



SERNbc Annual General Meeting: December 02 2021

Meeting Purpose:

- Introductions
- Reports (Overview, financial, manager)
- Resolutions
- Nominations/Elections
- Presentations

Meeting Called to Order: 9:02 am, December 02, 2021

Directors Present

John DeGagne – Chairman/President
Duncan McColl – Vice President
Sean Rapai - Secretary
Warren Eastland
Wayne Salewski
Andrew Erwin
Olin Albertson
Andrew Erwin
Micah May
Gerd Erasmus
Brad Martin

Directors Not Present

Michel Lavellee
Tobi Anaka
Adrian Batho
Scott Schilds

Coordinator(s) Present

Marc Steynen
Brandon Geldart

Introductions

- Individual introductions carried out, led by John DeGagne

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- As many as 28 people present including BoD..

Overview – John DeGagne

- SERNbc organizational structure and compensation guidelines – John is suggesting that we put some thought towards staffing, and give thought to hiring, and build a sub-committee of directors with some direction for future structure, compensation expectations etc. for individuals who lead the work for SERNbc
- Goal of continuing to build capacity, as SERNbc is covering only a small portion of northern BC
- SERNbc will continue to work on its relationships with First Nations, government, and non-governmental organizations
- Continue to work on project planning, and implementation – continue to be an organization that can implement restoration projects on the ground
- Nominations – have developed a SERNbc nominations committee, consisting of four Directors

Treasurers Report – John DeGagne

- SERNbc needs to secure treasurer from BoD – John is acting as a treasurer, but the position would benefit from a dedicated treasurer.
- The role would include cross referencing deposits with expenditures and securing GST rebates.
- SERN as an organization is improving on the tracking of these items, and understanding how much money there is available to support SERNbc capacity development/hiring etc.
- Has been some success through KPMG etc. on getting GST rebates.
- KPMG will continue to provide financial reviews, so that SERNbc can continue in its position as a trusted delivery agent and leader of restoration activities.

Review of Financial Statement - Sherry Coffey – KPMG LLP

- Completed to March 31, 2021 financial review of SERNbc
- KPMG has noted that in their opinion, the accounting principles in the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a consistent basis.

Sherry walked through the financial statement/review for SERNbc as of March 31, 2021

Cash - \$866,971

Receivables – \$131,107

Assets – \$998,078

Equity – \$423,000

Total expenses in 2021 - \$400,743

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Outlines SERNbc accounting policies. E.g. GST rebates.

John DeGagne – statements are available at request, by email to John DeGagne

Questions

John DeGagne – question period is open

Sybille H. – Does all of the income from BC Government? Or are there are other funders involved?

JD – SERNbc has multiple sources of funding, a lot from government, but that is viewed as “seed” funding that will allow SERNbc to grow. SERNbc is always seeking out additional funding.

Wayne S – Expresses opinion that BC Government needs the support of SERNbc to enact action on the ground. Not an agent of government, but SERNbc is fulfilling an important role

Marc S – Will provide more clarity during his report.

Allan Irvine – SERNbc is fulfilling a critical role, as an extension, but non-governmental organization. SERNbc is building relationships, to help build momentum to get additional projects done in BC, and the organization is building trust to do that.

Managers Report– Marc Steynen

Summary

2021 was a busy year with numerous projects. Project highlights include the ongoing development of 2 fish passage restoration projects and implementation of a suite of Saik’uz Ecosystem Restoration Projects including the Saik’uz Ecosystem Restoration Plan, the PG South Moose Enhancement and the Crystal Lake Road Rehabilitation projects. This year we are funding 16 ecosystem restoration projects and working to develop/deliver 6 additional large projects across the 3 northern forest regions working with First Nations, government, and consultants.

New Staff

Brandon Geldart joined SERNbc in August 2021. Brandon is originally from New Brunswick and has lived in the Prince George area since ~2014. Brandon has worked for local consultants, the Provincial government, and the forest industry and has an abundance of contract management and operational experience. Brandon is interested in road rehabilitation and stream/wetland ecosystem health.

2021/22 SERNbc Grant Funding

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Highlights

- Grant funding in the amount of \$760,000 was received by SERNBC from the Province via the Ecosystem Restoration Branch.
- Twenty-three project proposals were submitted and 16 projects were approved by the Board in 2021.
- Funding allocated to 2021/22 projects totals \$342k and approximately \$89k (25%) has been paid out so far to new and ongoing projects in 2021. A brief summary of these projects is presented below
- What followed was a high level summary of each of the 16 projects that SERNBC is funding, summary below,

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| # | Project | Proponent | Description/Activities | Funds Allocated 2021 | Funds Paid 2021 | Comments |
|---|--|--------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Sharp-tailed grouse habitat enhancement in the Peace | Ridgeline | <p>To restore and enhance sharp-tailed grouse lek, nest, and brood habitat grasslands and shrub-steppe habitat in the Peace Region. Treatments include prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to decrease shrub encroachment on Crown and private lands. Outcomes target the restoration of approximately 50-100 ha of sharp-tailed grouse habitat in the Peace Region. 2021 activities included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. proposal preparation; 2. Development of restoration prescriptions involving trialing of new treatment options; 3. Engagement activities with landowners, tenure holders and NGOs to identify restoration opportunities; and 4. Project planning/management with FLNRORD and others. | \$16,100 | \$4,500 | Ongoing. Waiting for permits (post Blueberry decision) and initiating a treatment trial |
| 2 | 61 Road/Elleh Creek Caribou Restoration Planning | FNFN | <p>FNFN applied recent learnings from their Kotcho program to plan the reclamation of linear and other oil and gas features in the 61 Road/Elleh Creek area southeast of Fort Nelson. Desktop analysis and drone imagery were used to prioritize and field assess restoration candidates for rehabilitation activities and a HCTF funding application was prepared.</p> | \$50,000 | \$14,185.71 | Ongoing. Interim report submitted. HCTF proposal submitted. |
| 3 | Fish Passage Restoration Planning | Allan Irvine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent SERNbc on issues related to fish passage and restoration of fish passage issues throughout various locations in Northern BC. | \$30,000 | \$5,386 | Ongoing collaboration and support for Richfield fencing project. |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed project concepts and details. Develop and submit funding proposals. • Develop partnerships with agencies, organizations, and partners to further restoration activities. • Ensure concepts and projects are driven through collaborative efforts with First Nations. | | | |
| 4 | Amphibian Restoration with Nak'azdli and Chu Cho. | Ecologic | The funds were used as proposed to gather end-of-season data on Western Toads. Data collection included amphibians inhabiting road and cut-block ponds, natural wetland sites, and terrestrial habitat features in the study areas. Digital photographs of skin patterns provide a fingerprint for recapture identification used in population estimates. Baseline data provides increased understanding of amphibian populations to evaluate restoration effectiveness. | \$25,000 | \$26,249.80 | Ongoing but wrapped up for 2021. |
| 5 | Shovel Lk ERP implementation | SERNbc (Irene and Ruth) | <p>Ongoing implementation of the Shovel Lk ERP including project planning and other activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with Yun Ghunli and UNBC, • GIS analysis to identify range of sites • Investigate literature re: huckleberry regeneration • Coordinate opportunities with Nadleh, Stellat'en and others. | \$30,000 | \$12,100 | Ongoing |
| 6 | Moose Forage in Post-Wildfire | UNBC | Assessment of post wildfire habitat use by moose in summer conditions. Collection and analysis of moose data to qualify use of sites as summer forage. | \$19,960 | \$9,000.00 | Ongoing. Summer sites assessed contract extended. |

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| 7 | Omineca Whitebark Pine PSP remeasures | FLNRORD | WBP SPS will be remeasured by FLNRORD staff to collect data on the incidence of white pine blister rust infection as well as general health, growth, and recruitment information. | \$10,000 | 0 | Didn't happen due to wildfire season |
| 8 | Publication Support and Road Rehab Monitoring | Chu Cho | \$12,500 from SERNbc to write, submit and publish a manuscript that summarizes the results of the year 5 and 6 data and \$8,000.00 to support the monitoring of road rehab activities. | \$20,500 | 0 | Ongoing |
| 9 | Whitebark Pine Program Support | BVRC | Planting in the 2018 Nadina Lake, the 2018 Pondsosy Bay, and the 2012 Atna Bay fires. Monitor and maintain a 10-yr old assisted migration trial near Smithers, and a 5-yr old restoration site in Morice Lake and Nenikëkh Provincial Parks. Assessment of the potential for a 2022 cone collection, based on seed cone development by fall 2021 and begin the process of growing the next round of seedlings (25,000 seeds) in fall 2021 for a plant in 2023. | \$10,000 | 0 | 2021 season complete |
| 10 | Cheslatta Native Berry Feasibility Study | Cheslatta | Cheslatta feasibility study to cultivate berry plants on burned sites for ER and as a local food source. Desktop assessment and site visits were completed in 2012. Community meetings and engagement with others is scheduled but delayed by Covid precautions. | \$17,474.50 | \$13,450.50 | Ongoing |
| 11 | Whitesail Reach Monitoring | FLNRORD | Annual camera monitoring, collections of cards and processing of data, was completed in 2021. | \$5,000.00 | 0 | Completed |
| 12 | Telkwa Road Restoration | FLNRORD | Idea is to take some of the findings from the Telkwa tactical restoration plan and begin work with stakeholders and First Nations to trial one key priority road for rehab activities within the Telkwa herd area. We've discussed | \$25,000.00 | 0 | Ongoing |

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| | | | and will proceed with prescription development while the Province engages user groups. | | | |
| 13 | Wet'sewet'un (WFN) Moose Enhancement | FLNRORD | WFN has been interested in moose habitat enhancement and road restoration for moose enhancement. Scope is undefined but preliminary work has been done to identify areas that may benefit from ER activities that are also within high value moose habitat areas. | \$15,000.00 | 0 | Ongoing |
| 14 | Deciduous for South Ootsa Road Restoration | FLNRORD | Allocation to sow and grow deciduous and alder seedlings for specific roads and fireguards rehabbed in 2020 and 2021 in the South Ootsa area. | \$28,000.00 | 0 | Ongoing |
| 15 | Skeena Moose Habitat Enhancement Activities | FLNRORD | Development of shelf-ready moose enhancement prescriptions for priority sites in Skeena region. Activities consist of site prioritization, verification, prescription development. Preliminary engagement is underway via the Skeena East ESI with Lake Babine Nation and prescription development has been initiated for prospective sites in Cheslatta territory. | \$30,000.00 | 0 | Ongoing |
| 16 | Bulkley River Cattle Exclusion | | Working with landowners, regulators and stewardship groups to incentivize riparian restoration. Initial work includes excluding cattle from Richfield Creek riparian area near high value chinook and coho spawning/rearing areas in the Upper Bulkley River watershed. Teamed up with DFO, Morice Watershed Monitoring Trust and local landowner. | \$10,500 | 0 | In progress |
| Total | | | | \$342,534.50 | \$89,872.01 | |

Questions

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Nathan Prince – What is the huckleberry restoration project?

MS – SERNbc developed shovel lake ecosystem restoration plan, and output was the formation of an implementation committee. First Nation members (Nadleh First Nation and Stelat’en First Nation) on this committee identified several measures and projects of interest. One project was examining berry re-growth

JD – not planting huckleberry, but examining stocking standards to help these species regenerate. Attempting to prevent dense planting of coniferous trees in all areas in order for non-coniferous vegetation to grow. Locations have been identified, and Canfor/West Fraser will implement that in specific locations identified in 2021. Planting to occur in 2022 using revised standards.

Marc S. Continued

- Third Party funded projects – 6 of these (HCTF, FCI, FLNRORD)
- 3 of the projects are partnerships with Saik’uz First Nation and FLNRORD (\$499,944.00).

| <i>Project</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Funds Allocated 2021</i> | <i>Funds Paid 2021</i> | <i>Comments</i> |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Saik’uz ERP | <p>To develop a practical and meaningful ecosystem restoration plan for the Saik’uz Nation that identifies degraded ecosystems and restoration opportunities in their traditional territory that will build longer-term capacity and skills for Saik’uz members and businesses.</p> <p>Building on the Shovel Lake ERP, the concept is to undertake a holistic assessment of Saik’uz territory and plan restoration treatments that focus on priority objectives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfire recovery; • Road rehabilitation; • Habitat enhancement; • Watershed restoration treatments; and other • Large-scale restoration treatments to promote healthy forests, climate | \$50,000.00 | \$0 | Term has been extended to March 31, 2022. |

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| | <p>resilience, biodiversity, ecosystem health and timber values.</p> <p>The ERP will identify treatment options and support effective engagement with First Nations and inclusion of Rights, Title and Interests.</p> | | | |
| Crystal Lake (Welch/Greer) Road Rehabilitation | Rehabilitation of ~36km of road in the Welch/Greer Mtn area as part of the Crystal Lake rehab project. Proposals are under review by the BoD to develop tools to identify additional candidate roads in Saik'uz and McLeod Lake territory. | \$200,000 | \$73,583.83 | Term has been extended to March 31, 2022. 36km of roads rehabilitation was completed. |
| Prince South Moose Enhancement Project | Modification of young lodgepole pine stands to support the development of habitat features important to moose. The intent is to increase forage availability and improve winter habitat conditions. In January to June 2021 we trialed 6 machine variations to create small openings and alter stand density to increase structure missing from the successional trajectory of young pine stands in area southeast of Vanderhoof. | \$1,194,000 | \$591,774.19 | Term has been extended to March 31, 2022. |
| South Ootsa Road Rehabilitation | <p>This was year 3 of a 4-year program to transition disturbed, low quality caribou habitat into higher quality habitat, with a focus on carbon, wildlife, and forestry values. The proposed activities include habitat and functional restoration objectives to reduce predator/prey interactions, control access, and create improved forest and habitat conditions.</p> <p>In 2021 we completed approximately 44km of road rehabilitation which included 4.8km of fireguard created to control the 2021 Chief Louie Lk wildfire. Functional restoration activities this year included tree planting, lichen seeding, tree-felling, line-blocking, and access control.</p> | \$400,000 | \$247,462.85 | 44km of road and fireguard rehabilitation was completed. Planning for year 5 activities is underway. |
| Bulkley & Morice River Watersheds Fish Passage Restoration | <p>SERNbc is working with CWF, Wet'suwet'en and Gitksan Nations, and a host of NGOs and other stakeholders in the Bulkley Watershed to prioritize, plan and fund the restoration of fish passage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$40,000 from government (FPTWG) to deliver 1. Fish passage assessments, 2. | \$164,603 | ~\$115,000 | Surveyed all large watersheds in Morice River watershed in 2021. Funding commitments from MoTi (\$50k) and FWTWG(\$40k) for 2022/2023. Proposal |

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| | <p>Engagement with FN and stakeholders, 3. Sites identified for restoration, 4. Prescriptions developed, 5. Prescriptions delivered. 6. Eventual monitoring for success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$71,000 from CWF for assessments of barriers and reporting specific to their interests. • \$53,603 from HCTF in 2021 for project coordination, stakeholder engagement, fish passage and habitat confirmation assessments, engineering designs, data management, connectivity modelling, data analysis, mapping and reporting. | | | submitted to HCTF for \$50k. Plan is to expand into other watershed groups in the Skeena pending consultation with First Nations, MoTi and other partners. |
| Parsnip Fish Connectivity Partnership Project | <p>SERNbc is working together with FWCP, the McLeod Lake Indian Band, the ESI table, road tenure holders and other FWCP stakeholders/partners to prioritize, plan and fund the restoration of fish passage at road crossing structure barriers in the Parsnip River watershed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25,000 from government (FPTWG) for project coordination, planning, engagement with stakeholders. Will also cover development and delivery of engagement processes, online mapping, and cost estimates and habitat/fisheries benefits to inform prioritization. • \$80,000 for Sinclair for materials to restore fish passage impact at Missinka site in 2022. • \$44,675 from FWCP with \$34,595 for coordination and about \$10,080 to McLeod Lake IB. | \$149,675 | \$88,000 | <p>Directed project for FWCP with support also from FPTWG. Currently focused in the Parsnip River watershed and building on 2019/2020 SERN project which provides preliminary priorities for passage restoration</p> <p>Currently putting together proposal for restoration of 3-4 sites in 2022/2023 in partnership with Sinclair, Canfor, FWCP and FPTWG.</p> |
| Total | | \$2,158,278 | \$1,000,821 | |

Questions.

None

Marc S. Continued – Check in on Strategic Plan

Goal 1 – Sustain Momentum –

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- Two full time employees of SERNbc - hired Brandon, continue to support Marc S,
- Suite of on the ground projects in BC

Goal 2 – Organization Development

- Need a SERNbc Treasurer

Goal 3 – First Nation Partnerships

- All projects involve First Nations, but need more representation on the board and within SERNbc governance

Goal 4 – Diversify Terrestrial Focus into Aquatic Restoration

- Doing well, expanding into stream restoration and fish passage projects

Goal 5 – Landscape Level Planning

- Creating value specific land-use planning such as tactical restoration

Goal 6 – Communications and Extension

- Ongoing part of work, but work to do to modernize communication channels

Questions

Olin Albertson – supportive of the goals, and happy to see the landscape level work. From John and Marc’s perspective, for the moose work particularly in Bobtail, how was that generally received from the Ministries? And could we see more of that work on a landscape level?

MS - For the Moose enhancement projects, it was developed by FLNRORD (proponent) and delivered by SERNbc. The prohibitive piece to enlarging the project is cost, and scale (area).

OA – The cost prohibitive nature of the work is understandable. Is there planning in the works to do this on the front end?

MS – important to include altered stocking practices, and road restoration early in the project cycle.

Gord E- supportive of OA question

JD – these ad hoc projects can help to inform large scale policies and become incorporated into land use planning. The Saik’uz and Shovel lake fire ER plan are also pushing the envelope, on what government has been doing up until now, and identifying opportunities for work like this.

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Joanne Vinnedge – the Tlo’ba grizzly bear WHA’s have examples of modelling different stalking standards and planting densities to hit stalking standards. This will be an example of a project online, and see the stocking standards for WHA’s

Allan Irvine – There are a number of Environmental Stewardship Initiative products, for example Recreational Opportunity Inventory Layer, which can help to understand where the low disturbance areas are. Can help to understand areas where these undisturbed areas are located, which can help landscape level planning.

Nathan Prince – working in the northeast ESI, and there are conversations about peaceful enjoyment, and ensuring there are areas for this. What is left on the landscape that is undisturbed would be included to build the recreational opportunity inventory spectrum layer. Indigenous opportunities spectrum, instead of recreational opportunities spectrum.

Resolutions/Nominations/Elections

- Policy on Board Composition has been developed. There has been work on this policy.
- Micah May is now the “Student Director”
- Student Director is now included in the Policy, which 6 items of responsibilities for the Student Director

Gord Erasmus - Raises concerns/questions over conflict of interest relating to voting

Olin A – cautioning limiting Conflict of Interest on voting.

Sean Rapai – recommend removing specific mention of UNBC in student policy.

JD – edits policy to remove specific mention of UNBC.

Anonymous Pole on Amending Policy on Board Composition to include Student Position

- 81% participation, unanimous support for changes to Policy on Board Composition to include student position

Are there any nominations from the floor?

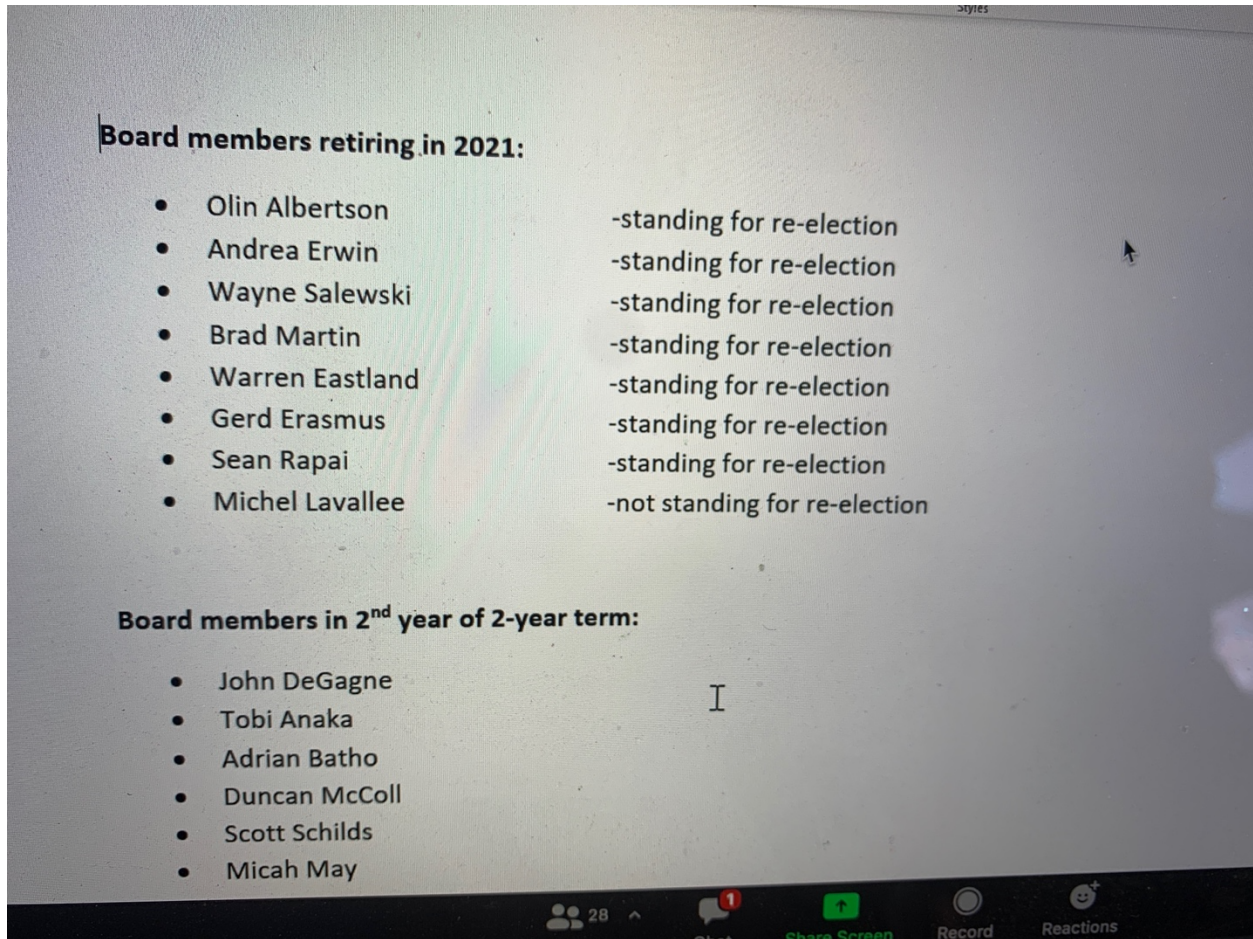
Gord E – Raising concerns about a poll for electing directors. As they are not being nominated from the floor, but nominating themselves.

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Duncan McColl – Recommending we go person by person, on Directors nominations and vote



Virtual pole members by Acclimation shared.

Gord E – recommends asking if there are people from the floor, that would like to be nominated.

John D. – are there any nominations from the floor?

None

Al W. – Any nominations from the floor 3x.

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John D. – Hearing none, recognizing these people standing for re-election were nominated by the sub committee,

Gord E –Thinks that if < maximum number of directors, then all those stand are in by acclamation. This statement may or may not be consistent with the Societies Act, bylaws and SERNbc policies. A check should be made to ensure appropriate future practices are consistent.

Voting Poll – 100% support for board members standing for re-election in 2021.

Business portion of the AGM closed.

Presentations: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Alana Carson – Bulkley Valley Research Centre
Whitebark pine restoration at the northern limit: Making use of recent fire to establish an endangered tree species.

Micah May – University of Victoria
Restoration Insights from the Williston Reservoir Dust Mitigation Program

Final Motion and Wrap Up

None

Notes by Sean Rapai, December 02, 2021