

**Spray Lake Sawmills
Public Advisory Committee
SLS Boardroom
December 7th, 2015**

Present: Ken Birkett, Corey Stoneman, Denise Nickel, Joe Nickel, Scotty Many-Guns (in place of Richard Right Hand), Judy Stewart, Tim Giese, Erik Butters, Gord Lehn, Matt Denney, Harvey Buckley,

Guests: None

Absent: Jacqueline Nelson, Liz Breakey, Patrick Brady, Mike Korman, George Roman, Richard Right Hand

Meeting kicked off at 4:02

Agenda item – FSC Audit Results

Report has not been received from the auditors. Item is deferred to the next PAC meeting.

Agenda item – 2016 Harvest Plans

General Development Plan map was presented to the PAC. The map shows where forest operations (harvesting, road-building & road-reclamation) will be occurring for the next 5 years.

Questions from PAC about orange circles on the map

SLS – these highlight the road reclamation areas which typically occur 3-5 years after harvest

SLS described from north to south where activities for the current year and next year will be occurring. The whole FMA and C5 quota area were covered.

SLS explained that contingency area are planning on being used in the Livingston Savanna licenses because of the loss of landbase associated with the new Castle Provincial Parks.

SLS – specific to the C5 area, we are working with local snowmobile club to keep their staging areas and trails open over the winter

SLS also clarified that AOP and FHP information can be found online if needed

Question from PAC about log haul around acreages

SLS went through current status of log haul in the south B9 quota area. The efforts that are being undertaken to avoid use of Jamieson Road, as well work being done with the MD of Bighorn to ensure a safe and effective log haul on Jamieson road if that road is used.

PAC – suggested that we look at what Lethbridge County is doing in Feedlot Aly for cattle liners and trucks which handle waist and landscape products during the spring break up period, typically they reduced speed limits (around 30 km per hour) which allowed them to haul at reduced road bands (i.e. closer to normal weights).

PAC - on a different topic, the Ghost Watershed Alliance is close to completing a state of the watershed report, should be finalized by mid-January. Report should be provided to SLS to verify the accuracy of input information.

Agenda item – PAC Questionnaire Results

SLS distributed extra copies of the questionnaire results

- Discussed the background for the questionnaire – want to keep the group lively and engaged and get feedback on how this can better be accomplished
- Explained the use of an arm's length consultant to keep things unbiased and natural
- Number of respondents – assuming that if you did not respond that there were no burning issues and did not feel the need to respond

SLS went through the highlights from the report.

- Logistics (location, time, food) – overall level of satisfaction
- Content – members would like info provided ahead of time, some info is too technical. Noted - SLS will seek to try and provide more info ahead of time and to provide info in a non-technical fashion
- Detail – adequate but would like to see more specific detail on the topics
- Summaries of the previous meetings should be provided ahead of time
- Chair – more diligent for keeping on agenda
- Membership – seemed balanced (may look for one more member), some confusion on what sector is actually being represented
- Sector representation – with two resignations from the PAC, question was posed to the PAC if this needs to be filled and by who / what capacity
- TOR – would like an annual review – will do at this meeting
- Membership – negative to neutral – SLS is currently looking for ideas on how to improve this
 - PAC member suggested that this is possibly do to the nature of the business and not a reflection of the meetings or the members
- Opportunity to share views – possibly use more of a roundtable approach and ask each member if they have something to contribute
- Feedback – feel that the feedback they provide is being given meaningful considerations
- Presentations from PAC members – new idea that was not thought of, SLS open to idea
- Meeting agenda and summaries – recommendations that when a decision is required it should be more noticeable in the minutes and documented. Currently the PAC operates by consensus, should look at the use of minority report and if recommendation cannot be endorsed the item should be noted and say why in the minutes
- TOR – suggestion to tighten up – still looking for feedback on this issue
- PAC – want to understand what the role of a PAC member actually is.
 - SLS – clarify that this is an advisory committee where the PAC brings issues forward, act as a forum to discuss how to best deal with issues and public commination, but it is SLS's responsibility to make the final decisions

PAC and SLS started discussing future meetings

- Targeting 4 meetings next year (generally quarterly)
- Targeting another presentation about operations as well as presentation about reforestation activities and looking at what presenters can be brought in next year
- Question if people would be interested in how the forest inventory is being developed
- PAC – would like to see this information, specifically how decisions are made base on the information

PAC discussed topics they would like to see presentations on

- Wildfire history study for the region,

- Topics discussed in Patrick Moore's book.
- Overview of how sustainable yield forestry works as well as simplifying the annual allowable cut calculation
- Understanding of reforestation regulations around tree species – monocultures
- Presentation on changing landscape and how a large fire can affect SLS
- Presentation from government on buffers – streams, wetlands, and even historical area (specifically First Nations) and the science behind that, toughing on the use of variable width buffers and use of selective harvest in the buffer as natural disturbance do not have buffers.
- PAC – Historical resource assessment and traditional knowledge.
- PAC – Presentation on traditional use of land – want to understand a different way of looking at the landscape compared to current ways (generally marked based)
- PAC – One member suggested he may be able to provide a presentation next meeting and TUS study (Traditional Use Studies) for appx 20 min or 10 min.

Discussion moved on to adding another member to PAC as two people have resigned over the summer/fall

SLS went through the current PAC member list and the sectors that they have the capacity to represent. Highlighted that we have Oil and Gas, Ranchers, OHV, First nation, municipalities, Town of Cochrane

PAC – need someone from Ghost watershed steering committee and possibly someone who is a naturalist or environmentalist

SLS – non-motorize recreation is not being represented

PAC – find someone who is committed and can attend the meeting

SLS – should we advertise?

PAC – agreed that that would be a good approach

PAC – should there be a government representation on the committee?

PAC – hunter/trapper could be a possibility, but a PAC member pointed out that this info could be provided by the first nations representation

PAC – focus on areas where operations will be moving in the future

SLS – will generate a newspaper ad detailing the info provided to draw out a person with a specific background, as described by the PAC

Agenda item – PAC Terms of Reference

Out of concern for time will move the TOR review for next meeting.

Agenda Item – SSRP Bio-diversity Management Framework

SLS gave a presentation on the Province of Alberta's Draft Biodiversity Management framework, which is a sub-plan described in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP). Presentation highlighted how SLS's Detailed Forest Management Plan will need to align with the SSRP and the sub-plans. SLS is currently working on how this can affect the VOITs and how our forest management plan will integrate into the large plan for the region.

Presentation focused on terrestrial habitat indicators, and less so on the aquatic habitat or specific species indicators as the keystone species specifics are still being worked on by the Province.

Discussed the current condition of the terrestrial habitat indicators as well as the use of triggers (for defining how much an indicator can move) and various levels of management response if a trigger is exceeded.

PAC – look at carbon credits, in the scheme of things might not be worth much, but the public relations is valuable.

Agenda Item – Review Results from Values/Objectives Workshop

Discussed process of value and objective public input so far

Discussed that two additional workshops were held, one here at Cochrane and one at Beaupre hall

Minutes from all the previous values and objectives workshops were provided to the group ahead of time

Discussed that the input from the meetings will follow the similar procedure as before, where comments are cataloged and action with each comment is documented and how this will form a component of the forest management plan

Next PAC meeting – possibly in Feb before spring summer season

Adjourn

- 6:59 p.m.