

Nicola Thompson Fraser SFM Plan Public Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2013. 9:30am Merritt Civic Centre

Attendees:

Frances Vyse	Andrea Inwards	Liis Jeffries	Chris Lepsoe
Dave Dobi	Wendy McKinney	Ian Black	Tim Pennell
Bert Parke	Katharine Shewchuk	Jan Stadey	Kathy Crack
Gerry Sanford	Aline Lachapelle	Leona Antoine	Graham Everett
Evanne Barrett	Craig Hewlitt	Jim Baker	Jerry Canuel

Guests:

Jared Hobbs, Andrea Burger

Facilitator:

Pat Salm

Introduction, agenda review, safety:

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 newest member – Kathy Crack (who participated in the Merritt PAG before moving away a number of years ago)! The newspaper advertisement was also responded to by Hardeep Mann. Hardeep arrived at the meeting expressing an interest in the PAG but had other commitments that day and could not stay – Pat will follow-up.

Action Items:

There was one action item from the April 25, 2013 that needs to be carried forward – the item was a result of GSFP audit results in 2012 and a question was asked regarding logging debris left on site and in piles. In response to the discussion that followed, GSFP offered to include their waste assessor on the fall field trip that they were hosting. The assessor was to explain the process of measuring waste after harvesting was completed. As this field trip was cancelled, the PAG expressed a desire to include a waste assessor in an upcoming 2014 field trip.

This led to a discussion about the 2013 field trip themselves, where only one of the 3 field trips occurred (BCTS lead trip in June). Pat explained that the other two field trips (Lillooet and Blue River areas both planned for September) did not occur as attendance for these was quite low. The licencees advised that there were resource implications of hosting field trips and there was a participant threshold where the numbers did not make sense to continue with the trip. Each field trip is slightly different and requires a different amount of effort/resource so a specific threshold number was not identified but in

general, public participants of 3-5 were referenced as a lower limit. Public members at the meeting agreed with such an approach and that these decisions need to be made by the licencees.

Plans for 2014 field trips were discussed and it was felt to continue on with a field trip in the Merritt area as this was where the majority of the advisory group members resided. There was also the desire to see other areas within the Plan area that differed from the traditional pine plateau areas found in the central part of the Plan area. The area unique to the North Thompson River was referenced on a few occasions throughout the discussion and there seemed to be some appetite to try another field trip in this location.

Licencees also made the offer to take any of the public advisory group members out to the field with one of their staff at any time. Public members are welcome to call them in advance and arrange a 1:1 tour on planning or operations that interest them.

Decision on 2014 field trips: Aspen to host a field trip in the Merritt area with proposed date of June 5th, 2014. GSFP and/or Canfor to look at organizing a field trip for the fall in the North Thompson, subject to the PAG's availability – no date was set.

Audit Findings:

Licencees got together in early November to discuss their individual audit results as it pertained to the SFM Plan and public participation process. They decided on proposed actions/changes that should be discussed with the PAG. These proposed changes were itemized in the summary of change document provided to advisory group members in advance of the meeting (and on the meeting agenda for after lunch). External audits completed in 2013 have been posted to the NTF website (see documents page). Companies briefly summarized their audits as follows:

Aspen: External audit October 2013 (although audit not yet completed – Aspen still waiting for conclusion of audit and audit report). Jerry explained a few of the items identified thus far in the audit - most were similar to other licensee audit findings and will be discussed in more detail after lunch when the SFM Plan changes are reviewed.

Tolko: Wendy reported that Tolko has corporate certificate and is on a sampling plan. They were audited in 2012 but did not receive an external audit in 2013. Wendy was unsure of there was a corporate audit report and if any of the findings were applicable to the Thompson-Nicola Division.

BCTS: External audit Oct 2013 by KPMG. Ian reported that there was one minor-non-conformance held over from 2012 pertaining to forecasting of indicators (will be part of the proposed SFM Plan change discussion after lunch). BCTS also had a few opportunities for improvement – 2 that were new and 2 that were held over from 2012. Again, BCTS has proposed some minor SFM Plan changes to address the opportunities that pertain to the SFM Plan and public process.

Canfor: Dave reported that Canfor had a multi-site surveillance audit in 2013 and Vavenby was one of the operations selected. The audit report was expected soon. From the 2012 audit there were a few of Non-conformance's related to Vavenby:

- Current status finding from 2012 closed with annual report.
- Plan area and DFA OFI remain open and should be addressed with changes at meeting.
- One related to inconsistency with fuel management guidelines – remains open with 2013 finding of a systemic issue related to implementation of the guidelines.
- One related to forecasting – remains open as it is also systemic across multiple divisions

Dave also mentioned that the licencees were considering a disciplined review of all indicators and identification of those that had opportunities for forecasting – if something is developed, it will be brought to the PAG in 2014.

Update: Dave advised after the meeting that Canfor had received the 2013 audit report on November 28th (same date as meeting). The findings in the 2013 audit – specific to Vavenby:

- One finding related to excessive site disturbance; since corrected
- One finding related to Failure to clean accumulated materials from bridge deck over S3 stream; since corrected
- One finding related to pre-work oversights
- One OFI related to improving root cause analysis on low significance events.

Gilbert Smith: Craig advised that their audit was to occur next week (Dec 2-4).

Species at Risk – presentation by Jared Hobbs

Jared Hobbs, M.Sc., R.P. Bio. gave an excellent presentation on Species at Risk Management in BC to the group. The presentation reviewed the shortcomings of a strict reliance on parks and protected areas for management of at risk species, reviewed the various provincial and federal Acts that provide protection to species at risk, and identified shortcomings in current legislation. The presentation took a closer look at some of the key species at risk found within the NTF Plan area. Jared identified a number of steps that companies could look at to get out in front of the legal requirements pertaining to species at risk such as feasibility studies, adoption of interim measures on known features, demonstrate in plans that measures are in place that will provide adequate legal protection and finally habitat and species surveys.

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 Jared.

Review Proposed Changes to the 2014 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 they were proposed in the summary document and as detailed in the tracked change version of the SFM

Plan. These two documents are posted on the members section of the website and will be retained there until such time as the 2014 SFM Plan is produced. Pat advised that he will update the tracked change version of the SFM Plan (on the website it is referenced as the 2014 Draft SFM Plan) with the additional TFL 18 data that Dave Dobi is to supply.

Action: Dave to supply Pat with the TFL 18 data for incorporation into the 2014 SFM Plan.

Once completed, the 2014 SFM Plan will be posted to the website. Hard copies of the new Plan will be made and distributed to active advisory group members.

Current DFA Issues, Summary, Wrap-Up

PAG 2014 Field Trips

As referenced earlier, the tentative plan for 2014 field trips are as follows:

Aspen hosting Merritt trip – Thursday, June 5th.

Gilbert Smith or Canfor hosting North Thompson River trip in the fall if PAG interest is there.

How waste is assessed after areas are harvested to be included.

Spring Meeting

Agreed to a tentative meeting date of Thursday, April 24, 2014 where performance against the targets in the 2013 SFM Plan will be reviewed. Meeting to occur in Merritt (location tbd).

There was a desire to continue to include a guest speaker at subsequent meetings.

Recognition

Frances Vyse advised everyone that this was going to be her last meeting; she has enjoyed being part of this public process but wants to move on to other things. Frances has been a long standing member of the NTF and prior to that the Kamloops public advisory groups, serving as the representative for the Kamloops Naturalists for over 10 years. Pat and others thanked Frances for her active participation in the SFM process and all the contributions she has made. Frances also advised that although she has canvassed other Naturalist Club members to become involved in the SFM public process, she has had little success. Thank you Frances!!

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.