

Okanagan SFM Plan

Public Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Jan 29, 2015. ECCO Centre, Kelowna

Attendees: Dave Gill, Mike Watkins, Paul Ross, Don Guild, Patti Meger, Clive Johnson, Doug Flintoff, Heather Rice, Keith Boulter, Glenn Theim, Julius Huhs, Don Dobson, Renee Clark, Pat Salm

Guest Speaker: Doug Wahl

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. There were no additional items for the agenda.

Action Items from previous meeting:

FBP Report Recommendations on Community Watersheds – Don Dobson update.

Don reported at the previous meeting that there is no current guidance/direction on what a watershed assessment should look like and that lack of standardization was impacting results. Don is part of a joint practice board of professional foresters and professional engineers and geoscientists and this joint board is looking to become involved in developing this guidance. *Don advised that this work is “in the pipe” and will be attended to once resourcing to complete the work is committed.*

Sub-committee formed to review Target #20 (watershed ECA’s and peak flow).

The subcommittee (Paul Ross, Don Dobson, Renee Clark, Patti Meger, Scott Smith, Pat Salm) did not meet during the year. Subcommittee objectives remain as:

- Review SFM Plan target #20 and determine what opportunities there are to improve either the target itself or the way the target is being reported.
- Review any opportunities to utilize equivalent clearcut area (ECA) as a means to report on other SFM targets (such as wildlife habitat, soil erosion hazard, recreational access).

Very good discussion on opportunities to improve the current target. Don Dobson felt that the time is right to now work on such a target. He has spoken to Rita Winkler (MoFLNRO hydrologist) who has agreed to support the process. Don made suggestions to some of the text in the SFM Plan indicator/target matrix and sent that to the sub-committee the day before the advisory group meeting. At the meeting, Don suggested that more could be done to incorporate channel stability into the target.

Renee felt it would be beneficial to have something that could assess sub-watersheds and not the entire watershed. Clive was concerned that a target that looked at channel stability might be too re-active.

Agreed at the meeting that the existing target #20 will remain while the subcommittee (with Paul Ross replacing Chris Bradford) work to determine other options to assess watershed condition.

Action: *Don to speak with Rita about possible dates that might work for her for an initial sub-committee meeting. Pat to send out a Doodle calendar invite to sub-committee members once some initial dates are known. Agreed that a work plan with timelines will need to be drawn up.*

Licencees to review Target 23 - Temp road inspections

Nearly all temporary roads were inspected (99.1%) but there was 0.9 km of temp road not inspected. At the last meeting Rob pointed out that performance against this target has improved substantially from earlier monitoring reports. The example of a temp road on flat ground and away from any watercourse was used – is there a need for an annual inspection on this road?

Licencees reviewed suggested improvements to the target as indicated in the “summary of SFM Plan change” document. See the proposed SFM Plan changes section that appear later in these minutes. In the end it was agreed to incorporate temp road inspections (indicator 3.2.4, target 23) into perm road inspections (indicator 3.2.3, target 22).

Licencees to review Target 24 – Reveg of Roads and Landings

At the previous meeting, Tolko explained how target was not met. Most agreed with the rationale of not seeding roads inside cut blocks where the ditch line was going to be re-disturbed that same growing season or the next growing season during harvest operations (roadside harvesting).

Licencees reviewed suggested improvements to the target as indicated in the “summary of SFM Plan change” document. See the proposed SFM Plan changes section that appear later in these minutes. In the end it was agreed to make changes as proposed – clarifying what is meant in the variance to apply seed in the next growing season.

Plan for 2015 field tour

The TSA committee is planning a field tour on dry belt fir in the **spring of 2015**. There is the opportunity for the PAG to participate. It's Dave Gill's turn to host the PAG felt this would be a good tour to be involved in.

Action: *Dave to finalize details of the tour and tour date and advise Pat who will in turn advise the PAG.*

Presentation by Doug Wahl, BC Forest Practices Board

Doug Wahl, is the manager of audits and special investigations for the Forest Practices Board. Doug

made a presentation on the Board's work in recent audits and investigations. The presentation provided background on what the Board does with respect to both audits and special investigations. A review of audit findings between 2005 and 2013 revealed province wide information on findings of concern to the Board.

Doug provided additional information on 3 special reports and investigations: bridge planning, design and construction, cumulative effects and community watersheds. The report on unsafe bridges created more interest and reaction than any other Board report. Doug noted that the response to recommendations by government and the forest industry has been swift. The report on cumulative effects revealed the current challenges to manage crown resources without an overall strategic plan and measurable objectives. The Board's recommendations for community watersheds included legislative changes and the improvement of the watershed assessment process.

Doug has provided a copy of his presentation – it has been posted on our Okanagan SFM website (members only section).

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

Proposed changes to the 2015/16 SFM Plan

The summary of change document previously distributed to PAG members was used to work through the proposed changes to the SFM Plan. Pat noted that all changes including those identified as housekeeping can be found on the Okanagan SFM website (red-line version of the 2015/15 Plan). The remaining summary items were reviewed and all proposed changes were agreed upon. There were a few minor edits to the change summary document: Indicator 3.2.3 will remove the "business units" phrase in favour of "licenceses". Additionally, Indicator 3.2.5 will better explain the variance for the target.

Generally, the recommendation to combine indicators 3.2.3 and 3.2.4 was agreed to. Temporary roads will now be part of the same risk assessment as permanent roads in order to evaluate adherence to inspections (that are based on a roads risk). PAG members were interested to know how similar or different the company's road risk rating systems were – so that roads with similar conditions were generally assigned the same risk and inspection frequency.

Pat will make the changes to the 2015/16 SFM Plan based on the agreed to discussions. Once complete the Plan will be reprinted and distributed to active advisory group members.

Action: *Licenceses were going to locate their road risk rating process and share the information with the advisory group.*

Current DFA Issues, Summary, Wrap-Up

Spring Meeting

Agreed to a tentative meeting date of June 4, 2015. Meeting to occur in Vernon – at the MoFLNRO's office (boardroom).

Tolko – Lavington Pellet Plant Update

Paul provided the group with a bit more information on the news that a pellet plant will be constructed next to the Lavington sawmill. Paul explained that the raw material supply would be coming from a combination of sawdust and shavings from local area sawmills. The demand was created in part by the Kamloops pulp mill's closure of its low grade pulp line that was sourced by those same materials. Project engineers have determined that air emissions from the upgraded sawmill and the pellet plant combined will be lower than current sawmill only emissions.

CSA Standard Revision

Pat explained that the CSA Standard is revised every 5 years. The CSA Technical Committee for the Standard has met twice already and will likely need to meet two more times in the next year or so. A first draft of the revised standard is nearing completion. The goal is to have a revised SFM standard available for public review and comment in the summer of 2015 and a new standard in place by the spring of 2016. Pat advised that both he and Dave Gill are members of the Committee. Changes made to date look to streamline the Standard somewhat but the core requirements to have the public involved in the development of values, objectives, indicators and targets will not change. Advisory group members can connect with either Pat or Dave if they want more information.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.