

Spray Lake Sawmills
 Crowsnest Pass Public Advisory Committee
 MINUTES
 May 2, 2011

Attendees & Affiliation:

Gord Lehn – SLS	Brian Gallant – Non-motorized Recreation
Errol Kutcher – SLS	Dave Welsh – Public at Large
Martin Wilson – SLS	Bill Kinnear – Crowsnest Forest Stewardship Society
David Green - SASCI	Glen French – Motorized Recreation
Emile Saindon – Crowsnest Municipal Council	

Absentees & Affiliation:

John Slupsky – Devon Canada	Wade Aebli – Hillcrest Fish & Game Club
Ron Davis – MD of Ranchlands	Tom Lynch-Staunton – North Fork Livestock Association
John Kinnear – Crowsnest Conservation Society	Andrew Rusynyk – Castle Mountain Resort
Tim Juhlin - SRD	

Item	Discussion	Who
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed PAC members to meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gord
Review PAC membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLS will be recruiting additional members as a result of some members departing. • Group discussed possible candidates. • PAC group would like enough members to ensure there is an adequate turn out for the meetings. SLS would prefer a minimum of 8 members in attendance excluding SLS participants. SLS understands not everyone can attend because members attend on a volunteer basis and may have other commitments. SLS needs to have a membership list large enough to account for this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gord
PAC evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PAC has been established for just over a year and has had 5 meetings to date. • All members believe the establishment of the PAC and the action items being implemented by the company have been fully supported. These include such things as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information bulletins in the local papers. • Information packages distributed. • Provided PAC/Council field tours. • Provides two annual scholarships to local secondary school. • Donated significant donation to local community trail program. • Donated to local Boys and Girls Club. • Active member of Crowsnest Chamber of Commerce. • Donated to local quad squad organization. • Donated bridge install for Crowsnest Bible Camp. • PAC group encouraged SLS to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with information bulletins in the papers but at a lesser frequency. Although SLS is getting no public feedback with the bulletins, the PAC believes they are being read and are beneficial. • PAC asked if our SLS website has a “visitation count” to determine how many people are using the site. Gord wasn’t sure but would look into it. • PAC suggested bringing in special guests/organizations to meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An example was to bring in the people from the Crowsnest Conservation Society to discuss one on one some of their concerns. • PAC suggested speaking at local elementary and secondary schools to educate kids and promote the industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gord • PAC

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PAC evaluation (Con't)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAC suggested that SLS put on another field tour this year and to allow the PAC members to invite 3 or 4 more participants of their choice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gord PAC
Certification Update and how it relates to the harvesting in the Beaver Mines License	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLS is still pursuing Forest Stewardship Council® Certification (FSC®) and will likely undergo the audit this fall. Environmental groups, many who are paid lobbyists, are trying to convince the public and retailers that SLS is certifying one area while they harvest in a non-sustainable manner in an area not being certified. The example being currently used is our harvest plans in the Beaver Mines license located in the Castle area. What the environmental groups aren't telling everyone is that our operations are broken into two management areas or forest tenures. SLS has a Forest Management Agreement (FMA) located in the north. Under an FMA, SLS are the forest managers for that area and are eligible for FSC® certification. In the south, SLS has a quota that is managed by SRD making the area ineligible for SLS to pursue certification. The C5 Forest Management Unit which includes the Beaver Mines license, is managed under a forest management plan built on CSA sustainable forest management principles and is being managed in a sustainable, environmentally responsible manner. Harvest planning and operations in the C5 Forest Management Unit follow the same multitude of provincial legislation, policies and ground rules that apply to all operations in Alberta. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gord
Atlas Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with government are still ongoing as to the future plans of the Atlas Road. In discussions with SRD regarding an access management plan, SLS has been a strong voice on behalf of the community stressing the importance of having the Crowsnest Pass represented in the development stages of the access management plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gord
Firewood Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the past few months SLS has developed a proposal that was recently approved by SRD to utilize un-merchantable fiber in our cutblocks as firewood. SLS will only utilize the firewood in blocks where it will not compromise the success of our reforestation program as it is imperative that our blocks have a component of slash on the forest floor to provide good microsites for future seedlings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gord
Status of Mountain Pine Beetle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is anticipated that the cold temperatures observed in November this year will contribute to over winter mortality in MPB populations. There was no significant MPB flight from BC into Alberta which also helped keep MPB numbers to a manageable level. Researchers from the University of Alberta have recently published their findings on MPB population success in jack pine of the boreal forest. The results indicated that MPB are able to successfully attack and survive in jack pine. This is a concern since the boreal forest stretches from northern Alberta to Newfoundland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gord

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Post Harvest Debris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PAC member had recently observed a treatment that dispersed post harvest debris (slash) using a high RPM rotating head attached to an excavator. The special head was capable of distributing debris as far as 100 meters. It was asked if this treatment would be effective in areas with high amounts of debris combined with highly visually sensitive areas such as the blocks adjacent to the Castle Falls Road. • Currently, where slash is considered excessive, SLS either spreads the debris during scarification with a dozer blade or piles the debris for burning the following winter. • Some of the conflicting objectives SLS deals with along the Castle Falls Road is TPR (Tourism Parks & Recreation) request to make the blocks along the Castle Falls Road difficult to access with trailers with the use of slash to discourage more random camping while other groups want to see minimal slash. Another concern is the fact that our cutblocks are located in highly used areas. • SLS is concerned for the safety of the recreationists using these areas if this treatment throws debris as much as 100 meters from the working site. This could be a significant liability for SLS. • SLS agreed to investigate options for leaving a slash free buffer adjacent to any main roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill • Gord
2011 Harvest Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLS confirmed that the company is still planning on harvesting in the Beaver Mines license this year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin
2011 Silviculture Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLS will be planting/reclaiming/scarifying in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McGillivray Creek • Atlas Road • Dutch Creek • Oldman • Livingstone • Planting will likely run from mid June to early July. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Errol
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No date set unless requested by PAC until the upcoming C5 PAC Field Tour early this fall. • The purpose of the field tour is to review some of the “discussion items” discussed in the previous PAC meetings that are applicable to the field. Some of the activities that we will be focusing on include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block & Road layout • Stream Classification & Riparian Buffers • Harvesting Techniques • Road Construction/Reclamation • Crossing Installations • Site Preparation & Planting • As operational plans for 2011 are confirmed, SLS will be able to better coordinate the activities for the upcoming year and provide the best possible dates. Confirmation of the field tour date should be provided to PAC members by mid August and the actual tour date will likely occur between mid September to mid October. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All

Action Items

- SLS will be recruiting additional PAC members. SLS will keep current PAC members up to date with any new recruits and their respective affiliation.
- SLS to determine if our SLS website has a “visitation count” to track the number of users.
- SLS will look at presenting in the local elementary and secondary schools. SLS will also enquire current government programs that do the same thing such as *Inside Education*.
- SLS to coordinate another field trip this summer/fall to look at past and current operations. PAC members will be able to invite a maximum of four additional participants.
- SLS to look into mulching head as an alternate treatment to disposing of post harvest debris.