

**Spray Lake Sawmills  
Public Advisory Committee  
SLS Boardroom  
May 6th, 2015**

**Present:** Andy Marshall, Judy Stewart, Denise Nickel, Joe Nickel, Erik Butters, Harvey Buckley, Ken Birkett, Gord Lehn, Matt Denney, Tannis Zubot, and Jason Mogilefsky,

**Guests:**

**Absent:** Richard Right Hand, Liz Breakey, Joe Nickel, Patrick Brady, Mike Korman, George Roman, and Tim Giese

Meeting started at 4:06 p.m.

**Agenda item – Value and Objective Development**

SLS Open House is planned for Cochrane on May 13, 2015.

SLS went over the Value and Objective Development handout. It was outlined and explained that all comments from the workshop have been documented. The objective statements will be linked. SLS is open for comments and is allowing a week and a half for people to respond. This is a draft and will be given to the government for approval.

PAC – How do you measure how it impacts the First Nations?

SLS - It is up to the First Nations to give us their feedback. SLS has met with them. Information packages have been sent to the First Nations. SLS attended a cultural awareness meeting with them. SLS sends emails out regularly. Once this is completed we are locked into this plan for 10 years.

PAC - Likes the format of this document. It's comprehensive. Adaptive management is very important. It was recommended that we stay informed and involved. It was also mentioned that we consider the Bow River Basin Plan.

PAC – Social considerations – Aesthetics – How do we measure this?

SLS - Aesthetics is a very different for everybody. This is hard to define for every person.

PAC - Sustained yield basis – can this be explained in more common terms.

PAC - Water Resources – Do we do our own testing, or do we rely on others?

SLS – Currently we are not doing this. It could be something done in the future.

SLS - Any other comments please contact us by phone or email.

## **Agenda item – Discuss results of FSC Surveillance Audit Report**

SLS updated the PAC with the 2015 FSC Audit report findings as follows:

- Extensive public consultation is provided
- Trails are well protected
- Riparian buffers and stream crossings are very well done
- Worked with ENGO to restore fish habitat
- Reclamation is quick and effective, roads disappear
- Exceedingly high standards of forest management
- No negative findings
- Audit team recommended continued certification

The 2015 audit report is available on our website (Woodlands, Forest Certification). The audit was a very comprehensive and SLS is very proud of the results.

One member of the PAC stated displeasure with the report citing that the report mentioned a PAC member who spoke in favor of SLS and that there are radical ENGO's making things seem bad when they are not. The PAC member who is a member of an ENGO stated that comment was offensive and he belongs to a legitimate ENGO.

The PAC member also mentioned displeasure with the report that states that a supportive PAC member mentioned SLS is monitoring forest reserve water quality and have no issues with SLS's forest management. SLS explained the auditor did spend several days in the field investigating various ENGO and rural residential complaints and that all of the complaints were baseless. The PAC member felt the auditor's tone in the report was not promoting collaboration with these groups. The PAC member asked if SLS supported the auditor's specific wording such as "commuters" and "cabal".

SLS- stated that this is a third party audit report reflecting the auditors' findings. SLS suggested that if there are any questions about the report including the wording, we suggest contacting Bureau Veritas.

One PAC member suggested the landowners up the Ghost Valley are upset and SLS should meet with them. Other PAC members explained the importance of meeting with rural residential neighbors who are not happy with forestry occurring near their homes. SLS explained that we have been listening and meeting with various rural residential owners to explain our operations and to educate them regarding forest management. We explain that forest management plans are designed with public consultation to promote healthy forests, keep the water clean, and protect biodiversity. And that we will continue to meet with them to review any issues they have in the field.

As suggested by the environmental community, SLS has obtained FSC accreditation and is the only sawmill in Alberta to hold a FSC certificate. SLS continues to work closely with rural residential landowners to find common ground.

## **Agenda item – Forest Inventory and Future Plans**

This is the inventory of the standing trees we have. We are using an aerial image. It measures the age, density, species, etc. A brief power point presentation was done. This method is very accurate. We hope to get a lot more precise information from this plan. It is a lengthy process.

PAC - Can we walk an individual through this process to explain to the average person, how it impacts the area they may be interested in? What is the time frame to have this done?

SLS - This could be about two years away to be able to show a person this process.

PAC – Does this show the impact of the wildlife? Does anyone do a game count?

SLS - This is left to the Fish and Wildlife. The Fish and Wildlife Department looks at the models and comments if needed.

PAC - Where are we at with the government approval?

SLS - It has been submitted. Hopefully within the next couple of months we will get approval, and then we will have to develop the growth and yield plan. We would like to demonstrate how we generate this and how the models work.

PAC - It's important to understand the complexity of this and to know the long-term impacts on the forest.

PAC – Next PAC meeting will mostly likely be held towards the end of the summer.

**Adjourn**

- 6:15 p.m.