

Nicola Thompson Fraser SFM Plan Public Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2014. Merritt Civic Centre

Attendees:

Franz Reuter	Glen Theim	Liis Jeffries	Chris Lepsoe
Dave Poole	Ed Abels	Jeff Fedyk	Jamie Skinner
Bert Parke	Katharine Shewchuk	Norm Hansen	Matt Manuel
Gerry Sanford	Brent Turmel	Leona Antoine	Jerry Canuel
David Kerridge	Craig Hewlett	Jim Baker	

Guests: Patrick Tobin

Facilitator: Pat Salm

Introduction, agenda review, safety:

The meeting started at 9:30AM. 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 four action items from April 24, 2014 that were reviewed:

The first two items followed group discussion on the execution of operational plans - communication and training with logging contractors, eyes on forest operations, what the MOLFNRD Compliance & Enforcement group does, etc.

1. Licencees to prepare a summary of the different internal and external forest monitoring that occur within the Plan area. A document titled eyes in the forest was distributed to the group for review. The list was reviewed and in the course of discussion two additional items were noted missing from the list. Additional items to add to the external side of the document include ongoing monitoring by the MFLNRO district staff and public reporting of events they have witnessed. The updated document was posted to the public members section of the website.

Bert wondered how the C&E pilot program for public reporting for the southern interior was working (information on this can be found on the MoFLNRO website located at:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hen/nrv/>) Patrick Tobin responded that the public response was greater than expected and noted that it will likely continue.

2. Ask C&E if they could come to the November 2014 PAG meeting (Rick Cooper). Patrick Tobin presentation is on the agenda.

The other two action items pertained to possible changes to target 4 (old growth management areas) and target 41 (number of educational opportunities). Proposed changes will be discussed as we review the proposed changes to the SFM Plan (see meeting agenda).

Recent Certification Audits:

Aspen: External audit occurred in October 2014. Jerry explained that the audit was quite detailed – 2 auditors spending four days each. There was one minor non-conformance pertaining to testing of emergency preparedness and response procedures – while testing was occurring, the recording of this information in a central location was not occurring.

Tolko: Jamie reported that Tolko has corporate certificate and is on a sampling plan. They did not receive an external audit in 2014.

BCTS: External audit Oct 2014 by KPMG. Jeff reported that there were no non-conformances identified by the audit.

Canfor: Dave reported that KPMG conducted an audit in May. There were minor non-conformances related to Canfor internal procedures for fuel management, training records, emergency preparedness and incident reporting.

Gilbert Smith: Craig advised that their audit was to occur Dec 16-18. Any advisory group members that would like to participate should let Craig know.

Matt asked if members could attend the office portion of these external audits (as opposed to the field portion). Licencees did not see any issue with this, although the advisory group members might find the day drag on with the auditors attention to detail on the paper side of the audit. Advisory group members were encouraged to attend the external audits and to let licencees know if they had a preference to spend the day looking over the auditors shoulder in the office.

Copies of the external audit reports can be found on the NTF website (under the “documents” tab).

Compliance and enforcement – presentation by Patrick Tobin

Patrick provided a great overview of the C&E program and activities within the NTF Plan area. The program initially focused only on the compliance and enforcement of forest legislation and staffing levels were such that officers conducted routine inspections of operations as well as investigations. Thousands of inspections occurred throughout the province annually and the industry compliance rate, particularly for larger organizations (that most often were 3rd party certified) was quite high. In the past four years, the C&E program has expanded to include other legislation that fell within the mandate of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. With compliance rates much lower for some of these other Acts, C&E efforts have been more focused there. When staffing level for the C&E program was reduced, inspections of operations were reduced and officers now find themselves more in the investigation mode – as a result of information provided to them on potential non-compliance.

Patrick Tobin was going to provide the group with a copy of his presentation. The facilitator will follow up with Patrick and when made available will post it to the members section of the website. Advisory group members felt this was an excellent presentation and greatly appreciated the opportunity to hear from Patrick.

Review Proposed Changes to the 2014 SFM plan.

Pat reviewed the summary of changes document that highlighted the significant changes to the 2015 SFM Plan. Many of the changes were a result of the forecasting work done by the licencees earlier in the year. These changes resulted in some additional detail in certain sections of the indicator tables. Additionally, some of the sections were re-titled to better describe their intent. The red-line version of the draft 2015 SFM Plan was reviewed to demonstrate the proposed changes. Both the summary page and the red-line version of the Plan are posted on the NTF website (members only section).

Indicator 1.1.1 – The current target essentially relies on the forest inventory to produce statistics that are unlikely to change as a result of licencee activity. In that sense it was desirable to have additional targets and licencees proposed to add the existing rare ecosystem targets (Targets # 12, 13). These additional targets apply to the Kamloops and Lillooet TSA's specifically. The advisory group agreed with this.

Jerry explained how they are exploring the development of a similar indicator for the Merritt TSA – to be included in the 2016 SFM Plan. Jerry has already been in contact with the specialist who developed the indicator for Lillooet and was planning to approach the individual that did the work in Kamloops. Glen Theim advised that there might already be good inventory data that could help with defining rare ecosystems in the Merritt TSA. Aspen will lead the work to develop a Merritt specific rare ecosystem target. Work to be completed by the summer of 2015, and the proposed target will be brought to the advisory group in the fall of 2015.

Pat promised to share the BC Systems explorer website in the meeting minutes – this database can be sorted in a number of ways to look at rare species or rare ecosystems in the province. The weblink is as follows: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html>

Target #4 - With the Old Growth Management Areas in the Kamloops TSA essentially “locked-in” with no opportunity to formally replace area removed from OGMA's, it would be very difficult for Kamloops licencees to work under the no net loss concept for this target. It was agreed that adding a variance of one tenth of one percent as was proposed was appropriate.

Target #41 – The target for the 3 TSA's (including TFL 18 in the Kamloops TSA) was reviewed. The history of where these targets originated was discussed along with the loss of resources such as those provided by COFI and Susan Bondar. Reporting results for the past 3 years (as per the 2013 Monitoring Report) revealed the gap between targets and actual performance. Through the discussion it became apparent that what was being reported was a bit narrow, compared to the number of situations where licencees were involved in discussions that educated public members. It was agreed to broaden the

definition of what constitutes an educational action. Additionally, the group agreed to reduce the targets for the Kamloops TSA (to 30 actions) and Merritt TSA (to 20 actions).

Additional plan change (not discussed at meeting) will be an update to Appendix 6 where the red and blue listed species at risk are identified – in conjunction with SFM Plan indicator 1.2.1. The list in appendix 6 will NOT include mountain beaver as it has been downgraded to a yellow listed species.

Matt was interested in knowing if any proposed revisions made to the SFM Plan could be taken back to his membership or internal experts for review. Licencees felt that if at any point advisory group members wanted to review/revisit any of the indicators or targets within the SFM Plan, they should raise this with the forest company most applicable. It would be anticipated that a series of actions would be agreed to and any resultant product would need review by the other licencees. If there was agreement by the licencees, proposed changes would then be brought to the entire advisory group for consideration. The Roles and Responsibility section of the advisory group terms of reference provide additional guidance for advisory group members.

The Plan will be updated based on the discussion and agreement above. A hard copy version will be posted to the documents page of the NTF website in December and PAG members can expect a hard copy of the Plan in late December or in January.

Current DFA Issues, Summary, Wrap-Up

Spring Meeting

Agreed to a tentative meeting date of Thursday April 16th, 2015 where licensee performance against the 2014 SFM Plan will be reviewed. Meeting to occur in Merritt (location tbd - but likely at the Civic Centre). There was a desire to continue to include a guest speaker at subsequent meetings. Jamie will seek the participation of John Surgenor, regional wildlife biologist for the MFLNRO for a presentation on deer winter range.

PAG 2015 Field Trip

Reminder that the next field trip is in June where Tolko (Jamie Skinner) will be hosting: field trip to occur in the Peter Hope Lake area on Thursday June 11th, 2015. Activities related to harvesting in the dry-belt fir zone will occur.

Not discussed at the meeting (but previously agreed to) is the possibility of members of the advisory group participating in an open house that Canfor will be hosting in Clearwater. The open house will review plans for harvesting in the highway corridor leading to Wells Gray Park. Canfor will advise when the meeting is to occur in case advisory group members would like to attend.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.