



Fort St. James  
Sustainable Forest  
Management

Public Advisory Group

# PAG Meeting

March 28, 2011 [5:30 PM – 9:00 PM]

Forest District Office, Fort St. James

## Meeting Summary

Attendance:

<p><i>Public Advisory Group:</i> Beulah Broen                      Bryan Muloin Henner Grimm                      Joe Vogl Joanne Vinnedge</p>	<p><i>Steering Committee &amp; Advisors:</i> Greg Yeomans – Canfor PG Sara Lazaruk – BCTS Jim McCormack- SFMP Coordinator- Canfor</p>
<p><i>Facilitator &amp; Scribe:</i> Dwight Scott Wolfe (Tesera Systems Inc.) – Facilitator Loni Spletzer (Tesera Systems Inc.) – Scribe</p>	<p><i>Observers:</i></p>

Quorum based on past five meetings: 4

### 1) Welcome & Introduction

- a) Members signed in
- b) Welcome by the Chair of the Licensee Team (Greg Yeomans)
- c) Introduction of PAG members: Introduction of Sara Lazaruk and Greg Yeomans for PAG members who have not met new Licensee Team.

### 2) Reviewed Agenda

- a) Agenda accepted as written.

### 3) Reviewed Minutes of the February 21, 2011 Ft. St. James PAG Meeting

- a) Accepted as written.

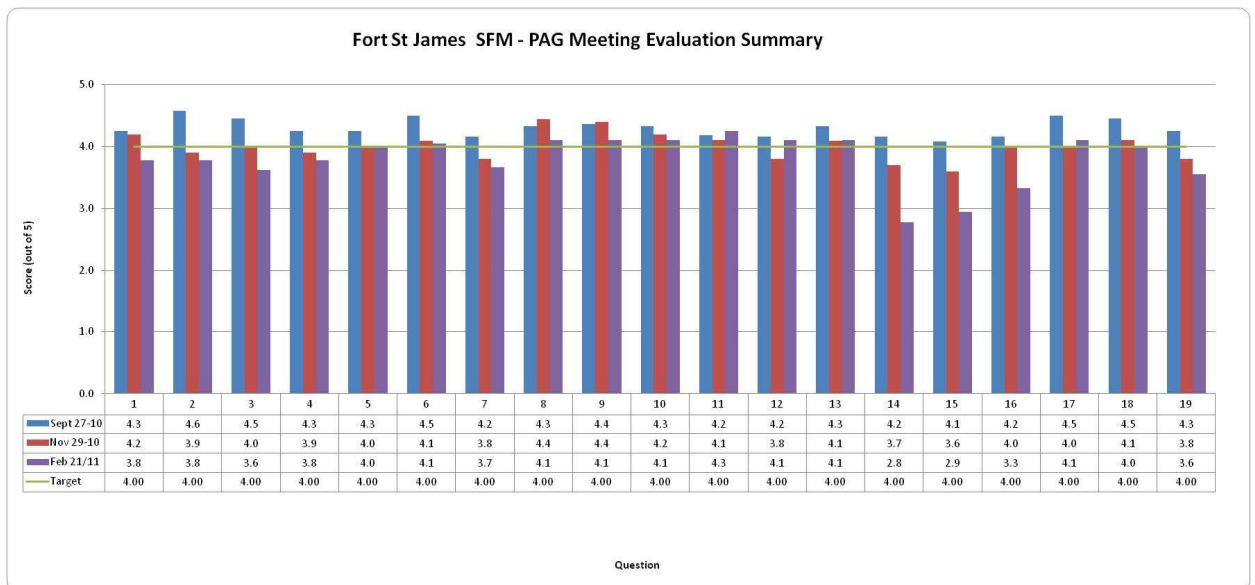
### 4) Reviewed Evaluation Results of February 21, 2011 PAG meeting

- a) On or above the targets (min 4.0) for all evaluation points except the following:
  - i) Q1 (3.8) Amount of time given to review the meeting agenda prior to the meeting
  - ii) Q2 (3.9) Agenda followed.
  - iii) Q3 (3.6) Actions updated.
  - iv) Q4 (3.9) Meeting summary captured decisions & action items
  - v) Q7 (3.7) The atmosphere of the meeting
  - vi) Q14 (2.7) Licensees organized and prepared
  - vii) Q15 (2.9) Information presented clearly
  - viii) Q16 (3.3) Your satisfaction with this PAG meeting
  - ix) Q19 (3.6) Your overall satisfaction with the PAG process

- b) LSC noted that there was a large discrepancy on scoring with 4 out of 5 from some PAG members down to 1 out of 5 from others. LSC are concerned by these trends and would like to hear from the PAG some of the reasons for the low scores.
  - i) PAG member says that none of local mills are currently represented on the PAG. LSC explained that some of the previously involved mills made a corporate decision to use a different certification system (SFI). LSC explained that Canfor/BCTS has 800-1000 indicators to standardize and consolidate across their operations under CSA. It is an arduous task so the intent is to streamline down to Core indicators with local indicators added.

**Action Item #1:** LSC to contact representatives from Apollo Forest Products, Carrier Lumber, Conifex and Dunkley and encourage their participation in future PAG meetings. Due: Next Meeting.

- c) PAG member feels like there is a large trust issue (issues of transparency). There also seems to be manipulation to change existing management/stewardship ideals and standards to fit a preconceived agenda. PAG members want to see a change on the ground, how are we making a difference? If they cannot make a difference, than there is no point in being part of the process.



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|---|--|
| 1. Amount of time given to review the meeting agenda prior to the meeting | 11. Facilitator addressed process issues           |
| 2. Agenda followed  | 12. Facilitator remained neutral on content issues |
| 3. Actions updated  | 13. Facilitator kept the meeting focused           |
| 4. Meeting summary captured decisions & action items                      | 14. Licensees organized and prepared               |
| 5. PAG Terms of Reference followed  | 15. Information presented clearly                  |
| 6. PAG members actively involved in the meeting                           | 16. Your satisfaction with this PAG meeting        |
| 7. The atmosphere of the meeting  | 17. Suitability of the Meeting facility            |
| 8. Facilitator was organized and prepared                                 | 18. Meals and refreshments                         |
| 9. Facilitator strived for consensus decision-making                      | 19. Your overall satisfaction with the PAG process |
| 10. Facilitator actively listened to concerns and viewpoints              |  |

- d) PAG member also said he recognizes that he is not educated in this country, and English is not his first language so he relies on other “experts” on the PAG to help fill in the gaps. He also feels that his knowledge base is not where it should be to fully understand the issues and process.

- e) PAG member sees that there are members of the public who have legitimate license to use forested land that are given no say in how the land is used. PAG member very disillusioned with Forest industry.
- f) LSC looked at poor rating on “actions” (Q3 and Q4). Actions will be reviewed at end of each meeting, and look at outstanding actions. It was noted that at the last meeting, all outstanding Actions were completed, but there is still a level of dissatisfaction from the PAG.

#### 5) Rural and Small Town Community Development – Dr. Greg Halseth, UNBC

- a) Dr. Halseth presented a talk (via conference phone) on Rural and Small Town Community Development.
- b) Dr. Halseth’s contact information can be found at <http://www.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/halseth>.
- c) Highlights:
  - i) The Presenter prefaced his talk by stating that on the topic of Community Social and Economic Renewal the goal is to look for a broad platform of community and economic infrastructure, there is no silver bullet.
  - ii) Background: (how we came to be economically)
    - Canada and BC is a “staples economy with beginnings in fur, fish, and later coal, oil and gas, perhaps water in the future. Raw material is harvested and value-added is done someplace else. We are highly dependent on and dominated by export markets. There are limits: tremendous dependence on external capital. We are pigeon-holed into production of raw materials that are exported. This is truncated development. We are dependent on others needing our raw resources. Also, most administration and policy makers are external to the local region.
    - Today 70% of export wealth is from forestry, energy, minerals and other raw materials.
  - iii) There is fierce competition among small towns for resource suppliers.
  - iv) Over the last 50 years, the province of BC has a history of moving to a moderate industrial society:
    - In the W.A.C. Bennett era there was lots of change to government policies (school districts, BC Rail line through to the northern part of the province, etc).
    - The three goals in this era were: 1) stable revenues to the Province, 2) provide collateral (in the form of long term resource tenures) to business to invest in buildings and infrastructure (ie. Pulp mills, and, 3) find many ways to recirculate wealth within communities.
    - Example of Mackenzie: a planned town with massive public sector investment.
    - As a result, small towns have become very focussed as single-industry towns – hard to move this “titanic” in a different direction when everything (skilled labour etc) is all tied into one industry. Example of historic “view” of one’s town from former years ex. Prince Rupert “we are a fishing town” when in reality it is now a pulp and paper town.

- v) Rural BC populations are declining according to last 3 census reports.
  - vi) Small resource sector value-added businesses are able to carve out niche markets despite the lack of government incentives and limited access to wood supply. (e.g. Scana windows used to supply pine book shelves to Ikea.).
  - vii) Current Question: “Are we getting all our wealth out of the forest sector to help future generations?”
    - Access to wood and access to waste (pellet industry) – bulk of workforce is over 55. There is a tremendous skill base that will be lost if there is no advance preparation. Must have skilled workforce to be competitive in world market.
  - viii) Must investigate all the resources in each community. Forestry may not be all about logs, but about chemistry, and other aspects of the forest which can be economically beneficial. Job growth is in value-added and specializing, but even this presents challenges and obstacles for those trying to be entrepreneurs. Purchasing departments are generally not local anymore but in larger centres and their purchasing habits have changed – they will look at larger sources for supplies that they can buy cheaper.
- d) Discussion:
- i) LSC asked Greg if urban centres are collectively asking the Federal Government for more dollars (bigger piece of the pie), are smaller communities doing anything similar? Greg answered that using investments such as regional trusts – wealth can be extracted from this region and then put back into a fund invested for benefits in the future.
  - ii) PAG member noted that the local Sled Dog Association is a good example. It is a non-profit Society that aims at diversifying the economy. Due to the presence of a “mushing” community in the Fort St. James area, it has resulted in new families relocating and bringing their work and talents. The Society now has a reputation for producing a high quality event each winter, despite being only a small number of mushers.
  - iii) PAG member asked about government support for economic diversification in small communities. Urban decision-makers are still using examples from the 1970’s and there needs to be a broader mindset. Government needs to get behind capacity-building. There are glimmers but still a long way to go.
  - iv) Discussed “fluid-policy environment” as a euphemism for “government doesn’t know what to do!” IT is now up to the community to do their homework and present ideas and options and see where it goes.

## **6) Criterion 5 Economic and Social Benefits: Indicator Comparison and Discussion**

- a) **Core Indicator 5.1.1 – Quantity and quality of timber and non-timber benefits, products, and services produced in the DFA**
  - i) This discussion is a continuation of the one when the proposed Core indicator was first presented at the February 21<sup>st</sup> PAG meeting.

ii) Proposed Core Indicator 5.1.1.b. Conformance with strategies for non-timber benefits identified in plans. Target: No non-conformances for site level plans. Variance: 0.

iii) Discussion

- LSC reviewed strategy/description of non-timber benefits.
- PAG member asked if there is a broader landscape concern, how this is addressed by the current description of “harvest unit specific basis” (more site specific). Observer responded there are other indicators that deal with habitat, species at risk, etc.
- PAG member is concerned that Licensees lack “corporate memory” when there is a change of hands that keeps an issue red-flagged. Canfor rep responded that there is a red-flag data base that is maintained that will keep the issue highlighted.
- PAG member gave example of deactivated road that had no access with 4X4. He took pictures. Public had no way of getting in to berry pick and so on. This would be a non-conformance and there should be remedial action.

Action Item #2: LSC to follow-up with PAG member on examples of poor deactivation practices. Due: Next Meeting.

- PAG member said his background as Metis has him looking at issues from different perspectives.
- PAG member was concerned about big cut blocks and deactivations done poorly (blockade involvement)
- PAG member concerned about proposal wording being meaningless and containing “big” words with too many syllables. PAG member wants a very simple understandable statement. LSC suggestion to define industry-related words in the glossary of the SFM Plan. Details will be in the SFM Plan.
- PAG member expressed concerned with situations where there may be competing benefits on the landscape, perhaps between two different interest groups. LSC clarified that the intent with the indicator is to track conformance of commitments to management strategy not conformance between interest groups.
- PAG member suggested that agreements be made in writing and provided to the affected parties. This suggestion was noted by the LSC.
- PAG suggested revising the Target statement to read: *No non-conformances for plans.* LSC is fine with the suggested edits.

iv) Consensus of PAG on revised indicator wording: Conformance with strategies for non-timber benefits identified in plans. Target: No non-conformances for plans. Variance: 0.

## 7) Criteria 6 Society’s Responsibility: Element 6.5: Information for Decision Making.

a) Core Indicator: 6.5.1 Number of people reached through education outreach

- b) LSC Recommendation: Add proposed Indicator Statement: *The number of people to whom educational opportunities are provided.* Target 50. Variance: -10.
- c) Discussion:
  - i) This is a new indicator required by the Standard
  - ii) This indicator provides an opportunity for the LSC to demonstrate involvement in the community. Current examples include UNBC field camp, Annual Grade 5 hike, staff visits to classrooms.
  - iii) PAG member said this is a social marketing tool. Talked about Sandra Sulyma (Randy's widow) who has great background in this area.
  - iv) PAG member asked about how 50 was arrived at as target. LSC said this data has not been gathered before so this would be simply a baseline to start with and that the target will be reviewed and changed to ensure appropriate in subsequent years.
  - v) PAG member would like to see something done "over-and-above" the legal requirement. LSC said there are two similar Core indicators that will be proposed. The other one would deal more with public involvement while this one is about educational opportunities.
  - vi) PAG member not comfortable with voting on this indicator until the LSC provides more information.
  - vii) PAG member wanted clarification on "educational opportunities": is it plants, trees, fish? LSC says it would be about all of those and others related to SFM.

**Action Item #3:** LSC will request more information from Sandra Sulyma on social outreach. Due: Next Meeting.

**8) Other:**

- a) PAG member wanted to make other members aware of an upcoming free workshop entitled "Winter Tree and Shrub Identification" by Rosamund Pojar, Smithers botanist Monday April 4 1:00 – 3:30 pm Ministry of Forests Operations Office Stones Bay Road.
- b) PAG member received a questionnaire for recreation users commissioned by the Ministry of Forests. PAG member was incensed when seeing this questionnaire as it completely missed the point of recreation in her opinion. The survey seemed to be designed to justify a relaxation of existing landbase constraints on timber harvesting (i.e. riparian reserves, wildlife habitat, and visual quality objectives). The survey related heavily to mountain pine beetle and how recreational activity/experience is affected by dead trees and so on. PAG member wants to know about the politics behind this. Is there an interest by Canfor and BCTS in the Fort St. James District for relaxing constraints to increase timber supply? LSC noted that there is currently an initiative that is looking at strategies to mitigate the losses in mid-term timber supply in the Prince George Timber Supply Area and TSR. LSC will look into this and report back. LSC responded that there is also a link to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

**Action Item #4:** LSC to find out the source of the survey and report back on whether there is a local interest by the LSC to relax constraints of Visual Quality Objectives for salvage of Mountain Pine Beetle timber. Due: Next Meeting.

**9) Update Actions (see table below):**

- a) Action Item Feb 21-01: Investigate the Fort St. James Forest District’s current position on the deactivation criteria referenced in Indicator 70 – Road Deactivation and report back to the PAG. LSC stated that there was no commitment to stop deactivations at this time. Action completed.
- b) Action Item Feb 21-02: Provide more information on strategies and plans related to the management of the non-timber benefits associated with this indicator during the review of other SFM Criteria. This action was discussed at this meeting during the review of Core Indicator 5.1.1. Action completed.
- c) Action Item Feb 21-03: BCTS will find out who the local contractors are and the value of the contracts awarded to local contractors. This action will be reviewed at the next meeting. Action deferred due to time constraints.

**10) Next Meetings:**

- a) May 9, 2011 5:30 – 9:00 pm at the Fort St. James Forest District Office
- b) June 13, 2011 5: 30 – 9:00 at the Fort St. James Forest District Office

	ACTION	WHO	DEADLINE	STATUS
Feb 21-01	Investigate the Fort St. James Forest District’s current position on the deactivation criteria referenced in Indicator 70 – Road Deactivation and report back to the PAG	LSC	Next Meeting	Completed
Feb 21-02	Provide more information on strategies and plans related to the management of the non-timber benefits associated with this indicator during the review of other SFM Criteria.	LSC	Future Meetings	Completed
Feb 21-03	BCTS will find out who the local contractors are and the value of the contracts awarded to local contractors.	BCTS	Future Meetings	
Mar 28-01	Contact representatives from Apollo Forest Products, Carrier Lumber, Conifex and Dunkley and encourage their participation in future PAG meetings.	LSC	Next Meeting	
Mar 28-02	Follow-up with PAG member on examples of poor deactivation practices.	LSC	Next Meeting	
Mar 28-03	Request more information from Sandra Sulyma on social outreach.	LSC	Next Meeting	
Mar 28-04	LSC to find out the source of the survey and report back on whether there is a local interest by the LSC to relax constraints of Visual Quality Objectives for salvage of Mountain Pine Beetle timber.	LSC	Next Meeting	