Will Stelle this relates to work completed in last fiscal year.

Motion to approve the revised budget as presented.

Peter (Motion) Bob (Second)

Decision: Motion Carried

Communications Committee Update (*Sue*)

- **Objective to produce a video to educate people about who SEEC is and what SEEC does.**
- Two video proposals received, with very different budget without much difference in content, qualifications, and/or quality of final product.
- Committee recommends Benj+Sara, Rudy will be helping to coordinate.
 - Tom recommends committee presents the storyboard to the commission for review.

- Rob: what story is it telling? Sue: The focus is the Skagit Valley, but SEEC is part of that story.

Motion to hire Ben and Sara to produce the video.

Sue (Motion) Lynn (Second)

Decision: Motion Carried

Recreation Committee update (*Lynn*)

- Mentioned completed projects of interest from relicensing studies (eg. trail use, lighting paths, sources of sound).
- SCA is seeking people from less affluent and local areas to help with erosion control, habitat restoration and horticultural work for planting at the park.
- NPS is looking for clarity regarding bear box installation completion.
- Re-BC Parks, Lynn and Gail will follow up to connect regarding these projects.
- Kate: The Treaty mentions SEEC's commitment to development of an international trail, but this hasn't been discussed in the Strategic Plan. What is the status? Lynn: It was voted against by SEEC early on, because it was believed to result in more damage than good.
- Leo: NPS rumored to be pulling out of Hozomeen due to budget cuts.
 - Suggestion to invite Don Striker to present to SEEC and bring this up, among other topics of interest.
- Shannon suggests Lynn mention to the City Light Skagit relicensing group to be mindful that recreation trails have impacts on historic traditional trails, and they should seek feedback from the appropriate indigenous people.

Education Committee Update (*Gail*)

- AJ is now with Parks Canada, and might be back at a later date.
- Road might open in August, but we'll see.

IPEC Committee Update (*Shannon*)

- Two ongoing projects.
- Flooding has affected one of the projects, but both projects have made headway.
- Encouraging more SEEC commissioners to build relationships with the indigenous groups, especially with Hozomeen on the horizon.
- Committee plans to ramp up soon, so requesting new committee members.
- Shannon will follow up with Amy personally about helping out.

Watershed Integrity Committee Update (*Richard*)

- Focus has been on mining and how can we reduce future threats.
- Need to find a date for the next meeting to discuss where to focus next.

- Richard has talked to agencies responsible for enforcing new dredging and mining bans. Richard is exploring how SEEC could support agencies for education of new bans.
- No proposal has been advanced to create a map of mines in the watershed yet.

Ecosystems Committee Update (*Leo*)

- No meetings of the Committee have taken place yet this year.
- Amphibian surveys are ongoing.
 - Underway. Missed breeding season; therefore, focused on doing water samples for eDNA sampling.
- Reed Canary grass surveys are ongoing.
 - Surveys are happening on the north side of the border.
- Request from BC Parks to move approximately \$9000 from last year's funds for Whitebark Pine program and shift to Okanagon NA grizzly bear assessment project.
- Discussion around is the funding for this year's work, or work that's already been done.
- Discussion around reinvigorating GB work in US by supporting BC efforts.

Motion to reallocate \$8039 USD funds from Whitebark pine program to ONA grizzly bear program.

Rob (Motion) Sue/Bob (Second)
Decision: Motion Carried

Climate change and the Skagit Watershed Presentation (*Ronda*)

Relicensing Committee Update (*Keith*)

- Keith summarized the SEEC Relicensing Strategy memo prepared by Will Stelle and circulated to the Commission.
- Provided an update as to where the relicensing process is currently.
- Gave overview of some of the studies that are being discussed.
 - Support of partners on a particular study is key for it to be on the license.
 - SEEC needs to build partnerships to get studies of interest on the license.
- 3 Focus tables: Recreation and Education; Cultural Resources; and Reservoir Fisheries and Water Quality.
- Committee is looking for Commission to reaffirm SEEC's engagement with this process, looking for support to attend meetings as it takes a lot of time.
- Want SCL to increase endowment contributions to be used for transboundary studies north of the border and to conduct all the necessary water quality monitoring
- Discussion around whether SEEC is building relationships at the table as needed if Will Stelle is representing SEEC, whether grantees are fully supporting SEEC's

interests during the relicensing process, and how SEEC might engage in the future on proposed projects.

- The Committee will discuss terms of Will's involvement at next Relicensing Committee meeting.
- SEEC is still struggling to determine what it wants out of the relicensing process, but there is still interest expressed by the Commission to participate as it is a generational opportunity.
- Bob expressed that SEEC should ask for more than \$1M from SCL.
- Lynn expressed that SEEC should define what it cares about and find partners to advance that.
- Peter expressed that SEEC should focus on the impacts to SEEC's mandates.

Motion to allocate another \$25,000 to continue engagement with Will Stelle to April 15, 2023.

Keith (Motion) Bob (Second)
Decision: Motion Carried (Gail abstained)

Poll to see if committee should continue to engage in the relicensing process. General census is yes.

Strategic Plan Kick-off Retreat (Tom)

- September will be an opportunity to reinvent SEEC for next budget cycle.
- Leo and Tom will create a skeleton plan for the retreat ASAP
 - Meet in Hope (since Manning Park is out), have some field activity Friday, then work on developing a plan on Saturday and Sunday.
- Shannon requests maximize time working together by spending more time working on Sunday, versus leaving by noon.

Silver Daisy Committee Wrap-Up and Celebration (Tom)

- Tenures have been extinguished, but money from US is pending.
- Exchange rate will work in our favour when get money that will cover the cost of the interest payments and the celebrations.
 - Will plan the celebrations once money has come in (August or September).

Other Business, Action Items, and Future Meetings (Leo)

- Next meeting will be the retreat in September. Kate will poll the Commission to see if the current dates, 9/16 – 9/18 work for everyone.
- Topic of recognition for Ken is tabled until the next meeting
- Lynn joins Education Committee

Adjourn

MEETING END at 2:35PM