

**Spray Lake Sawmills
Public Advisory Committee
SLS Boardroom
October 29th, 2014**

Present: Sandra Foss, Ken Birkett, Denise Nickel, Erik Butters, Corey Stoneman, Harvey Buckley, Liz Breakey, George Roman, Gord Lehn, Jason Mogilefsky, Matt Denney

Guests:

Brian Callaghan (FSC auditor), Kandyd Szuba (FSC auditor)

Not Present: Richard Right Hand, Patrick Brady, Jacqueline Nelson, Andy Marshall, Judy Stewart, Tim Giese,

Introductions

- Round table introductions of all Public Advisory Committee (PAC) members present and introduction of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) auditors that were guests at the meeting (Brian & Kandyd)
- Gord turned the meeting over to Brian to provide an update of how the audit was going so far

FSC Discussion with auditors

- FSC auditor – provided a review of process to transfer from the Rainforest Alliance over to Bureau Veritas
- FSC auditor - discussed some of the meetings with the various stakeholders he has had to date (e.g. Alberta Wilderness Assoc., Ghost Watershed Alliance, Bragg Creek Environmental Coalition). He has met with them and listened to their concerns. Some field sites were visited as well.
- FSC auditor- discussed trips to the field to see various stages of forest operations: stream and recreation trail crossings, structural retention, as well as interviewing equipment operators.
FSC auditor- clarified that their job is to be impartial. They need information on a specific spot and concerns. Items that came up were the fire smart program in Bragg Creek and recreation trails. They have received comments from some people that they were not consulted on the fire smart program in Bragg Creek. Fortunately, SLS had records to indicate otherwise and can follow up with stakeholders.
- PAC member- commented that some ATV's in the West Bragg area are operating in a non-motorized zone.
PAC member - Information can be the issue. And trail advisory groups that are set up by the province were set up to fail.
- PAC Member: Enforcement levels are at a low, some recreationalists are doing stuff they shouldn't, but no one is out there to catch them in the act and fine these people.

Follow-up items from last meeting:

Water

- SLS - distributed a package of water information for the group.

- Package is a portfolio about what SLS is doing for watershed .
- SLS described in detail how our high conservation value forest (HCVF) report (which is based on criteria developed by the World Wildlife Fund) reviews water quality and quantity issues. The foundation for the HCVF report is the provincial regulations in Alberta that govern forest management and our Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP). Most of the regulations in the province for forestry are largely driven by water protection concerns. The draft third version of the report was recently completed and distributed to the PAC for comment.
- Discussed the literature review completed with Alberta WaterSMART to address questions asked from the peer review. . Discussed the hydrologic assessment completed for the DFMP. Including the process and assumptions used in the assessment. SLS passed out info from City of Calgary's report: "Calgary's Flood Resilient Future"
- Briefly explained that the Province and the City of Calgary have published some 2013 flood reports. The province has convened an expert panel to write the report. The conclusion in the report is that changing land-use activities would not have changed the result of the 2013 flood. One of the only solutions to minimize a flood like we experienced in 2013 is to design an engineered structures.
- PAC member - commented on "Room for the River" program she has been involved with and what SLS does is considered green management and are in line with what the "Room for the River" program.
- SLS: SLS is looking at a partnership for Alberta specific watershed model. Will not take away from current program but will add to it. This involved a best management practice review. Info can be used in the next DFMP and will improve understanding of peak flows.
- PAC member - City of Calgary and Rockyview County are potentially interested in this as well
- Next Part of the package: HCVF section 4. Included for reading if interested and peer review.
- Next part of the package: Water quality monitoring: - SLS has done this in the past and work Environmental Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) has done
- PAC member – As an independent observer, who has been involved in water quality monitoring for years, generally speaking K-country water is pristine, then after Bragg Creek, it's not.
- SLS- Yes that is true, monitoring by the City of Calgary (COC) has indicated that McLean creek has shown some issues with E.coli. Scores are still good, but water quality monitoring is starting to pick up on this we need to stay vigilant.
- PAC member- 55% of the drinking water for the COC comes from Elbow River. Use to blame the cows and flooding issues. Test on E.coli sources have revealed that most of the time, the origin is human.
- SLS - Fire risk in terms of watershed management. Next DFMP – identify highest risk stands to reduce the risk of wildfire on the landscape. Forestry has proven one of the best tools to mitigate fire risk
- PAC member - COC drinking water plants are set up to deal with source water that is high quality and not changing a lot. Change in water quality represents a large risk to the system.
- SLS - Provided some facts on forest fire control and the role that forest management can have to reduce the risk to the watershed. This area has stand replacing fires, unlike other watersheds close to major populations. Our trees are designed to burn. Move more towards a natural capital approach with a value added benefit of protecting the forest while managing a wood supply.

Overview of FMA

- SLS - Comments from the last meeting that we should have public tours of regenerating harvest area and a way of describing our forests to the public at large.
- SLS has hired a company that uses a drone to capture aerial footage. SLS has spent 3 days acquiring FMA specific footage. SLS has hired a production company to create two videos; one which is the overview which will rely heavily on aerial footage with the other talking about the forest management process

Sand-dunes in Atkinson

- Asked PAC member to provide info on sand dunes he commented on in the last meeting.
- SLS brought a map specific to the area to look at after the meeting is adjourned.

Spam legislation

- SLS Checked into it. Communications do not meet the criteria to be considered spam

Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest

- SLS contacted the ESRD, currently putting together a business case to get a budget and a new plan. On-site basic infrastructure is in place but the messaging needs to be re done.
- PAC member - Need to get some school boards involved
- PAC member - Need to get a non-profit group to write proposal to access additional resources (grant funds)

Comment on definition of consensus for the PAC TOR

- SLS did some investigation into the term consensus and how it integrates into TOR for the PAC. PAC generally makes recommendations, not decisions. Can have dissenting views within the group.
- Discussed the idea of removing the terms around voting in the TOR.

Review of PAC field trip

- SLS hosted a field trip for PAC members. Participant said it went well and discussed having another trip for the members that could not make the last one.

Concluded review of last meeting review items

Public Advisory Group – TOR for Public Participation Process in DFMP Development

- Distributed out latest version of TOR.
 - Document represents changes from first PAC TOR, because of various overarching policies that are now different in Alberta.
- Group elected to review the document tonight at the meeting.
- SLS walked through the various sections of the document
- PAC member- South Saskatchewan Regional Plan integration – do you have a plan to show how the integration with other plans will happen?
- SLS- We are sitting in a gray zone right now and it will be difficult to integrate with sub-plans before they exist. SLS is aware of this issue.
- PAC member- Are we using other social media other than the blog to get information?

- SLS- went with a blog because we wanted a chance to screen information before it goes live to prevent rude and inappropriate comments.
- Question from SLS: Would anyone have a problem if we just left communication to the blog?
- Groups response was: no, leaving it to the blog would be fine and can understand the cons of using other social media forums
- PAC member- there are people out there who do not want to communicate their concerns with the company, but will go to a PAC member. How do we inspire people to improve communicate directly with SLS?
- SLS - We respond to all comments (unless the comment is outright rude) and generally speaking blog traffic is cyclical (normally around FSC audits).
- PAC member: becomes a challenge to separate the frivolous complaints from the valid complaints.
- PAC member - comment on the VOITs acronyms in the Gantt graphic. Using the whole term will improve understanding of the figure.

Public Consultation

- Logged on to the new in-house database and demo the public consultation website and the system we have to manage public consultation.
- FSC auditor - commented that this looks like a good system

Additional items:

PAC member: question about if the Alberta flood mitigation strategy and will it impact SLS. City of Calgary PAC member explained that it will not as long as the McLean creek dry-land dam is not on the table any more.

Drone Footage

SLS showed a couple videos clips which were captured with an aerial drone and will be used in the public consultation videos described earlier in the meeting.

Adjourn

- 6:45 p.m.