

**Fort St. John Results Based Pilot Project
Public Advisory Group Meeting #67
Thursday, October 12, 2023
Northern Grand Conference Centre**

PAG Meeting (Open to Public) 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Meeting Attendance:

Participants

Name	Interest	Phone	Email
Darrell Regimbald	Canfor	250-787-3651	darrell.regimbald@canfor.com
Kristine Bock	Canfor	250-787-3609	kristine.bock@canfor.com
Ethan Brandt	LP	250-261-3619	ethan.brandt@lpcorp.com
Sarah Curtis	LP	250-261-3451	sarah.curtis@lpcorp.com
Walter Fister	BCTS	250-262-3328	walter.fister@gov.bc.ca
Colin Langlois	BCTS	613-809-2208	colin.langlois@gov.bc.ca
Larry McFadden	BCTS	250-262-3324	lawrence.mcfadden@gov.bc.ca
Samuel Asirifi	BCTS	647-936-9286	Samuel.asirifi@mail.utoronto.ca

PAG Interest Representatives and Alternates

Name	Interest	Phone	Email
Sara Rowe	Doig River First Nation	250-793-0993	srowe@doigriverfn.com
Lisa Hardy	Saulteau First Nation	250-788-7290	forestry@saulteau.com
Ray Ensz	Trapping	250-793-2825	
Jim McKnight	Urban Communities	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

Advisors and Other

Name	Interest	Phone	Email
Gail Wallin	Facilitator	250-305-9161	gwallin@wlake.com
Mark VanTassel	Ministry of Forests	250-21908426	mark.vantassel@gov.bc.ca
Patrick Smook	Advisor: BCER	250-794-5314	patrick.smook@bc-er.ca
Joelle Ward	Advisor: WLRS	250-261-1598	joelle.ward@gov.bc.ca
Anna Regnier	Advisor: WLRS		anna.regnier@gov.bc.ca

Meeting start: 6:00 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions [Sarah Curtis, Gail Wallin]

This meeting is being held on the traditional territory of Treaty 8 First Nations.
Gail overview of her position as facilitator.

2. Review of meeting agenda and meeting protocol [Gail Wallin]

Any issues, concerns, or errors in the circulation of the meeting summary?

- Issue with Cameron River Logistics involved as a Participant of the PAG
 - CRL is still considered a participant – they have not given up a spot

3. Review of Meeting #66 draft summary, action items and approval [Gail Wallin]

Actions from last meeting.

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

- 1) Canfor manager was asked a couple days ago – response was that chips were hauled to PG and are gone.
- 2) 86k m³ came from Alberta, or 10% of LP fibre last year.
- 3) High value areas identified by BRFN through negotiations as important cultural and wildlife habitat. Each area has its own separate values.
- 4) Discussion to be had tonight with Mark’s presentation.
- 5) Field trip was had and will be discussed – now moved to next meeting (#68)

Summary notes for meeting #66 were accepted by PAG with no proposed changes.
Round table introductions for all present at meeting.

4. Wildfire Update [Mark VanTassel]

- Intense year for wildfires for the entire province
- Northeast 1.3 million ha of fire effected areas – largest fire year in province alone,
- Fort St John Timber Supply Area most affected, Fort Nelson TSA with similar affected area
- Burn severity mapping – identify area of high, medium, low intensity burn, and areas of no data collection or no burn.
 - Identify areas of potential salvage harvesting, silviculture opening impacts, areas to be reforested.
 - Completed for Donnie Creek, Red creek, Stoddart Creek, Boundary Lake, and Klua Lakes fire in FSJ TSA
 - Collection of data dependent on smoke/cloud cover when satellites are overhead.
 - Will be made public via BC public data warehouse, but currently (Oct 12) only available to the licensees.
- Government is working on deactivating and rehabilitating old fire line CAT guards.
- Working on salvage harvesting plans with licensees
 - Realistically only 2-year shelf life of burnt timber – very small amount of time – likely won't be able to make a dent in the 30 million m3 of burnt wood.
 - Limited by mill ability, contractor availability, sensitive area harvesting (cultural areas).
 - Ongoing discussions between government, First Nations, and licensees on where to harvest.
 - Late December to early 2024 to start facilitating new salvage harvests.
 - Wildfire Salvage Opportunity Agreements (WSOA)
 - Enabling agreement signed by province and FN that awards tenure to FN community for salvage harvest
 - Signing 3 WSOA soon
 - Max 50k m3 – seeking variance to increase number due to impact.
 - Must sign on to Plan – Sustainable Forest Management Plan (FSJ PP).
 - Tenures and permits come with silviculture obligations.
- Forest Operations Schedule amendment in process
- BC/FSJ Treaty 8 FN wildfire recovery working group
 - Fire heavily impacted FN values
 - Looking at rehabilitation
 - Minimizing road construction, a priority
- Discussion
 - Who interprets the burn severity data?
 - The government does an analysis and provides it in a package.
 - Is the burn severity mapping as of today?
 - Yes, it has been updated regularly.
 - Is reburn being tracked?
 - Not currently, but an analysis could be done on what has been burned previously with the existing fire shapes. Government is considering this for reforestation. Conversations need to be had over the next year regarding how bad plantations are affected by burns.
 - Minimizing new construction of access – is there discussion about potentially offsetting this by restoring some access that is existing?
 - If there is opportunity to use some existing cat guards as roads and decommissioning on the way out the gov will take that opportunity. Also looking into potential restoration areas accessed via roads already planned into a salvage block.

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- With large volume and limited time of salvage – is there consideration into non-traditional permits being considered for salvage, i.e. pellets and carbon etc.
 - Not currently as there hasn't traditionally been the economic need in the region, but if the opportunity arises the government is not against this.
- Is there any thought within the ministry regarding bumping the next timber supply review forward due to the impact of the fire?
 - Yes, it is a discussion point – long list of reviews to do currently. FSJ TSA is warranting a new timber supply review. On the radar, likely will be sooner rather than later.

5. Update from Participants [SC, CL, KB]

• LP Update – Sarah Curtis

- Multiple new positions filled since last meeting
- Sander project – challenges with sourcing supplies, new date Jan 2024; rail extension project – will occur in 2024.
- Woodlands update – 4 new hires
- Fibre
 - All fibre has been sourced from private land April-October
 - 120k m³ delivered.
 - BC 80k m³, AB 40k m³
- Winter plan
 - Switching to purely fire salvage
 - Looking to harvest 300k m³ salvage from crown land, limited by truck and contractor availability.
 - Main areas - Donnie Creek, South Fontas, Stoddart Creek, Boundary Lake
- Discussion
 - Is there old growth in Donnie creek areas we have planned to harvest.
 - **Action item – Sarah Curtis to Follow up on old growth in these areas**

• BCTS Update – Colin Langlois

- Provincial update
 - BCTS 20th anniversary
 - A lot of BCTS business areas working on wildfire response.
 - Seeing inefficiencies on response to fire salvage – conversations on streamlining are being had
- FSJ Operations
 - BCTS is participating in meetings with district and FN
 - Phase 1 target (Winter 2023-2024) 300k m³
 - Focus on medium to high severity in easy road access.
 - 50/50 conifer and deciduous
- Timber sale
 - 8k m³ made in 1 timber sale since last meeting.
 - 100k m³ planned per quarter for the next year green wood.
 - More fire salvage to ramp up in following quarters.
- Contracts
 - No recce contracts this year, hoping for next year
 - Arch contract wrapping up this year.
 - Multiphase development busy
 - Silviculture busy

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- Staffing
 - Currently full planning team
 - Lee Evans leaving BCTS this week – ops manager position opening soon
 - Hiring for several positions
- Discussion
 - Lots of mills shut down in province recently. Is the rush to salvage these trees going to be like the pine beetle and do mills have capacity to process all of this wood.
 - Mills have been running trials with the wood now and everything looks good. Deciduous is easier than conifer but contractor capacity is main issue at this point.
 - Cumulative effects of salvaging burnt areas – roads etc., how else are we minimizing impacts on all the other values on the land base?
 - It's a balance – 30 million in FSJ TSA burnt – licensees are after a very small portion. We will go after areas that are suitable for harvest. Also minimizing green wood harvest, maximize low impact harvest.
 - Highly suggested that BCTS should be focusing on fire and not green wood. Perception does not look good to many stakeholders.
 - BCTS needs to support mills currently as well, and lots of these sales are already laid out, ready to go, etc.
 - Giving out timber sale doesn't mean that it will be harvested, put it in the licensees' hands.
 - Government looking into green timber sales and will make decision based on whether permits are in the fire area and burn intensity.
- **Canfor Update – Kristine Bock**
 - General updates, mill reinvestments, acquisitions, and employee recognition
 - FSJ Operations
 - No major safety incidents
 - Capital projects being worked on, \$3 million in FSJ facility – canter line infeed, paving facility, maintenance projects.
 - Markets are currently slow – in decline with housing starts, renovations, rebuilds slow – expected to persist into 2024.
 - Negotiations for new collective agreement with united steel workers
 - CP made new reload yard in Edmonton, has opened flow to Midwest US markets.
 - Unprecedented wildfire season
 - Fire salvage program
 - Hoping to do 1 million m3 within the next year
 - Working with FN WSOAs to get as much damaged wood salvaged as possible.
 - Looking to harvest in South Fontas/Lapp creek, Horsegut (Trutch), and Tommy Lakes
 - Fieldwork is ongoing, ribbonless layout and comparative cruising being used
 - Contractors to do recces to remove green wood from FOS shapes, and ribbon riparian features
 - Silviculture
 - 199 blocks identified to date affected by fire
 - 11 planted blocks planted this year – 300k trees

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- Discussion
 - Deliveries to Chetwynd? Wood is starting to come in over the coming weeks.
 - Question on cutblocks with obligations that burnt – who has to pay to reforest those?
 - Section 108 funding – province has fund for contingency.
 - Any update on the future of Taylor Pulp? What's happening with the property and structure?
 - **ACTION – Kristine to follow up**
 - Is any burnt wood looking to be shipped out of the area?
 - Looking into this – PG specifically, but transportation cost is high
 - Managing safety in burned stands interesting – are there more considerations being made
 - Medical response drills with contractors, contractor awareness training, reminding contractors of hazards when winds are high, make sure they are taking safety seriously.

- **Cameron River Logistics Update**

- CRL not present

6. 2022/23 FSJ SFM Annual Report Highlights [Larry McFadden]

- Context
 - By Oct 31 Annually
 - Provided to district manager and the PAG
 - Summary of performance, SFM indicators
- Overview
 - Consistent with 59 of 66 performance indicator
 - Consistent with 28 of 33 indicators related to s 42 (legal)
 - 5 of 9 landscape level strategies
- Exceptions to Targets
 - #2 Seral stages
 - Late forest targets must be met for all NDU
 - Did not meet timeline for 100% OFMA identification
 - Aspatial levels Met, Spatial delineation delayed
 - #8 Shrubs
 - Cannot meet target for Kahntah LU
 - Also impacts #51
 - #30 Establishment delay
 - All conifer and mixed wood regen must be done within allowed target timeline.
 - Canfor deciduous establishment was longer than allowed (4.1yrs vs 3.5yrs max)
 - #34 Water quality concern rating
 - No surveys completed due to contractor availability and fire season.
 - #48/48a AAC partition – conifer planning and performance
 - Within variance for conifer planted and cut in the core area
 - Offside on amount of spruce planted (67% vs max 50%)
 - #51 Maintenance of wildlife and fisheries habitat values
 - 10/14 indicator targets met.
 - 2, 8, 34 not met as result of other indicators not being met
- Harvesting (Crown)
 - Conifer vol 582k m³
 - Deciduous 2,628 m³

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- Reforestation
 - BCTS 2.9 mill trees planted.
 - Licensees 2.6 mill trees planted.
- Aerial herbicide
 - BCTS & LP no spray
 - Canfor spray 726ha
- \$3.4 million total in contracts awarded to FN
- Discussion
 - Re: aerial spraying – isn't this being curtailed under the blueberry agreement, why is there spray in the report?
 - This was in 2022 before the agreement.
 - Water quality concern rating – what is this measuring?
 - Indicator established in the SFMP to give a sense of the number of crossings we have on the land base that have concerns of potential of sedimentation and siltation in waterbodies.
 - Assesses certain percentage of crossings across the landscape – each crossing is given a score, scores are tallied up, and watershed is given a total score.
 - \$3.4 million in contracts in FN – did this cover all nations in the TSA?
 - 6 nations ventures ran the satellite yard
 - Some contracts to Doig
 - Multi-phase development – other FN who partnered with other companies (i.e. Strategic)
 - Not 100% local FN but emphasis on including FN in general.

7. BREAK (20 mins)

8. Peace Forest District (*BRFN and T8 agreements and potential impacts to SFMP; Fibre supply status in NE BC*) [MVT]

- Ministry split into FOR and WLRS
- Two vacancies in FOR
- FOR is moving forward with changing regulation with FRPA.
 - Enable forest landscape planning – modelled after FSJ pilot project, replace Forest Stewardship Plans
 - More engagement and consultation
 - Kudos to Pilot Project and this group for paving the way.
- Protecting Treaty 8 Rights and supporting responsible resource development – new agreements overview - presentation
- Why are agreements needed?
 - June 2021 Supreme Court concluded BRFN had Treaty 8 rights infringed on through cumulative effects.
 - Declarations
 - Province's mechanisms for assessing and accounting for cumulative effects are lacking.
 - There are not sufficient and appropriate lands in blueberry claim area and allow for exercise of treaty rights.
 - Province cannot continue to authorize activities that unjustifiably infringe treaty rights.
 - Establish timely and enforceable mechanisms to assess and manage the cumulative impact of industrial development.

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- Working toward agreements
 - 6/8 treaty 8 FN came together seeking negotiated path to reconcile on cumulative impacts on their treaty right.
 - Two BRFN agreement since court decision
 - Interim agreement Oct 2021
 - Implementation agreement Jan 2023
- Expected Outcomes
 - Recognition of treaty rights, timely and enforceable policies and procedures to address cumulative effects, restoration investment and program to heal land and people, new land use plans for BRFN Claim area, new protected areas for industrial activities, new regime/system for all natural resource sector activities including new
- Consensus document
 - Address cumulative impacts of industrial development and settlement, manage cumulative effects, and protection proposals for enhanced management areas.
- Land use planning
 - New Watershed Management Basin Plans
 - Four watershed management basins identified in the BRFN claim area.
 - Implement ecosystem-based management in these areas.
 - Wildfire needs to be discussed regarding these areas.
 - HV1 – identified from forestry areas as no harvest areas for cultural value.
 - Forestry excluded from all these areas, some oil and gas and restoration activities permitted in certain areas.
- Honoring the Treaty
 - Agree to develop shared approach to enhance awareness, education, understanding, and appreciation for our shared treaty.
 - Measure will differ between FN.
 - Shared public communications.
 - Shared training and awareness building
 - Education and community services
- Key items for forestry
 - Land protection measured for HV1 areas, BRFN trapline areas, FRRRA areas.
 - Schedule K of agreement identifies ~2 years of blocks BRFN consented to, as well as about 40 woodlots that can proceed.
 - 5 woodlots impacted and can't proceed – compensation process initiated.
 - Priority watershed basins (4)
 - Elimination of herbicide use in silviculture areas
 - Commitment for FN woodland license
 - Review SFMP
- Implications to Forest Sector
 - Timber supply impacts – large.
 - Detailed analysis of impacts to re-assess current state.
 - Forest sector/mill viability analysis to help inform impact analysis.
 - New timber supply review will be required.
 - Need further clarity on plans and measures.
 - New legal orders, measures, values and targets will require SFMP review of targets and indicators.
 - 2023 fires need to be considered in all of above.
- Discussion
 - Agreements/consensus documents difficult to find on website.

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- Interest to most of the members requires more pragmatic level – what can we anticipate on day-to-day basis for operations and daily life in Northeast.
 - It will take time to get there. Will see a lot more coordinated land base activities moving forward. A lot more forestry and oil and gas organization. A lot more involvement with the FN in resource development. More operations on the ground in the block level. Voluntary actions currently taken by participants will happen a lot more commonly. More retention, more line-of-sight screening. More management of old growth and old forest.
- Biggest challenge is going to be capacity. With all the changes and processes decisions being made in a timely manner will likely be difficult. Everyone will need to be present in building capacity.
 - Capacity funding has been provided to FN to try to help with building capacity, but it has not been enough and there are challenges across the board for hiring staff.
- Will the Fort St John LRMP be discarded in favor of the new plans re: watershed management basins?
 - Yes – at some point, but don't know how it's all going to come together with FN and different potential values.
 - Capacity is a concern.
- Timber supply from private land – does the decision affect cumulative effects on private land?
 - Depends on what is occurring on private land and if it is a crown resource being affected (wildlife, water, residual crown timber)
 - Overall general private land is not affected from these decisions for activities on private land not requiring government authorization.
- Re: ecosystem management - are we going to find ourselves forced to go to another certification system within the watershed basins?
 - No – we will have to look at what ecosystem management means and look at how indicators and targets can be built into the plans.
 - No true definition of ecosystem management – will need to be defined better.

9. Recent SFM Audit Results Audits [CL, KB]

- **ACTION ITEM** To be sent out by email.

10. Field Trip 2023 Review [GW]

- **ACTION ITEM** next meeting talk about field trip

11. Q&A Session; Feedback on meeting [GW]

- Meeting was great, we will need to keep the implementation of agreements as a steady agenda item for the coming meetings due to the uncertainty. Need to stay focused.
- Good meeting, glad to see Blueberry information. Racist sentiments and comments fueled by lack of transparency with whole thing.
 - Need to increase transparency to see what's negotiated.
- Good meeting, what are we going to do to get over this? Damage is just starting to be understood. What are we doing now to mitigate it?
- Regular updates re: progress of watershed management basins are critical for PAG and participants to understand how they will be affected, how the SFMP will be affected, etc. Doesn't make sense to rewrite SFMP without knowing the affects.
- Updates on fire increasing.

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- Where is the advisory part of the public advisory group? Lots of listening to the agenda but not a lot of chance to advise due to the amount of stuff.
 - Opportunity will manifest when we go to rewrite SFMP.
- Think about more frequent meetings or let meetings go later – does not need to be immediate decision.
- Committee should be kept very up to date and very involved with what the government to keep things going.
 - May need to go up to more meetings to allow for this.
- Updated reporting as information for fire becomes available.
- Furbearers missed a lot – but it is a large part of the whole thing. Trappers need to be considered more.
- GW Closing Comment
 - Too much on agenda, suggest more than 2 meetings a year to cover all the comments.
- SC Closing Comment
 - Thanks for coming, we will get the meeting minutes soon.

New ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS	COMMENTS
Follow up on old growth within LP proposed salvage block boundaries in Donnie Creek area	Sarah Curtis (LP)	Open	
Provide information on what is happening with the Taylor Pulp structure and property	Kristine Bock (or other Canfor Rep)	Open	
Recent SFM Audit Results to be sent out to PAG members via email	Colin Langlois (BCTS), Kristine Bock (or other Canfor Rep)	Open	
Discuss future field trip ideas and recap fall 2023 field trip at next meeting	Licensees (Canfor, BCTS, LP)	Open	

Meeting end: 8:48 pm