

**Fort St. John Results Based Pilot Project  
Public Advisory Group Meeting #68  
Thursday, April 4, 2024  
Northern Grand Conference Centre**

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

**Meeting Attendance:**

***Participants***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Darrell Regimbald	Canfor	250-787-3651	<a href="mailto:darrell.regimbald@canfor.com">darrell.regimbald@canfor.com</a>
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***PAG Interest Representatives and Alternates***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Sara Rowe	Doig River First Nation	250-793-0993	<a href="mailto:srowe@doigriverfn.com">srowe@doigriverfn.com</a>
Lisa Hardy	Saulteau First Nation	250-788-7290	<a href="mailto:forestry@saulteau.com">forestry@saulteau.com</a>
Lyle Mortenson	Halfway River First Nation		<a href="mailto:lylemort@telus.net">lylemort@telus.net</a>
Dave Harris	Range		<a href="mailto:dharris@pris.ca">dharris@pris.ca</a>
Jim McKnight	Environment / conservation	250-785-9758	<a href="mailto:jimk01@telus.net">jimk01@telus.net</a>
Darryl Kroeker	Trapping (Alternate)		<a href="mailto:dkroeker@pris.ca">dkroeker@pris.ca</a>
Andy Ackerman	Urban Communities	250-787-8457	<a href="mailto:ackerman@telus.net">ackerman@telus.net</a>

***Other***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Gail Wallin	Facilitator	250-305-9161	<a href="mailto:gwallin@wlake.com">gwallin@wlake.com</a>
Chris Maundrell	Prophet River First Nation		<a href="mailto:Chris@adlardenvironmental.ca">Chris@adlardenvironmental.ca</a>
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Elizabeth Hunt	FOR		<a href="mailto:elizabeth.hunt@gov.bc.ca">elizabeth.hunt@gov.bc.ca</a>

**Meeting start: 6:00 pm**

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

Land Acknowledgement

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

Group decision - No need to bring print copies of meeting agenda. Agenda was sent out ahead of time.

Overview of meeting agenda.

*Round table introductions for all present at meeting.*

**3. Review of Meeting #67 draft summary, action items and approval [Gail Wallin]**

Group decision - PAG prefers to receive summary closer to meeting date for refresher.

**No objections to meeting summary as sent. Summary approved by group.**

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

Previous Action	Responsibility	Comments
Follow up on old growth within LP proposed salvage block boundaries in Donnie Creek area.	Sarah Curtis (LP)	Complete - Blocks were dropped from plan
Provide information on what is happening with the Taylor Pulp structure and property	Kristine Bock (or other Canfor Rep)	Complete - Canfor to discuss in update presentation this meeting – Site being acquired by Buffalo Rail and repurposed as a logistics hub
Recent SFM Audit Results to be sent out to PAG members via email	Colin Langlois (BCTS), Kristine Bock (or other Canfor Rep)	Complete - BCTS and Canfor discussed in audit presentation this meeting – see notes in item 7.
Discuss future field trip ideas and recap fall 2023 field trip at next meeting	Licensees (Canfor, BCTS, LP)	Complete - On agenda for his meeting – see notes in item 10.

#### 4. Update from Participants [Adrienne Pierre, Carmen Anderson, Sarah Curtis]

- **BCTS Update – Adrienne Pierre**

- Timber sale schedule overview – review of last year and year ahead.
- 5 timber sale licenses 2023
- Two wildfire salvage blocks – 54% of volume on sale schedule
- 2024
  - o 3 Salvage TSLs
  - o Considering ribbonless boundary trialing – expedite development due to short shelf life of salvage.
  - o Planned 200k m3 development
    - Low intensity burn areas
    - Support wildfire salvage by making burn blocks available to licensees.
- Contracts
  - o 3 planting contracts for spring/summer
  - o 3.7m trees – Stoddart Creek, Donnie Creek fire areas
  - o 90 ha Mounding Contracts
- Hiring for multiple positions
- Question & Answer:
  - o Q: Are you considering giving or trading fire salvage blocks to other licensees
    - A: Yes – to expedite salvage opportunities due to potential wood-boring beetle impact
  - o Q: Would any blocks be available to the nations?
    - A: Can discuss further, there are some opportunities.
  - o Q: Was timber salvage in Donnie creek fire lowland areas considered due to access concerns?
    - A: Yes, blocks looked at were considered based on access – recognizing need for winter access, lots of the volume is not feasible for summer access and harvest

- **Canfor Update – Carmen Anderson**

- Polar mill curtailed for 6 months due to weak markets and fibre costs.
- Taylor pulp site sale closed – Buffalo rail
  - o Repurpose into multiuse logistics and distribution hub.
- FSJ operations
  - o No major safety incidents.
  - o Mill fire – no major damage, but unexpected downtime.
  - o Union negotiations ongoing (USW).
  - o Challenging winter – lots of uncertainty, changes, and moving contractors.
  - o Met closing inventory before breakup despite difficulties.
  - o could not operate mile 118 reload yard due to lack of permitted volume some contractors affected.
- Looking forward
  - o Lots of uncertainties – only 30% of summer plan is permitted.
  - o Struggle trying to find where to go in FSJ TSA.
  - o Preparing for wildfire season – sooner than last year.
- Fire Salvage Program
  - o Committed to salvaging as much fibre as possible.
  - o Identified 33k m3 of existing permits to salvage.
  - o Submitted additional 410k m3, approval for 340k m3, harvested 155k m3.
  - o Difficulty accessing some approved permits.
  - o Boring beetles are a threat – uncertainty of how to relate what was seen in the field with outlook on lumber quality.
  - o Looking to reassess anything not harvested this winter in the coming winter.

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- Silviculture
  - o 132/199 blocks submitted to government for funding or relief on burnt silviculture obligations – 44 approved for funding.
  - o 2.2 million trees available for planting fire affected blocks.
- Question & Answer
  - o Q: What's holding up the permit approvals? Is any federal funding going towards replanting with 2 billion trees program?
    - A: Trying to do a lot in a very short amount of time – government is short on staff. Government recognizing that it is difficult to support right now.
  - o Q: Is there support from the 2 billion trees program for Canfor's fire affected blocks?
    - A: No, there is none of the 2 billion trees funding currently being utilized for the fire salvage situation.
      - These trees are being used for fire affected areas, however not used specifically to replace silvicultural obligations.
  - o Q: Is 118 yard a temporary closure?
    - A: Temporary but no certainty on when it will open
  - o Q: How much wood from Dawson Creek TSA due to Chetwynd mill closing
    - A: Have not added up yet, but some could be moved due to mill requirements
  - o Canfor has provided access to some fibre from the TFL to West Fraser which has helped to keep their mill in operation Q: We are having difficulty getting saw logs due to shelf life, is there chance of moving very checked wood to become pulp?
    - A: Are sending TFL pulp to PG, possibly opportunity to use in FSJ. However, shelf life is difficult to estimate due to difference of species – 3 years is a stretch, fire-killed spruce, pine, balsam are not as long lasting as fir and western larch.
  - o Q: With the fire – so many concerns – what's the opportunity to leverage PAG or have conversations with everyone at the table. What did we learn from previous fire salvage experience – we know that it takes a long time to permit volume – what can the group do help?
    - A: Question tabled to end of the meeting.
- **LP Update – Sarah Curtis**
  - Staffing successes past year
  - \$8.2 million capital investments in 2024 expected.
  - Closing inventory 350k m3.
  - New GIS Analyst – Fernando Sepulveda
  - Oct-April 560k m3 delivered.
    - o 25k crown delivered.
    - o 465k private.
  - Laprise salvage permit logged.
  - Unsuccessful in Stoddart creek fire permits last winter.
  - Shifted gears to Boundary Lake.
    - o 1 permit, currently being logged.
  - 2024-2025 Salvage
    - o Crown program focused on salvage.
    - o Hoping to harvest in Stoddart fire area.
    - o Hoping to head north to Donnie fire and get more volume
  - Question & Answer:
    - o Q: Any summer chance for the salvage in Stoddart Creek?
      - A: There is some opportunity for summer harvest.
    - o Q: How is the shelf life of deciduous for wildfire
      - A: Hoping for another year, but tough to say for many areas.

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- **Cameron River Logistics Update**

CRL not present at meeting.

- **General Updates**

- Forest Practices Board tour June 13<sup>th</sup> – PAG members are welcome to join.
  - Gale has been on Forest Practices Board for 4 years.
  - Not an audit – is a learning opportunity for the board to explore the successes of the Pilot Project.
  - More information to come.
- SFMP expired currently.
  - No SFMP extension request approved (as of meeting).
  - Been told it is very close – approved in principle, just needs signatures.

## 5. Forest Management – HRFN Perspective [Lyle Mortenson]

- Lyle introduction.
- Treaty Rights and Environmental principles go hand in hand.
- Learned a lot in 21 years about HRFN, First Nations, and representing First Nations
- Halfway History
  - Moved to current Reserve in 1961 by Indian Agent
  - Used to be in Chowade river area originally.
  - 300 registered residents.
  - Became Treaty 8 signatory in 1914.
  - Descendants of Beaver People.
  - Halfway traditional territory extends to west side of mountains.
    - Lyle processes referrals from that area for HRFN too
- Halfway feels cumulative effect of industry has gone too far – consensus from community members.
  - Thankfully some cooperation from industry within past 10 years
  - Canfor has been improving harvesting practices to protect wildlife – stopping use of herbicide, residual retention.
  - Seen that residual retention blocks have had increased amount of wildlife over winter when flown in the spring – can see increased number of tracks in snow.
- Critical Community Use Area (CCUA) – 80% of traditional use by HRFN
  - Watershed of the Halfway River
  - Issues with range – Cattle in mineral licks affect wildlife.
    - Range operators have been cooperating, but still issues with cattle impacting licks.
    - Wildlife friendly fences – raised lower strand and lowered upper strand – helps small and large wildlife alike.
- Need more practice with biodiversity in forestry.
- Increase CWD in linear features to allow furbearing animals to have cover in the cut block – “Weasel Piles”
  - Attached to adjacent timber.
  - Doing a study with UBC to see efficacy.
  - Want 1 in every block – ideally lower to ground to reduce fire hazard.
- Need to improve cooperation on political end of government and First Nations.
  - Industry in FSJ is willing to sit down and ensure forestry practices are sustainable – but we should show others that forestry can be sustainable by continuing to adopt sustainable practices.
  - Government needs to help to alleviate issues with timeliness of salvage.
- Questions & Answers
  - C: Appreciate presentation and have appreciated working with Lyle over the

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years.

- C: Lots of excellent points – re: government decision makers listening to elders. We are in protectionist mode but need to move forward.
- C: Successes have been based on relationships – sitting down and listening is key, not just having a transactional approach
  - A: Has not always been this way, takes people to change it
- Q: What will it take for communities to get people with experience everywhere to assist with referrals, relationship building – i.e. building capacity.
  - A: Good staff locally, improved greatly over the years.
  - A: Experience and the First Nations perspective are important – it's a balance. Tenured experience is important but so is respect and listening.

## 6. BREAK (20 mins)

## 7. Audits - Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI), Pilot Project [Adrienne Pierre, Andrew Tyrrell]

### BCTS - Adrienne

- External Audit Sept 2023
- Full scope, field based.
- 3 minor non conformances.
  - Non-effective use of tank trap – corrective actions: staff awareness, pre work guidance
  - OH&S references on contractor training matrix – corrective actions: more information added to form.
  - BCTS Climate Change Action Plan communication – corrective actions: awareness training, additional tools being developed
- Questions:
  - Q: Who were the auditors
  - A: Sam and Cindy – KPMG

### Canfor - Andrew

#### Canfor Internal Audit Aug 2024

- 4 person days on site, document reviewing, no nonconformities, one opportunity for improvement, one note of good practice.

#### Canfor External Audit Nov 2023

- SFI (FSJ)
- 13.5 person days, 2 nonconformities, 12 opportunities for improvement, 2 noted good practices. Was an extremely thorough audit.
- Nonconformities:
  - Fibre utilization.
  - Rules for SFI label.
- Action plans were developed and approved – certificate was issued.

#### FSJ Pilot Project Audit

- All participants divided equally.
- 4 person days, 4 nonconformities, 4 opportunities for improvement, good practices not noted in this audit type.
- Non-Conformities
  - PAG membership not published 2022.
  - Deciduous establishment not met.
  - Annual report inaccuracy.
  - Retention required by site plan not met.

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- The audit noted that FSJ Pilot project is very robust and includes a great amount of representation for First Nations and interest groups compared to other similar groups.

Question and Answer:

- Q: Why is there no noted good practices in the FSJ Pilot Project audit?
  - o A: The audit framework is simply compliance driven – very dry and thorough.
- C: There is a missing certification in slide deck – SFI Fibre Sourcing – which identifies requirements when sourcing timber from other sources to continue and improve practice of forestry amongst private landholders. Total of three standards audited in Canfor external audit.

## 8. Pilot Project Website and Trade Show Ideas – Brainstorm Session [ALL]

- FSJPP Website
  - o FSJ Pilot Project has a website!
  - o In 15 months – 9000+ visits, 7500+ unique visitors, 15200+ pages viewed, 26200+ hits on internet.
  - o Dunne-za Ventures LP asked to be removed from web pages – this has sparked a website refresh.
  - o How can we make website better, and better represent what we do?
  - o Suggestions:
    - Looks out of date – refresh the graphics.
    - Needs more photos on the website – more visuals, lose the green background.
    - Colour, an explanation of what we do, working together to improve things, keeping up to date and relevant – add some stories.
    - Update partner information pages.
    - What are people using the website for?
      - Is simple to use – useful for SFMP and Annual Report.
      - Internal uses.
    - More content on PAG members – how would you feel about this?
      - People like to see who is part of the group.
- Trade Show Booth
  - o Any feedback on how it can be better – any ideas?
  - o Child friendly is important – lots of children at the trade show walking around with seedlings last year.
  - o Most people don't care about Pilot Project, just want to get seedlings and talk about forestry – keep it friendly, open, chat, and not force information.
  - o Interactive items are great – not just information dumping.
  - o Idea – surveying to see what people want at the trade show.
  - o Presence is important part – take step back in expectations.
- If you think of any suggestions – reach out to participants anytime and share ideas.

## 9. Off agenda item: Moving Forward

Q: We've been in post fire world before, permitting salvage is not new, what is the opportunity for the PAG to have the conversation about how to move forward?

- This group is well set up to be able to take advantage of conversations and relationships built over the years to build a collaborative fire salvage plan.
  - o Identify fire salvage areas, and areas to not disturb.
  - o Engagement process ahead of time, dust off plan when we need to use it in an upset condition.
  - o Timeline could be significantly reduced with this approach.
- Is there interest to streamline and ensure post-fire recovery?
  - o Yes
  - o Suggestion: put together team of experts to review applications and make

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- recommendations to the decisionmaker
  - Take work off of decisionmaker and into hands of experienced group.
- Suggestion: Draft a letter to government that points out our concerns regarding the issue at hand and have all of the PAG members sign to sound the alarm on severity of the situation.
- How do we build this?
  - Have other PAG meeting to talk about how's and brainstorming?
  - Create subcommittee?
- We all recognize that there are multiple barriers to salvage logging in a timely manner.
  - How do we draw attention to that?
- There is a process that ensures permits can be moved more efficiently – but it seems that consultation is where it tends to get bogged down.
  - Is a matter of getting the government process of getting a bit quicker but will still have to go into consultation.
  - Is this process working as well as the government wants it to work?
- Government perspective:
  - It is challenging all around
  - The PAG could help, but 2023 challenges were unique due to many issues occurring at the same time.
  - Cannot change consultation – is legal requirement.
  - Look at the way things have been working and work on efficiencies that aren't legal requirements.
- Suggestion: Need to look at it strategically and higher level – step beyond what's just happened – look at long term.
- Gail input: Can't solve all the problems tonight – we need to have another meeting to start with the issues we have, and see if we can make recommendations to the challenges
- Do we want another meeting on increasing the efficiency of post-fire salvage:
  - PAG: Yes
  - Advisors & Participants: Yes
  - When: Before Summer – Leave to participants to find a date and agenda.

#### **10. Field Trip 2023 Review & 2024 Field Trip Wish List [Andrew Tyrrell]**

Q: 2024 Field trip – Do we want a field trip? Where would we like to have the field trip?

- Participant Suggestions:
  - Fire salvage challenges.
  - CWD windrows & piles.
  - Deciduous retention.
- Does PAG want field tour:
  - Yes
- Interests from PAG
  - Fire related – salvage, recovery.
- June or September?
  - Figure out next meeting.

#### **11. Q&A Session; Feedback on meeting [Gail Wallin]**

- Would love to hear perspective from other First Nations.
  - Enjoyed Lyle's presentation, would like to hear more from others.
- Range perspective: communicating and connecting helps to have perspective and come to agreements.
  - Sometimes government can slow down the process.

Thanks everyone for coming and meaningful participation.



**Actions**

<b>New Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Propose a date for next PAG meeting – focused on fire salvage.	Participants	More info coming	

**Meeting end: 8:36 pm**