

Prince George SFMP Public Advisory Group TFL 30 SFMP Public Advisory Group Meeting

5:30 – 9:00 PM, October 29, 2008

Civic Centre (Room 208), Prince George, BC

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Public & First Nations:

Betty Abbs	David Kim
Doug Beckett	Jeff Mohr
Jocelyn Campbell	Mike Nash
Mark Clark	Esther Perry
Teena Demeulemeester	Ken Pickering
Kelly Giesbrecht	Lee Sexsmith
Virginia Karr	

Steering Committee:

Chair: Tim Sproule – BCTS
Meredith Spike – Carrier
Janine Gervais – Canfor
Lee Evans - BC Timber Sales
Sarah Fletcher - Canfor

Advisors & Observers:

Bruce Bradley - Canfor
Shannon Carson - Integrated Land Management Branch (ILMB)
Vanessa Egginton - Ministry of Forests & Range/Regional Climatologist
Matthew Feagan - Ministry of Forests & Range
Tom Neimann - Ministry of Forests & Range /Manager of Climate Change and Forest Carbon

Facilitator: Dwight Scott Wolfe (Tesera Systems Inc.)

Scribe: Loni Spletzer (Tesera Systems Inc.)

1. Welcome & Introductions

a. Welcome by chair of Steering Committee.

2. Reviewed Agenda – Agenda accepted as written.

3. Reviewed TFL 30 PAG Minutes of June 17, 2008 and PG PAG Minutes of June 19, 2008.

- a. TFL 30 PAG members adopted June 17, 2008 PAG minutes as written.
- b. PG PAG members adopted June 19, 2008 PAG minutes as written.

4. PG/TFL 30 Joint PAG Field Tour summary - Janine Gervais

- a. Attendance was a bit disappointing with only 4 PAG members present
- b. The Field Tour had a Silviculture focus with tour stops looking at the following issues from the PG SFMP Proposed Workplan for 2008-2009:
 - i. Issue A - Opportunities for minimizing herbicide use
 - ii. Issue C - Climate change and same species planting

5. Future Forest Ecosystem Initiative (FFEI) presentation – Tom Niemann

- a. See handout.
- b. See website: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future_Forests/
- c. Presentation focused on 3 main questions:
 1. Is Climate change real? Is it human-induced?
 2. What can we expect from BC's forests?
 3. What do we need to do?

Tom Niemann asked for each table to come up with 2 questions, which were posted at the front of the room. Through his presentation, he addressed many of these questions. Examples of table questions were:

Should we panic? How big is human impact? Will trees planted today survive? How do we establish what is "natural" (what extinctions are ok)? If climate change is natural, should we intervene? Can forest industry be carbon neutral? What trees should we plant today for future? How quick is climate onset? What's the plan for future seed source? Do we value old live trees in carbon budgeting?

- d. Introduction:
 - i. There has been an increase in global surface temp of 0.6 degrees Celsius over the last century. Audience was asked to appreciate the difficulty around measuring the temperature of the globe! When, where, frequency, etc, all become issues (it gets really complicated in a hurry!).
 - ii. Over the last 650, 000 years, there have been plenty of ice ages, and temperature cycles with peaks approximately every 120,000 years
 - iii. For the last 500 years, we're at a peak. In the last 150 years, there are both long term and short term cycles, and large sporadic natural events
 - iv. Climate change is part of our natural cycle
 - v. Causes of climate change:
 - earth orbit and axis wobbles
 - solar, air and ocean cycles
 - meteors, volcanoes
 - human activity also has effects:

- a. surface change (albedo)
 - b. aerosols
 - c. ozone, greenhouse gases (CO₂, methane, etc)
- e. Discussion:
- i. CO₂ in atmosphere has increased from 280-383 ppm (clearly linked to burning gas, coal, wood), carbon emissions have increased to 8 gigatons (gigaton= a billion tons) per year (breakdown: 6.1 fossil fuel, 1.6 land use change (ie. cutting down forests).
 - ii. Scientists are recommending an immediate 90% reduction in CO₂ emissions.
 - iii. Summer extent of Arctic Sea ice is decreasing faster than all model projections - not just loss of area, but loss in depth and thickness of ice from 2005-2007 (will North Pole be ice free by 2015?). Greenland is melting! (the water pouring off Greenland is being measured in cubic km's and is not being replaced by more snow.)
 - iv. Do climate models work? Data is collected from each continent for ocean and land (see graphs in handout). Temperatures are increasing and models seem to be encompassing the observations relatively well
- f. Summary:
- i. Climates change due to natural phenomena, but global warming is human-induced (this is an important distinction).
 - ii. Many climate scenarios have been run, but with any scenarios, we can expect and increase in droughts, floods, maladaptation of trees, loss of ecosystems, food supplies affected, and so on for the future
 - iii. We can expect longer fire seasons, more disturbances and changes to survival and growth rates
 - iv. Serious and concerted action is advised over panic.
 - v. Four (4) recommended Actions:
 - 1) get informed
 - 2) get organized at all levels (internationally and down to city level)
 - 3) adapt to inevitable climate changes, prepare objectives, strategies, plans/policies, actions and monitoring systems
 - 4) mitigate climate change (new focus is needed to reduce net emissions, analyze affects between burning biofuel and wood products, reduce carbon emissions, enhance carbon sinks, use forest products as carbon storage)
 - vi. Potential Forest Adaptation Responses:
 - 1) increase diversity, connectivity, immediate reforestation
 - 2) avoid slash burning
 - 3) manage for asynchrony (lack of synchronism; disturbance of coordination)
 - 4) increase redundancy
 - 5) prepare for surprises

6. Climate Trends and Regional Climate Models - Vanessa Egginton

- a. See handout.
- b. Introduction:
 - i. Definition of climate change and climate variability

- ii. Definition of positive/negative feedback loops, re: snow/ice melt, land use changes, increased CO₂.
- c. The presentation focused on Northern BC and the Prince George area referred to as Fraser Basin (data from 1895-2006)
- d. Reviewed locations of Northern BC Climate Stations (60% still operational over last 100 yrs)
- e. Climate trends:
 - i. Reviewed changes in precipitation, min/max and mean temperature trends in the Fraser Basin.
 - ii. Reviewed other factors influencing this area:
 - El Nino Southern Oscillation (warm/dry 3-7 yr cycle)
 - La Nina Oscillation (cool/wet)
 - Pacific Decadal Oscillation (dominant mode of climate variability in Northern BC)
 - Arctic Oscillation
 - Aleutian Low Pressure Index
- f. Climate models:
 - i. Reviewed types of climate models
- g. Reviewed climate scenarios (A2: worst case, B2: best case)
- h. Current research:
 - i. Mountain Pine Beetle Carbon Fluxnet Study
 - ii. Radiation Balance in Mountain Pine Beetle Affected Stands
 - iii. Microclimate Change and Pine Foliar Diseases
 - iv. Regional Climate Trend Monitoring and Influence of Natural Variability
- i. Conclusions:
 - i. In the last 100 yrs, we are getting warmer and wetter (Fort St. James data - since 1895, a 20% increase in temperature and precipitation)
 - ii. Feedbacks (positive and negative) have large impacts on climate when thresholds are exceeded
 - iii. Fraser Basin (TFL 30 and PG region) total annual precipitation has increased 13.7% (weighted average) and the mean annual temperature change is 1.4% warmer.
 - iv. Fraser Basin is seeing the largest changes in precipitation during spring, summer and fall, not so much winter; while minimum temperatures show the biggest changes in winter, spring, summer and not so much fall
 - v. PG temp has changed 2% since 1942, PG winter minimum temperature has increased by 10 degrees

7. Audit Summaries

- a. PAG members directed to link on SFMP website for details
- b. Canfor – Janine Gervais:
 - i. See attachment
 - ii. KPMG Audit of Canfor's DFA in July
 - iii. There were no major non-conformities identified during the course of this audit.
 - iv. Silviculture practices received good reviews
 - v. Canfor's PG Division (FSJ, TFL30 and Prince George) is recommended for continued registration to CAN/CSA Z809:2002 Standard.
- c. BCTS – Tim Sproule
 - i. BCTS will report to PAG in January following a December 08, 2008 audit.
- d. Carrier Lumber Ltd. – Meredith Spike
 - i. QMI Audit of Carrier's DFA in May
 - ii. An Opportunity for Improvement (OFI) for Carrier to consider developing a better documentation tracking process for First Nation correspondence as it applies to including them in PAG activities.
 - iii. Carrier Lumber Ltd. Prince George Forest District Sustainable Forest Management Plan is recommended for continued registration to CAN/CSA Z809:2002 Standard.

8. Other

- a. None
9. Meeting Evaluation summaries were posted and reviewed.
10. Updated Actions (see Action Tables).

- a. PG PAG:
 - i. Action Item **June 19-01** – Completed. PAG comments on Annual Report sent to the PAG Facilitator.
- b. TFL 30 PAG:
 - i. Action Item **Nov 30-01** – Deferred to January 2009. A report on the UNBC Non-Timber Forest Products User Survey will occur at the January PAG meeting.

- ii. Action Item **May 16-02** – Completed. Fall Field Trip agenda circulated to PAG in August 2008.
- iii. Action Item **Oct 25-04.**– Completed. Information on biodiversity strategy distributed to PAG on October 29, 2008.
- iv. Action Item **Feb 7 – 01** – Completed. TFL30 PAG membership list reviewed by Licensees and distributed to PAG on October 29, 2008.
- v. Action Item **June 17-01** – Completed. Access Plan provided to Dave Stevenson.
- vi. Action Item **June 17-02** – Completed. Safety-related information (break out of logging/hauling vs other woodland activities) distributed to PAG on October 29, 2008.

11. Next PAG meetings:

a. PG PAG:

- i. Agenda: TBA
- ii. Time: 5:30 – 9:00
- iii. Date: January 22, 2009
- iv. Location: Civic Centre

b. TFL30 PAG:

- i. Agenda: TBA
- ii. Time: 5:30 – 9:00
- iii. Date: January 20, 2009
- iv. Location: Civic Centre

Actions

PRINCE GEORGE PAG				
ID#	ACTION	WHO	DEADLINE	STATUS
Nov 2 - 03	Provide updates on attempts to recruit representation for Non-Renewable Resource Extraction.	Steering Committee	Dec 2006	In progress: positive responses received from Enbridge, PMG, and BC Hydro.
January 24 - 01	Licensees to provide a presentation in a years time on the performance of the Old Growth Quality model.	Steering Committee	January 2009	

PRINCE GEORGE PAG				
ID#	ACTION	WHO	DEADLINE	STATUS
March 6-01	Licenseses to provide "Management Guidelines for Species and Plant Communities at Risk: PG Timber Supply Area – 2007"	Steering Committee	Next Meeting	
June 19 - 01	Review Annual Report and send comments to the PAG Facilitator.	PAG and LSC	August 15, 2008	Completed

TFL 30 PAG				
ID#	ACTION	WHO	DEADLINE	STATUS
Jan 21 – 04	Follow up and report back on stand-level best practices standards.		February 2, 2006	Ongoing
Feb 13 – 08	Investigate the possibility of an indicator that indicates the number of products and services related to various processing facilities.		Spring 2006	BCTS is unable to track past the scale. Canfor will provide a list of mills and likely products.
Feb 13 – 10	Investigate the possibility of an indicator regarding the ratio of money Canfor pays directly to employees versus government.		Spring 2006	Ongoing
Nov 30 – 01	Report out on the user survey (UNBC) on TFL30.	Janine Gervais	January 2009	Janine to schedule Patience to present in January 2009
May 16-02	Prepare and circulate an Agenda for the Fall Field Trip	Janine Gervais/Lee Evans	Send out in August 2008	Completed
Oct 25-04	Information on biodiversity strategy to be sent to PAG	Janine Gervais	October 2008	Completed
Feb 7 - 01	Licenceses to review membership list for TFL30 PAG	Janine/Lee	October 2008	Completed
June 17-01	Provide Dave Stevenson a hard copy of this Access Plan	Janine Gervais	July 31, 2008	Completed
June 17-02	PAG request for safety related information on break out of logging/hauling vs other woodland activities.	Lee Evans	October 2008	Completed