

Fraser Public Advisory Group (FPAG) Meeting Minutes

Call to order

Chris Harvey, SFM Programs Advisor, welcomed members of the Southwest Island Public Advisory Group at the IHOP Restaurant in Chilliwack on the 30th of May, 2017 at 4:40pm.

Members

Present:

- Al Stobbart, FVRD / Area "C" Resident Fisheries / FVRD Regions Area "G" & "F"
- Cal Kaytor, SWATT
- Chief Andy Alex, Union Bar First Nation
- Luke Pike, People of the River
- Don Martin, Former President Ducks Unlimited
- Randall Dayton, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (observer)

Support:

- John Pichugin RPF, TJG Manager Forestry and Engineering
- Chris Harvey RPF, Environment Department
- Ashley Adamczyk RPF, Environment Department

Regrets:

- Pauline Peters, Hatzic Prairie, Durieu, McConnell Creek Ratepayers
- James Leon, Scowlitz First Nation
- Samantha Peters, Chawthil First Nation
- Mike Goold People of the River
- Mike Crane, TJG Operations Engineer Heather Molacci, Hatzic Valley Logging Committee
- Lloyd Foreman, Director Area A
- Brian Taylor, Fraser TSA Co-op (retired RPF)
- Erica Schulz, Lower Mainland ATV Club
- Bruce Edwards, Emergency Coordinator, Hatzic Valley
- Shawn Gabriel, Leq emel First Nation

Documents

Documents distributed to members:

- FPAG Meeting #38 Agenda
- Draft Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2016
- PAG Satisfaction Questionnaire
- Winter News Letter
- Highlights of the 2015 SFMP Annual Report
- Draft Terms of Reference
- PAG new member introductory booklet

Documents available:

- Sustainable Forest Management Plan and 2015 Annual Report (August 2016)
- CSA Sustainable Forest Management Standard Z809-08
- CSA Sustainable Forest Management Standard Z809-16

Introductions, Health and Safety, Current Events

Chris reviewed the focus of this meeting:

- Revisions to PAG Terms of Reference
- Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) Indicator Revisions for transition to new CSA Z809 standard
- Discussion on soil and water

Current Events

Teal recently passed its first SAFE Certification Audit last October, and all operations are now SAFE certified. This includes the woodlands, log sorts, and the mills (which were previously certified).

Fraser Valley has recently renewed their Forest Stewardship Plan.

CSA External Audit taking place in September (likely the 3rd week). Invitations will be sent out for any who may be interested in speaking to the auditors or joining the field tour.

Chris distributed the PAG Satisfaction Questionnaire and asked member to fill them out prior to the end of the meeting.

Previous meeting minutes

Chris referred to the draft meetings minutes for the June 15, 2016 meeting. It was noted that the meeting minutes were previously distributed via email, therefore the review during meeting time would be kept brief.

Chris noted the previous meeting was held in order to discuss the results of the internal audit (May), CSA SFM standard update and Elk guest speaker. There was only one action item:

- Action Item #37-1: Finalize meeting minutes, post on the internet. Complete.

Al Stobbart noted that Lloyd Foreman was no longer the Director of Area “A”; Chris agreed to update this to state, “community representative”. Meeting #37 minutes were approved.

Action Item #38-1: Finalize meeting minutes, post on the internet.

Environmental Department, August 30th, 2017

External Audit Results

The Teal Jones Group underwent a third-party audit of their sustainable forest management (SFM) system to the CAN/CSA Z809-2008 Sustainable Forest Management Standard from September 19-21, 2016 in the Fraser Valley. The audit was conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers. As the last meeting (November) was cancelled due to a power outage, Chris distributed a Winter Newsletter summarizing the results of the audit. More details are available on Teal’s website. Chris noted that a printed copy of the Winter Newsletter was provided to each PAG member in their meeting documents. Luke Pike commented on his attendance of the Pitt Lake field tour during the September 2016 audit. Luke said he enjoyed the day and commented on how powerful the sky crane was. He also said he enjoyed and acknowledged thanks for the helicopter ride. The tour included a boat trip into camp, some log loading, a site visit to a heli logging operation and the group went to see a yoder in action.

The conclusion of the audit was that the Teal-Jones Group will continue to be registered to the CSA Z809-2008 Sustainable Forest Management Standard. All of the applicable requirements of the standard were considered to be adequately implemented.

The next audit will be scheduled for September 2017 and will be a recertification to the new standard (2016 version) at both operations. Chris said she will send out the invite to the next field tour and that the annual report posted on the website.

Annual Report

A Summary of the 2015 Annual Report was also included in the Winter Newsletter. Chris noted that she would not provide great detail at this meeting as we are currently working on the 2016 annual report; at the next meeting, we will be reporting in detail on both the 2015 and 2016 results. In summary for 2015, 44 of 46 indicators were in conformance, the group discussed the two indicators that were not in conformance:

- 1 indicator, D2-1 Accidental Industrial Caused Fires, did not meet the target but was within the acceptable variance. Cal Kaytor made a few comments about the origin of the Woods Lake fire as he was in the area the time.

- 1 indicator, C6.5.2: Availability of Summary Information on Issues of Concern to the Public did not meet the target or variance. For this Chris proposed to provide variance or remove the two-month time frame to post the previous meeting minutes within 2 months of the meeting. FPAG agreed to remove the requirement on the timeline for posting the previous meeting minutes (previously said within 2 months of the meeting).

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were reviewed, including Membership Selection, and Code of Conduct. Proposed changes to the Terms of Reference were discussed. Chris reminded the PAG that there are various sectors from which PAG members may represent and that from time to time Teal evaluates to determine if all are met/represented. Chris went over the new clauses added to the Terms of Reference: she reviewed the new part of the Code of Conduct from CSA standard (members will not engage in disruptive behaviour), members to disclose potential conflict of interest, clearly indicate where confidential information is presented and that members must disclose their intent to share information discussed at meetings via media.

Al Stobbart commented that the Code of Conduct notes “social media”, not just “media” indicating that it could be published in a newspaper without consent.

Action Item #38-2: Update TOR to state “media” not just “social media” as this implies that publishing confidential information in a newspaper may be acceptable.

Environmental Department, June 30th, 2017

One of the questions brought up at the PAG was “Where would a conflict of interest arise within the scope of the PAG?” The group discussed possible scenarios and agreed that although that was not a typical situation or one that had been experienced to date in the PAG meetings, there was no harm in keeping it in the Terms of Reference. FPAG approved all changes.

Action Item #38-3: Finalize TOR updates and post on internet.

Environmental Department, June 30th, 2017

Chief Andy brought up that it would be beneficial to review all members (where applicable), including Teals, “mission statement” as it will help everyone work together to come to a common ground and understanding. Chris noted the SFM Policy is on Teals website but it would be beneficial to discuss with the PAGs at a future meeting.

Action Item #38-4: Teal’s Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Policy will be shared with FPAG. Members are also welcomed to bring their mission statement to share with the group.

Environmental Department, June 30th, 2018

Review of Indicators and Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Certification

Chris provided an overview of indicators, values, objectives and targets and their role in the certification and distributed the PAG new member introductory booklet. Chris provided a summary of changes to the indicators as Teal transitions to the 2016 Standard. She said most of the changes were administrative in nature involving renumbering and minor name changes. She said the new indicators were identified during early PAG meetings (e.g., Sites of Special Significance) which are now mandatory core indicators. In these cases, the indicator name was changed but the Value, Objective, Target and Variance were not changed, nor were the reporting requirements (i.e., the spirit and intent of the indicator as developed by the PAGs has not changed). Chris discussed her participation in the CSA Technical committee on behalf of Teal and that the “name” of indicators can be considered for changes in the future. She presented the following changes to the group:

Old Indicator	New Indicator	Change to reporting? (Y/N)
C1.4.1 Protection of Identified Sacred and Culturally Important Sites	C1.4.2 Protection of Sites of Special Significance	N

This broadens the indicator.

D3-1: Riparian Management and In-stream Habitat Management	C3.2.2: Proportion of forest management activities consistent with prescriptions to protect identified water features.	N, except fish enhancement reported in 5.2.2
D2-5 Windthrow		

This change combines D3-1 and D2-5 (used to report fisheries enhancement projects under this, but moved to another indicator). Endemic and catastrophic windthrow now both under same indicator. Chief Andy commented that he had read some literature that indicated that DFO is reducing amount of fisheries enhancement work.

Al Stobbart responded that it was the Resource Restoration Unit (sunset unit); a maintenance based program that has been shrinking year after year. He also said that most of this work is being conducted by the Pacific Stream Keepers (public groups). Chris noted SFMP reports on fisheries enhancement projects but this is mainly done on the island.

D6-1 Sites of Special Significance	C5.1.2 — Evidence of open and respectful communications with forest dependent businesses, forest users and local communities to integrate non-timber resources into forest management planning. When significant disagreement occurs, efforts towards conflict resolution are documented	N
C6.1.2 Evidence of Best Efforts to Obtain Acceptance of Management Plans Based on Aboriginal Communities having a Clear Understanding of the Plans	C7.1.2 Evidence of ongoing open and respectful communications with Aboriginal communities to foster meaningful engagement, and consideration of the information gained about their Aboriginal title and rights through this process. Where there is communicated disagreement regarding the organization's forest management activities, this evidence would include documentation of efforts towards conflict resolution.	N
C6.4.3 Evidence of efforts to promote capacity development and meaningful participation for Aboriginal individuals, communities and forest-based companies.	C7.4.3 Evidence of efforts to promote capacity development and meaningful participation for Aboriginal individuals, communities and forest-based companies.	N, now report on Aboriginal employment contracts
C5.2.4 Level of Aboriginal participation in the Forest Economy		

Two indicators, from one from criterion 5 and one from 6 were amalgamated into a new criterion. Information reporting to PAGs has not changed. Forest-based companies under this indicator are directly tied to Aboriginal forest-based companies.

Chief Andy stated that there are no changes to the protocol agreement and that there are over 200 FN in BC at different stages of understanding and agreement with government. Each band has a different policy to follow on economic development. Chris agreed and noted that CSA standard is not implying that a “specific way” works for all First Nation relationships, but that it is designed to develop effective communications with each First Nation to figure out what works in each individual situation. Luke Pike asked what the targets are for Indicator C.5.2.4 and C6.4.3. Chris reviews the target from the SFM Plan document. There were no further questions or comments and the group agreed Chris could make the changes as identified.

Action Item #38-5: update Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan with Indicator edits.

Environmental Department, June 30th, 2017

Soil and Water

Chris Harvey gave a presentation on Soil and Water which had been prepared by Kirstin Campbell, Facilitator of Southwest Island PAG.

The presentation reviewed the following, mandatory discussion items and items of interest:

- Water quality and quantity in watersheds supply domestic water
- Management Practices and regulatory requirements that conserve water and soil; and
- Riparian area management
- Role and importance of wetlands
- Soil productivity
- Sensitive sites
- Soil disturbance prevention and mitigation strategies
- Site rehabilitation in areas of severe soil disturbance

The following is a summary of the presentation and discussion:

- definition of a watershed
- factors that affect water quality and quantity in watersheds
- map of watersheds in BC (scale of assessment)
- hydrological impact assessments
- forestry activities within a
- natural and past disturbances and how it impacts developments of roads, clear-cuts, timing restrictions of harvesting, etc.
- description of wetlands
- benefits of wetlands (collect water fast and disperse it slow, wildlife use wetlands at some point in their lifecycle, major role in the water cycle)
- description of a “riparian area”, which are high in biodiversity, fish habitat, coarse woody debris and play a role in stream temperature maintenance
- stream classifications under FPPR (fish, community watersheds, width);
- riparian reserve zone and riparian management zones
- stream prescriptions
- assessment of windthrow along streams and site factors contributing to windthrow in these areas.

The group discussed the new core indicator: Indicator C3.2.2: Proportion of forest management activities consistent with prescriptions to protect identified water features. This indicator is based on D3-1, with the addition of windthrow (previously D2-5).

Value	Objective	Indicator	Target	Variance
Natural aquatic habitat, PAG interest in windthrow	Maintain natural habitat and stream morphology for aquatic species	Proportion of forest management activities consistent with prescriptions to protect identified water features.	100% of all forest management activities, consistent with prescriptions to protect identified water features	Zero

Changes:

- Indicator title and # (used to be D3-1 Riparian)
- Added reporting of windthrow, whether catastrophic or endemic (normal wind patterns)
- Removed fish enhancement projects to D5.2.2 which reports of community projects

Was the prescription followed to protect the applicable feature.

Reporting:

- During the planning stages of cutblock development, streams are mapped, and all streams, lakes and wetlands classified and their characteristics are assessed.
- Prescriptions are developed based on these classifications, assessments and legislated requirements.
- Each cutblock is inspected internally post harvest to ensure the plan was followed. If any portion of the prescription, which includes windthrow, was not implemented as per the plan an Incident Investigation is completed.
- External inspections may also be performed by government agencies, and if legal requirements are not met, a non-compliance may be issued.

Chris said there were no riparian incident investigations in 2015. FPAG approved the new indicator.

Action Item #38-6: update Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan with approved Indicator C3.2.2.

Environmental Department, June 30th, 2017

Chris briefly reviewed the legislative requirements for soil under the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation. Soil conservation legislation aims to limit amount of soil disturbance and permanent access structures. She discussed the 7% limit for permanent access structures and that a rationale required for specific circumstances permanent access structures exceeds the limit. For example, if over 7%, rehabilitation may be required. Al asked what an average would be for a typical block? John noted that it depends on the site conditions (e.g., terrain, topography, size of block, harvest method, etc.) but on average the blocks are within this limit.

Soil disturbance limits (machinery), on sensitive soils it's 5% and on other soils it's – 10%, except for roadside work areas (25%). Limits can be temporarily exceeded but need to be rehabilitated. Soil Standard Operating Procedures have been developed from working with planners and road building contractors and include the use of proper machines on sensitive sites, appropriate riparian management, working with operators, appropriate season for field operations, etc.

Chris mentions reporting for soil quantity and quality takes place during and post-harvest inspections to ensure prescriptions are being followed. External audits may take place and where limits are exceeded contractors may be required to come back and rehabilitate more area.

Chris reviewed the existing Soil and Water indicators. No questions or comments from PAG members.

Future Meeting Topics

Chris asked the group what topics they might like to see discussed at future meetings; she handed out a list of mandatory discussion items from the CSA standard and noted that we have discussed all of these throughout the years (as FPAG has been meeting for over a decade) however with new membership there could be renewed interest in these topics. She suggested that since November's meeting was cancelled, they could reschedule the discussion on Harvest Systems. At the SIPAG interest was expressed in: AAC and rate of cut, Aboriginal Criterion and associated indicators, and tourism/ recreation. Chris asked members to review the CSA Sustainable Forest Management criterion mandatory discussion items and let Teal know if there were areas of interest for future meeting topics.

Al Stobbart commented that BCTS (Enrique Sanchez) is working on a project to determine the changes to come to results based system (FPPR), implemented over 10 years ago. He thought it may be relevant to the PAG to talk about this as it may generate some discussion. Randall Dayton replied and said that is likely about Forest Stewardship Plan public review and comment for BC Timber Sales. He agreed it may be beneficial to find out what is being discussed and agreed to find out for the group.

Action Item #38-7: Confirm with BCTS and find out work is being conducted in terms of their forest stewardship plan and its interpretation and application on the landbase.

Randall Dayton, December 31st, 2017

John Pichugin asked members to consider giving a short presentation on their respective groups so the PAG is aware of their goal and objectives and to facilitate better communication.

John Pichugin read framed letter provided by SWATT (Cal Kaytor) dated (May 27, 2017) impressed with Teal's work, efforts and expense in multi-use trail and bridge development.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. Dinner was served at 6:30 p.m. Minutes were recorded by Chris and Ashley.