



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JUNE 10, 2025

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**8:00 a.m. at Chinook Office Boardroom**

**PRESENT:**

Paul Davidson, Secretary  
Rilla Middleton, Vice-President – 8:31am  
Ken Nielsen, General Manager  
Valerie Anderson, Executive Assistant

**VIRTUAL**

Shannon Haizimsque, President  
Duane Crouse, Director  
Katie Nesbitt, Director  
Ben Wilson – 9:45  
Kieran Broderick, Treasurer  
Greg Hill, Director

1. **CALL TO ORDER -** Shannon Haizimsque called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by: Paul Davidson  
Seconded by: Kieran Broderick

**2025-06-10: 01**

**THAT the June 10, 2025 agenda be approved as presented.  
All in Favour**

**CARRIED**

Due to the timing of presentations, the agenda order was a follows:

Item 3  
Items 5b and 5c  
Item 4  
Item 5a  
Continued with Items 5d through 7

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by: Paul Davidson  
Seconded by: Greg Hill

**2025-06-10: 02**

**THAT April 8, 2025, Regular Meeting and Public Record Meeting minutes be approved  
as presented.  
All in Favour**

**CARRIED**

#### 4. Presentation

- Dave Andison, a member of the Lakes biodiversity working group for the Lakes pilot study, is responsible for ecosystem health.
- Use Natural Range of Variation NRV, based on preindustrial landscapes, climate change is considered
- The landscape has not been healthy in multiple ways and has been on this trajectory for several decades.
- Concerns include serial stage levels, ecological representation, interior forest edge, fine-scale diversity, fragmentation, and functionality of OGMAS.
- The plan includes physical and planning pieces.
- Physical – replacing OGMAS and LCMs with an eco-cultural backbone.
- Backbone means no activity where possible.
- Most commercial activity will be in the Dynamic Matrix.
- Need to increase old growth to fall back within NRV.
- The patchwork landscape created fragmentation on the landscape.
- An element of the plan is to move from patches to large-scale event-sized areas.
- Ontario example given.
- Wood is taken in one pass, not able to go back in, roads are rolled up.
- In the Saskatchewan example, roads were reduced from 122km to 6km when an event-sized opening was implemented. Event size is 10,000+ ha.
- Not much diversity on our landscape.
- There are opportunities to manage other values.
- Wheres and WYNs, it will take a lot of effort to turn biodiversity around.
- How to Guides will be created.
- Questions:
  - Are there Indigenous folks on the panel, is traditional knowledge being considered?
  - They have a First Nations working group as part of Lakes and have been communicating. Some Houses would like an even flow of wood, and this plan could create an uneven flow of wood.
  - In the bigger picture, we want all groups to have input on the location and size of Wheres. There is a working map of wheres and whens, which has gone to groups for input. Shannon noted that medicines and the well-being of Indigenous peoples must be taken into account.
  - Planning tables were designed to work in isolation, which was not ideal and have adapted as best they can.
- Kieran sits as the rep for Nee Tahi Buhn on the committee and is working on cultural recovery curves and areas where nations do not want harvesting.
- WFN has tabled their areas with the committee.
- The backbone map does not show First Nations requests yet, lines are beginning to be drawn on maps.
- What happens If a Nation's trapline falls within in a Where? The idea is that input will come from all other interest groups, if it overlaps with a trapping area, the committee will look at how the impact can be mitigated.
- What is the experience from other jurisdictions, what has been the buy-in from stakeholders and the public, and what were the pushbacks?
- In General, it is hard enough to find areas with enough wood.
- Immediate reaction is mistrust, tours were given, which alleviated mistrust and resulted in buy-in.

- Wins, Ontario is doing this in Cariboo zones. For the Lakes, the concept sounds good, on the surface, but how is it going to look?
- For BC, this is not a typical harvesting method, other provinces have spatial planning for longer term. It will be a challenge, needs expertise and planning.
- 50% is a proposal from the working group. If you can get one or two on the landscape for people to study and use them for showcasing and tours, etc.
- Consider watershed conditions in the wheres, and should not have any more disturbance; smaller watersheds will be more difficult to define.
- Watershed health is considered in modelling, and the plan is to leave so much material behind that it will not exceed current limits.
- Jurisdiction has been brought up many times, due to the various tenure structures in the Lakes. Perhaps areas will need to be straddled.
- Kieran added that there may need to be FLPs for area-based and volume-based tenures. No incentive to work together currently, a collaborative plan would be ideal.
- Dave was thanked for the informative presentation.
- Ended at 9:19 am

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

- **Chinook Comfor Limited Partnership – Financial Statements**
  - Tony Tiani presented the 2025 financials.
  - YE 2025 shows a loss of \$705,938.
  - Audit went smoothly, operations are not complex.
  - The auditors have a clean opinion.
  - Cash is up, receivables are down.
  - 8.2m in investments are down from 2024, due to changes between short and long term investments.
  - Silviculture liability was increased by \$380,000 for the year. Accrued liability was for CP508 logged last summer.
  - The year went sideways from the budget, mainly due to revenues down.
  - Interest income increased.
  - Expenses a bad debt was written off, and MOF would not pay.
  - Donations were down by \$10,000.
  - Revenue from FESBC is down.
  - Stump to dump cost increased in part due to FESBC not covering some of the expenses.
  - Professional fees decreased.
  - Silviculture costs will climb over the years.
  - No fireguard expenses in 2025.
  - Year over year, overall costs are relatively the same
  - Revenues decreased, cashed in GIC funded the expenses.
  - Last year, there was a consistent distribution to partners. Each partner shares in the loss, reducing their total equity by the divided loss of \$705,000.
  - Brendon Fassnacht. CPA, MNP joined at 9:41
  - Negative cash flow from operations. Silviculture liability is not a cash flow item.
  - Investments were reviewed.

- Note 8, regarding economic dependency on a single customer, was noted that it could be deleted; however, the board agreed to leave Note 8 in the financial statements.

#### **Chinook Comfor Limited – Financial Statements**

- Toni Tianni gave an overview of the Limited Company
- This year, because of the loss, the logging tax of \$184 of income tax should be recoverable.
- Will do a loss carryback to get back the previous year's logging tax.

Moved by: Rilla Middleton

Seconded by: Greg Hill

**2025-06-10: 03**

**That Chinook Comfor Limited and Chinook Comfor Limited Partnership draft financial statements are received as presented.**

**All in Favour**

**CARRIED**

#### **b. Set AGM date and place**

- Chinook Comfor Ltd AGM will be held on July 23, 2025 from 10:30 to 12:00, Regular board meeting will follow at 12:00 pm.
- The meeting will be held in YLP's boardroom

#### **c. Chinook Comfor LP 2025/26 Budget**

- The General Manager gave an overview of projected revenues and expenses for 2025/26.
- \$100,000 is set aside for AIAs to be completed around Broman Lake.
- Ootsa Lake Recreation expense is to erect signage at the site.
- CERS expense is estimated at \$7,000, based on volume.
- Consulting fees are for specialists outside of normal operations.
- Discussion of firewood delivery to First Nations.
- WRR permits have been submitted and should be approved in the next few months.

Moved by: Duane Crouse

Seconded by: Paul Davidson

**2025-06-10: 04**

**That Chinook Comfor LP 2025/26 budget be approved as presented.**

**All in Favour**

**CARRIED**

#### **Moved to MOF presentation**

#### **d. Partners' Cash Distribution**

- Discussion as to whether there should be a cash distribution this year. Should there be a small distribution or no distribution?
- Duane asked Ken's opinion.
- Duane's first thought was no distribution; it is a difficult decision.
- Ben agrees with no cash distribution
- Kieran agrees, no cash distribution
- Rilla agrees, no cash distribution

- Katie agrees, no cash distribution
- Greg agrees, no cash distribution
- Paul is concerned about the First Nation's financial situation; \$20,000 is not much, therefore, agrees, no cash distribution.
- Shannon thinks that due to the loss, our retained earnings are reduced, we shouldn't have a distribution and play it safe for the benefit of the organization.
- Shannon mentioned that perhaps donations could become a larger amount to help offset the distribution.

Moved by: Rilla Middleton

Seconded by: Paul Davidson

**2025-06-10: 05**

**That there will be no cash distribution to the Chinook partners for the 2024/25 fiscal.  
All in Favour CARRIED**

**e. 2024/25 Annual Report**

- Take out the distribution page.
- Change donation page.

Moved by: Kieran Broderick

Seconded by: Greg Hill

**2025-06-10: 06**

**That Chinook Comfor Limited Annual Report is approved as presented.  
All in Favour CARRIED**

**f. GIC Investment Credit Union – Aviso**

- Information for the board, showing the portfolio now held at the Credit Union

Moved by: Duane Crouse

Seconded by: Paul Davidson

**2025-06-10: 07**

**THAT the RBC GIC that matured May 7, 2025 be reinvested in a short-term, cashable GIC at approximately 3.5% with the BVCU.  
All in Favour CARRIED**

**g. Archaeological, layout and other forestry work – Forest Company Contracts**

- Each Nation uses a different contractor to complete archaeological work.
- A request was received from WFN's council to employ Ember Forestry for work on their nation.
- How do we deal with the various nations and their preferences?
- WFN, Skin Tyee and WFN have 98% of the overlap.
- Concern that companies have an Indigenous focus and that they are hiring local First Nations.
- LBN Forestry supports Chinook using whatever company is best for the business.
- WFN went with Ember archaeology because of a relationship over the years.
- Last year's AIA work was discussed.
- The board agreed that the manager should manage this issue for the company. The manager can effectively work with communities and contractors to ensure the best outcomes for Chinook Comfor.

- Archaeological services will not be completed locally, due to the lack of qualified expertise.

**h. Set Open House Date and Location**

- Discussion of BLNDC parking lot or Co-op recreation site.
- Spirit Square is another option.
- August 22, 2025 Co-op Rec Site.

**i. BCCFA – Film Proposal**

- Ken explained that the association is doing another film project, and it will cost Chinook \$5,000 to participate.
- The film will promote community forests.
- The board supports the continued promotion of community forests to the province.
- The board agreed to support participating in the film project at a cost of \$5,000.

**Correspondence**

- General Manager wrote a support letter for Ts'il Kaz Koh Guardians program.
- Received FA Bulletin 17 and letter.
- BVCU – patronage distribution letter for 2024
- Thank you letter from the LDSS Graduation Class of 2025

**6. Reports**

**a. Tradeshow Report – survey results**

- Axe throwing was a hit.
- Ken gave an overview of the survey results.

**b. Committee Reports**

- The donation committee reports for April and May were provided to the board for informational purposes. Year-to-date donations are \$28,000.

Moved by: Rilla Middleton

Seconded by: Greg Hill

**2025-06-10: 08**

**That a budget line item be added for The Link – Food Centre Program, with an annual allocation of \$10,000, to be split into two payments of \$5,000 each in June and November.**

**All in Favour**

**CARRIED**

**b. General Manager's Report – K. Nielsen**

- The full GM report is attached to the minutes.

**Forests for Tomorrow**

- Received allocation of \$1,084,704 for MPB and Wildfire surveys, overstory removal of 2023 wildfires, site preparation of 2023 wildfires and fertilization assessments.

**2023 Wildfires Pinkut/Hanney**

- CP 300 and 400 have been sold to Babine. CP 404 is spring decked. CP 300 will be harvested this summer.

**Bulkley Valley Financial Services (Aviso Wealth)**

- Dominion Securities held one GIC, which matured May 7, once matured it was placed into the RBC chequing account.
- The Lakes branch of the credit union donates \$20,000 annually and is increasing the amount to \$30,000.

**FECBC WRR Funding Application**

- Received official notification from FESBC for \$720,00 over two years.

**Forest Operations Planning (FOP) Committee**

- Trying to create an event-sized block south of Maxan Lake.
- The biodiversity group will come back with guidelines.
- There were 80 strategies, now grouped into buckets instead of individual strategies.

**FLP Planning Table**

- A new subcommittee was formed, Forest Operations Planning (FOP), to look at the land-based implementation. Tintagel Fire will be used as a study area.
- Nature United will help fund the Planning Table.
- The Planning Table discussions go to the First Nations Committee.

**Cut Control**

- I have not received the new cut control yet.
- New cut control starts in January 2026, so Ken will keep a close eye on volume delivered until then.
- Been working with Jevan Hanchard to determine if Chinook will be penalized if we go over by a small amount.

**Waste**

- Waste surveys need to be completed before raking, piling or burning.
- Two salvage blocks from last year are being audited.
- Will invite Max and the team out to build a comfort and trust level, which will reduce the amount of time to approve.

**Request for Proposals for WRR**

- The WRR RFP packages are being developed and will be publicly advertised within a week or two.
- The plan is to have the packages back for the meeting after our AGM for review.

## **BC Community Forest Association AGM and Conference**

- Ken is on the board for his last two-year term. May or may not be the Treasurer.
- A guest speaker at the conference said things will get worse before getting better, he had more of a concern with the current Liberal government strategies than Trump.
- The speaker said the province is broke and won't make payroll within 5 years from stumpage revenue.
- Ken found the conversations between the Comfors had many of the same issues.

### **Silviculture Liability**

- The board was provided with the silviculture liability spreadsheet.
- Regen dates are due; 1200 ha will be completed this summer.

Moved by: Kieran Broderick

Seconded by: Katie Nesbitt

**06-10-2025: 09**

**THAT June 10, 2025 General Manager's and Donation Committee reports be received.**

**All in Favour**

**CARRIED**

Next Meeting July 8.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by: Rilla Middleton

**06-10-2025: 10**

**THAT the June 10 2025, meeting be adjourned at 11:13 am.**

**All in Favour**

**CARRIED**

## **8. IN-CAMERA MEETING – no meeting**

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Shannon Haizimsque, President

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Ken Nielsen, General Manager