

Okanagan SFM Plan

Public Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2017. ECCO Centre, Kelowna

Attendees: Don Guild, Keith Boulter, Peter Wise, Nancy Paul, Trevor Jolleys, Clive Johnson, Paul Ross, Mike Watkins, Jason Stupnikoff, Keiko Parker, Patti Meger, Don Dobson, Heather Rice, Doug Flintoft, Suzan Lapp, Darcie Annesley, Dave Gill, Scott Smith, Pat Salm

Guest Speaker: Jesse Zeman, BCWF

The meeting started at 9:10am. The meeting began with a safety/orientation briefing of the meeting room, introductions and a review of the meeting agenda.

Action Items from previous meeting:

Watershed steward – advisory group letter of support

Completed. The letter that Paul sent to the Okanagan Basin Water Board was shared at the meeting. Letter sent to OBWB on November 15th, 2016.

Stream Crossing Evaluations in Community Watersheds (Target 21)

Paul reviewed Tolko's revised form for evaluating the potential for sediment delivery into streams as well as pictures of one of the crossings. There was discussion over the rating criteria that were being used and a concern that a few of them were a bit too open ended (road surface and ditch/cutbank material below average).

There was also discussion around how target 21 is reported on (one time risk assessment rating following crossing installation). There was some concern that crossings rated low or moderate might well experience an event that results in sediment delivery into streams and how something like this would be part of that years monitoring report.

Agreed to use the form with some additional guidance around what "material below average" for each of these conditions means. Paul to work with his staff to further define these (for consistency of reporting). The completed version of the form will be sent to BCTS and WFN for their use in reporting on Target 21.

Action: Paul to better define "material below average" in the form and send to BCTS and WFN.

CSA Standard Revision Implementation.

Pat advised that companies have 2 years (from the fall of 2016) to incorporate the CSA standard revisions into their operations. This will result in some work for the advisory group – that will be reflected in the SFM Plan.

Terms of Reference

Minor changes were suggested to the existing ToR (tracked change version was posted to the website in advance, then shared at the meeting). Specifically, the proposed changes were in the “Roles and Responsibilities” section. The proposed changes were discussed, slightly improved and accepted. The ToR will have a revised date of March 15, 2017 and will again be included in the Appendix of the SFM Plan.

Mandatory discussion items

Pat reviewed the list of discussion items in the new standard – most were the same as that previously but a few were slightly changes or were new. It was felt that most of these items – previously reviewed in past meetings did not need to be revisited. Pat suggested a process to look at each item and based on a few criteria, to decide if they needed more time for discussion at an upcoming meeting. It was agreed that Pat would send out the table with the meeting minutes and we could then decide at our next meeting which items needed further discussion.

Action: Pat to send out table of discussion items with the meeting minutes. Review discussion item table and finalize list of items needing further discussion at next meeting. Then map out a 2 year plan to accomplish this.

Review Proposed Changes to the 2017/18 SFM Plan.

Pat reviewed the summary of changes document sent out to everyone in advance of the meeting and went through the planned revisions. The red-line version of the draft 2017 SFM Plan (posted to the website) was used to look at some of the specific changes. Most of the proposed changes were housekeeping – such as alignment of Criteria, Elements and Core Indicators with that in the revised Z809 standard. It was agreed that all these type of changes could be made to the 2017/18 plan immediately without further discussion. The remaining (more significant) items such as changes to the SFM Plan values, objectives, indicators, targets were indicated in yellow highlight in the red-line version and will be brought forward at the next meeting for further discussion. As a reminder, both the summary page and the red-line version of the Plan are posted on the NTF website (members only section).

Pete Wise brought up a concern regarding his own experience with the lack of communication between forest companies and registered trappers. This lead to discussion that there might be an opportunity to have a unique target in the SFM Plan that reported on communication with stakeholders such as

trappers – similar to the communication indicator for First Nations. Pete wanted to discuss further with Pat following the meeting.

Scott Smith advised that he became aware of a biodiversity conservation analysis that was completed for the Okanagan region. He wondered if there wasn't something in the reports that might be applied to the SFM Plan. In the spirit of continual improvement, Scott was to share the website locations for these reports. Paul wanted to better understand the report and will review prior to the next meeting.

Action: Pat was to bring forward the remaining items (more significant change to the SFM Plan values, objectives, indicators, targets) at the next meeting for further discussion.

Action: Pat will post a hard copy final version of the 2017/18 SFM Plan to the documents page of the Okanagan SFM website later this spring and active PAG members can expect a hard copy of the Plan mailed to them around the same time.

Action: Pete to contact Pat regarding possibilities for other SFM targets (to then be brought back to the PAG for further discussion).

Action: Scott to share [weblink to the biodiversity reports](#) and Pat to include in the meeting minutes (completed). Paul to review content for applicability and attempt to find out if government has any next steps before next meeting. Actual website url (if link above not working):

<http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/acat/public/viewReport.do?reportId=42389>

Presentation by Jesse Zeman, BCWF

Jesse Zeman is a Program Manager with the BC Wildlife Federation. Jesse has been directly involved in the development of the BCWF Conservation App, for use with iPhones (and Android phones later this spring).

Jesse provided us with a hands-on demo of the app. He advised that the app enables iPhone users to take geo-referenced, time stamped photos or videos, to report issues related to illegal use, or abuse, of our natural resources. The app is accompanied by a public website which can show display user reports from across the province, thus increasing social awareness about our BC's natural resources.

Jesse explained that all reports are reviewed prior to their posting to the website (48 hours). BCWF is also working on making the app available to Android phone users (hopefully later this spring)

The advisory group members appreciated the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of Jesse and thanked him for the presentation and conversation.

CSA Audit results.

Tolko: Paul advised that they had an internal audit done by an independent 3rd party. The six opportunities for improvement were related to their environmental management system (such as testing of emergency response procedures, contractor training and documentation). There were no findings pertaining to the SFM Plan targets or to the SFM public advisory group process.

BCTS: Darcie and Jason advised that their 3rd party audit had one opportunity for improvement; the exploration of any carbon modeling that has been done on the Okanagan DFA area. No-one was aware of anything specific, but Paul offered to get in touch with Ted McRea to see if there was any plans to model carbon with the upcoming Okanagan Timber Supply Review. Pat was to look into what might have occurred in other forests where CSA certification had occurred. Pat observed that regardless of the modeling that has/has not occurred, our existing targets (5,12,14) are very solid measuring progress towards a positive carbon balance.

Current DFA Issues, Summary, Wrap-Up

2016 Field Trip

Paul (Tolko) agreed to host the field trip. Agreed that it should occur in the 2nd or 3rd week of September. There was interest in going to see wet belt forest conditions and possibly an active cable harvest site. Please let Paul know if there are any specific topics that you would like to see in the field.

Late Spring Meeting

Agreed to a tentative meeting date of Wednesday June 14, 2017. Meeting to occur in Vernon – at the MoFLNRO's office (boardroom).

Meeting minutes will be posted to the documents page of the OK SFM Website.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.