

**British Columbia Community Forest Association**  
**Annual General Meeting June 5 2010**

President's Report

Submitted on behalf of the Board of Directors by President, Robin Hood

During each BCCFA AGM, our members participate in a strategic planning session. The result is an evolving list of strategic priorities. The following report describes the Association's achievements on these priorities this past year. We are a grassroots, member driven organization. We thank each and every member community, as well as our associate members, for their support and contributions to our work.

**#1 Policy - Highest priority**

- Following last year's AGM, the board formed a Community Forest Program Expansion Committee, chaired by director Marc von der Gonna. It took many months for the Ministry of Forests and Range to engage with us on this topic. Finally in 2010, Bob Friesen, ADM of Tenures & Pricing was appointed to work with our committee. We have been working with Bob and his team since March 2010, and will be presenting a report on our progress during the 2010 conference. We are seeking input from our members on solutions, as well as feedback on the concepts that may be unworkable.
- The BCCFA Executive & staff meet monthly with the Community Forest Program Joint Working Group via conference call. The members of the working group include representatives of MOFR Tenures Branch in Victoria, the Ministry's CFA coordinators in all three Forest Regions, and the BCCFA Executive & staff. The CFP Joint Working Group continues to be the primary mechanism through which the BCCFA works to improve the Community Forest Program, and the conditions under which CFAs operate. This past year we continued to work on the CFA Licence and Application Package. In addition, some of the key issues of concern that we were able to bring forward through this group were as follows:
  - ❖ Silviculture Deposit.
  - ❖ Firewood cutting on community forests and free use permits.
  - ❖ Conflicts with overlapping tenures. Focused on Mines, Energy and Petroleum Resources.
  - ❖ The transfer of CFA licences to other administrative authorities within the same community.
  - ❖ Annual Rent for new CFAs.

These issues remain unresolved, and many continue to be action items for the group.

- We are also working through the Joint Working Group on administrative streamlining concepts, such as a single cutting permit. This is being piloted on Woodlot Licences. Once this pilot project is complete, these reforms will be considered for CFAs.

- In the Spring 2010 sitting of the legislature, a new First Nations Woodlands Licence was introduced. This new tenure will be very much like a CFA with two key differences: Small FNWLs will fall under the Woodlot Regulation; and the FNWLs will be subject to the appraisal system. That is, tabular rates will not apply. Separate revenue sharing agreements will be developed for each licence. The FNWLs will be an option for First Nations with interim measures agreements, where there is replaceable volume.
- A priority from last year was to push to allow temporary manufacturing facilities on CFA lands. These are permitted to operate on CFA lands. Section 7(1)(f) and 8(b) of the Provincial Forest Use Regulation (under the *Forest Practices Code Act*) allows for it. All that is required is a Special Use Permit be issued by the DM.

#### **Additional policy work:**

- Our aim is to respond to emerging policy and regulatory changes that impact community forests. In the past year, the BCCFA board & staff also worked on the following key policy issues:
  - ❖ Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation - Director Grant Thompson participated as one of 25 participants providing MOE with review of their proposal. This included 6 webinars over a period of 6 months in the fall of 2009. The initial proposed changes to the current regulations were formulated by MOE within input by Ministry of Health with no input from Ministry of Forests or the industry. MOE has now backed away from banning open burning to refining the current system of venting forecasts. MOE is proposing to publish another information paper in the summer of 2010. Hopefully this will also include an opportunity for meaningful consultation.
  - ❖ Resource Roads – BCCFA responded to a proposal by Worksafe BC for a policy change that would declare all resource roads as workplaces. A concern was expressed that the proposed policy would create a fundamental conflict and downloaded responsibilities and liabilities for community forests on what is a public resource.
- We were also a founding member of the Affiliation of Community Based Forestry Businesses. This group agrees to work together on forest policy issues of common interest. The members are as follows: BCCFA; Federation of BC Woodlot Associations; Central Interior Loggers Association; Truck Loggers Association; Western Silviculture Contractors Association; Interior Loggers Association; Independent Lumber Remanufacturers Association; Northwest Loggers Association. Through the Alliance, displays were coordinated at the UBCM Convention and Tradeshow in Vancouver in the fall of 2009, and the TLA Convention in January 2010.

## **#2 Adding Value– High priority**

#### **Branding and Marketing – High priority**

- The Community Forests DVD has been met with wide approval. All BCCFA members were given copies, and it has also been distributed to various groups and individuals with linkages to community forestry. The DVD can also be streamed on our website. Surplus funds from our 2009 conference were used to pay for a second run of DVDs.

- Perhaps the most exciting development in our branding work this year was the Olympic Podium Project. Fourteen of the twenty three 2010 Olympic and Paralympic podiums were built with wood donated by community forests. The BCCFA devoted a small amount of our reserve funds to support staff to work with MOFR and our members to coordinate this project. The MOFR created a webpage highlighting the project, and created profiles on each of the donating community forests, as well as a profile on the BCCFA. We also worked with MOFR and our DVD production company to create media-ready video.
- The project that supported the development of the DVD and our new brochures was called Opening New Doors: Branding BC's Community Forests. This project was completed March 31 2010. This project was made possible through grants from Western Economic Diversification Canada / Community Economic Development Initiative; Northern Development Initiative Trust; Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust; Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition.
- It is our intention to develop a plan for further marketing and branding during our 2010 conference.

#### **Value Added – High Priority**

- We are launching our new project "Bridges: Linking Resources for Community Forests".
- We are partnering with Community Futures of the Central Cariboo Chilcotin, UBC and the Ministry of Community & Rural Development for the Value Added phase of the project.
- Funding proposals have been approved by the Rural Economic Development Initiative BC; Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT), University of British Columbia (UBC), BC Community Forest Association, Ministry of Community & Rural Development, Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBEC), Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition (SIBAC)
- The purpose of this project is to facilitate opportunities for value-added producers and Community Forests to develop beneficial fibre supply relationships. With better information exchange, value can be optimized by getting the right log to the right place at the right time.
- A project management team and advisory committee have been established, and met in Kamloops in April of this year.
- Bioenergy opportunities are to be explored during our 2010 conference.

#### **Carbon Management – High priority**

- Carbon management is a focus of our 2010 conference. Pacific Carbon Trust will report on their progress.

#### **#3 Communications and Extension – High priority**

- This year, our website got a major facelift and redesign. It is more user friendly, and has created a new look, or brand, for the BCCFA.
- A new electronic newsletter has also been created this year.
- In the past year we participated with booths at the UBCM Tradeshow in Vancouver and the TLA Tradeshow in Victoria.
  - ❖ April 2010 marks the beginning of the second phase of the Bridges Project which is focused on community forest governance and forest management. The project proposal has been accepted by Agriculture and Agri Food Canada Community Development Program with support from the UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest. This project will provide information, planning tools and policy guides required for achieving efficiencies and long term

sustainability for Community forests at all stages of development and operation. Through the project we will also be working to establish a long term extension program with UBC

- Increasingly the BCCFA is being approached by groups both within and outside of BC to tell the story of community forestry. This past year our board members and staff met with people interested in community forestry in Ontario and Quebec, and helped to host tours of people from New Foundland and China.
- Our annual conference continues to be our most important event for networking, education, and strategic planning.

### **First Nation Liaison – High priority**

- The 2010 conference will provide a forum for our fourth First Nations Dialogue Session.
- We will be working with FORREX to explore opportunities for further work in this area.
- Overall, we aim to build BCCFA capacity to effectively provide outreach and support services to First Nations communities engaged in community forestry, and to promote cooperation and build connections to meaningfully include First Nations voices and needs in the work of the BCCFA.
- We will be carefully watching the development and implementation of the First Nations Woodlands Tenure

## **#4 Medium and ongoing priorities**

### **Membership**

- Membership in the BCCFA has increased to 50, and addition of 2 new members since last year. Of the 54 communities involved in the CFA program, there are 10 that are not yet members of the Association. 4 are operating PCFAs, 2 are TFL conversions and 4 are communities in the application stage. 82% of the communities involved in some stage of community forestry are members of the BCCFA.

### **Organizational Development**

- In July 2010 a new internal decision making process was developed with clarified roles, responsibilities and communication pathways.
- In 2008, the board made the decision to set aside a reserve each year to create a nest egg for core operations. This past year, the board approved some spending of the reserve for enhanced fundraising efforts, as well as for the Olympic Podium Project. These were both worthwhile projects. In particular, the fundraising efforts have resulted in approximately \$500,000 in new project funds for the next two years.

### **Forest Investment Account – Land Base Investment Program**

- FIA: This past fiscal year, the BCCFA administered \$883,000 to 25 community forests.

### **Safety**

- Safety: BCCFA director Jack McLeman replaced Kevin Davie on the Forest Safety Council.

### **Certification**

- Certification: There is growing momentum behind forest certification in BC. The main advantage for CFAs is primarily future market share. However the costs of certification remain high for individual CFAs.

### **Non Timber Forest Resources**

- Non Timber Forest Resources: Bill 13 included amendments to FRPA that will add a regulation authority to identify specific plants or fungi as a botanical forest product.

### **Research**

- FORREX: BCCFA Executive Director represents the BCCFA in the FORREX Socio-Economic Working Group. The working group brings together researchers, policy makers and resource managers from all over BC to discuss the role of social science in resource management, and to provide strategic direction to FORREX. FORREX is involved in a number of projects of significant relevance to community forests, including: public participation in forest management; carbon management; bioenergy; climate change adaptation and forest dependent communities and First Nations in forest management.
- Simon Fraser University School of Resource and Environmental Management research project continues to develop. Research will assess the contributions that community forests make to forest management ecologically, economically, culturally, and institutionally, and viewing them as a potential future alternative to current arrangements. Several of our members are participating in this research.
- UBC Faculty of Forestry. Jen and Susan travelled to Vancouver for the UBC Koerner Lecture on Sustainability March 2010. They spent a day touring the Malcolm Knapp Research forest and had a full day of meetings with UBC faculty. Through our new “Bridges” project, the BCCFA is working to establish a long term relationship with the UBC Faculty of Forestry to foster research on community forestry, as well as extension tools and services. Jen & Susan met with several faculty members interested in contributing to this new partnership. Ken Day of the UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest and the lead on the Williams Lake CF application serves a strong liaison.