

# Okanagan SFM Plan

## Public Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

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**June 23, 2016. MoFLNRO office, Vernon**

**Attendees:** Renee Clark, Suzan Lapp, Trevor Jolleys, Paul Ross, Keith Boulter, Patti Meger, Scott Smith, Mike Watkins, Darie Annesley, Nancy Paul, Don Dobson, Heather Rice, Dave Gill, Doug Flintoff, Don Guild, Pat Salm

**Guest Speakers:** Diane Roddy, Chair of the CSA SFM Technical Committee; Priya Patel, CSA Group; Rein Kalke, BCTS; Arthur Tsai - Canfor Sales and Marketing

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.

### **Action Items from previous meeting:**

#### **Watershed steward - letter of support**

Paul presented a draft letter of support for the hiring of watershed stewards that would be sent to the Okanagan Basin Water Board. The letter was initially reviewed and supported by all. Paul was going to update the letter to include the amount of DFA area that was within the boundaries of the Okanagan watershed basin. Once complete, Pat to send out to the group for a last look before submission.

Action: Pat to distribute the updated letter to the group for any additional fine-tuning before it is submitted. Agreed that Paul would sign the letter on behalf of our advisory group.

#### **BCWF smart phone conservation app**

Doug advised that this is moving along – although there are a few items needing to be worked out...beside beta testing the application, BCWF is looking into potential legal matters associated with use of such an application. Jesse Zeman has the lead in this for BCWF and would be willing to speak to us about it at a subsequent meeting. Pat and Doug to discuss later in the year and see if timing is good for this to occur.

#### **Disbanding of the Okanagan LRMP monitoring committee.**

As Ted McRae was not at our meeting to provide us with an update on the disbanding of the LRMP monitoring committee and what the future might hold in this regard, we had to skip this action item.

Action: Agreed that Pat would contact Ted and request a short background statement that could be included in the meeting minutes or failing that offered at the next meeting.

### **MoFLNRO Organization Chart**

Heather provided copies of the latest org chart to interested advisory group members. Pat will post the org chart to our SFM website (<http://thompsonokanagansustainableforestry.ca/okdocuments.htm>).

## **CSA Presentation by Diane Roddy, Priya Patel and Arthur Tsai**

After a round of introductions, Priya (project manager for CSA Group) presented some broad information about CSA. Diane (chair of the Technical Committee that worked to revise the CSA Z809 forest certification standard) then spoke to some of the specifics of the CSA SFM standard that our Okanagan Sustainable Forest Management Plan is based upon. The presentation reviewed what is new/different in the newly revised version of the SFM Standard. Forest companies will have 2 years to transition to the new standard once it the Standards Council of Canada approves it as a national standard. The linkages between CSA and the internationally recognized Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) were explained. Arthur outlined the value Canfor and their customers see in CSA forest certification – and the importance of CSA's endorsement by PEFC for international recognition and acceptance of their wood and paper products.

A copy of the presentation will be provided and subsequently posted to 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 Diane, Priya, Arthur and Rein - thanking them for their presentation and insight.

## **Review of the 2014/15 SFM Monitoring Report**

Pat provided a brief history of the development of the Okanagan Sustainable Forest Management (OK SFM) Plan and how this was the fifth year of reporting against the current requirements of the CSA forest certification standard. The Plan contains indicators and targets that help to assess sustainability against the Criteria and Elements set out in the CSA certification standard. The Monitoring report is a roll-up of the participating licensees performance against the targets in the SFM Plan. Highlights of the Monitoring report were covered. In total, 39 out of 43 targets (91%) were fully met, slightly better than the 36/43 targets met in the previous reporting period.

One item to note with this years report is the absence of Gorman's in the reporting data. This can result in some large differences in trend data, particularly where actual numbers (such as total area or volume harvested) are used. For areas that are measuring performance as a percent (such as percent of area in permanent access), the absence of Gorman data is not really noticeable.

The Monitoring Report contains a bit of perspective information (Section 5) with tables/charts indicating plan area statistics and relating them to what occurred in the reporting period. The report also provided a quick look at how the indicators and targets tie back to the SFM Criteria and Elements in the CSA certification standard (Table 6.1). Each of the targets and the performance against these is then shown in the second table. It was noted that some targets are used to measure multiple indicators – thus achievement or non-achievement of a target can have a cascading affect throughout the Plan.

Pat asked the group if there were any specific targets that they would like to review. The group was comfortable with Pat taking the lead in reviewing targets that he felt should be reviewed with the opportunity to visit any others as we went through the Monitoring Report.

### **Target 3- Rare Ecosystems within Old Growth Management Areas**

Pat reviewed the Licensees track record over the past 5 years of reporting, with more rare area being added to the total than has been removed. Dave pointed out that much of the data is based on inventory information that might not be accurate when visited in the field. Advisory group members agreed with the decision to indicate that the target was met. The statement around variance will be removed from the target statement.

### **Target 12- Reforestation – Regeneration Delay**

Paul pointed out that Tolko now uses direct seeding as a method of prompt reforestation and meeting regeneration delay. Tolko actively monitors direct seeding to ensure reforestation is successful. Agreed that seeding as well as planting should be added to this target.

### **Target 15- Harvest vs AAC**

The flexibility to manage cut control within the government regulations and policy was explained. It is this flexibility, both over a term of 5 years and at a greater level for any given year, that demonstrates why the AAC target and the actual billed harvest volume are not in alignment on an annual basis.

### **Target 20- Harvest in Community Watersheds**

There was one watershed (Mill – Kelowna) where harvesting took place and the peak flow hazard was at a high rating. Harvesting was consistent with watershed assessment recommendations in all community watersheds.

Some discussion then occurred on the site variables that contribute to the high rating and if these could be explained in the report. Additionally, it was agreed that reporting should include all community watersheds in the DFA and not just those where harvesting occurred. This would allow watersheds to be tracked year over year in subsequent reports.

### **Target 21 – Stream Crossings in Community Watersheds**

Seventy-five percent (6/8) permanent road stream crossings incorporated a water quality effectiveness evaluation into their design, construction and maintenance. This was the only target in the report that was not met. Paul explained that they were missed because Tolko staff did not think evaluations were to be completed on existing Forest Service Roads. The two outstanding evaluations are scheduled for completion later this year.

Paul also mentioned that Tolko was looking at using a different evaluation process to drive the potential sediment delivery risk rating. The concern with advisory group members is that there should not be different measures of what a high rating is – Paul agreed to go back and review how this modified evaluation process is going to measure risk and if it is consistent with current evaluation process. Note: FREP Extension Note #12 describes what a water quality effectiveness evaluation is (link to this provided in the documents page of our SFM website).

### **Target 22- Permanent Road Inspections**

It was noted that the report was incorrect by indicating it was reporting on Permanent Roads only. Pat failed to update the Monitoring Report template to reflect that this target was combined with the old Target 23 and this was a reporting on all roads (temporary and permanent). The actual data in the Report does include all roads – and not just permanent ones.

### **Target 31- Environment and Safety Training**

Paul explained what occurred with a few of Tolko's new hires - that while staff could recall training, there was no documentation of it. This led to a broader discussion of whether all Tolko Woodlands staff should be part of this reporting – similar to BCTS and WFN reporting. Darcie advised that training plans for their staff include things like defensive driving and 1<sup>st</sup> aid training.

### **Target 43- Harvested Area by Silviculture System**

Scott requested that the Silviculture System categories are better explained in future Reports. Paul explained that an even aged system is akin to a clear-cut and uneven-aged akin to selective harvest. Change to be made in subsequent reports.

## **Current DFA Issues, Summary, Wrap-Up**

### **2016 External Audit Schedule**

BCTS audit is the week of July 25<sup>th</sup> – contact Darcie (250-260-4639) if interested in attending.  
Tolko audit is the week of Oct 11<sup>th</sup> – contact Paul (250- 547-1296) if interested in attending.

### **2016 Field Trip**

Darcie reported that they are looking at an area up Hwy 33 that has MPB harvest history and where hydrological recovery could be discussed. Confirmed the date will be Thursday September 15, 2016. Please let Darcie or Tony Zanotto know if there are any specific topics that you would like to see in the field.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.