

**Fort St. John Results Based Pilot Project
Public Advisory Group Meeting #66
Thursday, April 27, 2023
Northern Grand Conference Centre**

PAG Meeting (Open to Public) 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Meeting Attendance:

Participants

Name	Interest	Phone	Email
Carmen Anderson	Canfor	250-990-0015	carmen.anderson@canfor.com
Darrell Regimbald	Canfor	250-787-3651	darrell.regimbald@canfor.com
Chelsea Roy	Canfor	250-787-3696	chelsea.roy@canfor.com
Kristine Bock	Canfor	250-787-3609	kristine.bock@canfor.com
Andrew Tyrrell	Canfor	250-787-3665	andrew.tyrrell@canfor.com
Brett Stewart	Canfor	250-787-3690	brett.stewart@canfor.com
Sydney Havenga	Canfor	778-256-7303	sydney.havenga@canfor.com
Mark Phinney	Canfor	250-224-4754	mark.phinney@canfor.com
Athena Andritz	LP	250-329-5073	Athena.andritz@lpcorp.com
Sarah Curtis	LP	250-261-3451	Sarah.curtis@lpcorp.com
Davee Palmantier	LP	250-567-5798	davee.palmantier@lpcorp.com
Walter Fister	BCTS	250-262-3328	Walter.fister@gov.bc.ca
Adrienne Pierre	BCTS	250-997-7281	Adrienne.pierre@gov.bc.ca
Larry McFadden	BCTS	250-262-3324	Lawrence.mcfadden@gov.bc.ca
Andrew Moore	Cameron River Logistics	250-789-3621	Andrew@transloadservices.ca

PAG Interest Representatives and Alternates

Name	Interest	Phone	Email
Sara Rowe	Doig River First Nation	250-793-0993	srowe@doigriverfn.com
Dave Harris	Range	250-827-3503	dharris@pris.bc.ca
Ray Ensz	Trapping	250-793-2825	rbensz@shaw.ca
Jim McKnight	Environment	250-785-9758	Jimk01@telus.net
Budd Phillips	Non-Comm Recreation	250-785-1283 ext. 4683	Budd.phillips@worksafebc.com
Andy Ackerman	PAG	250-787-8457	ackerman@telus.net

Other

Name	Interest	Phone	Email
Gail Wallin	Facilitator	250-305-9161	gwallin@wlake.com
Anna Regnier	Observer	250-787-3392	Anna.regnier@gov.bc.ca

Meeting start: 6:00 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions (AT)

This meeting is being held on the traditional territory of Treaty 8 First Nations. It has been 3.5 years since the last in-person PAG meeting.

2. Review of meeting agenda and meeting protocol (GW)

GW - Any issues, concerns, or errors in the circulation of the meeting summary?
All - No.

3. Review of Meeting #65 draft summary, action items and approval

Actions from last meeting not completed are listed below and to be addressed.

New ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS	COMMENTS
1) Find out what happened to Taylor Pulp finished product after curtailment and report to Ray E	Kristine	Closed	Follow-up question from PAG regarding chip pile
2) Discuss topic of controlled burns - both what Canfor's procedures will be, but also your process for involving other parties.	Canfor	Closed	<i>see below</i>
3) If Trade Show booth participation, include information re: Pilot Project and PAG	Participant Working Group	Closed	<i>see below</i>
4) Participants will draft a 1-page recruitment request that says who we are, how often we meet, your role, how long we've been active and a public call out with those points.	Participant Working Group	Closed	<i>see below</i>

- 1) KB – Chips are likely being shipped to PG. The Taylor mill is permanently curtailed. No finished product left in the building.
- 2) AT – Andrew Tyrrell met with Kaleb Bellamy to discuss what assistance Canfor would be able to provide to the Rod & Gun club in their efforts to get prescribed burns approved and implemented. Kaleb B and group frustration with lack of approval for conducting prescribed burning for wildlife habitat enhancement. AT suggested Canfor could provide some in-kind support, but not operationally on Canfor behalf.
Budd - expressed continued frustrations for access to permits.
Andy – Ministries' shuffles causing frustration to process permits, all biologists stayed with Wildlife and Land Resources, while one went to Forests to handle permit processing. Greg VD is frustrated. Sonja Leverkus lives in northern Rockies (Fort Nelson) with great experience and a pleasure to work with suggested to government to allow citizen review committee for permits. Ministry is the final decision maker. Beginning to see prescribed burning permits nearing approval.
- 3) AT - PAG and Pilot Project promoted at the FSJ trade show. Potential interest from some in joining PAG.
- 4) AT – Created and circulated recruitment info sheet

4. Update from Participants

- **BCTS Update – Adrienne Pierre**

- BCTS 20th anniversary.
- New website updated and revamped for bidding. Reach out to her if need help navigating
- Value-added manufacturing program announced in January, intent is to provide dedicated timber allotment to small and medium sized registrants. Legislative amendments still to occur.
- No timber sales since June 2021. 200,000 m³ to be released for sale in FSJ for 2023 and 2024.
- New staff – Colin Langlois, Sam Asirifi. Hiring for: Engineering Technologist, Certification Standards Officer, and Woodlands Manager.
- **Budd** – Are timber sales providing oversight on salvage for buyers?
AP – Yes, we are trying to put together a development contract for fires that happened
- **DR** – is Stephanie Smith filling the Woodlands Manager role?
AP – She is wearing a lot of hats right now, but not filling the role officially.

- **Canfor – Carmen Anderson**

- Experiencing challenging markets and pricing for lumber, fiber shortages across the province, Chetwynd sawmill and pellet plant permanently closed on April 14th. Fiber from TFL48 will be sold to West Fraser or come to FSJ, no details on how much at this time. About 40k m³ in transfers between Chetwynd and FSJ. Chetwynd woodlands staff are still working, will eventually amalgamate ourselves to Peace Woodlands.
- Canfor did make offers to Chetwynd mill staff for placement at other sites, and we currently have one millwright that will come to FSJ site
- Taylor pulp mill will not restart. Small crew is still on site for maintenance.
- PG pulp and paper closed, pulp line closed, paper is still operating
- Houston is closed 2 years, upgrades and needs to be approved, June 2023
- No major safety incidents. We did have a fire on our large line but no huge downtime. We will be running short logs (12') from Chetwynd which is going well. Lots of mills in BC are taking downtime, FSJ is not.
- In 2022 Canfor spent \$6 million on an auto-wrapper. Energy plant had an unplanned rebuild, paving project of \$1.5 million. \$2 million to spend on small line upgrades.
- Currently have very good log inventory
- Big thank you to 6 Nations Ventures for their work at mile 118 satellite yard

- **Ray** – The Taylor pulp mill appears to have more chips in the yard now than when the mill was running. What is happening with them?
ACTION: Canfor to report what the destination for the Taylor Pulp chip pile is.
Ray – will the mill run again?
Canfor – do not know what the future of the plant will be.
Ray – any plans for spraying? FN land claim areas will not be sprayed?
KB – A hold on aerial spraying, no helicopter use, backpack spraying may be used for site prep on a case-by-case basis and working with FN's to notify.
Ray – Is no spraying brought on by FN's?
KB – Yes, in response to FN's and public desire.

- **LP – Sarah Curtis**

- Company-wide project of moving towards 75% value added products
- New products, SmartGuard (termite resistant), TopNotch, Weather logic (OSB siding with membrane to removed need to wrap new buildings during construction).
- Hiring for Quality Manager and Safety Manager. Capital project to build additional storage and warehouse extension (10 million dollars), rail capacity increase.
- Challenging market conditions. Moved from 4 shifts to 3 shifts, Monday-Friday.
- Mill continues to primarily run from private wood sales. Lack of permit approvals, BRFN implementation agreement, lack of timber license for crown land harvesting.

- **Ray** – Appears that deciduous logs are coming from Alberta private land and delivered to FSJ. How much of the 865k m³ of volume delivered to LP mill came from Alberta?
- **Gail – Action: Sarah Curtis to follow-up on volume of private sales from Alberta**

- **Cameron River Logistics**

- Participant with non-replaceable forest license. We don't do any current logging but has silviculture obligations ongoing. Transload operation stores and ships local timber south to Dunkley Lumber via rail.
- Have had problems sourcing rail cars.
- No plan for summer or winter logging
- 80k m³ in the yard, 15% of volume came from Alberta

- **Additional Information**

- **AT** – Elizabeth Hunt couldn't make it but relayed information regarding spruce beetle update. No surveys to be conducted and there will be no focus on spruce beetle monitoring in the North Peace this year as 2022 observations did not show population increase or big concerns. Her team's focus for 2023 will be assessing whether managed stands are likely to meet future volume expectations. South Peace still has spruce beetle at concerning levels (Canfor observations in TFL).

- **AT** - Tradeshow in FSJ was a success, Brett helped lead, many spruce seedlings handed out to the public. One possible recruitment for a new PAG member.

Budd – have you considered experimental planting of western larch?

DR – ministry has seed transfer guidelines, potential for sourcing seed that will be adapted for changing climate. Species types and seed lots to be used across the province, it may identify western larch.

KB – Chetwynd is doing some field trials regarding seed transfer experiments. Not with Larch

Budd – Western Larch was planted in Bear Lake. Bring larch seedlings to the tradeshow next year to hand out to the public?

Gail – talk more on this, later.

Walter – Expressed Thanks to Woodmere Nursery that BCTS spruce seedlings were sourced from. Donated at their own cost to be given away at the tradeshow.

5. **BRFN Implementation Agreement (Carmen A & Andrew T)**

- Government reps were invited to speak to this topic, and had accepted. Cancelled on short notice. Participants felt it important to provide some information to PAG regardless.

- **AT** - Yahey vs Province of BC – Cumulative impacts on the landscape. Treaty rights must be protected. Court agreed with Blueberry River FN. After the ruling, interim agreement for some resource development.

Implementation agreement released in January, 2023. Large document including 23 articles and 16 schedules, open source to the public. Mentions new protected areas, land use planning changes, and resource development parameters. Consensus agreements signed between gov't and Doig, Halfway, Fort Nelson and Saúlteau First Nations as well

CA - Province will make best efforts to halt forestry within the designated High-Value (HV) areas, excepting Schedule K blocks, that we will proceed to permit and harvest. Schedule K is based on licensee lists provided to government on estimated 2-year harvest plan.

Budd – What is considered “High Value”?

CA – We can follow up on this

CA – harvesting in FRRRA (forest reserve and recovery areas) and community trapline areas to cease by March 1st, 2025. Any forestry development in the ‘claim area’ after this date will be reviewed on an application-by-application basis. Section 6.5 in schedule K will be considered by BRFN and province.

AT – 6.3 .6.4 Silviculture, no more use of aerial herbicide. Manual herbicide for forestry not allowed unless approved by BRFN as exemption. Silviculture and reforestation within HV1 area will be considered. 6.6 – SFMP. Parties will review within 2 years regarding revisions.

Andy – You referred to “will be reviewed” whom with the province will that be?

AT – Great question. We do not know.

Andy – I hope it is someone with detailed knowledge of this area.

Gail – Discuss later.

CA – 6.7 Ecosystem Based Mgmt. will be consistent with Schedule C until watershed management basin plan is complete, 4 major watersheds identified as priority area. Not a lot of detail on how this will work. Parties will manage the land base with natural variability in boreal upland. Our SFM plan has targets based on natural disturbance units, this agreement is moving forest management to a finer scale.

AT - 6.8 Allowable Annual Cut, the parties will agree to review the FSJ timber supply and present adjustments to the area. No further conversion of forested crown land into agricultural or private land. 15.2 - BRFN will be granted a replaceable forest license of 150k m³ annually with an area-based tenure by the end of 2023. No mention of timber profile in the agreement. We look forward to working with Treaty 8 Nations moving forward.

Gail – Canfor staff will not and cannot speak for government or BRFN, the implementation agreement is a public facing document. Any questions for AT or CA?

Budd – Next week the provincial government is hosting old growth seminars, how relevant will those seminars be in relation to the agreement we’re talking about right now?

AT – None. Canfor will have staff attending.

Sara – One virtual old growth seminar next week, no relation between BFRN agreement and the old growth strategy.

Andy – Part of this process, government needs to step up with communication, is anyone planning a workshop for long term impacts to the forest industry? How is this going to all unfold? I don’t want to see stakeholders wake up one morning and be left behind, everyone needs to know where this is going.

Gail – as PAG are you interested in ongoing information and communication regarding the agreement? Yes.

Budd – This agreement will have direct impacts on us.

CA –We are also trying to understand the implications.

Andy – we must organize to bring people together, major impacts will occur in this area

KB – Local government is still working through the same documentation as us to understand the whole intent. Dawson Creek ministry staff were not included at the table during negotiations and development of the agreement.

Andy – Whole other sectors to be impacted, hunters were left behind on other developments. Need to start planning now.

DR –we have shared this sentiment with government over the past 2 years, we don't know what the goal posts are yet, hope it comes soon.

Gail –similar uncertainty at the time of the Tsilhqotin Title Case in the Cariboo, aboriginal entitlement to lands, government and FN's were working separately.

Davee –in PG working for Conifex at the time, all forest sector was worried in BC.

Gail - BRFN will gather resources and capacity to implement this.

Andy – if tenures are expiring in 2 years, something must be done now.

Gail – **Action: participants to include more information regarding the impacts of the First Nations agreements to the Participants and PAG, at the next meeting.**

6. Audits

- **Canfor, Andrew Tyrrell** - audited by KPMG (Sylvi H) in November 2022. Two field days – one pickup, one helicopter. No findings Commented on good efforts by Canfor in responding to FN concerns surrounding retention, screening, and WTPs.
- Internal audit in August of this year (2023), Phil Carruthers will be on site. Focus will be on structures over streams and sediment control.
- **BCTS, Adrienne Pierre** - BCTS had external SFI audit in the fall (September 2022), field portion and limited scope by KPMG. Focus on water management and protection. One finding of an ATV leaving ruts in a stream bed. One incident at the site of a removed crossing, snow-fill was not practical due to steepness of banks. Excavation of the bank to put in a culvert caused issues. A summary of findings and themes led to a focus on training of road deactivations for field staff to review SOP. Internal SFI audit upcoming in July 2023.

Budd - What is “all season” planning for crossings?

Walter - We will plan for sizing up adequate culvert size and log-fills for the summer and dry seasons. Can't use snow fill in deeper gullies. Providing clear options for licensees to operate with identified crossings on maps.

- **LP** – no audit updates to provide. Latest audit info presented at last meeting.

7. BREAK (15 mins)

8. Block Retention for Wildlife (Mark Phinney)

MP – Recent developments in retention of in-block stand structure. Wildlife tree patch (WTP) is a spatially identified area, digitized no go zones for loggers. Can be internal (not connected to block boundary, and external (attached to block boundary). We want more of them and of better representation of stand attributes. Want to move away from old style of small WTP to bigger and more dispersed, greater connectivity for wildlife.

Coarse woody debris (CWD) has increased on managed stands, we're moving away from pile and burn everything. We want better pile construction, not just fines, and piles within 30m of boundary may be more useful for animals. Blowdown of full tree retention contributes to tree length CWD

which is needed in harvested stands. Windrows can be an alternative to many small piles of CWD, creates connectivity to adjacent forest.

Shifts in policy and procedures, such as removing the use of aerial herbicide, allows for more standing trees which typically pose a significant hazard to herbicide pilots. Birds around the Peace area, most nesting habitat is managed at a broad scale, and manage for natural variation, species and age-class distribution, habitat needs can be suitable addressed. Incidental take is against the law, provincial and federal law. Canfor is not likely to need to harvest during nesting season this year due to high inventory of delivered logs. If operations must go into high ranked stands during nest season, we must follow best management practices, including stand retention. Pileated Woodpeckers excavate a cavity almost every year, old cavities are then in high demand by other wildlife – tree nesting ducks, small owls, kestrels, bluebirds, fisher and martin, bats, flying squirrels.

Fisher habitat – they are a blue listed species in this region, and red listed across the mountain range. Modeling potential and preferred habitat for fisher allows for generating specific target to implement during operations (e.g. leave 148 stems greater than 40 cm dbh, and denning and resting habitat). On a planning level, coarse scale we can see ahead of time what the overlap is and how to manage our impact by leaving WTPs and retention. Canfor is leaving more deciduous standing on the block than ever before. Pressure will be on for other licensee's (i.e. LP) that utilize deciduous trees (preferred fisher habitat) to supply their OSB mill. Vertical structure in managed stands is very important and previously overlooked, fallen and suspended trees above the ground provide great cover for fisher and other small mammals.

Vanderhoof operations in Canfor has been doing this for quite a while based on requests, now the FSJ operation is making strides to implementation. Moose are highly valued to hunters and indigenous communities; some moose population decline is noted in our area but not as bad as across the mountains. Leaving more food behind for moose, less herbicide, more protection around riparian areas, less brushing. Increased hiding cover and screening along roads helps ease pressure from hunters. Mineral licks require protection for wildlife to continue using in post-harvest stands. Caribou protection through area deferrals, and more policy is coming. PG has done some strip-cutting harvest methods, as well as in Chetwynd, to provide connectivity for caribou herds.

Changes will happen, but slowly, and competing values with mill demands, previous plans already approved in the system, pressure to not leave as much behind, wildfire, waste and residue, staff training, contractor training improvement.

Budd – How new is the fisher management tool?

MP – It is very new, within the past year seeing implementation.

Sarah Rowe – You mentioned continuous improvement, how is Canfor going to monitor these new best practices?

MP – Yes, monitoring must be done. Practices have been proven elsewhere. We are not yet monitoring in FSJ. Talking with Lyle, he has made connections with UNBC researchers pertaining to this area of study, and maybe the Okanagan area as well.

KB – Trail camera work has been implemented within the FSJ TSA.

Ray – You mentioned a research forest. What is this?

MP – The John Prince Research Forest, it has a close relationship with UNBC in terms of ongoing forestry and wildlife research.

Ray – Who are the members of the fisher management team?

MP - Rich Weir, Scott Jaeger, Inge-Jean Hansen

Ray – BC Trapper Association are having an upcoming meeting in Prince George. The Fisher population south of Powder King ski area, ALL traps will need fisher prevention mitigation measures, which increases costs for trappers. The loss of suitable habitat for fisher is/has major potential to affect trappers.

Visit the Fort St. John Pilot Project website - <http://www.fsjpilotproject.com/>

Budd – Increased CWD can be a safety concern, with increased risk to silviculture workers and reported injuries from increased debris within harvested areas

MP – trees need to be assessed for safety concerns and mitigation applied if necessary

Budd - Workers not hurt by standing trees, but from falling and contacting debris on the ground.

9. Field Trip 2023 – Discussion of potential dates and topics

AT – PowerPoint presentation with selected photos from past field trips 2006-2022. Why do fieldtrips? To bring the SFMP to life. An opportunity to showcase successes and non-successes within forest management. Fieldtrips are a chance to strengthen existing relationships and start new ones. A chance for members to provide feedback to licensees, but also, forestry outreach is an SFM commitment. There have been 13 trips to date (2006-2022). Would like to maximize number of PAG members attending. Previous topics and areas looked at have covered >30 different SFMP indicators. Reflecting on previous PAG field trips.

Andy – A previous field trip we attended was a visit to a climate change adaptation plantation, I would like to revisit the site and see how the fir and cedar are performing.

Andrew Moore – I agree. Also, a bird tour with the warblers or other bird related field trip.

Ray – Would like to see some of the wildlife retention blocks (Fisher)

AT – Last year I sent out a survey monkey poll, does that work again?

Gail – Any months you want to stay away? No trip in August. June or September is best.

Budd – Anything new or unique not planned this year?

KB – we have windrow blocks.

SC – LP has used windrows.

Gail – June seems like good timing, send AT and team a note.

10. Feedback on meeting

Andrew Moore – Room was fine, food was good.

Ray – Would like to have a monitor between tables

Gail – The hybrid meeting previously with the PAG was highest tech I have seen done

Anna – Could move the tables a bit closer to front for viewing

AT – Thank you for everyone for coming and participating. The Annual Report will be a focus of the fall meeting.

New ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS	COMMENTS
1) Find out what Canfor Pulp is doing with the chip pile at Taylor Pulp	Canfor	Open	Follow-up question on Taylor Pulp questions
2) Follow-up with PAG on the volume/percentage of deciduous fibre from private sales that came from Alberta	Sarah C.	Open	
3) Report to PAG what the definition of "High Value (HV) areas" is (from BRFN Implementation agreement)	Carmen	Open	
4) Maintain communication with PAG group on developments and clarity of the BRFN implementation agreement	Participant Working Group	Open	
5) Send out survey for dates and scope of next PAG field trip	AT	Open	