

Okanagan SFM Plan

Public Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2016. ECCO Centre, Kelowna

Attendees: Renee Clark, Suzan Lapp, Clive Johnson, Paul Ross, Keith Boulter, Patti Meger, Scott Smith, Mike Watkins, Darie Annesley, Tony Zanotto, Don Dobson, Heather Rice, Dave Gill, Doug Flintoff, Don Guild, Pat Salm

Guest Speaker: Steve Kachanoski, Cumulative Effects Project Manager, MoFLNRO

Meeting started at 9:30AM. The meeting began with a safety/orientation briefing of the meeting room, introductions and a review of the meeting agenda. Time permitting; Paul suggested adding direct seeding, LIDAR and stumping to the latter part of the agenda.

Action Items from previous meeting:

Watershed assessment and recovery – Target #20 update.

Pat briefly reviewed the history of the advisory groups desire to work towards a new indicator for target 20 that incorporated some of the new information pertaining to watershed assessments. Since our previous meeting, Rita Winkler (MoFLNRO) held a workshop that went over the some of the new information including [extension note 116](#).

Don advised that the extension note included new data that looked at snow accumulation and snow melt in determining the rate of hydrological recovery of young forests. The data suggests that recovery times are longer and that may in turn further extend when forests can be harvested in a watershed. An application workshop is planned for this spring.

Additionally, Don and Paul advised that there was work continuing with the Joint Practices Board (professional foresters and engineers/geoscientists) to produce draft guidelines that provide a watershed management framework as well as guidelines on how to conduct a watershed assessment.

The advisory group's water sub-committee (Don, Paul, Renee, Patti, Scott) agreed that work could be started on a revised target once the above events transpire and the information becomes available (possibly by this summer or fall). Until new information is reviewed within the context of the Okanagan SFM Plan, Target 20 on watershed ECA's and managing peak flows will remain.

CSA Audit results.

Tolko: Paul advised that they had an internal audit done by an independent 3rd party. Many of the findings were process/procedural in nature and did not reflect how operations were being conducted on the ground. There were no findings pertaining to the SFM Plan targets or to the SFM public advisory group process.

Paul did provide an example of where an unsanctioned trail was to be maintained. The auditor in discussion with the logging crew found that while they were aware of the trail, they did not intend to clean it (leaving it for the silviculture crew to clean it). This was then noted as an audit finding. The conversation led to a much broader conversation on recreational use of the forest, unsanctioned trails and how reckless actions are creating environmental damage. In the end, most people felt regulating use was only as good as the support given to enforce that use. After Paul suggested possibly contacting other CSA advisory groups to see if they had similar concerns and would support a request to politicians for additional resources, a second option surfaced involving a more local approach. Don Dobson noted that the Okanagan Basin Water Board may have some funding for hiring watershed stewards, who would be monitoring land use in sensitive watersheds. Doug mentioned that this effort could possibly be coordinated with the Wilderness Watch program that the BCWF supports. BCWF was also considering the development of a smart phone application that the public could use to report on strange/suspect activities. It was agreed that a letter of support for the hiring of watershed stewards should be sent to the Okanagan Basin Water Board. Scott suggested that there were a number of PAG members that were involved in the Water Board and who could ensure the letter gets to the right people.

Paul advised that Tolko's next internal audit was likely to occur in the last week of September. Please let Paul know if you'd like to attend.

Action: Paul Ross to draft letter of support.

Action: Doug to give an update at the next meeting on the status of a BCWF smart phone application that has the ability to report on suspect activities.

BCTS: Darcie provided a summary of the 3rd party audit done by KPMG last year. Auditors found one issue with wording in the SFM Plan that suggested that audit results were part of the annual SFM monitoring reports. This will need to be changed in the Plan; the audit results are posted to the SFM website, and not included in the monitoring report. Auditors also found that the Plan also had a web link that was not working and needed to be corrected. Darcie also noted the audit finding where a fuel tank in the back of a pick-up was not adequately secured. Additionally in the field, one contractor was found to have the environmental management system (ems) binder that belonged to Tolko and not to BCTS. As the binder contains the work procedures expected by BCTS, this was an outage in their audit. The KPMG public audit report can be found on the OK SFM website.

Darcie advised that their next internal audit was to occur in May, with an external audit to occur in August. Please contact Darcie if you are thinking of attending either of these.

Presentation by Steve Kachanoski, MoFLNRO

Steve Kachanoski, is a Cumulative Effects Project Manager, with the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Steve provided us with a copy of his presentation and as he was unable to attend the meeting directly, discussed the slides by phone. The presentation was an overview of the Cumulative Effects Framework (CEF) and some of the policy, procedures and decision support tools. Only a limited number (five) key values have been brought into the framework. Steve advised they are in the selection process for another five key values. It was noted that all the current values have a biological focus and nowhere social/economic values have yet to be selected. Full program development of the CEF is expected by 2018-19.

Steve has provided a copy of his presentation – it has been posted on our Okanagan SFM website (members only section – contact Pat if you need help accessing). The advisory group members appreciated the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of Steve and thanked him for the presentation and conversation.

Proposed changes to the 2016/17 SFM Plan

The summary of change document previously distributed to advisory group members was used to work through the proposed changes to the SFM Plan. Pat noted that most of the changes were housekeeping and can be found on the Okanagan SFM website (red-line version of the 2016/17 Plan). One of the summary items pertained to Target 35 (where monitoring of activity pertaining to the LRMP was required). The group agreed that with the committee no longer meeting, this part of the target was not necessary. The discussion did lead to questions on why the LRMP monitoring committee was no longer meeting. In light of earlier discussions around the unsanctioned use/development of forest areas for recreation, some wondered if such a committee might be able to deal with some of these issues.

Action: Pat to talk to Ted McRea and have Ted provide us with background on the disbanding of the LRMP monitoring committee and what the future might hold in this regard – discussion to occur at subsequent PAG meeting.

Action: Heather to provide Pat with copy of their latest organizational chart for distribution to the PAG.

All proposed changes to the SFMP were agreed to as proposed. Pat will make the changes to the 2016/17 SFM Plan. Once complete the Plan will be reprinted and distributed to active advisory group members. A copy will be posted to the SFM website.

Current DFA Issues, Summary, Wrap-Up

2016 Field Trip

Tony looking at an area up Hwy 33 that has MPB harvest history and where hydrological recovery could be discussed. Agreed to a tentative date of September 15, 2016. Please let Tony know if there are any specific topics that you would like to see in the field.

Spring Meeting

Agreed to a tentative meeting date of June 23, 2016. Meeting to occur in Vernon – at the MoFLNRO's office (boardroom).

CSA Standard Revision

Pat reviewed the timelines that were sent out with the draft agenda. Expecting a new CSA Standard this summer. A document was produced that briefly outlines the changes made from the old standard. Pat will distribute with the meeting minutes and post it to the SFM web site. It is anticipated that incorporating these revisions into the SFM Plan can be done within the current meeting framework – no additional meetings should be necessary.

Paul Ross - Activity/Technology Update

Paul provided the group with a bit more information on the topics of stumping, LIDAR, and direct seeding.

Stumping: as a result of last year's field trip and internal review by Tolko, they have created a draft stumping best management practice document which was recently shared with the district as a result of a request from the OK-S TSA steering committee.

LIDAR: which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth. The bare earth topography layer is very precise and being used by forest companies in forest planning, operations and silviculture. Tree species, height and possibly even diameter are being captured with the technology. Southern interior licensees and government agencies are cooperatively contracting to collect and process the data for portions of their operating areas.

Direct Seeding: Tolko began the experimental program out of necessity when trees sown in the nursery failed to meet quality standards needed for planting. Seeding occurs behind a disc trencher with a tool modified to drop seed at the desired interval. 5-9 times as many seeds are sown compared to planting to achieve FSP approved stocking levels.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.