



Elphinstone Community Association

info@elphinstonecommunity.ca

<https://elphinstonecommunity.ca>

Serving the Elphinstone Community since 1971

Special General Meeting March 19, 2025 – 7 PM Frank West Hall Minutes

Executive	Rod Moorcroft – President	Vacant – Vice President
	Tamara Hedden – PAC	Lucie McKiernan – Secretary
	Jonathan Weintraub – Membership	Janet Oxley – Director
	David Weintraub – Webmaster	
Absent	Trish Wray – Treasurer	Ben Foster – Director
	Brian Thicke – Director	
Members	Estimated at general meeting	39

1. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm. The chair gave the land acknowledgment.	Action by
2. Agenda	All regular business was suspended for this meeting in order to focus on the BCTS presentation.	Rod
3. Director's report	In lieu of her regular report Donna encouraged anyone who hasn't signed up for her newsletter everythingelphinstone.ca to do so for her monthly updates and more.	Donna
Rules of Engagement	The Chair read the following statement: Rules of Engagement: Are there any media folks here? No media No recording No photos I am pleased to introduce four members of BCTS' Chinook Business Area team who have joined us this evening: Todd Monge, Jocelyn Ciarniello, Sydney Goward and Christi Howes. They'll be providing their own professional bios and credentials during their presentation. Thanks to Brian for liaising and coordinating with the BCTS team over the past three months so that they could be here tonight and meet with us. I know many of us have strong opinions regarding logging, both for and against; and there are also many of us who just want to know	Rod



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	<p>more about the logging plans for our area. Our board has agreed we need to create a safe, respectful environment for productive dialogue. These are hard conversations to have, which is why respect and open listening is of the utmost importance.</p> <p>There may be questions that are challenging for BCTS to answer, and there may be answers provided by BCTS that some of us might not like.</p> <p>We all live in wood framed houses, which requires the harvesting of trees.</p> <p>We've also witnessed the negative environmental impacts of past logging practices.</p> <p>And, we know the cut blocks on Elphinstone are in our water recharge area and have concerns.</p> <p>Cutting to the chase, we will all listen and ask questions respectfully. Respect is three ways:</p> <p>Us to BCTS</p> <p>BCTS to Us</p> <p>Us to Us – that is an environmentalist will not heckle a logger in the audience.</p> <p>To be clear, this means:</p> <p>No raised voices.</p> <p>No derogatory language.</p> <p>Raise your hand for permission from the Chair to speak.</p> <p>When you have permission to speak, ask your question and keep any comments short and to the point.</p> <p>BCTS is here to share information and answer our questions.</p> <p>If for any reason the meeting becomes disrespectful, I have the board's approval to stop the proceedings tonight.</p>	
4. Guest Speaker	<p>BC Timber Sales re cut block TA0519</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their purpose to meet with community groups is to provide information, answer questions as they can, and build relationships. • BCTS is assigned the annual cut set broadly by the province. High level decisions BCTS cannot control. • Preservation of old growth is a priority – this is backed by the government. • They have moved to more innovative forest practices which 	

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differs from previously e.g., managing the diversity of interest and distributing the harvest equitably. Not all forestry practices are viable in all areas – some decisions in one area don't work in others.

- 2024 - 5% comes from Elphinstone – they are minimizing amount of wood they can take in this area. This area has productive second growth which is a good area for them to utilize innovative forest practices. They are only taking a minimum from this area.
- They acknowledge communication in the past has not been stellar and they need to do things differently. They want to be responsive and have a mechanism for feedback and that people will note the change. Public participation has really helped them.
- For this cut block they will not clear cut - only take partial harvest (commercial thinning), lightest touch they can do – approx. 38 hectares removing 33% of volume, which includes road clearing.
- They explained the various assessments including streams and the building and de-building of roads and the replanting etc. This method will result in reduction of wildfire risk, creation of more light helps more complex plants to develop.
- Commercial thinning – it's fairly new – in the past would have been clear cut.
- This is a learning process for them to assess machine damage, blowdown prevention. If successful this method will be used in other sites.
- Especially in the aquifer recharge area their role is to make a minimal impact with very little planned in the Chaster Creek area. With regard to flood damage in our area – their job is to understand the risk in their areas and implement the mitigation efforts.
- Riparian areas – BC stream classification used – they've put non machine activity in channelled streams – prevention of erosion very important. Partial harvest inherently provides more protection for riparian areas than what is required in a conventional clearcut.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabbing will help to manage to water retention. • Area of interest was first shared with stakeholders on 2020 operations plan and at the time was planned for conventional clearcut. That shape was shared again in 2021, 2022, and 2023. In 2024, it was shared on the Forest Operations Map (FOM): the shape and harvest method has changed quite a bit from previous shapes. The final 2025 harvest area shape is overall consistent with what was shared publicly in 2024, but slightly smaller. This evolution was based on the move to a partial harvest method, stakeholder concerns, hydrology considerations, and other identified values. • Only 33% will be taken from the whole area. • They can provide more information on Chaster and the tributaries as well as the size of blocks outside of this one. • There is a low risk of erosion potential – they are nevertheless taking every precaution to avoid. Debuilding and replanting will help. • Taking all jobs into account they estimate 50-90 individuals will work on this sale from start to finish, a large number of which could be local. • It's the owners call as to the destination for these trees. 	
	Social break – general only	
5. Question Period	<p>Q and A Period</p> <p>Q: - Re roads what does debuild mean?</p> <p>A: -Majority of road construction will be overlanding technique – i.e. overland, not cutting and filling, small cutting on slopes. Debuild will return to the initial slope.</p> <p>Q: - What equipment will be used re the impact on the land?</p> <p>A: - Licensee makes these decisions.</p> <p>Q: - What happens to all the branches they tear off?</p> <p>A: - Legal obligation of licensee. BCTS is pushing alternative methods to dealing with fire hazard. Restriction on when they can do fire maintenance e.g. seasonal windows.</p> <p>Q: - Who monitors the licensee?</p> <p>A: - BCTS staff overseen by supervisors monitor the licensee – monthly and more often.</p> <p>Q: - Those with private wells are worried. Feel we need a watershed</p>	

	<p>assessment.</p> <p>A: - Can't guarantee no risk but BCTS is trying very hard to mitigate.</p> <p>Q: - The importance of trails to the local community, will there be a buffer to the high road?</p> <p>A: - It will be a logging road but they agree community recreational assets should be preserved – the hope is to recover completely. They are starting to build connections with locals here to inventory the trails. There will be temporary closures and then rehabbed.</p> <p>Q: - Is there a blowdown study?</p> <p>A: - Yes, it's part of standard process.</p> <p>A: - How is monitoring done?</p> <p>A: - They are currently planning what is the best use of their time. What works what didn't work re achieving their goals.</p> <p>Q: - Will there be follow up monitoring on the water?</p> <p>A: - They hear the message loud and clear and will take it back, build a rationale, have the conversation.</p> <p>Q: - Will there be further logging down the road in this area?</p> <p>A: - No re-entry on the 10-year plan for this cut block. They are really against this. If they can find their volume elsewhere, that is what they will do.</p> <p>Q: - Suggestion -include a citizen's group.</p> <p>A: - They are considering this – came up today in the walkthrough. Final recommendation from the floor – there is a need for climate resiliency to be built in to any plans. An invitation issued for them to walkthrough Chaster area to review historical damage etc.</p>	
11. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.	
Follow up note from BCTS:	<p>Todd, Syd, Jocelyn did go to Chaster Creek on March 20 with Angela. Todd and Angela also looked at Smales Creek.</p> <p>As requested by the ECA, next week the Preliminary Amphibian Survey of Quarries near TA0521 will be posted to the BCTS Chinook Business Area's Sunshine Coast Operating Area: Community engagement public web page: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/bc-timber-sales/fsp/sunshine-coast/sunshine-coast-community-engagement</p>	