

Fort St. John Results Based Pilot Project

Public Advisory Group Meeting # 53

Thursday, October 20, 2016 from 5:30 to 9:30

Fort St. John Northern Grand Hotel Meeting Room

A) Meeting Attendance:

Participants

Name	Interest	Phone	Email
Walter Fister	BC Timber Sales	(250) 262-3328	Walter.Fister@gov.bc.ca
Darrell Regimbald	Canfor	(250) 787-3651	darrell.regimbald@canfor.com
Tony Wipfli	BC Timber Sales	(250) 262-3335	Tony.Wipfli@gov.bc.ca
Stephanie Smith	B.C. Timber Sales	(250) 784-1209	Stephanie.Smith@gov.bc.ca
Larry McFadden	BC Timber Sales	(250) 262-3324	Lawrence.McFadden@gov.bc.ca
Dawn Griffin	Canfor	(250) 787-3607	dawn.griffin@canfor.com
Evan Hauk	Canfor	(250) 787-3693	evan.hauk@canfor.com
Mandy Cummings	Canfor	(905) 921-5134	mandy.cummings@canfor.com
Andrew Moore	Cameron River Logging	(250) 789-3621	admoore@cameronriver.ca
Tara Rooney	Canfor	(807) 620-4009	tlrooney@lakeheadu.ca

PAG Interest Representatives and Alternates

Name	Interest	Phone	Email
Lyle Mortenson	Halfway/Prophet River	(250) 782-2227	Lyle@LRM.ca
George Desjarlais	West Moberly FN	(250) 788-3676	forestry@westmo.org
Dave Harris	Range-alternate	(250) 827-3503	dhharris@pris.ca
Roy Lube	Outdoor Recreation	(250) 787-7619	rlube@telus.net
Andy Ackerman	Urban Communities	(250) 787-8457	ackerman@telus.net
Jim McKnight	Environment	(250) 785-9758	jimol@telus.net
John Stokmans	Saulteau FN	(250) 793-0195	forestry@saulteau.com
Les Christianson	Outdoor Recreation	(778) 256-4541	Les@PRSEnergy.ca

Advisors	Interest	Phone	Email
Name			
Elizabeth Hunt	F.L.N.R.O.	(250) 784-1237	Elizabeth.Hunt@gov.bc.ca
Karrilyn Vince	F.L.N.R.O.	(250) 261-5789	Karrilyn.Vince@gov.bc.ca
James Cuell	F.L.N.R.O.	(250) 877-1615	James.Cuell@gov.bc.ca
Brian Farwell	F.L.N.R.O.	(250) 787-3455	Brian.Farwell@gov.bc.ca
Joelle Scheck	F.L.N.R.O.	(250) 787-3393	Joelle.Scheck@gov.bc.ca

Other	Interest	Phone	Email
Name			
Gail Wallin	Facilitator	(250) 305-9110	gwallin@wlake.com
Walter Allison	West Moberly FN	(250) 788-3674	
Dave Menzies	Public	(250) 787-7877	dmenzies@pris.ca

B) Meeting Agenda & Summary

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions – Gale Wallin
2. Review of Meeting Agenda – Gale Wallin
3. Review of Meeting #52 draft summary & actions – Gale Wallin, Darrell Regimbald
4. Update from Participants – Dawn Griffin/Stephanie Smith/Andrew Moore
 - Canfor, BCTS, Cameron River Logistics Inc., LP
5. Pilot Regulation Update – Karrilyn Vince
 - Feedback from PAG
6. Review of 2016 Audit Results – Evan Hauk, Walter Fister
7. Review of 2015-16 SFM Annual Report – Darrell Regimbald, Stephanie Smith
 - Feedback from PAG
8. Other information updates:
 - Public Participation Satisfaction Survey – Walter Fister
 - Forest Health (Fires, Spruce & Mtn Pine Beetle) – Elizabeth Hunt
 - Timber Supply Review – Elizabeth Hunt
 - Field Trip Summary – Evan Hauk
 - Softwood Lumber Update – Tony Wipfli
9. Review of PAG Membership and Notice – Darrell Regimbald
10. Overview of 2017 Meeting Schedule – Darrell Regimbald
11. Feedback on Meeting

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.

3) Review of Meeting # 52 draft Summary

Meeting #52 summary was accepted as circulated by PAG with the name correction on page 3: Jeremy Barter should be “Barton”. No other changes were made.

Review of Outstanding Actions – Darrell Regimbald

PAG Meeting #52 Action Item #1: Canfor to investigate and report on the observation of large logs being transported to and from the Taylor mill.

Update: the large logs observed were oversized, badly checked logs that were unusable for pulp, hauled offsite for disposal as firewood.

PAG Meeting #52 Action Item #2: Provide link to the BC Hydro Site C clearing plan.

Update: Added the website to the meeting #52 summary.

PAG Meeting #52 Action Item #3: The PAG has requested that a high level official attend the meeting or meet with the PAG regarding the fate of the FSJ Pilot Project (i.e. Deputy Minister or Minister)

Update: The participants will work with the District MFLNRO staff to invite a high level official to address the PAG. NE Region RED Karrilyn Vince has been invited and will speak at meeting #53.

PAG Meeting #52 Action Item #4: Participants to circulate Timber Supply Review Analysis discussion paper to the PAG.

Update: TSR Analysis discussion paper had not been released as of meeting # 52. We will pass along when available. Elizabeth Hunt will be asked to give a presentation.

Update – the Participants circulated the website address for the TSR analysis discussion paper to the PAG in November 2016.

PAG Meeting #52 Action Item #4: Ray Ensz indicated he would like a paper copy of the Satisfaction Survey.

Update: A paper copy of the survey was provided to Ray Ensz.

4) Update from Participants – Dawn Griffin (Canfor)/Stephanie Smith (BCTS)/Andrew Moore (CRL)

BC Timber Sales:

- several staffing changes;
- the early spring fires destroyed 850 hectares of plantations;
- currently developing three timber sales in the fire area (in the Forest Operations Schedule 2 Plan);
- to date, 350,000m³ have been offered of which 280,000m³ have been sold. Another 350,000m³ will be offered before March 31, 2017;

Question: Did the research plot (climate change plot) we visited last year survive the fire?

Answer: Yes.

Cameron River Logistics Inc.:

- Cameron River Logging name has been changed to Cameron River Logistics Inc.;
- No other changes;
- Operations are steady. Stake sales are up;
- Only one week CN Rail was down due to a washout;

Question: how much do you process?

Answer: about 3,000m³ of logs per week. Work 12 months of the year.

Canfor:

- Markets have improved since March, prices have improved;
- US housing market continues to recover;
- Canadian housing market is steady, forecast is it will remain stable for the year;
- Low turnover of mill staff;
- No lost time accidents;
- The mill receives fire protection under contract from the Charlie Lake Fire Department;
- Currently developing blocks for salvage harvest in the fire areas;

Question: Is there a possibility of salvage in an area damaged by fire, it may be outside the Fort St. John Timber Supply Area, located up the Alaska Highway?

Answer: you are correct that fire area is in the Fort Nelson TSA. It is all non merchantable timber – black spruce primarily. Canfor and BCTS have no plans to harvest that wood. The Ministry of Forests may do something to rehabilitate portions of that fire area.

Question: To BCTS, did the Fort St John fires substantially change your plans for development this year?

Answer: We didn't partake in the fire salvage. Canfor has proposed new blocks to salvage timber from the fire. BCTS is only developing blocks that were already in the FOS 2 Plan within the fire area. This should be just less than 100,000m³.

5) Pilot Regulation Update – Karrilyn Vince

Following is a description of the discussion that occurred regarding the update Karrilyn Vince provided respecting the future of the Pilot Project Regulation.

Summary:

- Changes to the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) are expected to be made by 2018.
- Sustainable Forest Management Plan #2 (SFMP #2) has been extended to 2018.
- SFMP #3 is presently available to First Nations for consultation.
- Presently are not sure which components of the Pilot will be incorporated into the new legislation. There are a lot of positive aspects to the pilot.
- Auditor's Report on Forest practices in B.C. made recommendations that are already incorporated in the Pilot.
- Would like to have a series of coordinated recommendations from this group (PAG) that could be presented to the executive, of the value of the Pilot. Would like to see specific recommendations regarding aspect of the Pilot that should be considered for incorporation in revised legislation. Do not want to see any of the positive aspects of the Pilot lost in the new legislation.

Comment from PAG member: Would like something formal sent to PAG members asking specifically what you would like from them.

GW: You are asking that what has been learnt won't be lost.

KV: What keeps you, as PAG members, coming back?

PAG member: We get good updates, interesting field trips, learning. We ensure that the standards that have been set are being met. This type of group doesn't exist anywhere else in the province.

GW: Participants want feedback.

PAG member: An advantage to the Pilot is there is coordinated access between the participants which is better i.e. less roads being built, easier to review.

Participant: The pilot process addresses the Forest Practices Board recommendations for engagement with the public. Why wouldn't this process be kept?

PAG member: For me, it is the information provided that I find valuable. The questions I have get answered and I appreciate that.

Participant: The report on the Pilot Project that was published in 2009 stated the people may have changed but the plans have stayed. Recommend Karrylyn review this report.

PAG member: You stated new legislation is expected in 2018, does that mean, is the clock ticking on the Pilot or the rest of the province?

KV: Good question! I think the auditor's report has changed the playing field and the expectations from the public have changed. Public want better access to information and want to know that the forest companies are having a positive effect on the ground.

PAG member: Pilot has lasted this long, means it is working.

Participant: The PAG is one of the good aspects of the Pilot.

Participant: I understand PAG members appreciate the information provided. We should be asking for more public involvement throughout the province.

KV: Government likes that the Pilot is a collaborative effort.

Steps going forward:

KV: I understand that the PAG would like to see:

- 1) A letter from me asking for recommendations from the PAG.
- 2) Share with the PAG the actions Karrylyn will undertake.
- 3). Describe the process and schedule for change of the Pilot with new legislation.

6. Review of 2016 Audit Results – Evan Hauk, Walter Fister

A summary of audit findings was presented by Canfor and BCTS.

Canfor:

Internal Audit- evaluation of Forest Management System

Findings: No major non conformances, 1 minor non-conformance, 2 opportunities for improvement. 1 Best Practice was identified.

2016 Participants External Audit by KPMG

Findings: No major non-conformances, 1 minor non-conformance, No opportunities for improvement, 3 best practices. Action plan for the non conformance was submitted to the auditors.

Conclusion of External Audit: Recommended for continued certification.

BC Timber Sales:

Internal Audit – evaluation of Environmental Management System (EMS) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

Findings: No major non-conformances, 4 minor non-conformances, 3 opportunities for improvement, 2 best practices.

2016 Participants External Audit by KPMG

Findings: No major non-conformances, 2 minor non-conformances, 1 opportunity for improvement, 1 good practice.

Conclusion of External Audit: Recommended for continued certification.

Question: Did the auditor recommend that BC Timber Sales do infra-red scanning of burn piles?

Answer: When the BCTS Timber Sales Manager signs the timber sale document, it is the logger's (holders of the TSL) responsibility to ensure the piles have been extinguished.

PAG Member comment: We need better practices around debris piles.

PAG Member: Was the burning permit violated?

Answer: It was issued by Wildfire Branch; however I feel they shouldn't have issued the permit.

Answer: No the permit wasn't followed completely.

PAG Comment: Don't understand why the burning permit was issued, it doesn't make sense to allow burning to occur in March.

Answer: Forest Practice Board has asked KPMG to look at the issue of fire hazard assessment at all areas audited in 2016. There is a large deficiency for fire hazard assessments.

PAG Member: I recommend only burning in fall and scan in the spring.

BREAK

Action Item #1: PAG would like more information regarding what the long term vision is for the impact of climate change on the forests here, such as fire and what can be done proactively.

7. Review of 2015-16 SFM Annual Report – Darrell Regimbald, Stephanie Smith

Key Achievement: The Sustainable Forest Management Plan #2 is now in its fifth year.

Findings: Consistent with 66 out of 67 target indicators.

Indicator not met:

#63 Worker Training: new BCTS staff had not completed all their training.

Report highlights were reviewed.

-Harvest levels for both coniferous and deciduous area were reviewed.

-Brushing, both manual and herbicide use were reviewed. There has been a reduction in herbicide use.

-Wildlife Tree Retention target have been met.

-Indicator #23, contracts awarded to First Nations showed 2 contracts were awarded to First Nations.

-The proportion of money spent locally was reviewed.

Contraventions:

-Canfor had one incident of harvesting equipment encroaching onto Private Land.

-BCTS had herbicide application outside the treatment area of less than 0.1 hectare out of a total of 323.4 hectares treated.

-all issues have been tracked and action plans developed.

Following is a summary of the discussion that ensued regarding the participants activities in 2015.

Question: Still harvesting dead mountain pine beetle pine?

Answer: Yes, but the volume is declining, primarily because the quality of the dead pine is also declining.

Question: How much wood was shipped out of FSJ?

Answer: Less than 100,000m³ (Andrew Moore-CRL)

Question: Have Visual Quality Assessments have been met? There has been a lot of logging along the Alaska Highway. Maybe signage should be put up on highway

Answer: Objectives were met on 7 out of the 8 assessments required. The 8th (Block 03098) hasn't been completed yet and is not due until December 31, 2016. Results of the assessment of block 03098 will be included in the 2016-17 annual report.

PAG Comment: Would like to thank Canfor for reducing the use of herbicide.

PAG Question: How are we doing compared to the rest of the province?

Answer: Can't comment for other licensees, but very few of Canfor's other operations are at 100% achievement.

Task for PAG members: PAG members are to review the report and send comments to the Participants prior to October 31, 2016.

8. Other Information Updates

a) Public Participation Satisfaction Survey – Walter Fister

Following is a summary of the discussion of the results of the satisfaction survey.

- Sent to those who are either an advisor or a PAG member on February 2016;
- This survey is a requirement to indicator 64;
- 8 responses to survey, 17 questions were asked;
- Overall mark was 91%;
- Three lowest scores were questions 12, 15 and 16 but still achieved 85%;
- Highest mark was question 11: Open communication;
- Indicator 64 was met.

b) Forest Health (Fires, Spruce & Mtn Pine Beetle) – Elizabeth Hunt

Fires:

- Forests affected by the spring 2016 fires will be harvested this harvest season;
- Unfortunately there were a number of blocks that had already been planted and were either free growing or well on their way to achieving FG status. Funding will be applied for from the government (*Section 108*) that will be applied to blocks to return them to the state they were prior to the fire. *Forests for Tomorrow* funding will be applied for to plant blocks that were previously Free Growing.

Question: Are we accepting deciduous species regeneration in the fires?

Answer: yes.

Insects:

-Spruce beetle is noted by MFLNRO surveys as spreading into the Pine Pass area (Carbon Creek headwaters).

-some harvest activity focusing on the spruce beetle killed in the south Peace is occurring.

Question: Did we learn anything from the MPB infestation and how we treated it?

Answer: there are people in the Mackenzie District who are focusing on what treatment/action works best on stopping the spread of spruce beetle.

Question: How much research has been done on other methods of controlling insects?

Answer: Some chemicals have been tried, but the use of trap trees and using sanitation logging seems to be the best method.

PAG Member: The Mackenzie District has been keeping us informed with what they are doing with the spruce beetle. They are working hard on this issue.

Action Item #2: At a future PAG meeting, invite a Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations representative to give a presentation on the spruce beetle and methods of treatment.

c) Timber Supply Review – Elizabeth Hunt

- The Timber Supply Analysis data package will likely be released next week.

- There will be a 60 day public review period then the Chief Forester will make their Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) determination.

d) Field Trip Summary – Evan Hauk

- Was well attended.
- Stopped at the Beatton Fire;
- Wildfire Branch personnel joined the group and discussed various aspects of the spring fires;
- Discussed *Forests for Tomorrow* (FFT) funding;
- Discussed *Section 108* application;
- A Doig River First Nations member gave a presentation on traditional plant use;

PAG Member comment: It was a good trip. It was educational and good for networking.

e) Softwood Lumber Update – Tony Wipfli

- SLA expired in October 2015. A one year negation period started when no trade action will occur. That period has expired. Negotiations are still ongoing.
- To date the Americans have not imposed a countervailing duty to Canadian softwood. Duties are expected to be imposed.

9) Review of PAG Membership and Notice – Darrell Regimbald

PAG members reminded of requirement to post a notice of PAG membership and were asked if they would allow their names to be published as a member of the Public Advisory Group. Members present were fine with having the notice of membership published. It was noted that the following people should be removed from the membership list - Jack Trask, Darcy Chipesia.

10) Overview of 2017 Meeting Schedule

- Spring meeting in late February or early March.
- The CSA Standard was revised in September 2016. Changes have been made. Participants will need to review the new standard and may need to update/revise the

matrix of indicators. May require input from PAG members, possibly an additional meeting to review the proposed changes to the SFMP.

-Field trip in the spring/summer 2017.

Action Item #3: Participants to provide a schedule of upcoming meetings for the first six months of 2017.

- The new *Forest Operations Schedule* (FOS #3): the analysis will be completed late fall/early winter. Would like it out for public review in early 2017. If the comments from public review indicate changes will be needed, these changes will be reported at the March 2017 meeting.

11) Feedback on Meeting

- Good dinner, but more deserts!
- More pictures/PowerPoints;

Handouts for Meeting #53

- 1) Meeting #53 agenda.
- 2) Draft minutes from Meeting #52.

Summary of Actions from Meeting #53

PAG Meeting #53 Action Item #1: PAG would like more information regarding what the long term vision is for the impact of climate change on the forests here, such as fire and what can be done proactively.

Status – The Participants will invite a speaker to give a presentation to the PAG regarding the impacts of climate change on area forests.

PAG Meeting #53 Action Item #2: At a future PAG meeting, invite a Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations representative to give a presentation on the spruce beetle and methods of treatment.

Jeanne Robert – MFLNRO entomologist will give a presentation on Sx beetle at the March 8 PAG meeting.

PAG Meeting #53 Action Item #3: Participants to provide a schedule of upcoming meetings for the first six months of 2017.

Schedule of meetings for 2017 will be discussed at the March 8 meeting.