

Nicola Thompson Fraser SFM Plan Public Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2016. Merritt Civic Centre

Attendees:

Kathy Crack	Brian Dack	Liis Jeffries	Jim Baker
Jamie Skinner	Bert Parke	Katharine Shewchuk	Norm Hansen
Gerry Sanford	Brent Turmel	Craig Hewlett	Harley Wright
Stefan Borge			

Guests: Jerry Canuel, Aspen Planers

Facilitator: Pat Salm

Introduction, agenda review, safety:

The meeting started at 9:00AM. The meeting began with introductions, meeting room orientation and a review of the proposed meeting agenda. There were no additional items added to the agenda.

Action Items:

There were three action items from May 5, 2016 that were reviewed:

The first item was to for licensees to review their SFM Plan target 2 data (tree species diversity) for the non-ESSF zones in the Merritt and Lillooet TSA's and report back to the advisory group. Licensees reported that upon review, data was relatively consistent throughout ecological zones and that additional steps had been taken to ensure field survey data was collected in such a way as to provide consistent and accurate reporting. Agreed that survey data collection could be something shown on the next field trip.

Item #2 was to have an update on the rare ecosystem target for the Merritt TSA. With fieldwork completed by Astrid van Woudenberg, a target has been developed and will be looked at during the meeting.

The 3rd item was for Licensees to provide an update on how they are progressing on meeting the intent of the Migratory Bird Convention Act (MCBA). Jamie advised that the government/industry working group (includes forest industry representatives plus specialists from the provincial and federal government) have developed a risk based approach based on habitat type and species presence. Licensees are now implementing their own unique approach to satisfy the MCBA.

CSA Standard Revision Review

Pat advised that the revised Sustainable Forest Management Standard for CSA (known as CSA Z809-16) has been published and endorsed as a National Standard of Canada. Pat delivered CSA's slide presentation on the changes to the CSA SFM Standard – a copy of the presentation will be posted onto our NTF website. The maps showing what areas of Canada and BC are certified to each of the forest certification standards can be found at the Certification Canada website ([link here](#)).

Pat noted that the work of the advisory group to adjust the SFM Plan to the revised standard should be able to be accomplished in 2017 within our regular meeting schedule – barring any additional insight/conversations the advisory group wants to have on the new revisions. Planned for later in the meeting are proposed changes to our Terms of Reference as well as a suggested way to look at the SFM mandatory discussion items.

Chain of Custody (Aspen Planers)– presentation by Jerry Canuel

Following the field trip this fall, there was some desire to better understand what chain of custody certification was, how it tied to the CSA SFM certification, and what were the market demands for it.

Jerry presented information on Aspen Planers Chain of Custody (CoC) certification. He mentioned that the customer demand within their company originated from Chinese buyers. While the actual demand for certified products is not that high compared to Aspen's supply, Jerry explained that the company wants unrestricted access to all its current markets and customers. Jerry provided a link to the PEFC Canada website ([click here for direct link](#)).

Advisory group members appreciated the presentation and the opportunity discuss relevant subject matter with them.

CSA Certification Audits – company overviews:

Pat reminded everyone that all licensee external audits are posted to the NTF website (under the “documents” tab). Aspen let the group know that their audit had just concluded and they had yet to see the audit report. There was one item related to genetically modified organisms that the auditor felt could be improved upon – the current SFM Plan is silent on this but government (FLNRO) ensures that tree seed is free of GMO's.

Brian reported on his experience in attending the GSFP audit, finding it thorough and informative. Advisory group members were encouraged to attend the external audits and to let licensees know if they wished to participate in upcoming audits in 2017.

Review Proposed changes to the Terms of Reference

The current Terms of Reference (ToR) is located in Appendix 2 of the SFM Plan. Pat reviewed proposed changes – mostly to reflect subtle changes resulting from the Z809-16 standard. All changes were agreed to with one slight improvement to wording in the Dispute-resolution Process section. The consensus process of reaching decisions was discussed and in the end, everyone felt how it was defined and the four bulleted points on reaching consensus were very important. The new ToR will be included in the 2017 SFM Plan with a date of November 3rd, 2016. The redline version showing all change will be posted to the members section of the website.

Action: Pat to post redline version to the members section of the NTF website.

CSA Standard - 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: 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 SFM Plan.

Pat reviewed the summary of changes document sent out to everyone in advance of the meeting and went through all of the substantive revisions. The red-line version of the draft 2017 SFM Plan was used to look at the specific changes. All proposed changes were agreed to. For the Appendix 4 changes, it was agreed that any housekeeping type of changes could be made to the 2017 plan immediately without further discussion. Pat was to bring forward the remaining Appendix 4 items (more significant change to the SFM Plan values, objectives, indicators, targets) at the next meeting for further discussion. Pat quickly went through the housekeeping items in the Summary of Change document that was sent out with the meeting agenda. All these proposed changes were also agreed to. A red-line version of the draft 2017 SFM Plan was created to show the full extent of change. Both the summary page and the red-line version of the Plan are posted on the NTF website (members only section).

Action: Pat was to bring forward the remaining Appendix 4 items (more significant change to the SFM Plan values, objectives, indicators, targets) at the next meeting for further discussion.

Action: A hard copy final version will be posted to the documents page of the NTF website in late December and PAG members can expect a hard copy of the Plan in early January.

Current DFA Issues, Summary, Wrap-Up

Tolko mill announcement (Jamie)

Tolko's [announcement for the closure of the Merritt mill](#) was explained. Jamie said that Tolko's plan right now is to retain its allowable cut allocation for the Merritt Timber Supply Area and either transport the logs to their remaining facilities or to trade the logs with other companies. A concern was raised regarding the fate of the new Green Energy Project located adjacent to the Merritt mill without this raw material supply.

2017 Field Trip (Lorne - BCTS)

Agreed that the next field trip be held somewhere between Kamloops and Merritt (hosted by Lorne Wood – BC Timber Sales): field trip sometime in the last half of September. A couple of possible items were discussed that could be looked at in the field. The first was to have Craig (GSFP) conduct a silviculture survey plot – explaining what goes into the reporting for SFM target #2. There was also the idea that the Migratory Bird risk assessment could be explained for a particular stop – what the risk assessment rating was and what birds could possibly be on site (may also be able to link this to the information found for the area in the BC Breeding Bird Atlas).

Spring meeting date – Thursday, April 27th, 2017

Agreed to a tentative meeting date of Thursday April 27th, 2017 where licensee performance against the 2016 SFM Plan will be reviewed. Meeting to occur in Kamloops (location tbd).

Jamie reminded public members to complete their mileage claims for travel to him directly.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.