



Meeting Minutes

PURPOSE

SEEC Quarterly Business Meeting

DATE / TIME / LOCATION

March 18th, 2022, 11:00 AM to 12:45 PM
 VIRTUAL – ZOOM

COMMISSION ATTENDANCE

USA		CANADA	
Leo Bodensteiner	Rob Smith	Thomas Curley	Sue Hammell
Amy Trainer	Lynn Best	Bob Chamberlin	Shannon Bentley
Richard Brocksmith		Gail Ross	Peter Chapman
Administration Support		Administration Support	
Kiyomi Morris		Danielle Courcelles	Rudy Kehler

Absent: Matt Love, Dennis McLerran, Keith Kurko, Kate Engel

NOTES

Call to Order/Introductions/Agenda Overview (Tom)

- Call to order at 11:05

Minutes of Last Meeting (Tom)

- Review of minutes
- No changes proposed

Motion to approve the Q3 meeting minutes from January 21, 2022.
 Lynn (Motion) Richard (Second)
 Decision: Motion Carried

Finance Report / Portfolio Update (Peter)

- Review of dashboard and year-to-date payments
 - Overdraft in CAD account due to paying for Donut Hole
 - Large funds in US account as received SCL payment, but excess will be moved into CAD account to minimize overdraft

- Tom: Which category does Donut Hole costs fall into? Legal costs under admin and bank fees, etc. under financial
- Income statement review
 - Interest cost per month continues until money from US for the Donut Hole is deposited; all cash from the endowment is in the CAD account to reduce interest
- Review of memo
 - Recommendation for a new manager at September meeting (ESG championship)
 - No direct investments in Russia, only indirect and that isn't a lot

Watershed Integrity Committee (Richard)

- Haven't met since the last meeting

Education (Gail)

- November flooding event
 - Skagit road washed out in over 12 places, repair unlikely for summer.
 - Estimate for road repair within the park to international boundary is \$12M and will be done by Ministry of Transportation or Ministry of Forests.
 - Bridge to Chittenden meadows is gone.
- AJ is resolving the netting around the amphitheatre and creating a brochure for Chittenden meadows. Also want AJ to do research on the history of Silverdaisy to be forwarded to BC Parks for review.
- Rudy: Can SEEC influence road timeline? Road will likely be a priority for forestry, but recreation unlikely to help with the prioritization.
- Road priority list from Gov? Danielle to look into what priority this road is within provincial government. Leo received a map of roadwork, will send to SEEC.
 - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation-projects/bc-highway-flood-recovery/2021-flood-road-recovery-projects-silver-skagit-road>
- Richard: How many washouts are in the Fraser vs. Skagit watershed? Not sure.

Indigenous Engagement Committee (Shannon)

- Keith wants their input on SEEC's involvement in relicensing process.
- Hozomeen gathering on hold because of road washouts, unless we can find another location.
- Recommit to providing education at beginning of these meetings, as an aspect of reconciliation.
- Will do full report at next meeting about meeting with partners/grantees to increase diversity in their programs.
- Amy: There is interest in knowing how Canada is planning to engage with Indigenous rights in the Donut Hole area. Maybe SEEC could follow up with

provincial government? The committee will discuss this and bring it to the next commission meeting.

Ecosystem (Leo)

- Relicensing projects in BC:
 - Ross lake amphibians (Fraser Valley Conservancy) – plan to do preparatory field work this year, with additional work next year.
 - Reed canary grass program (Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society).

Recreation (Lynn)

- Keith asking whether there are relicensing recreational interests north of Ross dam that would be of interest to this committee.

Communications (Gail)

- Looking for ways to revitalize the video from 2 years ago. Preparing an expression of interest to find someone to improve and update. Want AJ to help.
- Rudy (website): is focusing on members only are now, to make it easier for new commissioners. Idea for having an area to have little updates about what each committee is working on. Welcomes any suggestions, etc.

Donut Hole - What's Next (Tom)

- Jan 24th was the surrender of mineral tenures, fee simple interests are waiting for land title office to register them and will give a copy to SEEC.
- Yes, should send letters to various newspapers, supporters, etc., as well as receptions to celebrate this.
- Rob: What's the timeline for \$ from US? Before the 15th April from US.
- Rob: Is there a process to protect the land going forward? Section 16 already on the land, SEEC will have meetings with MOE to talk about what's next. Provincial government suggest it will be in parks, but that will take time. Requirement for Imperial Metals to pay for damages was not waived in surrender, so this will need follow up.
- Peter: is there a role for commission on research and convening? Should we be proactive thinking about the process and the different parties that have an interest (e.g., First Nations and tribes) and helping shape that process? Lots of opportunity, but the provincial government needs to say what's next first (e.g.. What needs to be done?), then subcommittees can discuss the different aspects.
- Rob: are there other areas in Upper Skagit that are still at risk of mining or timber that we're worried about? Yes, Summallo river (a tributary) is not protected. Other group going to start a campaign about this. Danielle to produce maps to show current issues in the watershed for next meeting (for new members).
- Gail: Regarding a plaque for Ken Farquharson, do we want to wait until everything dies down? It is suggested to be up the Silverdaisy trail, but then it

wouldn't be obvious. Tom: suggests reinstating retreat next September and move this topic to that meeting.

Other Business, Action Items, and Future Meeting Scheduling

- September meeting will be a retreat.
- Receptions:
 - One in Seattle, one in Victoria to celebrate and share "What's next".
 - Peter: great idea, but we don't have an agenda at this point. What work needs to be done to have a forward-looking engagement? Timing of receptions depends on when money comes in, and when land tenures are completely settled. Each committee to provide ideas on what they envision for the area. We need a month or so to figure this out and can discuss in June. Next year, is last year of strategic plan – so this needs to be reviewed. Ideally in Sept, we may want to start discussions of what the next 5 years will look like (strategic plan). Are we identifying the right goals, etc.?
- Canadian Commissioner positions update:
 - Tom and Gail extended by 1 year.
 - Shannon is extended 4 years as alternate.
 - 2 vacancies in Canada. Gov will onboard 2 commissioners this year, then onboard 2 next year Canada will have 4 new commissioners/alternate commissioners soon.
- Peter: What do you see as the timing of the receptions if we're going to have our ask together? Government of Canada is going to stand in June, so want to do around then. Still getting a sense of when in Seattle.
- Strategic planning
 - Peter: does strategic planning use professional help? Should we be booking this now, as they likely need to be booked far enough in advance? Depends on talent pool within the commission and what SEEC is trying to accomplish. Tom and Leo will discuss.
 - Shannon: It would be good to have this vision figured out in time for the receptions and ensure they match up with the relicensing timelines. Tom and Leo will meet with Keith to discuss this to ensure vision is representative of the whole commission.
- Richard: Has there been any consideration of "where" the receptions will be held, considering the sensitivity around the Donut Hole? Richard to follow up with Kate about where it was held last year to see if there may be concerns.
- Peter: What is the long-term plan for secretariat in BC? The letter to the Premier did not give an answer regarding moving SEEC into the International Government Relations department. Continue to have Danielle.
- Leo: Plan to have receptions before next quarterly meeting? Ideally, but needs to be discussed.

- Shannon: What actions do committees need to do to develop a vision concerning Donut Hole? Nothing. A new map with exiting tenures will shape new goals, short, med., long-term and put this into common approach, and what is next for the area.

Final Review and End Comments. (Tom)

MEETING END at 12:45PM