

Fort St. John Results Based Pilot Project
Public Advisory Group Meeting # 45
Thursday, February 12, 2013 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
Andrew Moore	Cameron River Logging	(250) 262-6551	admoore@cameronriver.ca
Darrell Regimbald	Canfor	(250) 787-3651	darrell.regimbald@canfor.com
Andrew Tyrrell	Canfor	(250) 787-3665	andrew.tyrrell@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
Dawn Griffin	Canfor	(250) 787-3607	dawn.griffin@canfor.com

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	fjarvis@shaw.ca.com
Karen Goodings	Rural Communities-alternate	(250) 262-1558	kgooding@pris.bc.ca
Jim McKnight	Environment	(250) 262-1673	jimk01@telus.net
Roy Lube	Outdoor Recreation	(250) 787-7619	rlube@telus.net
Budd Phillips	Non-Commercial Recreation	(250) 785-1283	budd.phillips@worksafebc.com
Dave Harris	Range	(250) 827-3503	dhharris@pris.ca
Fred Klassen	Forest Contractors/workers	(250) 793-5444	wm.safety@xplornet.com
Ray Ensz	FSJ Trappers	(250) 793-2825	rbensz@shaw.ca
Carl Pouce Coupe	Doig River First Nations	(250) 827-3376	cpoucecoupe@doigriverfn.com

Advisors

Name	Interest	Phone	Email
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
Brian Farwell	F.L.N.R.O.	(250) 787-3455	brian.farwell@gov.bc.ca
Patrick Smook	Oil and Gas Commission	(250) 794-5314	patrick.smook@bcogc.ca
Rod Backmeyer	F.L.N.R.O.	(250) 787-3236	rod.backmeyer@gov.bc.ca
Nadia Skokun	F.L.N.R.O.	(250) 787-3513	nadia.skokun@gov.bc.ca

Other

Name	Interest	Phone	Email
Gail Wallin	Facilitator	(250) 305-9161	gwallin@wlake.com
Melissa Knight	Blueberry River First Nations	(250) 630-2824	mknight@blueberryfn.ca
George Chatten	Trapper-Observer	(250) 783-9476	chatten1@yahoo.ca
Jennifer Beebe	Oil and Gas – Observer	(778) 256-2367	Jennifer.beebe@shell.com
David Menzies	Observer	(250) 787-7877	dmenzies@pris.ca

B) Meeting Summary

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions - Gail Wallin
2. Review of Meeting Agenda - Gail Wallin
3. Review of Meeting #44 draft summary – Gail Wallin
4. Review of Outstanding Actions – Darrell Regimbald
5. Review of mtg #44 survey results – Darrell Regimbald
6. Update from Participants – all
 - Canfor, BCTS, Cameron River Logging
7. Review of Ecosystem Representation Analysis – Jennifer McCracken
8. Visual Quality Assessments/Coarse Woody Debris – Andrew Tyrrell/Walter Fister
9. Other information updates:
 - Caribou Management Planning – Darrell Regimbald
 - Deciduous Compiler Development – Dawn Griffin/Walter Fister
 - Pilot Project Working Group - Darrell Regimbald/Walter Fister
10. Preparations Summer Field Trip – Stephanie Smith
11. Completion of Annual PAG Public Participation Process Satisfaction Survey - Jennifer McCracken/ Darrell Regimbald

12. Overview of 2013 Meeting Schedule - Darrell Regimbald

13. 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 # 44 draft Summary**

Meeting #44 summary was accepted as circulated by PAG. No changes were made.

4) **Review of Outstanding Actions**

- **PAG Meeting #44 Action Item #1:** PAG encourages the Participants to complete the Visual Assessment and present the results from the data at the next PAG meeting. Also give a presentation on how the assessments were completed.

Status: Canfor staff completed the outstanding VQO assessment on block S01277, the block was found to achieve the modification VQO. In block 02036, the Site Level Plan prescribed that a VQO assessment was not required because only a 0.2 ha. Portion of the 76.9 ha. block resides in a visual quality polygon. The area was felt to be too small to impact the visual quality of the area. Technically, speaking, we only had one block that did not have the required post harvest VQO assessment completed by the reporting date. However the intent of the indicator was achieved, as forest operations were consistent with the VQI. A presentation describing the visual quality assessment process will be provided during meeting #45.

- **PAG Meeting #44 Action Item #2:** Participants to provide more information on Coarse Woody Debris, *especially visual examples to put the quantitative value in perspective.*

Status: A presentation providing visual examples of coarse woody debris will be provided during meeting #45.

- **PAG Meeting #44 Action Item #3:** The PAG be kept informed of the Old Growth Management Process and be given an opportunity for input where it relates to the Sustainable Forest Management Plan.

Status: The Participants will continue to keep the PAG informed of the OGMA development project. Since the October 2012 meeting no substantive progress has been made, the Participants continue to work with MFLNRO to identify potential OGMA areas. PAG input will be sought when the draft OGMA identification process has been completed and there is a need to revise the existing seral stage indicator in the SFMP.

5) **Review of mtg #44 survey results – Darrell Regimbald (Canfor –Planning)**

A summary of the meeting #44 survey were presented.

6) **Update from Participants**

- Stephanie Smith gave an update on BC Timber Sales' operations.

Highlights:

- The provincial government initiated hiring freeze is still in place. There are several positions in the Business Area that have not been filled;
- This past year, we have sold six sales and one sale is currently being advertised.

Question: How many sales were sold last year?

Answer: Walter Fister answered: Fourteen timber sales were advertised with twelve sold (Editor's note: Walter has also added the following information for further comparison purposes. In 2011/12 364, 276 m³ was offered and 289,196 m³ sold. In 2012/13 293,773 m³ was offered and was offered and 273,312 m³ sold). This current year, we have advertised eight and have sold seven.

Question: What types of sales?

Answer: Walter Fister answered: A bit of everything. We have advertised very little deciduous because our Dawson Creek office has an abundance of deciduous TSLs. In Fort St. John, many of our sales are pine beetle salvage, and some spruce leading stands with some beetle.

- Andrew Moore gave an update on Cameron River Logging's operations.

Highlights:

- Still currently utilizing their property in Taylor for re-load of oversized spruce logs for shipment to Dunkley Lumber.
- The LP orientated strand board plant in Dawson Creek will begin processing aspen logs this spring.

- Andrew Tyrrell gave an update on Canfor's operations.

Highlights:

- Canfor's main focus currently is winter harvesting.
- There are over 200 truckloads per day between the Fort St. John mill and the Peace Valley Oriented Strand Board plant.
- The Peace Valley OSB scale yard is open 6 days per week including every Saturday while the Fort St. John sawmill scale yard is open 5 days per week plus every other Saturday.
- The lumber markets are currently strong.
- There have been no major safety incidents.

Question: What are the implications to the Pilot Project with the recent proposed purchase of Canfor's share of the Peace Valley Oriented Strand Board (OSB) plant by LP Canada?

Answer: All indications are the sale will be completed by the end of March. Canfor will continue to supply the logs and continue to manage the woodlands. There should be no implications to the Pilot Project.

- Question: With the closure of the Tembec mill, is any of its timber supply coming up to Fort St. John?

Answer: None of the volume has come up to Peace Valley OSB.

Question: Given the sale of Canfor's share of Peace Valley OSB, will there be any changes to the *Memorandum of Agreement* (MOA) with Treaty 8 First Nations?

Answer: Canfor will still be involved with the MOA. Canfor will transfer a portion of the Pulpwood Agreement, but will still retain a share. Therefore Canfor will still have input with the management of at least one of the deciduous licences.

7) **Review of Ecosystem Representation Analysis – Jennifer McCracken (Canfor-Planning)**

Jennifer McCracken gave an introductory presentation on the Ecosystem Representation Analysis (ERA).

- The participants have revised the SFMP from CSA z809-02 requirements to the CSA z809-08 standard requirements. Canfor has completed an ERA on all of the Companies operating areas. This process focuses on CSA's requirement on managing biodiversity. The ERA analysis process was developed by Dr. Fred Bunnell, while at UBC. The analysis was completed in the fall of 2011. More information will be provided at future PAG meetings.
- There is the potential that Indicator 17, Representative Example of Ecosystems, may be revised in the future to incorporate the results learnt from this process.

Question: Can you give an example of an eco-group?

Answer: An eco-group is an amalgamation of multiple site series with common associations.

Comment: Pictures would help PAG members understand this presentation better.

Action: Provide copies of this presentation to Joelle Scheck and Patrick Smook.

8) **Visual Quality Assessments and Coarse Woody Debris Presentations – Andrew Tyrrell/Walter Fister**

a) Visual Quality Assessment (VQA) – Andrew Tyrrell (Canfor- Planning)

This presentation is in response to PAG Meeting No. 44 Action Item No. 1.

A review of the VQA process was given. The FSJPP Regulation requires a Landscape Level strategy for visual quality management. In the SFMP visual quality management is addressed by Indicator #44.

Note: the visual viewpoints are pre-determined by the Forest District Manager.

Question: Are the Oil and gas industry required to do Visual Quality Assessments?

Answer: Patrick Smook answered: Yes, when the visual values are identified in the Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP), i.e. the Alaska Highway corridor.

Question: Are the viewpoints checked again on the oil and gas viewpoint assessments?

Answer: Patrick Smook answered: I have just asked for a professional's sign-off on a plan for a proposed development.

Question: Is it a condition for them (oil and gas) getting their permit approved?

Answer: Patrick Smook answered: No, I haven't seen it as a permit condition because the expected impact would be in the project design.

b) Coarse Woody Debris Assessment – Walter Fister (BCTS – Woodlands Supervisor)

This presentation is in response to PAG Meeting No. 44 Action Item No. 2.

Coarse Woody Debris is important as it releases nutrients into the forest floor.

Typically harvest operations leave residue (slash) and not merchantable wood. In the SFMP, Indicator #6 addresses Coarse Woody Debris and states the Participants will retain 46 m³/ha. of coarse wood debris post harvest across the defined forest area.

This is about half the average amount that pre-harvest stands would have as coarse woody debris.

Pictures were shown to demonstrate what this volume would look like.

Question: What is the minimum diameter that is used to determine CWD?

Answer: We use 7.5 centimeters diameter.

Question: Are we overachieving given we are harvesting more dead pine?

Answer: Yes, we are overachieving however this may not be necessarily a bad thing.

Question: Were deciduous stands included in the targets when they were developed?

Answer: Yes, there were some deciduous samples taken. However there is a tendency for more coarse woody debris to occur on conifer than deciduous blocks.

Question: Why are we burning the slash piles rather than chipping them especially when small animals may be hibernating in the piles during the usual burning period?

Answer: We don't have a bio-energy plant in this area at present. There is a danger of chipping too much and therefore not leaving enough debris on the cutblock.

Trucking costs make it prohibitive to ship the slash to bioenergy plants outside our area. We have been mandated to dispose of the slash thereby reducing the fire hazard.

Question: Why is more debris left on a conifer block than a deciduous block?

Answer: Personally, I have seen cleaner logging on deciduous blocks and also with the amount dead pine, we are getting more breakage of the wood especially with the salvage logging and therefore we are leaving it.

9) Other Information Updates

a) Caribou Management Planning - Darrell Regimbald

A PowerPoint presentation on Caribou Management Planning in the Peace Forest District was given which focused primarily on the government's Peace Northern Caribou Plan with a little bit on the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA) Boreal Caribou Implementation Plan. Darrell acknowledged Matt Austin and Jocelyn Campbell of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) whose contributions to this presentation is appreciated. A draft implementation plan for the Peace Northern Caribou Plan is currently under review by the Ministry of Environment. It is hoped a decision will be made on its approval by March 31, 2013. The implementation plan for the government's Boreal Northern Caribou was approved in 2011.

The Species at Risk Act (SARA) has identified animals that are at risk on non-federal lands. There are seven herds that are considered as a "threatened" status. Six of the seven are expect to move to an "endangered" status in 2013. The Graham herd is located in the Fort St. John Timber Supply Area (TSA) and is part of the Peace Northern Caribou management plan.

Two issues that the provincial government have addressed in the Peace Northern Caribou Plan:

- i) Need to consider its obligations under SARA to recover the caribou population;
- ii) Need to consider First Nations treaty rights to harvest caribou.

Government's decision and objectives as part of the Peace Northern Caribou Plan is to increase the population to greater than or equal to 1200 animals in 21 years.

Strategies to be used:

- protecting 90% of the high elevation winter habitat;
- conducting population management activities such maternal penning (which helps increase successful calving);
- managing industrial footprint;

- monitoring compliance and effectiveness of management activities;

Impact of this plan on the Participants: there is a potential that existing Ungulate Winter Range (UWR) boundaries could be revised if they are deemed to be inaccurate (this has a low likelihood).

SFMP Indicator #16 commits participants to ensure activities (road building, harvesting, and silviculture) are consistent with the general wildlife measures for the approved Ungulate Winter Range and Wildlife Habitat Areas within the Fort St. John Pilot Project area.

Question: The plan's target is greater than or equal to 1200 animals in 21 years, what is the existing population? Is your target achievable?

Rod Backmeyer answered: Eleven-hundred is the current population. The rate of decline is variable by herd. Given where some herds are with their populations, it is unlikely we will achieve the target.

Question: How about managing the predators?

Rod Backmeyer answered: That is a consideration but is a hot political issue.

Question: Is there any restrictions on the recreational activities in these areas?

Rod Backmeyer answered: There is with the mountain caribou in the high snow load area.

Question: Has there been any studies done with Alberta given some of the herds will move between both provinces?

Rod Backmeyer answered: Yes, there is cooperation between Alberta and British Columbia regarding caribou. Particularly in regard to the Chinchaga herd.

b) Deciduous Compiler Development – Dawn Griffin (Canfor Silviculture)

Coniferous Landscape Level Reforestation strategy has been in place since SFMP #1. Data from the Mean Stocked Quadrant survey is entered into a database spreadsheet called a “compiler”. In SFMP #2, the Participants made a commitment to develop a Deciduous Landscape Level Reforestation compiler so that they could implement Deciduous Landscape Level Reforestation strategy (see SFMP #2, Indicator 6.29). The development of the deciduous compiler was made available for bid and the successful applicant was Craig Farnden, PhD. The draft deciduous compiler is in a excel format, (the conifer compiler is in a dbase format). The deciduous compiler will still need to be approved by the government. Once that is

done, the deciduous process will need to be incorporated into the SFMP document. There will be several SFMP appendices that will need to be amended.

Comment: Elizabeth Hunt (F.L.N.R.O.) thanked Darrell Regimbald, Dawn Griffin, Craig Farden and Walter Fister for the presentation on how the new deciduous compiler would work. Richard Kabzems (Peace District, Research Silviculturist) will review the draft deciduous compiler after he returns from a leave of absence (will return in March 2013).

Question: What is its ultimate purpose?

Answer: It is a landscape level reforestation plan that will allow us to predict future inventories. Essentially it is a forecasting tool. It also helps us focus our expenditures on the best growing sites.

Question: What age would you survey the stands?

Answer: The coniferous stands are surveyed 15 years after harvest; the deciduous stands will be surveyed 10 years after harvest.

10) Preparations Summer Field Trip – Stephanie Smith (BCTS – Planning Forester)

Some ideas from PAG Meeting #44 were:

- Visiting old plantations;
- Visiting active logging;
- Mile 81 area;
- Sawmill tour;
- Recreation and club management.

The time favored by the PAG members was June.

The Participants suggested ideas included:

- Describing the life of a block;
- Coarse Woody Debris plots;
- One of the first plantations in the FSJ Forest District;
- Inga Lake site preparation trials;

Lyle Mortensen proposed visiting some early plantations in conjunction with a lunch at the Halfway River First Nations. He also suggested that PAG members give a short presentation on how certain types of harvesting affects their area of interest.

Action: Stephanie Smith will send out via email some potential dates. Late May to June will be the first choice.

11) Completion of annual PAG Public Participation Process Satisfaction Survey – Jennifer McCracken

Participants will distribute a survey via email that will ask how satisfied PAG members are with the PAG Public Participation Process (via Survey Monkey). This will be for the 2012 year. If anyone doesn't have email, hard copies can be provided. As identified in the SFMP, only the PAG members who attended the last meeting (Meeting #44) or tonight's meeting can complete this survey.

12) Overview of 2013 Meeting Schedule – Darrell Regimbald

- June 2013: field trip;
- October 2013: fall meeting, focus on 2012 Annual Report, possibly an update on the Timber Supply Review, which is anticipated to begin the end of March 2013, results from the 2013 Audit (internal and external) review of the PAG Public Participation Process Satisfaction Survey ;
- February/March 2014: anticipated discussion items might include completed review of the Ecosystem Analysis results, Old Growth Management Area review, deciduous compiler-reforestation assessment (update of appendices), Review of the PAG Terms of Reference.

13) Feedback on Meeting

- Appreciated the limited use of the acronyms;
- Impressed with the quality of the presentations;

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Handout from Meeting #45

- 1) FSJ Results Based Pilot Project Public Advisory Group Meeting #44 Summary and actions.
- 2) Meeting Surveys were provided. PAG members can complete prior to leaving meeting or complete online.

Summary of Actions from Meeting #45

PAG Meeting #45 Action Item #1: Provide copies of the *Ecosystem Representation Analysis Review* to Joelle Scheck (F.L.N.R.O.) and Patrick Smook (O.G.C.).

Completed - Jennifer McCracken provided copies of the *Ecosystem Representation Analysis Review* presentation to Joelle Scheck and Patrick Smook.

PAG Meeting #45 Action Item #2 Stephanie Smith will send out via email some potential dates.

Completed – Stephanie sent emails inviting the PAG and Advisors to participate in the Field Tour, which was held on May 30, 2013.