

NICC Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: Tuesday January 9, 2024 @ 5 pm at IFS or via Zoom

Members:

Member	Company	NICC Board Position	Attendance
Andrew Potter	Industrial Forestry Service Ltd. – PG	President, Website	Present
Greg Jonuk	Ministry of Forests – PG	Vice-President	Present
Judy Carlson	Seabridge Gold – PG	Secretary	Present
Tim Giesbrecht	Industrial Forestry Service Ltd. – PG	Treasurer	Absent
Neil Brooks	Canfor – PG	Registrar	Absent
Mike Kozak	Spectrum Resource Group Inc. – PG	Director at Large	Present
Jeff Ernst	Ministry of Forests (North Area) – PG	Director at Large	Present
Tiana Hooker	West Fraser – Smithers	Director at Large	Present
David Lenton	RDL Forestry Consultants – PG	Director at Large	Absent
Taylor-Jean Rankin	DSS Resource District – Smithers	Director at Large	Present

Agenda:

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – Judy
 - December 12, 2023
 - Motion by Mike, seconded by Judy, approved by all.
2. Action Items from Previous Meeting Minutes – Judy

Item #	Action Items	Assigned To	Status	Comments
2023-12-12a	Contact the Ramada for booking the venue for the banquet dinner and the classroom day.	Andrew	In Progress	2023-01-09: Andrew reached out and booked. Nothing signed or paid yet. They are excited to have us there. Will finalize dates after Greg checks on SITCA dates.
2023-12-12b	Reach out to Victoria for CM changes/updates and see if someone wants to speak.	Jeff	In Progress	2023-01-09: Jeff talked to Mike Widell and there likely will be an amendment to the CM to bring it into alignment with pricing changes. Someone will speak (person TBD) for a short time slot (½ hour).

3. Financial Update – Tim
 - Yearly operating costs are approximately \$22-25,000.
 - 2023 yearend financial statement was sent out to members earlier today.
 - Income \$19,000 (registration & investments), expenses (venue rental, door prizes, guest speaker gifts, scholarships, etc.) \$22,708.90, for a difference of -\$3,708.90.
 - Last year we increased the registration rate to \$175 with 100 attendees. To break even we should have charged \$208.
 - We have incurred losses the last few years as well.
 - We are not matching the expenses with what we are charging. If we continue this trend Tim predicts that we have about 3 years until this is unsustainable.

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- A few things to think about are, do we charge more, what is the industry looking like, are we going to get the same number of paying registrants this year, and what can we cut out to save money?
- There are two scholarships, CNC & UNBC, \$500 each, totaling \$1,000.
- The banquet dinner is expensive, roughly \$9,000 last year, and could be an option for reducing expenses.
- The breakfast also is an expensive item that could potentially be a expense reducing option.
- **ACTION ITEM: Andrew to go through food prices to get some ideas of costs and where we can save some money this year.**
- 4. Website Update– www.nicc.ca – Andrew
 - The website is not updated yet.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Andrew to update the website with the new board members and their positions as well as the 2024 Workshop dates.**
- 5. BC Societies Update – Tim
 - 2023 Annual Report has been completed and submitted. We are in good standing for another year.
- 6. AGM Planning – Judy
 - **Field Day: Wednesday May 8th, 2024**
 - **Classroom Day: Thursday May 9th, 2024**
 - Judy is unavailable for these dates due to work obligations.
 - Alternatively, we could switch to May 1st & 2nd if there is a conflict with SITCA.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Greg/Jeff to check with SITCA to see if their dates conflict with ours.**
 - Venue (Banquet Dinner & Classroom Day)
 - The Ramada is booked for both.
 - We will have a discounted rate for the hotel for people who have to stay overnight.
 - Food Options: See notes above under financials.
 - Registration Cost
 - 2022-2023 Workshop registration was \$175/person with approximately 100 paid attendees.
 - Andrew: Still happy with \$175 and don't want to get too expensive to drop the number of registrants.
 - Judy: We should finalize this next meeting after reviewing food and venue expenses.
 - Field Location
 - 2022-2023 Workshop was at Kwitzil Lake (Gravel Pit Lake).
 - It is a good site as there is plenty of parking, the location is close to town, and there are lots of field station topics to discuss. All are good with using the same location again this year.
 - Field Site Map: Deferred to next meeting.
 - Field Station Topics
 - Fire codes are a current topic.
 - We will do the typical main topics similar to previous years with a focus on getting back to basics.
 - If anyone has a particular topic that is of note or current that they wish to be a field site please let us know.

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- Field Station Site Captains
 - Reminder that everyone typically leads a station so if there is a topic you are keen on leading let us know.
 - Banquet Dinner Keynote Speaker: Deferred to next meeting.
 - Classroom Day Speakers/Presenters
 - Traditionally we have approximately 7 half hour time slots.
 - Jeff: Timber Pricing Branch is confirmed for a ½ hour. Speaker is TBD.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Taylor to reach out to BC Gov Research Department for a presenter about second growth harvesting and cruising.**
 - **ACTION ITEM: Mike to ask Jeanne Robert about a forest health/beetle talk.**
 - Drone use: There is a pilot project for waste, interesting things with sub canopy timber evaluation. Still in early development might not be the time to bring this up.
 - We had a Lidar presentation a couple years ago that went well.
 - With a dwindling number of workers out there, it might be interesting to hear about new tech, drone programs using AI, and how they work within the industry.
 - We could reach out to Norm from Norcan to speak about CMT's.
 - Wildfire is always a good presentation that is interesting even though it is not directly related to cruising. Doug is a good presenter.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Greg to see if Doug can do a wildfire presentation again for us.**
 - Safety could be a good topic but not sure if we have ever explored that or what it would look like. Potentially could discuss stand conditions and working within it, industry safety procedures used, and WorkSafe BC requirements. Safety could be tied to fire stands and the danger trees within them.
 - Classroom Day Vendor Invites
 - **ACTION ITEM: Andrew to invite IRL to have a vendor booth.**
 - FPBC CPD Hours (mandatory 30 hours/year)
 - It is good to put it out there that people can use this to contribute to their CPD hours. Last year was approximately 12-14 hours.
 - Door Prizes
 - Will depend on budget and expenses. Will determine at a future meeting.
 - Guest Speaker Recognition
 - Will depend on budget and expenses. Will determine at a future meeting.
 - AGM Sponsor
 - **ACTION ITEM: Niel to see if PWB is game to sponsor us again.**
 - SITCA
 - Jeff: Heard that they might have added waste to potentially increase attendance.
 - Andrew: We have done some discussion in the past as there is some overlap.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Greg to see if SITCA is incorporating waste into their event.**
7. Any Other Business – All
- Nothing noted today.
8. Next Meeting Date & Time
- Tuesday February 13th, 2024 @ 5 pm@ IFS & via Zoom
 - Tuesday March 12th, 2024 @ 5 pm@ IFS & via Zoom

Meeting Adjourned: 5: 49 pm