

Minutes of the Kilfinan Community Forest Company Board of Directors, held at the Office at 5pm, Wednesday 4th December 2013

Present – Jamie Chaplin-Brice, Fraser Brown, Willie McAllan, Andrew Graham-Weall, Robert Borruso, Fiona Hamilton, Colin Willment, Steve Williamson, David Blair

Welcome from David

Minutes of the previous meeting – proposed correct by Fraser Brown and seconded by Steve Williamson

Operations Manager Report

Health and Safety

- Review of health and safety policy is complete; actions to be undertaken have been noted within the review. J C-B to circulate policy; Board to check and add additions to this if necessary.
- FB raised the issue that there is no pedestrian segregation; path from bottom car park not good enough. WM suggested that a sign be made saying 'timber operations at present, please use path from school'; NW to do; review best options from there. School path to be improved.

Electricity

- Power was reinstated on Friday 22nd November. Ross Petro has still some trees to fell as a result of winds when felling the remaining coupe of pine. There has been some confusion over the permit during outage, resulting in a non-compliance, EGGER are resolving this with SSE. It appears to be a case of too many parties being involved and a breakdown in communication.
- Alec has started to dig the trench for the wires; we have both road crossings in place.
- A G-W and WM to help Colin dig trench on Tuesday.

Road

- Alistair McRae has done the road. McRae's type 1 was chosen as this was the better stone and their preference, with little cost difference. We used 2 more wagons than anticipated; no choice in this, there would have been a big gap had we not.
- An independent survey was suggested, to clarify that the surface was unsuitable and indeed the decision to re-cap the road was the right one. This did not take place as no independent surveyors were available in the area. An FCS roads person was due to visit site, but pulled

out after his supervisors stated that it is not the duty of FCS to be inspecting private roads and stating their suitability.

- Donald Cochrane the digger driver at Kames, has agreed that 6 days digger hire (14tonne) and driver is a fair deal for the delivery of stone to KCFC. Should a lighter machine be used, which is likely then more time would be offered.

Harvesting/Extraction

- Extraction from site is now complete, all remaining logs being at roadside. The wagons are due to commence today, taking logs for a boat at Sandbank. This was not made clear at any point when we were next expecting a boat, J C-B has asked EGGER that we are kept in the loop a little clearer in future will depend how well this boat load goes (30 wagons).
- Boat to go on Saturday; RB has said that it is crucial for KCFC to ensure the road stays nice; stop wagons if needs be. To evaluate the state of road tomorrow morning.

Christmas break

There are no boats scheduled for Christmas, J C-B intends to be away for the full two weeks. Colin, Nikki or Craig will be in on the following days for log sales:

23rd, 24th, 27th, 29th, 31st and 5th

Rhododendron Clearance

- J C-B has completed the second claim for the rhododendron project; this is to be submitted to SGRPID shortly. The initial claim is due back next year.
- Agreed that we should clear all rhoddies on the roadside by the school.

Sawmill Shed

- This is due to be painted and scheduled to arrive next week. J C-B awaiting confirmation for the erection date; this could be next week also. Will be a few days' work to erect.
- Mill training from 6th January (same time as install); must be paid for by 31st Dec.

Telehandler

- This has arrived and proving helpful. The buggy arrives on Friday.

Leader/HIE

- The remaining budget from phase 3 is due to be spent in the next couple of weeks. This is around £26,000, some of which can be spent in January.

- HIE money from DO contract; can use on 45% basis. To be used on wages.

FSC certification

- We have the contract for the smallholder fund, this offers us £3000 (\$5000) to complete the FSC plan and comply to the audit conditions. Audit costs are not covered, but our preparation for this is included.
- KCFC will be able to sell timber as FSC accredited.

Treasurer report

- Awards for all – final report with them. Money accounted for.
- KCFC is in a reasonable position to see us through first 6/7 weeks of the New Year without further income. Once phase 3 money has been claimed, money for salaries to go into the Co-op account and everything else in RBS. Unsure as to how much the road will come to and timber income; will be able to claim back £3.5K via the DO project.
- 2014 will be tight; Priority to get sawmill up and running and retail outlet. Core business needs to pay for itself. Further projects: pond/ frog life project, volunteer project, archaeology.
- Questions as to how to finance hydro and housing project.
- Hydro will generate income in 2015.
- A G-W – to look into further possible funding streams.
- Nick Ferguson, loan – WM/ DB to draft a response.

Housing Project

- RB did some preliminary structural designs which have not satisfied the structural engineer. This was entirely expected and RB is working on the modifications.

Electric Supply

- New meter installation supposed to be last week; switch gear should be here on Friday. New meter should be installed on 13th December.

Hydro

- Impact assessment approved by the Council's environmental services; DB spoke to Steven Gove – he is writing report, just needs to be signed off. Hopefully by the end of December 2013 it will be registered as a preliminary application with Offgem.

AOB

- Craig volunteering - looking for operations tasks within the forest
- Path from new road joining Kilfinan Way to reservoir to be prepared ahead of hydro. Path training – Paths For All? Stronafian path course – possible that Craig and Colin could go on this? (NW to contact Mark Chambers). Path to be surveyed to mark what's going where.
- Tractor – is in for a repair, the PTO has broken.

Date of next meeting – 16th December 2013.