

**Minutes**  
**Okanagan Sustainable Forest Management Plan**  
**Public Advisory Group Meeting**  
**Ramada Inn – Kelowna**  
**November 27, 2008**  
**9:30am – 3:10pm**

**Attendees**

Reg Volk	Don Guild	Keith Boulter
Paul Ross	Randy Hardy	Kerry Rouck
Kimm Magill-Hofmann	Mike Watkins	Brian Drobe
Dave Gill	Rob Kennett	Scott Smith *
Peter Wise	Patti Hansen	Don Guild *
Clive Johnson	Ed Sims	Renee Clark *
Ted McCrae	Richard Toperczer	Mark Hopkins (Facilitator)
James Moller	Barry Beadman	

\* - late arrival (within 1<sup>st</sup> hour of meeting)

**1.0 Introductions and Agenda Review**

Following the self introduction of all participants, the agenda was reviewed – opportunity for Jeurgen Hansen to address PAG on process and watershed harvest issue added to the agenda.

**2.0 Action Items from Previous Meeting (April 10, 2008)**

In review of the Action items the following detailed discussions arose:

AI -14 Update on status of Provincial SFM initiative

The provincial common indicators initiative was “shelved” approximately 18 mo. ago. Recently it has seen some new life however. MOF is interested in using as partial basis for operations risk assessment and determination of inspection frequency. Tolko has volunteered as trial operation in this regard.

AI-16 Expanding PAG membership and representation

Q: where are the political interests at the PAG meetings?

A: they have been invited, however often seem to be low priority item, if interested would have attended by now.

Comment: suggested that Regional Boards and councils be made more aware of PAG and its function.

AI - 11.5 (Roadside and R/W vegetation)

Paul Ross (Tolko) reported on this item. There is new flexibility in Roadside tree and vegetation management. New policy released on Nov 18, 2008. (Paul to supply copy of policy to Facilitator for distribution)

Comments: needs to be better communication/notification of brushing operations to allow better coordination with other users (e.g. ranchers/trappers)

Q: What about vegetation retention in Riparian Areas? Road Permit requirements should not have precedence over Riparian Management.

A: Generally, retention will be maximized in Riparian areas.

In addition to the above, see attached table for status of Action Items (AI's) completed and outstanding

### **3.0 2008 Audit Results (Summaries Attached)**

#### **3.1 BCTS Audit (April, 2008) – Dave Gill**

Following Distribution of Audit Result Summary (attached). The definitions of “Non-Compliance”, “Minor Non-Conformity”, and “Major Non-Conformity” were reviewed with members.

In response to findings, BCTS has hired a contractor to develop management plans for rare ecosystems (plant communities). BCTS will distribute to licences and PAG when completed. BCTS in process of improving record keeping and tracking systems.

Q: does the corrective action plan required by the auditors include Opportunities for Improvement (OFI's) as well as non-compliances?

A: Not all of them – but most. Some require input from the PAG and cannot be unilaterally completed.

#### **3.2 Gorman Bros. Audit (Sep, 2008) – Randy Hardy**

This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> surveillance audit completed on Gorman's Positive Aspects portion was reviewed with PAG Opportunities for improvement, specific discussion included:

OFI 7.3.6.1(29) This indicator will be re-assessed during process of indicator review to meet the new SFM standard.

Comments: Several comments were made by PAG members regarding 1<sup>st</sup> Nations Participation, specifically:

- Licences should endeavor to communicate directly with 1<sup>st</sup> Nations, not just through written correspondence.
- Licences should consider arranging one or more PAG meetings at Band Offices/facilities to facilitate informal introduction to the SFMP and PAG.

### 3.3 Weyerhaeuser Audit (Oct. 2008)- Brian Drobe

Positive aspects were reviewed – particularly with regard to fish passage structures. Two areas of concern noted included lack of documentation for Sr. Management Reviews, and lack of safety orientation on-site for auditors.

In review of OFI 4.4.6/7.4.6 pertaining to CWD management it was suggested that Norm Druck be contacted to make presentation to PAG on CWD management as an item of interest.

In review of OFI 4.4.6/7.4.6 pertaining to Silt management, it was suggested that licencees ensure that straw bales, rather than hay bales are used to minimize the likelihood of noxious weed introduction

### 3.4 Tolko Audit Results (Aug, 2008) – Rob Kennett

Positive aspects were reviewed; of particular note was high awareness of contractors regarding operations in environmentally high risk areas.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> time Tolko was cited for a *non-conformance* requiring production of a “*Corrective Action Plan*” to address the issue and ensure continued registration under the standard. The non-conformance related silt-laden runoff into a stream during a period of heavy rain.

A “root-cause” analysis was completed with the following findings:

- The pre-work meeting held with the contractor focuses heavily on the harvest area rather than the roads.
- An appropriate *Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)* was in place, but not followed by contractor- truck driver saw siltation and should have called management but did not.

The corrective action plan includes:

- Revised pre-work review forms
- Review of root cause with supervisors
- New road management database

Q: Heavy Summer rain seems to be increasingly common. Are roads and culverts being designed to consider this?

A: Currently planning for increased run-off in many areas due to pine beetle activity and harvesting.

Q: Please expand on OFI 7.5.2 Non-conformances regarding *Warning Tickets*

A: Tolko does not track and follow “warning” tickets received from MoF compliance and enforcement in the same way issued tickets are. Agreed that they should.

Q: How many OFI's does it take before a *non-compliance* is "awarded" by the auditors?

A: It comes down to the individual auditor(s) but generally they consider, the pervasiveness, recurrence, significance, and action taken (or not) to address the findings.

Comment from PAG:

The noted reduction in the number of contraventions in the field is noted and appreciated.

#### **4.0 New Web Site Review**

This topic moved from end of agenda as time allowed - Mark Hopkins reviewed the new Okanagan SFM Website via on-line presentation with data projector. The site organization/content and "sign-on" procedures were reviewed. Since the meeting all PAG members have been sent site log-in instructions, user-ID's and passwords to access the site. Members were encouraged to send Mark items for posting to the site that may be of general or specific interest to the PAG.

#### **5.0 Progress Review of new Z809-08 Standard**

Mark H. provided brief overview of the new Z809-08 standard and the reasons for the delay in finalization of the new standard, specifically the desire amongst the technical steering committee and others to have the new Z809-08 standard meet the sustainable-source requirements of the LEED building standards. The new standard is not finalized, but should be by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 (end of CSA fiscal year)

Two tables were circulated with the minutes and reviewed by the group (attached), specifically:

1. Comparison between new required "core indicators" and the existing suite of indicators.
2. Summary of the required discussion topics which will need to be addressed by the PAG committee.

Questions arising from review of the tables include:

Q: Who/where does the Species at risk assessments get done?

A: A combination of the SARA (Species at Risk Act) and COSEWIC data bases.

Q: Will this look at Old Growth Management Areas as well?

A: In part, in addition using the endangered ecosystem information and the Biogeoclimatic (BEC) system.

Comment: Is BEC Classification system at risk through implementation of national standards for reporting on ecosystem protection? Collective opinion of committee members was that as there is no National classification of ecosystems implemented in Canada, each province has their own approach, so there is little pressure to change system

## **6.0 2009 Okanagan SFM Plan**

Presentation: Given that the Z809-08 standard is not yet complete (still in draft form and not yet ratified by the technical committee). The following plan was suggested for the 2009 plan:

1. Rather than a complete update and re-write of the plan based on the existing standards and indicators, an addendum/supplement to the 2008 plan should instead be produced.
2. This “addendum” to the 2008 plan would be a smaller publication focusing on the changes to existing indicators which have been identified and agreed to in 2008. The balance of the 2008 Plan would remain in effect for 2009 or the earlier production of a plan to the new standard.

This approach was accepted by the PAG meeting as ‘reasonable’ without comment to the contrary.

## **7.0 PAG Terms of Reference Revisions**

In keeping with the collective recommendations by the 2008 auditors the following alterations to the PAG Terms of reference were approved for implementation

1. A statement explicitly stating that “participation in the PAG by First Nations is without prejudice to treaty and traditional rights” will be added to the TOR
2. A Statement will be inserted in the PAG TOR identifying the minimum numbers of meetings/year as: 2 meetings and 1 field trip.
3. The PAG TOR will be amended to include all services provided by the licencees, eg, food, facility, travel costs, etc.
4. The PAG TOR will be amended/corrected by removing incorrect reference to “section 8.0 above” (a section which no longer exists)
5. The PAG TOR will be amended to reflect inclusion of BCTS in SFM process.

## **8.0 Consideration for Combining SFM Plan Areas**

Following introduction of the topic by Mark, Rob Kennett filled in the details of the following concept:

1. Internal Tolko review looked at the possibility of combining the Kamloops, Merritt and Okanagan SFM Plan areas into a single plan
2. The potential benefits are:  
Savings in Publication costs, meeting costs, monitoring costs. Facilitation costs

Comments from the PAG members include:

Mike Watkins felt it was an interesting concept, but would like to see more of a written summary of the pro's and cons.

Peter Wise felt that the current PAG structure is very beneficial as he gets to see all licencees and parties in one spot and available for dialogue. This may be lost in larger group.

Barry Beadman made the analogy with credit Union structure - as they grow they lose the original concept of local flavor and input. In the absence of a clear benefit to amalgamation there is no current desire to pursue this.

Rob Kennett will forward written evaluation of pro's and con's of amalgamation to the Committee

## **9.0 Presentation by Juergen Hansen**

In advance of the meeting, Juergen supplied the facilitator with several articles he had written regarding his view for an improved methodology of conflict resolution and Land Use decision making - described as the Dynamic Round Table process. These articles are now available to read on the PAG section of the Okanagan SFM website.

Jeurgen's presentation was intended as an introduction to a discussion on developing an indicator of sustainability for planning and activity in mountain Pine Beetle ravaged watersheds, particularly Community watersheds.

Comments:

- Rob Toperczer questioned the need for a new process in dealing with conflict resolution as he does not see that there is much conflict in watershed management

Ted McCrea made the following comments:

- Developing watershed management policy is outside the scope of the PAG committee
- There currently is a high degree of co-operation between all involved agencies
- MoF Decision Makers required to consider all input
- Continuous monitoring in high profile watersheds
- Beetle progress in the area has been slower than anticipated allowing for better coordination of plans.
- Ted read from newly developed policy on this issue which he will forward to the facilitator for distribution to the PAG.

Jeurgen indicated concern on behalf of Summerland Council as to the safety of the water supply and to the broader watersheds, not just "community watersheds".

Paul Ross noted that concerns about water supply are specific to each water purveyor; some are very concerned about the potential for fire and the development of hydrophobic soils with associated overland flow.

Clive commented that rather than focusing on a presentation to “Council”, the broader community should be involved.

James M. commented that he feels licencees have a done a good job of managing the resource.

Despite the initial intent of developing a water “quantity” based indicator at this meeting the collective opinion of the PAG was that this is premature as more information is needed by the PAG to do this indicator justice.

Mike Watkins stated that the ‘question” needs to be focused, before specific answers/indicators can be determined.

In summary, Licencees have agreed to the following Actions:

1. They will arrange a meeting with Summerland Council +/-or the broader community to discuss current Beetle management approaches in the Summerland watershed.
2. In addition, they will detail the range of additional measures which could be implemented, if economics were not considered.
3. Licencees will summarize the range of measurement options for possible use in developing a water quality related indicator.

A summary of the above will be circulated to the PAG, when ready.

## **10.0 Next Meetings**

The following dates have been selected for subsequent PAG meetings, Locations TBA

- **Spring Meeting -Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009**
- **Field Trip – Thursday September 10, 2009**
- **Fall Meeting – Thursday, November 26, 2009**

Note that there may be the need for some additional meetings to deal with the details of implementing the standards, when finalized.

## Okanagan Sustainable Management Plan - Public Advisory Group Action Tracker

Action #	Creation Date	Action	Responsibility	Due Date	Completed	Comments
AI-1	27-Nov-07	Circulate copy of Don Dobson Risk Assessment amongst Licencees	ReneeClark	31-Dec-07	Complete	
AI-2	27-Nov-07	Licencees will circulate Road Risk rating System amongst themselves for possible standardization	Paul Ross	31-Jan-08	Complete	Information circulated, standardization not yet complete
AI-3	27-Nov-07	Revise summary table for Indicator 8 to include both "Gross' and "THLB" areas for the DFA. Expand TSR info in body of report	Licencees	31-Jan-08	Complete	The table was revised in the revised in 2008 Plan
AI-4	27-Nov-07	Update Plan and Monitoring report text for outdated administrative references (e.g. Forest Practices Code)	Mark Hopkins	March 31, 2008	Complete	Completed as part of revisions to 2008 Plan. Reference to FDP removed except where appropriate in historic context.
AI-5	27-Nov-07	Have draft proposal for possible re-wording of Indicator #21 available for Spring monitoring meeting.	Scott Smith	March, 2008	outstanding	Scott will review minutes of Fall 2007 meeting and draft proposal for Spring 2009 meeting
AI-6	27-Nov-07	Strive to schedule future meeting dates on Thursdays	Mark Hopkins	N/A	completed	All scheduled meeting dates are currently on Thursdays.
AI-7	April 10, 2008	Should look at revising the term "rare ecosystem" in plan to be more consistent with current requirements.	Licencees	Spring 2009	On-going	For discussion at Spring 2009 mtg.
AI-8	April 10, 2008	Look at distribution of Clearcut areas relative to the indicator objective as part of Fall 2008 Field trip	Licencees	Sep. 4, 2008 Field review	completed	This was reviewed in the field at the September 2008 Field trip
AI-9	April 10, 2008	should the target be revised in light of record of significantly surpassing the 80% of blocks stub requirement	Licencees	Sep. 4, 2008 Field Review	completed	This was reviewed on the September 2004 field trip. Subsequent discussion at Nov 2008 PAG meeting concluded no need to alter target
AI-10	April 10, 2008	Seek to identify suitable expert on CWD for presentation on topic at Fall mtg. also include as part of Fall field tour if possible.	Facilitator/ BCTS	Spring 2009 Mtg.	On-going	This was discussed with Walt Klenner (MoF wildlife) on the Sep 4, 2008 Field Trip. Facilitator to approach Don Druck regarding presentation on

						topic at next PAG meeting
AI-11	April 10, 2008	for consideration by licencees- is it possible to refine the report to be more informative on the types of reserves included in blocks. This topic too should be addressed during field trip if possible.	Licencees	For discussion during revisions to new indicators	On-going	Was discussed on Sep 4 <sup>th</sup> Field rip BCTS - no specific conclusions
AI-11.5	April 10, 2008	Licencees to investigate possibility of leaving more vegetation along R/W's	Paul Ross	Fall PAG Mtg	Completed	Range of Possibilities discussed at Nov 27, 2008 PAG meeting. See AI - 18
AI-12	April 10, 2008	As part of Indicator #17 Licencees will consider tracking the use of herbicides over time.	Licencees	October 31, 2008	Completed	Licencees will incorporate tracking of herbicide use into the annual monitoring report
AI-13	April 10, 2008	Indicator #25 Error noted in monitoring results table, facilitator will revise and circulate errata.	Facilitator	April 18, 2008	Completed	Amendment was circulated to all who received the Monitoring Report
AI-14	April 10, 2008	<b>AI:</b> Rob Kennett will find out status of provincial SFM initiative	Rob Kennett	By October 31, 2008	Completed	Rob reported on the status of the provincial initiative at the Nov 27, 2008 PAG meeting
AI-15	April 10, 2008	<b>AI:</b> Kerry R. will talk to Tom Sullivan (small mammal expert) about participation in Fall field trip and/or fall meeting	Kerry R.	July, 08	Completed	Tom Sullivan was unavailable. Walt Klenner filled this role and participated in the Sep 4, 2008 Field Trip
AI-16	April 10, 2008	Licencees should consider ways and means of expanding/ improving representation on the PAG.	All		On-going	
AI-17	April 10, 2008	Can accumulations of debris be tracked by volume? Is there some way to track the volume or proportion which is burned? <b>AI:</b> this issue will be considered by the licencees.	Licencees	Spring 2009	On-going	Discussion deferred to Spring 2009 PAG meeting. Inadequate time at the Fall meeting
AI -18	Nov 27, 2008	In follow-up to Action Item 11.5 New policy released on Cutting Permits/	Paul Ross	Dec 31, 2008		

		Road permits and Vegetation management with Right-of-way. <u>Paul to forward copy of New policy to Facilitator for distribution to PAG</u>				
AI-19	Nov 27, 2008	BCTS has hired a contractor to develop management plans for rare ecosystems (plant communities). <u>BCTS will distribute to licencees and PAG when completed.</u>	Dave Gill	TBA		Dave to forward management plans when available.
AI-20	Nov 27, 2008	Implement changes to PAG Terms of Reference approved in Nov 27, 2008 Minutes	Mark Hopkins	Spring 2009		
AI-21	Nov 27, 2008	Rob Kennett will forward written evaluation of pro's and con's of SFM Plan amalgamation to the Committee	Rob Kennett	Spring 2009		Amalgamation refers to the proposed merging of Kamloops, Merritt and Okanagan TSA's SFM Plans
AI-22	Nov 27, 2008	Ted to forward newly developed beetle policy to facilitator for distribution to the PAG.	Ted McCrea	Dec 31, 2008		
AI-23	Nov 27, 2008	Post Juergen Hansen's Dynamic Round table documents to the SFM Website for review by the PAG	Mark Hopkins	Nov 29, 2008	Completed.	
AI-24	Nov 27, 2008	Licencees to arrange a meeting with Summerland Council +/-or the broader community to discuss current Beetle management approaches in the Summerland watershed.	Licencees	Spring 2009		
AI-25	Nov 27, 2008	Licencees will detail the range of additional beetle management measures which <u>could</u> be implemented, if economics were not considered.	Licencees	Spring 2009		
AI-26	Nov 27, 2008	Licencees will summarize the range of measurement options for possible use in developing a water <u>quality</u> related indicator.	Licencees	Spring 2009		

