



Fort St. James
Sustainable Forest
Management

Public Advisory Group

Minutes from the April 30th Fort St. James Sustainable Forest Management Public Advisory Group (PAG)

Location: Fort St. James Senior's Centre

<p>In Attendance:</p> <p>Barb Rooke Henner Grimm Joe Vogl Bryan Muloin Randy Sulyma Beulah Broen Sue Grainger Orville Koette Larry Erickson Paul Swartz</p> <p>Absent:</p> <p>Joanne Vinnedge Ron Timothy Phil and Annette - Canfor Bob Frederick Treena Greenaway - Canfor</p>	<p>FSJ Licensee Representatives:</p> <p>Darwyn Koch-Apollo Leone MacDonald- BCTS Christy Hoy-SLL Kevin Bedford-Carrier Kerry Deschamps</p>
<p><u>Facilitator:</u> Brian Robinson, RPF, Industrial Forestry Service Ltd. <u>Scribe:</u> Anthony Giannotti, RPF, Industrial Forestry Service Ltd.</p>	<p>Guests</p>

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00am Saturday, April 30th 2005

Agenda for April 30

1. Hand out a questionnaire to PAG members asking the general level of satisfaction with the PAG process to date.
2. Fill in existing holes in the matrix. Licensees will make proposals.
3. After lunch, Kerry Deschamps (Canfor, Prince George) will ask PAG members to complete an exercise to rank criterion in order to run scenarios for timber supply analyses for the Sustainable Forest Management Plan. He will summarize this information on his computer



- during the afternoon and will present the results to PAG at the end of the day.
4. PAG will be provided an opportunity to review each criterion in the matrix for any revisions or omissions. If any PAG member wants to change existing values, objectives, indicators, targets or variances in the matrix, this has to be approved by PAG, either by consensus or general agreement.

If the agenda is not completed at the next meeting, we will schedule another meeting on May 14 to finish the matrix cleanup.

Final Matrix Cleanup Notes April 30, 2005

Indicator # 2: Licensees proposal to go to base case – put this out to the PAG

Beulah – Are there any studies for small trees and let them grow and see how much more volume is produced if you leave the trees to grow for 100 years. (MAI/PAI question)

Kerry – AAC determination every five years using best information

Kevin's presentation shows job trends for biodiversity scenarios: Take these as trends, not as actual numbers

Kerry - There are other ways to get biodiversity other than through this scenario. Use base case objective and apply constraints through other values. We can model job loss through scenarios involving mechanization and other job loss.

Paul – if we reduce the cut to the licensees will the cut go to another form of tenure? (fixed AAC). Hovering Realistic “threat” that if cut is reduced it will be the PAG's fault.

Beulah – there are choices to maximize the old growth, find other ways to maximize old growth production, develop regional viable and workable selective cut methodology. Selectively cut discussion. Wants selective cut information. I want quality of mature forest practices, this is under your discretion.

Henner – selective logging in Europe with success. Interior will not go for it.

Sue – Beulah –she may want an indicator around quality. (will address this next meeting).



End result: Would the PAG choose to move to the Base Case. (By voting against, you want the original wording to remain.)

Vote: 0/7/3. PAG chooses to remain with original decision for indicator # 2.

PAG may vote later to re-open indicator.

Indicator # 13:

Christy made the following presentation:

Douglas Fir Management Strategy

For blocks where Fd exists in the stand implement the appropriate strategy shown below:

Percent Fd	Retention strategy
<10%	retain >75 85% of merch Fd stems at the time of harvest
10% to 30%	retain >25 65% of merch Fd stems at the time of harvest
30% to 80%	retain >10 15 55% of merch Fd stems at the time of harvest
>80%	retain >5 10 15 40% of merch Fd stems at the time of harvest

Pauls 3/4/3 (85, 65, 55, 40)

Beulahs 2/5/3 7(5 25 15 10)

Other 4/3/3 (75 25 15 10)

No consensus is reached for this Fd retention strategy.

In addition, where Fd comprises more than 30% of the stand, and Fd has been harvested from the site, and where FD is present in the cruise, reforest the site with a proportion of Fd that is similar to the pre-harvest proportion of Fd. Fd can be retained in patches or as individual leave trees.

Suggested practices

1. retain largest Fd in site for longer rotations
2. retained Fd in stands; where they are in the top x% of diameter class
3. site specific – multi species patch or single tree

In situations where Fd can not be retained cut stems may be left on site to provide coarse woody debris.

The amount of Douglas fir on a block can be determined from cruise information, forest cover data, or field reconnaissance information.



Indicator	Target	Variance
For blocks where Douglas fir exists in the stand, the percent of site specific plans that follow the Douglas fir management strategy. Vote:8/1/1 Re vote: 6/3/1 no consensus	100% Vote:8/1/1 Re vote: 6/3/1	20%

PAG Want strategy changed. 6/1/3: general agreement
Randy agrees with licensee's strategy.

A variance may be required for blocks where the Fd that is present exists along roads or in roadside working areas or skid trails, where steep slopes limit harvesting options, where the stand is infested with Douglas fir beetle, where the Fd stems are too dangerous to be left, or where retaining Fd restricts the removal of other merchantable timber.

Beulah – how would variance affect plating of Fd. Want Fd planted back in all stands where there is a presence. May be a new indicator added later.

Strategy has higher retention levels where Fd is lower in sph.

Sue – value of Fd as big trees and its value as CWD, critter habitat etc. Wants Fd on a longer rotation. See scenarios around leaving Fd on longer rotation.

Paul does not like strategy numbers. Wants them higher

Indicator #15

Proposed Indicator – March 5th meeting

Indicator	Target	Variance
Compliance with a strategy for retention of healthy advanced coniferous regeneration / ingress in regenerating stands	TBA	TBA

Licensee Revised Indicator – April 30

Indicator	Target	Variance
Proportion of thinning and spacing	100% Vote: 7/1/2	0% Vote: 7/1/2



prescriptions implemented annually, that specify a post-treatment conifer tree density greater than the density to which the stand was originally planted. Vote: 7/1/2 General agreement		
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This indicator will be measured for all thinning and spacing prescriptions implemented annually. The scale of measurement is by individual licensee DFA and the reporting period is annually.

Purpose of this indicator: This indicator supports the objective “maintain natural genetic diversity” by ensuring coniferous naturals that exist in forest plantations remain a component of the stand. The thinning or spacing prescriptions will specify a post-spacing coniferous density greater than the planting density - the difference between the two densities must consist of naturally established conifers.

This indicator would apply to implemented prescriptions that apply to pre - free growing blocks. The idea being that post – free growing treatments are currently not within licensee control.

Randy– can’t see value in the indicator.

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- Darwyn handed out information on the Treaty process as background for indicator # 52.

#29

Added date

9/0/1

#57

Darwyn presented Archaeological Predictive Model

Indicator #23

PAG Indicator

Indicator	Target	Variance
Productivity (soil nutrient status) Biomass CWD retention.	CWD retention and recruitment based on site-specific regime, levels as per measured pre-harvest.	TBA



Licensee Proposed Indicator

Indicator	Target	Variance
Percent of audited* cutblocks harvested annually, where post-harvest CWD levels are within the acceptable range of variability (as stated in m3/ha) Vote 7/2/1 (general agreement)	100%	- 10%

* Audited implies that at least 50% of the number of blocks harvested annually will have post-harvest CWD surveys completed on them.

Opposed Randy – there is better information out there, indicator is good, target and strategy can be improved on.

Larry – may need more CWD than we are leaving. Paul – wants to make sure all relevant CWD metrics are included.

Proposed Coarse Woody Debris Retention Strategy:

Larry – wants info of height above ground (animal habitat)

Coarse Woody Debris (CWD) has been defined as, “*sound and rotting logs and stumps, and coarse roots in all stages of decay, that provide habitat for plants, animals and insects and a source of nutrients for soil structure and development. Material generally greater than 7.5 cm in diameter*”, as described in, “*The ecological role of coarse woody debris*” (Stevens 1997).

The indicator estimates the average levels of post harvest CWD in terms of m3/ha, by cutblock, by licensee.

The acceptable range of variability for this indicator is currently based on natural levels of CWD recorded in the NDT3 and NDT2 (Natural Disturbance Types) and is summarized in the table below.

Table 1: Natural levels of CWD in BC Forests.

Source: *Coarse Woody Debris volumes by size and decay class for BC Forests, June 1997, Qiwei Lang.*

Zone	Moisture	# of samples	Average total volume (m3/ha)	Range (m3/ha)
ESSF	Dry	5	59.93	4.95-84.94
ESSF	Mesic	6	80.63	33.95-200.59
ESSF	Wet	6	111.84	80.18-



				281.8
SBS	Dry	64	120.54	4.17-387.08
SBS	Mesic	954	222.78	1.37-932.14
SBS	Wet	129	230.67	3.64-661.04

The table above represents the best information at this time. Each block will be assessed against these ranges based on the appropriate zone and dominant moisture regime.

A database will be used to track CWD pre and post harvest data. The data will form the basis of re-defining the CWD pre-harvest conditions.

Measurement towards meeting this indicator include the following:

Post harvest CWD assessment

Post harvest assessments of CWD will be completed as per the BC standard CWD metrics following:

- Sample post harvest CWD in the dispersed area of the block only. Roadside work areas will be avoided.
- Licensees can either utilize transects or radius plots.
- Radius plots can be completed in conjunction with Waste and Residue surveys. Dispersed plots are 11.28-meter radius as per the Waste and Residue Manual.
- All pieces within the survey area (above or on the ground) that are > 7.5 cm diameter will be tallied.
- The length of each piece will also be tallied, as well as stumps (ht. & dia.).
- CWD volume will be estimated based on the sample plots.
- For every 10 ha. of harvest area, 1 post harvest CWD plot will be completed – up to a maximum of 10 per block.

Post harvest CWD will be measured following harvest under snow free conditions. Blocks logged during the winter months will be assessed in the subsequent reporting year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Pre-harvest CWD assessment



Although this CWD measurement is currently not measured against the indicator, it will be used to refine the natural pre-harvest conditions over time – continuous improvement. As more local (Fort St. James) data is collected pre harvest to substantiate this indicator, the CWD ranges will be re-defined. The target and variance will be measured at the cutblock level.

Since the pre-harvest site assessments are not measured against indicator, it is up to individual licensee discretion to determine which blocks are surveyed – new STI versus older STI.

This site assessment will be completed pre-harvest. The pre-harvest existing CWD assessment follows the guidance contained in the document, *“A field estimation procedure for downed coarse woody debris”*. This survey methodology has been tested and used throughout the forests of British Columbia.

30 meter transects are established within the harvest area of the block. The following information is collected for each piece of existing CWD intersecting each transect: subzone, site series, pc. #, Species, decay class, and diameter class. CWD volumes are estimated for each transect, then averaged for the block. The following assumptions are made for this CWD survey methodology:

- For every 10 ha. of harvest area, 1 pre-harvest CWD transect will be completed – up to a maximum of 10 transects per block.
- Blocks less than 10 ha. require only 1 transect.
- Transacts are to be systematically established (predetermine the location of each transect prior to completing the field assessment). Cruise plot locations with a pre-set cardinal bearing should remove bias from the sample and can be cone in conjunction with cruising.
- CWD pieces must be a minimum 7.5 cm in diameter and will be tallied on and above ground.
- CWD decay classes as per Vegetation Resource Inventory Classification
- Diameters measured at the point of intersection with each transect.

CWD recruitment planning and suggestions for CWD establishment on the block

CWD recruitment on the site is important for long-term productivity and provides for a variety of habitats for small mammals, insects, arthropods, and microbes. CWD recruitment over time can be encouraged through the implementation of some basic harvesting practices, such as;

- Retention of mature trees dispersed within blocks,

- Return trip skidding of large woody debris from the roadside work area back into the harvest area of the block,
- Retention of non-merchantable trees dispersed throughout the block.
- Creation of small debris piles within the block, following skidding operations.
- Concentrate skidding, if possible, to minimize breakage to large CWD pieces in the block.

Indicators #42, 54, & 60

PAG Indicator #42 – March 5th meeting

Indicator	Target	Variance
Percent of individuals satisfied with the communication process.	TBA	TBA

The indicator refers to percent of individuals that have expressed an interest in forest planning are communicated with (indicator #41)

PAG Indicator #54 – March 19th meeting

Indicator	Target	Variance
Percent of individuals satisfied with the communication process.	TBA	TBA

The indicator refers to proportion of aboriginal individuals who have expressed an interest in forest planning are communicated with (indicator #53)

PAG Indicator #60 – March 19th meeting

Indicator	Target	Variance
Satisfaction with level of resources provided to First Nations to develop the above list.	TBA	TBA

The indicator refers to list of important forest values and corresponding indicator form the first nations whose traditional territories in which the licensees operate (indicator #59)

Valid indicators (under the CSA standard) need to pass the following tests:

Indicator Test	Description (CSA standard pages 28, 29)
Measurability	Targets can only be set for indicators that can be measured.
Predictability	Indicators whose future levels can be predicted with reasonable accuracy is needed.
Relevance	Indicators should be clearly applicable to their associated values.



Understandability	Indicators should be simple, clear, and easy to understand.
Validity	Indicators should be consistent with the scientific understanding of the value they measure and should be technically valid.
Feasibility	The process of monitoring indicators should be practical, cost-effective, and efficient.

These indicators are not entirely predictable. The licensees have little or no way of predicting the outcomes.

These indicators are not entirely relevant. These indicators are not applicable to the associated values.

These indicators are not entirely valid or feasible. The indicators are based on measures that may not be technically valid. These measures may be based on emotions at the time of survey and that are not reproducible – Licensees have very little control over the success or failure of these indicators.

Licensees recommend that these indicators be removed from the matrix and reference to satisfaction surveys be placed into the continuous improvement matrix – to be addressed at a later date.

Vote 5/1/3

Paul opposed – there are ways to measure and some should be done now.

Sue – there are social sciences that deal with this and it is out there. Can be done quickly.

Randy – this is an important part and should not be removed.

Orville – not going any where with FN as they are in treaty process. It must be resolved first.

Beulah – don't remove it. Put a longer time line on it like the others.

Paul – real practical concern CSA consult with public (us) which includes FN, but they refuse to be a part of this. If Licensees say FN will not consult with us and CSA may not like this. If PAG gives the rubber stamp to move this then is this a way to get CSA to give the good audit if PAG feels that it is okay to dump this and ignore FN not being a part.

Leone – this is not about FN this is about the indicators and measuring satisfaction.

Kerry – CSA will look at how we tried to get FN to table. But auditors recognize this. Auditors want to see concrete things, can't have a bunch of "working on the plan". Side matrix is available to auditors, they will see it

Larry – what happens if you don't get certified.

Licensees – will do everything to get certified – will have the best possible plan together for audit.

Beulah's 2 minutes – roads close in the spring, seem usable, but no one is allowed on the road. Was told that this is due to scales not being able to tell



where the wood comes from. Therefore all roads closed. Would like to see a progressive system to fix this. Wants to see roads open.
Licensees - have no control over road closures. This rests with MoTH.

Darwyn: Provided a written response to PAG's request for research funding

Paul's response to Funding letter – some things are already funded like the EcoFor model, why not put things like this into a binding statement showing that there is a commitment? He would like to see a statement saying that money will be incorporated into PAG things.

Licensees – hard to commit to where funds will go and how much.
Kerry – may be able to report back on what projects were funded during the year as they relate to the plan/PAG.

Would like to see some words around a reporting mechanism to show projects completed.

Paul – PAG have some say as to what research is done and what is important to the PAG? Make sure some things that are important to PAG are researched.

Sue – would like licensees to propose to PAG the research that they would like to see and let PAG have input.

Kerry – show where research will help on sustainability and report back to PAG, communicate and share.

Paul – wants PAG to have power to say what projects are funded.

Darwyn – the door is always open to suggestions,
Kerry – have to show auditors what was done, there is accountability there. Will come back with what was done. PAG is part of this process.

Brian – 2 action items

1. PAG wants the ability to recommend what research needs to be done, They will work with licensees to do that.
2. Licensees will annually report back to PAG about all research planned or completed
PAG reached consensus to make recommendations about research and Licensees to report back. As Above. This is outside the matrix.

Paul likes that they are held accountable through audits.

Paul - Moves that licensees commit to providing \$15,000 to hire a consultant to be retained to advise PAG on future research projects.

Larry Seconded. 4/2/3 no consensus



Beulah – if licensees wanted to skew results they would, but they don't and we should trust them as there are other things in place, such as government legislation.

Darwyn – see the letter just presented to PAG.

Sue – Darwyn's letter – would like to hire FN to get them to work with PAG to collect information for PAG's use.



Fort St. James Sustainable Forest Management Public Advisory Group (PAG)

Last Updated on March 6, 2005

ITEM NUMBER	ACTION ITEM	WHO	WHEN	STATUS (Achieved, Late, Pending)
1	Initial version of DFA from FSJ licensee steering committee	DK	Dec. 4	Achieved
2	PAG to list their interests and have interests incorporated into the TOR	BR, AG	Dec. 4	Achieved
3	AG to call FN to see if anyone is interested in participating in one PAG meeting to see what it's all about.	AG	Before Dec.4th	Achieved
4	Approve TOR from Nov.6 meeting.	PAG/Licen see	Dec 4	Achieved
5	Licensees to complete matrix from Dec4th meeting and finish biodiversity.	Licensees (DK)	Jan 8	Achieved Jan. 26
6	Send background information to new PAG members	BR	Dec 10	Achieved
7	Send PAG, licensee and observer contact list, with interests, to PAG members	BR	Dec 10	Achieved
8	Contact PAG members who have not attended first two meetings and ask if they want to remain in PAG	BR	Dec. 10	Achieved
9	Send agenda for Jan. 8 PAG meeting, approved TOR and Dec. 4	BR	Dec. 10	Achieved
10	Send glossary of forestry terms and acronyms to PAG members	BR	Dec. 10	Achieved at Jan. 29 meeting

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ITEM NUMBER	ACTION ITEM	WHO	WHEN	STATUS (Achieved, Late, Pending)
11	Send info from Jan 8 PAG meeting and agenda for Jan. 29 PAG meeting	BR	Jan. 14	Achieved
12	Complete biodiversity matrix information	Licensees	Jan 29	Achieved
13	Minimum old growth requirements in PG TSA: look into it to see why they use the minimum instead of the average.	Licensees	Feb. 18	Achieved
14	Bring local NDU, BEC, satellite image and Landscape Unit maps to next meeting	Licensees	Feb. 19	Partially Achieved at meeting
15	Arrange for Guest speakers (MSRM, NDU specialist)	Licensees	Feb. 19	Achieved
16	Licensees to provide info on the local use of herbicides (ha treated)	Licensees	Feb. 19	Achieved
17	Licensees to provide ideas about connectivity on large blocks and how this would look on the ground	Licensees	Feb. 19	Achieved
18	Develop best management practices for brushing, which achieve free growing requirements and preserve native plant species.	Licensees	May?	Pending
19	Develop more comprehensive strategy for retention of Douglas-fir and advanced regeneration on cut blocks	Licensees	April 30	Achieved, however, no PAG consensus
20	Update TOR, Section 8a: Add the following sentence. A PAG member abstaining from voting on an issue is deemed not to be in substantial disagreement and to indicate a	Facilitator	Feb. 21	Achieved



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ITEM NUMBER	ACTION ITEM	WHO	WHEN	STATUS (Achieved, Late, Pending)
	willingness to proceed to the next step			
21	Provide UWR condition requirements to PAG for their information	Licensees	March 19	Achieved
22	Provide definition of regionally important wildlife to PAG	Licensees	When available	Pending
23	Provide wildlife habitat features information to PAG	Licensees	When available	Pending
24	Determine a target and variance for the indicator: “the number of individuals satisfied with the communication process” in MBTS matrix	Licensees	2006?	Pending; put into continuous improvement matrix
25	Determine the % of operational forestry contract value within the DFA serviced by north central BC to see if it agrees with the MBTS target of 90%; Define north central BC	Licensees	May?	Pending
26	Determine percentage of advertised employment opportunities target and variance in MBTS matrix.	Licensees	May?	Pending
27	Develop proposed matrix information for Criterion # 6 and #2	Licensees	March 19	Achieved
28	Develop target and variance for “Percent of individuals satisfied with the communication process”, element 6.1	Licensees	2006?	Pending; put into continuous improvement matrix
29	Determine variance for note 2.7 (% compliance to archaeological and cultural prescriptions)	Licensees	? May	Pending



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ITEM NUMBER	ACTION ITEM	WHO	WHEN	STATUS (Achieved, Late, Pending)
30	(2.9) Determine type of resources to help First Nations develop forest values list (report to PAG)	Licensees	? May	Pending
31	Put indicator numbers 42, 54, 60 into a continuous improvement matrix and address them outside the main matrix.	Licensees	2006?	Pending
32	Clean up indicator # 53 after PAG has read Susan's paper on FN appealing CSA certification.	PAG	May 14	Pending

