

Fort St. John Results Based Pilot Project

Public Advisory Group Meeting # 47

Thursday, February 27, 2014 from 5:30 to 9:30

Fort St. John Quality Inn, Northern Grand Meeting Room

A) Meeting Attendance:

Participants

| Name | Interest | Phone | Email |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Walter Fister | BC Timber Sales | (250) 262-3328 | Walter.Fister@gov.bc.ca |
| Stephanie Smith | BC Timber Sales | (250) 784-1209 | Stephanie.Smith@gov.bc.ca |
| Darrell Regimbald | Canfor | (250) 787-3651 | darrell.regimbald@canfor.com |
| Dawn Griffin | Canfor | (250) 787-3607 | dawn.griffin@canfor.com |
| Larry McFadden | BC Timber Sales | (250) 262-3324 | Lawrence.McFadden@gov.bc.ca |
| Jennifer McCracken | Canfor | (250) 787-3641 | Jennifer.McCracken@canfor.com |
| Emily Francis | Canfor | (778) 838-6154 | emily.francis@canfor.com |
| Evan Hauk | Canfor | (250) 787-3693 | evan.hauk@canfor.com |
| Andrew Moore | Cameron River Logging | (250) 789-3621 | admoore@cameronriver.ca |

PAG Interest Representatives and Alternates

| Name | Interest | Phone | Email |
|-------------------|---|----------------|------------------------|
| Lyle Mortenson | Halfway River First Nation/ Prophet River First Nation | (250) 782-2227 | lyle@lrm.ca |
| Fred Jarvis | Rural Communities | (250) 262-2913 | fredjarvis@shaw.ca |
| Jim McKnight | Environment | (250) 262-1673 | jimk01@telus.net |
| Roy Lube | Recreation | (250) 787-7619 | rlube@telus.net |
| George Desjarlais | West Moberly First Nations | (250) 788-3676 | forestry@westmo.org |
| Edward Kyngman | West Moberly First Nations | (250) 788-3663 | edward1968@ymail.com |
| Andy Ackerman | Urban Communities | (250) 787-8457 | ackerman@telus.net |
| Patrick Smook | Oil and Gas- OGC | (250) 794-5314 | patrick.smook@bcogc.ca |

| <i>Advisors</i> | Interest | Phone | Email |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Name | | | |
| Elizabeth Hunt | F.L.N.R.O. | (250) 784-1237 | Elizabeth.Hunt@gov.bc.ca |
| Joelle Scheck | F.L.N.R.O. | (250) 787-3393 | Joelle.Scheck@gov.bc.ca |

| <i>Other</i> | Interest | Phone | Email |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Name | | | |
| Gail Wallin | Facilitator | (250) 305-9161 | gwallin@wlake.com |
| Dave Menzies | Observer | (250) 787-7877 | dmenzies@pris.ca |
| Rod March | BC Timber Sales-guest | (250) 784-1200 | Rodney.March@gov.bc.ca |
| Regan Dickinson | BC Timber Sales-guest | (250) 784-1252 | Regan.Dickinson@gov.bc.ca |

B) Meeting Summary

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions - Gail Wallin
2. Review of Meeting Agenda - Gail Wallin
3. Review of Meeting #46 draft summary – Gail Wallin
4. Review of Outstanding Actions – Darrell Regimbald
5. Update from Participants – Dawn Griffin/Stephanie Smith
 - Canfor, BCTS, Cameron River Logging
6. Review of Indicator Matrix-Darrell Regimbald
7. Review of Terms of Reference-Darrell Regimbald
8. Overview of Herbicide Planning, Use & Monitoring-Emily Francis, Rod March
 - Overview of planning
 - Operational implementation
9. Preparations Summer Field Trip-Stephanie Smith
10. Completion of annual PAG Public Participation Process Satisfaction Survey- Jennifer McCracken
11. Overview of 2014 Meeting Schedule - Darrell Regimbald
12. Feedback on Meeting, Survey

1) Welcome and Introductions

- Roundtable introductions from PAG, participants, members, and observers.
- Participation in the meeting was extended to all present.

2) Review of Meeting Agenda

- Agenda was accepted. No changes were made.

3) Review of Meeting # 46 draft Summary

Meeting #46 summary was accepted as circulated by the PAG. No changes were made.

4) Review of Outstanding Actions – Darrell Regimbald

PAG Meeting #46 Action Item #1: Walter Fister will report at the next meeting what action plans will be taken if any regarding the auditor's OFI regarding the herbicide use on TSL A60196.

Completed-Walter Fister reviewed the BC Timber Sales block treatment review process for blocks that are potential candidates for herbicide application. BC Timber Sales staff will visit candidate blocks in the field to confirm that a herbicide application is necessary.

PAG Meeting #46 Action Item #2: Participants to provide a short presentation on herbicide use at a future PAG Meeting.

Completed- A presentation will be provided at this meeting (meeting #47 March 27, 2014).

PAG Meeting #46 Action Item #3: When reporting infractions such as trespasses at PAG meetings, Participants should include information such as the size of the trespass and provide visuals so that the PAG understand the finding(s) more fully. Also the Participants should include if a government agency has or hasn't completed an investigation so that it can be determined if the respective agency is performing their responsibilities.

Not Completed-Participants will provide additional information from the Annual Report, in the 2013 Annual Report PowerPoint presentation, to allow the PAG to have a deeper understanding of non-compliance incidents.

PAG Meeting #46 Action Item #4: Participants will proceed with an annual consolidated survey but the facilitator will ask at each meeting what individuals liked or didn't liked.

Completed- a consolidated survey will be administered and the PAG will be asked at the end of the meeting by the facilitator about what went well and what could be improved.

5) Update from Participants-Dawn Griffin(Canfor)/Stephanie Smith (BCTS)/Andrew Moore (CRL)

Canfor:

- Lumber markets continue to improve as there is an increased demand for the products produced as the Fort St. John mill. The sawmill will be adding a third shift starting July 1st. This will result in an additional 40 workers being hired plus outside trade positions. It was noted that if new employees aren't available, the addition of a third shift may not happen.

-capital improvements: It was just announced that \$8 million will be spent on Biomass energy plant to generate electricity to heat kilns that dry the lumber. This power will go directly to BC Hydro and Canfor will buy back the amount the mill requires. The third phase of log yard improvements will be started this spring.

-Fourth quarter results were good and the annual report is available on the Canfor website.

-Peace Valley OSB have too much finished product inventory due to the lack of rail cars; they have been stockpiling product inside their warehouse and want to avoid stockpiling outside. Due to this inability to ship the finished product, board production had been reduced. Recently more railcars have been made available and OSB production has been increased. The lack of railcars has also been an issue at the FSJ sawmill.

-There is still a lack of truck drivers in the Peace region.

-Staffing changes: Russ Martin is now the General Manager for the North Operations, replacing Mark Thom. He is responsible for Fort St. John, Chetwynd and Grande Prairie operations. Jon Gibbons is now the Operations Manager, for Fort St. John and Chetwynd. Other changes may be made in the future as there still are some vacancies.

Question: With the Tembec mill reopening, will this affect your ability to hire new employees?

Answer: Yes it could, as it represents competition for skilled trades.

BC Timber Sales:

- Since October 2013, 9 Timber Sales totaling 280,000 m³ have been advertised. Of this 9, 7 TSLs (totaling 211,000 m³) have been sold.
- presently, there are 3 timber sales being advertised on BC Bid.
- Since October 2013, 3 timber sales totaling 120,000 m³ have been logged.
- One TSL is currently being logged.
- One more TSL will start harvesting soon and will be completely logged with its timber being hauled to the mill during the summer.
- Staffing changes: the Woodlands Manager position has been approved and interviews have been completed. Expect an announcement by mid-March.
- BC Timber Sales has felt ramifications from the Quebec rail explosion that occurred last year. Canadian National Railways is scrutinizing all rail crossings for safety. This has resulted in the inability to sell 2 timber sales because access utilizes railway crossings.

Cameron River Logging:

- Plan on reducing the amount of remanufacturing and moving business towards the trans-loading of logs. Cameron River Logging will still be producing survey stakes.
- Logs from a timber sale will be arriving at yard. This wood will be transferred onto railcars and shipped south.

Question: How much volume is being moved out of the Fort St. John Timber Supply Area?

Answer: In the upcoming year, between 50,000 to 100,000 m³.

6) Revisions of Indicator Matrix- Darrell Regimbald

Proposed SFMP Indicator Revision was reviewed. The new indicator #67-Rare Ecosystems was introduced. Proposing a target of 100% of the area from rare ecosystem groups to be reserved from harvest. Intention is to preserve those areas

with rare ecosystems that are discovered during the timber development stage. The PAG was asked to give their opinion on the wording of this new indicator.

Question: could you remind me as to why this new indicator is being proposed/could you define the term Rare Ecosystem?

Answer: This indicator was designed as a result from the *Ecosystem Representation Analysis* report that was completed and presented to the PAG in February of 2013. Staff will be trained on how to recognize these rare ecosystems and will be able to transfer this knowledge to the people developing the site level plans.

PAG member: Suggest field staff will need direction as how to treat rare ecotypes dispersed in a stratum.

Answer: some direction will be given to staff on how to deal with dispersed ecotypes.

PAG member: Suggest that the indicator should read “as identified in the document referred to”.

Facilitator: Summing up the comments from the PAG, consider including a description of where the rare ecosystems groups analysis came from, and include direction for staff on how to treat rare ecosystems.

PAG member comment: Would like to see in the SFMP the importance of capturing rare medicinal plants for First Nations cultures where the knowledge of their locations is much protected.

Response: The new indicator and element 6.2 may address the First Nations concern that rare medicinal plants be protected. Also, if a rare plant was found in a rare ecotype, they would be preserved by way of this new indicator. If found on eco-groups not considered rare, and part of the non-harvesting land base, the plants wouldn't be disturbed. If found on the Timber Harvesting Land Base, there is a good chance they would be harvested unless the plant type is made known to the participants, then they could look out for them.

PAG Member comment: In addition to training staff on how to recognize rare ecotypes, training should be provided on how to work with First Nations on the identification of areas that potentially could have rare medicinal plants.

PAG Member comment: Recommend adding into the indicator description: when road access through a rare ecosystem group is deemed to be necessary because of

safety concerns, a third party be involved who would confirm the recommendation and authorize the implementation of this variance.

Participant: I think rather than a third party, a professional, such as RPF, RFT, PEng with road layout/construction experience could approve the proposed road location.

PAG member: No, it would have to be external party.

PAG observer comment: Sometimes these rare ecotypes may be a long narrow strip of land such as a rocky ridge; rock is rare in this region. It may make more sense from an environmental perspective and not from a safety perspective to through these rare ecosystems. For example, it may make more sense to build 20 meters of road through a rare ecosystem than build 3 kilometers of extra road, making a detour around the rare ecosystem and causing more environmental disruption.

PAG member comment: Good point, the variance as presented only refers to safety.

PAG member comment: I would like to point out that professionals have to work to a high standard in order to keep their certification and therefore could make the appropriate decision regarding access construction.

Facilitator: Just a reminder, the CSA standard does not require that indicator variances to be discussed with or be agreed on by the PAG. To sum up the discussion with the PAG, the variance doesn't need to be limited to safe access but should also consider environmental concerns.

Participant comment: The participants will strive to protect the rare ecotypes but can't control the activities of other industries.

The PAG members were asked if they were comfortable with the indicator and target.

A PAG member wanted to see the final description write up before endorsing.

The indicator and target have conditional support of PAG, with one member wanting to see the indicator description.

Action Item #1: To review at next meeting the indicator 6.67, Rare Ecosystems, and target and the background information written up to address suggestions raised by PAG members.

Action Item #2: Add George Desjarlais to the distribution list.

Action Item #3: Indicator Matrix - Correct spelling error on page 19, of Indicator Statement: “Indvator” should read “Indicator”.

7) Review of Terms of Reference- Darrell Regimbald

Referring to the handout: *Fort St. John Results Based Pilot Project: Public Advisory Group Terms of Reference*, the proposed changes were highlighted in yellow. These proposed changes are as follows:

- i. Change the date of approval of Terms of Reference to “February 27, 2014” as highlighted;
- ii. Page 4, section 3, sentence 3: insert the words “be” and “managing and “BCTS & Canfor” as highlighted;
- iii. Page 5, section 4b: replace the word “will” with “may” and insert “or dialogue” as highlighted;
- iv. Page 5, section G, part 1a: insert “will strive” as highlighted;
- v. Page 8, section J, update the dates to show as follows:
 - Public Advisory Group: February 27, 2014
 - Participants Working Group: February 27, 2014
 - Next Revision (approximate Date): February 27, 2016.

There were no questions or concerns raised by PAG members. The changes were approved by consensus.

BREAK

8) Overview of Herbicide Planning, Use and Monitoring –Emily Francis/Rod March.

This presentation was presented in response to the PAG members request for a presentation on herbicide use requested at PAG Meeting #46.

- i. Overview of Planning- Rod March, BC Timber Sales
A PowerPoint presentation was shown which highlighted the decision making process including preventative measures, decision making process and the treatment process. The handout: *Integrated Pest Management Act and Regulation Summary* was referenced during the presentation.

ii. Operational Implementation- Emily Francis, Canfor

A PowerPoint presentation focusing on the aerial herbicide application processes was shown. The differences in broadcast and discretionary application were highlighted.

Questions:

Question: Has a cost comparison been completed between similar blocks using manual treatments and herbicide treatments? Is there a report available?

Answer: BC Timber Sales doesn't have specific data showing this. There is some research being done, specifically in the Inga Lake area by Richard Kabzems.

Question: This presentation has focused on conifer trees species but we have mixed forests. What is being done to maintain these mixed forests? Deciduous species such as birch have important uses.

Answer: Firstly we don't target birch. We have some options/variances with the stocking standards available to us when trying to meet our legal obligation of reforestation. For example, we can keep some aspen within a conifer stratum however we need to balance the landscape, replacing what we have taken off the land. On a site where we had harvested aspen we do replace it with aspen.

Question: In the past, there were some large birch stands which today are not here they have been replaced by conifer.

PAG observer comment: In the past birch site were converted to conifer to increase the annual allowable cut (AAC) in a specific area but this is no longer done and the birch has been coming back. Birch isn't really a competitor to conifer and usually isn't targeted with herbicide.

Question: The report you mentioned (Notice of Intent to Treat-NIT) that is sent to government, could that report be sent to First Nations, specifically West Moberly?

PAG member comment: The participants do send their plans to First Nations for comments.

Answer: Yes that information can go to First Nations.

Question: When is the peak application season?

Answer: August.

Question: Why August?

Answer: Because of the favourable weather conditions and the bud set (hardening off) on the conifer trees.

PAG member comment: Since industry is now earning more money, I would like to see them try to use more mechanical treatments and move away from chemicals as much as possible in areas that they can do so.

Question: Looking at the treatment selection process, if there isn't any road access, does that preclude a backpack treatment?

Answer: No it doesn't, but for safety reasons we must have ambulance available. We can't send people in where there is a long ATV ride to the block. Typically we will use an aerial treatment if there is no reasonable access on.

PAG member comment: I would like to see the amount of areas treated with chemical reduced, not eliminated, but more thought should be given to the use of mechanical means.

Answer: During the consultation phase, we do present the amount of hectares surveyed and the amount of hectares to be treated both chemically and manually. We show that we don't always use chemical treatments. From a purely economic viewpoint, we would always use chemical because it is relatively inexpensive (\$220 per hectare) compared to manual treatments (\$600-4000 per hectare), but we still use manual treatments where we can to reduce the amount of chemical treatment.

9) Preparations Summer Field Trip- Stephanie Smith

Potential Topics/sites:

- Mill tour;
- Mile 81 overview;
- Inga Lake Research site;
- Vegetation competition management;
- Biodiversity management.

Other topics:

- One of the first/early plantations;
- First Nations presentation, how forestry affects First Nations;
- First Nations medicinal plants presentation (show and tell).

Potential field tour timing:

Late May/early June seemed best, Tuesdays best.

10) Completion of annual PAG Public Participation Process Satisfaction Survey-
Jennifer McCracken

Surveys in a paper format were made available to PAG members to complete at this meeting. They can also take this home to complete or complete on line.

11) Overview of 2014 Meeting schedule – Darrell Regimbald

Participants anticipate a fall meeting in late October. This meeting will focus on the 2013 Annual Report. Also, hopefully an update on the Timber Supply Review process will be available. A summer field trip in late May/early June. Results of satisfaction surveys will be sent to members via email. Spring meeting will be held in February or March 2015. Hopefully the status of the Fort St. John Pilot Project Regulation transition will be known and can be shared at this meeting.

12) Feedback on Meeting Survey

Members were asked what they thought of this meeting and any changes they would like to see.

- Room too cold;
- Screen too small, projector table should have been moved further away;
- Break length was fine;
- Food okay except for the rice;
- Good information was provided;
- Participants were well prepared;
- Interesting presentations;
- Liked the diversity in the room.

Question to the PAG members: Were the questions asked or concerns expressed at our last PAG meeting around herbicide use satisfactorily addressed?

PAG members: There was a general consensus from the members that were present at the previous meeting that their concerns were addressed.

PAG member: Suggested that someone from Victoria be invited to answer questions regarding the changes to the regulatory requirements around herbicide use.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm

Handout from Meeting #47

- 1) FSJ Results Based Pilot Project Public Advisory Group Meeting #46 Summary and actions.
- 2) Meeting #47 agenda.
- 3) Integrated Pest Management Act and Regulation Summary.
- 4) Fort St. John Results Base Pilot Project, Public Advisory Group Teams of Reference
- 5) SFMP #2 Amendment #3

Summary of Actions from Meeting #47

PAG Meeting #47 Action Item #1: Prior to next PAG meeting, participants to review Indicator 6.67, Rare Ecosystems, and target and the background information written up to address suggestions raised by PAG members.

PAG Meeting #47 Action Item #2: Add George Desjarlais to the distribution list.

PAG Meeting #47 Action Item #3: Indicator Matrix - Correct spelling error on page 19, of Indicator Statement: “Indvator” should read “Indicator”.

PAG Meeting #47 Action Item #4: Attach the BC Professional magazine letter that was submitted by Walter Fister to this meeting summary or otherwise distribute a copy of the letter to the PAG.