

**Spray Lake Sawmills
Public Advisory Committee
SLS Boardroom
April 10th, 2019**

Present: Ken Birkett, Erik Butters, Joe Nickel, John Buckley, Tim Giese, George Roman, Corey Stoneman, Jason Mogilefsky, Matt Denney

Absent: Liz Breakey, Doug Collister, Daniel Grant, Scotty Many-Guns, Mike Korman, Judy Stewart, Jacqueline Nelson.

Meeting commenced at 4:10 p.m.

Round table introductions – Review of agenda

- No new items added

Agenda item – Public Consultation Update & Values, Objectives, Indicator & Targets (VOITs)

- SLS discussed the ongoing efforts for Forest Management Plan (FMP) Consultation and that we have an approved Public Consultation Program (available on our website) and First Nations Consultation Plan. The Company follows the plans to ensure GoA requirements are met by consulting on the identified milestones.
- SLS explained that meaningful consultation, as described in the plan and on the website means that SLS provides opportunities for consultation by sharing its proposed plans with interested parties. SLS then captures and confirms the input with interested parties and carefully considers the input and then follows up with a response. If a plan is to change based on the input, the Company will communicate the proposed change to the interested party.
- Over the last 12 months, numerous FMP consultation newspaper advertisements in the local papers inviting the public to email subscribe to FMP consultation news and events to learn about the process and participate.
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- List of ~400 email addresses of the public that SLS has built with consultation efforts over the last 20 years. Quite a few new people have email subscribed to be kept up to date on the FMP development. Notification of information package updates and consultation opportunities are regularly emailed to subscribers.
- The website has been used as a 24/7 FMP consultation hub to gather feedback.
- Workshops were held in December for the FMP and associated values objectives indicators and targets (VOITs). SLS planned on three workshops – Water Valley,

Benchlands/Waiparous & Black Diamond/Turner Valley, however because of low interest the Water Valley workshop was merged with the Benchlands workshop.

- VOITs have largely been standardized by the GoA since the last plan, these GoA VOITs have been the basis of our consultation efforts.
- SLS Discussed all of the VOIT input received from the public to date. Most of the public comments are favorable and supportive of current practices that coincide well with the GoA VOITs.
- SLS- Within the non-motorized recreational trail users there are some divergent views. Some trail users are okay with the current practices around consultation with trail users while others who are less familiar with the process are asking for consultation and trail designation.
- SLS- Some of the recreational trail user groups and neighboring landowners were also concerned with forest aesthetics.
- SLS- there were quite a few comments requesting climate change be addressed.
- SLS-Consultation on trails and forest aesthetics are currently a Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Ground Rules (OGR's) requirement.
- SLS-Trail designation falls under GoA's responsibility.
- SLS-OGR's outline land-use integration regulations concerning recreational trails and forest aesthetics and that VOIT 29 specifies integration as a value and that the Company is required to report VOIT 29 consultation efforts.
- PAC suggested that having a forest aesthesis strategy or possibly a separate VOIT as this is one of the items that seems to be raised by some of the forest user groups.
- SLS- the Company as a forest aesthetics visual quality management strategy in place for the current DFMP and GoA has requested having a strategy in the new FMP.
- The Pac was asked if the Company should request from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) to change VOIT 29 to specifically address the trails and the aesthetic input, even though both items are already addressed in the OGR's and covered under VOIT 29. The PAC had some divergent views concerning a request to change the VOITs, some that it wouldn't hurt to specify trails and aesthetics as VOIT 29 indicators while others mentioned it wouldn't necessarily change anything as the Company is already consulting on trails, protects trails and has a forest aesthetics management strategy. Some ideas gathered from the PAC concerning trails included:

- Modify the Grazing Timber Agreement approach to work with specific trail groups.
 - Understory protection and picking up any debris when harvesting along trails is a good practice.
 - Since the Company is already recording trail and recreation consultation, the Company might as well request from AAF to specify those items under VOIT 29
- The PAC was also asked if the Company should request Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) to change the FMP format to add a climate change discussion. The PAC had several views concerning a request to change the FMP concerning climate change, some stated that climate change was at a higher level than the FMP and that it wouldn't be necessary while others stated that it might be important to discuss within the FMP from the wildfire management perspective to elevate the climate change discussion.
 - The next FMP consultation milestone will be on the net landbase and the draft visual quality map

Agenda item – FMP Update

- SLS has been busy developing the technical components required for the FMP. Generally, this relates to the inventory of the forest (sometime called the net landbase) and the growth information (yield curves).
- An approved vegetation inventory (AVI) is in place and the collection of the forest growth field sampling is complete. The data will be used for forest growth modeling which still needs approved.
- These items are very technical in nature and highly regulated and still need AAF formal approval.
- The submission of the Net Landbase and yield curves to AAF is scheduled for this June. The submission must undergo a rigorous review by AAF technical experts prior to approval.
- The next steps will be the modeling of the future forestry activities, which includes assessments of where and when SLS will be harvesting with respect to meeting indicator species habitat and watershed assessment thresholds. Our next PAC meeting will likely include a review of this modeling work.
- The PAC mentioned they would appreciate a forestry update where the Company will be harvesting and where it will be planting in the upcoming season.
- Next PAC meeting will most likely be in the fall or late summer, to avoid the scheduling conflicts with the summer months.

Adjourn: 6:40 p.m.