

Cranbrook Community Forest Society Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday April 15th, 2025

Location: College of the Rockies, Room KC205

7pm start

Attendance: 21

1. Election of Chairperson: Joseph Cross, president, is the Chairperson.

I would like to acknowledge we are Living, working and playing on the ancestral and unceded homeland of the Ktunaxa people.

2. Determination of Quorum: There is a quorum.

3. Introductions: Joseph Cross introduced the current members of the Board.

4. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda made by Sandra Haley, Seconded by Kathleen Opal. Carried.

5. Approval of the previous AGM minutes on April 23, 2024. Motion to approve by Kathleen Opal, seconded by Sandra Haley. Carried.

6. Presentation by James Krahn of Wildfire Risk Reduction Branch (WRR) on treatment underway in the CCF: (accompanied by Casie Gano and Trevor Campbell).

Current crew on site is 3-5 individuals. They have extended their contract past the March 31st end date. No burning unless really good weather window. Plan is to move to Phase II which is the Mistletoe area next year.

Current unit has zero certified fallers so focusing on smaller trees. Likely chipping to mitigate smoke and fuel left on ground. They will increase signage in the future. Due to the heavy snow, some stumps were left too high and they have gone back to reduce these near trails. The larger section in Phase III, and furthest from homes will be more mechanical. May get BC Timber Sales involved as there is more merchantable timber in this zone. They are also looking at areas to the North of these zones and to the highway for future thinning. This North area is a high threat to Cranbrook. Still have plans for West of Cranbrook and they are currently in the East of Cranbrook zone. Small block remaining between Highlands neighbourhood and the CCF will also be treated – there are unofficial trails here.

Joseph and Lisa added that any of this work requires Lisa's authorization and the CCFS board is consulted on how they would like the prescription to look.

7. Reports:

a) President's Report delivered by Joseph Cross

Our Society is responsible to Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) of the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy. The Society is under their protection, and they do many things that make the CCF what it is, such as signage, barriers, installing out houses, repair and replacement of benches and picnic tables, clearing trees that fall on trails with support from Wildfire Management. On behalf of the board and members of the CCFS, Joseph sincerely thanked Lisa Cox and Aaron Canuel for their support.

The gate will remain closed near Isadore Canyon but can be opened by request. No local security company is interested in opening and closing gates.

Work continues with MOT to establish a new entrance at Car Lake, which will be a much safer way to access the Padawan and Pod Racer trails. This is a very slow process but thanks to Parks and Recreation and RDEK funding we will see some work done this year by Parks and Recreation to the entrance. Next year MOT is to finish the approach.

We supported the following events:

Alonso Flores - Private MTB lessons

Cranbrook Gravel Grind - (one day event) was held with huge success, 250 racers and they presented a cheque to the CCFS for \$3000!

RideTheory (Spring/Summer MTB clinics max 10 participants per session)

Shred Sisters (Spring/Summer MTB clinics 6 participants per session)

WHCC - Youth MTB Program (Fall MTB clinics up to 30 youth plus instructors)

Walden Nature Connections (Outdoor Education; non-destructive, nature-based classes for children)

During the Provincial Employees Service Day a cleanup was conducted in the Eager Hill area cleaning up an old dump of shingles for which we are grateful.

June 6th was the grand opening of the Padawan/Podracers Trails. There were many in attendance including riders from the Wildhorse Bike Club.

RSTBC had the road into the parking lot at Isadore Canyon graded - a huge improvement.

In September Randy toured the 2024 COTR environmental class and now they are conducting research in the CCF as part of their coursework.

In October, new roofs were added to kiosks at Chief Isadore, Fraggie Rock and Eager Hill.

Currently we are working on new interpretive signs for Kettle Lake.

Plans are for more seeding and treatments in the car lake area this year and have applied to TC Energy for additional funding.

During 2024, 23 individuals performed services, contributing approximately 800 hours of work. Joseph thanked all the volunteers and the CCF board that dedicate their time working to make the community forest a valued asset to the area.

Joseph thanked all the organizations, companies and individuals that have donated funds, or services to the CCFS this year and in the past. The organizations and companies are numerous and can be viewed on our website.

Someone has been looking after our parking lots on Mount Baker Road during the winter. We found out that it was Dave Hal. We are very grateful for his charitable offerings.

b) Treasurer’s Report: Kathleen Opal.

Kathleen explained the three accounts; Service Plus as our main operating account and the only one we can write cheques from so sometimes funds are flowing through the account. The Project account was initiated to separate dealings on specific projects such as the Padawan Trail and is now used for the Trail Maintenance Crew, the account is mainly managed by Jim Nicol. Invasive account is for handling income and expenses related to invasive plant treatment and this account is mainly managed by Randy Harris.

	Service Plus	Project	Invasives
Open April 15 2024	\$27,274.82	\$843.18	\$11,431.62
Income	\$17,845.15	\$25,830.19	\$0
Expenses	\$21,613.08	\$11,416.88	\$414.40
Close April 15 2025	\$23,506.89	\$15,256.49	\$11,017.22

Randy Harris elaborated on Invasive plants: there will be a weed pull on June 28 from 9:30-12. There may be drinks and food.

Lisa Cox suggested having a weed pull on Public Service Week, which is the week of June 16-20, 2025. There may be two weed pulls.

Kathleen Opal moved to approve the financial statements as presented. Seconded by Joseph Cross. Carried.

c) Trails Report by Jim Nicol:

Trail maintenance crew. Funded largely by the Columbia Basin Trust with support from RDEK, FortisBC and Wildhorse Cycling Club. They mainly work on grooming and safety issues with some improvements to trails, features and amenities. This program costs about \$10,000 per year.

Key items from last year:

- 5 workers on the crew
- Approximately 400 hours (part time and flexible)
- 31 trails worked on
- 23 features worked on
- Full inventory inspection spring and fall
- Over 23,000m serviced (23k)
- Massive signage improvement with 76 junction signage repaired, corrected or added.
- Special shout out to Sidekick Stickers who not only are very helpful with the creation of our signage but also sponsor the CCF and cover the cost of much of our signage.

The trails committee is working on an update to our master plan. This will update work that has been done and properly reflect future planning.

Looking forward to this coming year:

Signage updates continue with more directional signage improvements and updating land acknowledgement and sponsor info on kiosks.

Spring closures: We watch the thaw and try to reduce the amount of repair work we have to do after the onslaught of our neighbours coming here to bike early season. This often means temporary closure signs on the south side of the forest. Not always at all trailheads. We have individual closure signs at some of the steep north facing trails in the Coffee Trails area.

We always leave Eager area open for riding with the exception of Pod Racer which has a seasonal closure for ungulate winter range Nov 1-April 15.

There are a few new projects on the table for which we are awaiting approval.

Bigger picture:

The CCF has a partnership with the Province, has been rewriting the trail standards for several years. It will mean more consistency in trail ratings from location to location across the province, with more signage warning of potential hazards on the trail, but more dangerous features will be allowed.

MTB BC – separate from the Province, is working with all clubs and societies in BC who want to participate to collect user data to help inform and economic impact assessment – how much trail users positively affect the economy. Part of this will be surveys that you may see at trailheads or in your inbox.

9. Elect or appoint Directors and Officers:

The following CCFS members let their names stand for a two-year term: Dan Oicle, Jim Nicol, Jo Ellen Floer, Kathleen Opal, and Randy Harris. All members were elected to the Board by acclamation.

The following board members remain on the board for the second year of their two-year term: Brian Marriott, Lisa Barnes, Joseph Cross, and Sandra Haley. Officers will be determined at the first Board meeting following the AGM.

10. Open Discussion:

James Krahn: WRR will be putting an outhouse for WRR crew use near the kiosk at Sylvan lake. This information will be posted to CCF social media.

Casie Gano: Why aren't you a real Community Forest? Could benefit from timber rights and making your own rules. But would also have obligations with this to harvest and possibly plant and consider flora and fauna. Randy suggested our forest is too small. This may be explored further by the board.

11. Adjournment Meeting: adjourned at 8:30pm