

Nicola Thompson Fraser SFM Plan Public Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2012. 9:00am Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops

Attendees:

Francis Vyse	Andrea Inwards	Liis Jeffries
Dave Dobi	Wendy McKinney	Simon Warhurst
Dave Tremblay	Bert Parke	Rick Cooper
Gerry Sanford	Aline Lachapelle	Glenn Foss
Evanne Barrett	Miichael Bragg	Rick Sommer
Graham Hope		

Guests:

Karl Larsen, Jeanette Hoft

Facilitator:

Pat Salm

The meeting started at 9:00AM. The meeting began with introductions, meeting room orientation (washrooms, exits, etc.) and a review the meeting agenda. Welcome to our two newest members – Liis Jeffries and Evanne Barrett!

Action Items:

The action Items from the April 12, 2012 meeting were reviewed. All items have been actioned.

1. The Certification Canada Map link has been added to the NTF website (under links).
2. Karl Larsen is speaking at today's meeting.
3. OGMA- total OGMA area is 389,443ha and referenced in the May, 2012 SFM Plan that is posted to the website .
4. PAG interest assessment- handed out at and completed by those in attendance at todays meeting. Pat to distribute to other PAG members unable to attend the meeting. Following this, the PAG participation list will be updated.

Audit Findings:

Tolko: External audit June 2012. Tolko has corporate certificate and is now on a sampling plan. They were audited in 2012 but are not receiving an external audit in 2013. For 2012, they reported no Minor non-conformances, one Area of concern- related to PAG member recruitment and one Opportunity for

improvement related to Tolko's Roles and responsibilities matrix in their environmental management system.

BCTS: External audit Oct 2012. There were two Minor non-conformances, and 5 Opportunities for improvement. Copies of the audit report were handed out and each of the findings were reviewed.

Canfor: Canfor also has corporate certificate and are part of a sampling plan. This the Vavenby operations 1st audit since the restart of the mill. Canfor reported two Minor non-conformances: one regarding forecasting and current status of SFM plan and one because the Canfor corporate policy was not updated. There were five Opportunities for improvement and these were also reviewed.

Aspen: External audit Nov 2012. Aspen reported five Areas of concern. None of these directly pertained to the SFM Plan or public process. The findings were: management review findings not being publicly available, feller-buncher activities around an S6 classified stream, road inspection and maintenance activities not well documented, maintenance of spill kits, and management of fuel tanks in pick-ups.

Gilbert Smith: External audit July 2012. GSFP reported no non-conformances, no areas of concern, and three 3 Opportunities for improvements. The OFI's were related to PAG member recruitment, a debris pile that was located in a riparian management area and maintenance of spill kits.

PAG member expressed concern over audit findings regarding PAG member recruitments. They pointed out that almost all service groups are hurting for membership as well. Now a days, people are finding their time is stretched and don't want to get involved. Concern raised that people don't know forestry is rebounding. It was felt that more could be done to get the "opportunity to participate" message out at other forums that the licencees get involved in. For example, the presentation that was given by Aline and Jenn Reid resulted in Liis's attendance at the meeting today.

Action: Mike Bragg to attend February Kamloops Naturalist Club meeting.

Mid Term Timber Supply: Rick Sommers-District Manager of Thompson Rivers Forest District

Copies of Minister Thompson's Opinion Editorial: "Beyond the Beetle: An action plan for healthy forests" was distributed prior to the meeting and copies made available at the meeting. The letter helps to explain the Ministry's position on timber availability and the role of local communities in the decision making process.

Rick spoke of the Report and governments initial response to it's recommendations. A more detailed response to the recommendations and their action plan is being fleshed out. Each TSA is collaborating actions and these are being accumulated into a report that will contain provincial actions as well as those specific to TSA's. Moving forward ,there will be different responses around the province in various areas. Local public will be involved in decisions and these public processes to occur at different

speeds depending on urgency. Rick suggested the AAC in Kamloops would likely be decreasing in the next 5 years, the current 4 million m³ will not be maintained.

Questions:

- is logging in protected areas a foregone conclusion?

Minister Thompson's letter, government is not advocating this. For it to be considered, a conversation with the local communities would commence. Any decisions in this regard would also need to be ecologically sound and supported by science.

- will this likely mean the conversion to area based forest tenures - to increase cut? This might occur in certain situations but companies will also need to evaluate these decisions based on the reality that flexibility is reduced with smaller parcels and there is a risk that these decisions, may actually decrease allowable cut.

- follow-up question to area based tenures: Will there be more roads in area based logging? Not necessarily. Roads are an issue however as has been noted in impacts to certain wildlife species such as moose and wolf.

Presentation: When Young Forests meet Young Squirrels

TRU Professor of Wildlife Ecology & Management, Karl Larsen gave an excellent presentation to the group. The presentation demonstrated Karl's research to link animal dispersal to forest conditions. The research served to answer 2 questions: What is the colonization threshold? What does this mean when more of the landscape becomes younger forest?

The presentation has been posted to the members section of the website. Advisory group members felt this was an excellent presentation and greatly appreciated the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of the research. There was an expressed disappointment over the lack of funding for applied research such as this.

Review Proposed Changes to the 2013 SFM plan.

The summary of change and tracked change version of the SFM Plan were used to work through the proposed changes to the SFM Plan. All summary items were reviewed and changes agreed upon as indicated in the summary document (attached to minutes) and detailed in the tracked change version of the SFM Plan. These documents have been updated and re-posted to the members section of the website and will be retained there for review and comment. PAG members were invited to look again at the proposed changes and respond to Pat if they had any further questions.

Discussion of the changes resulted in a question of whether there were new BEC zones – wondering what the IMA zone was. One of the licencees looked this information up at the meeting, it was determined to be existing – the Interior Mountain Heather-Alpine zone.

Once completed, the 2013 SFM Plan will be posted to the website. Hard copies of the new Plan will be made and distributed to public members. Licencees will make their own copies of the Plan.

Current DFA Issues, Summary, Wrap-Up

PAG 2013 Field Trips

Having a series of field trips held at different times and locations in the SFM Plan area in 2012 was viewed very positively and will continue for 2013. The tentative plan for 2013 field trips are as follows:

BCTS hosting Merritt trip - second week of June preferably on the Thursday.

Gilbert Smith hosting Kamloops – North Thompson trip in the fall.

Aspen hosting Lillooet trip also in the fall.

Possible topics include Ungulate Winter Range, GAR areas and stream classification (S6 stream triggers).

Spring Meeting

Agreed to a tentative meeting date of Thursday, April 25, 2013. Meeting to occur in Ashcroft at the River Inn.

There was a desire to continue to include a guest speaker at subsequent meetings. Ideas were discussed and it was felt that a presentation on Species at Risk (Jared Hobbs) , Ungulate Winter Range – expectations for management or possibly someone from the ranching industry were good candidate topics. Rick Sommer also noted other government auditing activities on local forests that could be discussed such as those of the Forest Practices Board and the Forest and Range Evaluation Program.

Michael Bragg agreed to contact Jared Hobbs to determine his possible availability.

Wendy reminded public members to submit their mileage claims for travel to the meeting to her directly (wendy.mckinney@tolko.com).

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.