

**Spray Lake Sawmills
Public Advisory Committee
SLS Boardroom
February 22nd, 2016**

Present: Tim Giese, Doug Collister, Daniel Grant, Liz Breakey, Harvey Buckley, Erik Butters, Judy Stewart, Denise Nickel, George Roman, Gord Lehn, Matt Denney,

Guests: Dwight Crouse (Tesera), Michael Wagner (GoA), Robert Muller (GoA)

Absent: Jacqueline Nelson, Patrick Brady, Mike Korman, Richard Right Hand, Ken Birkett, Corey Stoneman, Joe Nickel, Bette Beswick

Meeting kicked off at 4:07

Agenda item – Misilanius house keeping items

Tonight's meeting

Scotty Many Guns could not make it today; he was planning on giving a presentation on traditional knowledge. Will try for next meeting

Will try and schedule Marie-Pierre Rogeau to come in and give a presentation on wildfire science and fire history

PAC – question about how the DFMP fits into the SSRP, along with the eastern slopes policy

SLS – Is a component of the presentation that is on the agenda for latter tonight, will try and highlight this point

Still waiting on the report from Bureau Veritas on FSC audit results, once report is available will include it on the agenda to update the group

TOR for the PAC – still need to review with Doug, and still open to reviewing with those who want a review

PAC – Tuesday is a bad day for most PAC member to schedule a meeting

SLS – Based on the recommendations from the survey, along with two resignations from the PAC, new members have been added. Three new members have been added from backgrounds suggested by the PAC & the results of the questionnaire. We are a bit over capacity for members, but feel that the candidates who applied were too good to pass up.

Agenda item – Intro of new PAC member

Round table of people present, new members identified themselves.

Agenda item – Application of watercourse buffers

Robert Muller presented on SLS & C05 Operating Ground Rules: Water Protection

Presentation will be distributed to the group and posted online (along with minutes) after the meeting

Ground rules are reviewed annually between the GoA & SLS, when requested by either party

Spoke to Section 6 of the ground rules

PAC – How are items like sawdust prevented from entering the watercourse areas?

GoA – It's the Government's role to enforce the rules, how SLS prevents deleterious materials from entering a watercourse is their matter.

Described watercourse classification standards as outlined in the ground rules, note these standards are from national water strategies. Table is present in the ground rules in section six.

Next described the table on standards and guidelines for operating beside watercourses. This is what the Forest officers check for.

Alberta wetland policy – drafted in 2013, implemented in 2015, currently covers the White Zone of Alberta and possibly implemented in the green zone in June of 2016.

PAC – If a tree can be harvested safely (i.e. without soil compaction and limited vegetation impact) why leave behind the trees in buffer?

GoA – This will be presented later on, it has been an issue the GoA has been dealing with for many years.

Michael Wagner started his presentation on Riparian Areas, Forestry and Management. Presentation will also be available along with PAC minutes.

Spoke to and brought up a slide on the river continuum concept about stream ecology & function.

PAC – Question about buffers size and continuums, shouldn't the larger streams require less of a buffer based on this concept, are we providing sufficient buffers head waters?

GoA – there is a lot of science that needs to be considered, in some cases riparian areas are shown to be capable of recovering from disturbance similar (or better) than non-riparian areas. Forest management is also based on public perception and pressure.

PAC – Need to look at social license and public pressure for preservation. Can always find an expert that has the information you want, so it becomes more about managing the people. PAC member had an article on "Combat Biology" that he passed out to the group. The article talks about the perpetual conflict between preservation & economic development, now focusing on combining the two.

GoA – Highlighted that in order to operationalize science, it's a long process. Currently the Alberta Government is taking the science and evaluating it by working with scholars in the field of interest. Also need to test theories to make sure they hold true in a variety of circumstances. Policy's also need to be reviewed for how it can effectively be implemented before becoming final.

PAC – Fixed width buffers, not convinced that they achieve the outcomes and objectives that Albertans are after.

GoA – Forestry always requires a balance of values. A good example is mountain pine beetle. In the southern part of Alberta here it's not an issue yet, further north it is. The target set by the provincial Government is to reduce the susceptible pine on the landscape but are currently leaving a buffer of susceptible pine behind that will most

likely be killed and perpetuate the beetle spread. Currently following a precautionary approach and to try and balance out values. The option is available for the company to generate a riparian management strategy and move away from fixed width buffers, but the onus then shifts to the company to ensure they are not having an impact on the values identified.

PAC – proposed a pilot project to identify values and allow a selective harvest inside buffer area and track the trend of these values over the long term.

PAC suggested that in the DFMP a statement should be included that when the plans are operationalized, there should be the opportunity to implement variable width buffers.

PAC – When has SLS left more than is required by the standard width buffer?

SLS – Generally this gets done for operational reasons when access and steep ground is an issue. Also because whatever we harvest SLS is required to grow trees back on. If it looks like a wet site, generally we try and leave it connected to the buffer to improve our regeneration success.

Agenda Item –Forest inventory and how it gets used in preparing a forest management plan

Dwight Crouse from Tesera presented what a forest inventory is, and how it gets used. No longer following the traditional AVI approach but developing a HRIS model (High Resolution Inventory System).

Compared to a traditional photo based inventory, the new process Tesera is working on for SLS is more accurate and finer resolution. The process is more of a bottom up process, where plots and digital products are designed and collected with the intent of generating specific forest metrics.

Grouping stands into small but more homogeneous units called microstands.

Presented a timeline of the process so far for generating the inventory, and when we should be submitted to the GoA for final approval.

PAC – One of the milestones is work done with UNBC, what is that?

Teresa – That was a trial project on “problem” forest type stands (i.e. hard to classify because of their complex structure) to try and classify them – in the interior Doug fir area of north central BC.

Quick diagram how Lidar works in general

Diagram of how LiDAR is used in a forested environment in conjunction with ground plots to determine a LiDAR signature

Tesera described the various models & inputs that are compiled and put together to generate the attributes of forest inventory.

Tesera – operating at a finer resolution provides a better calculation of the sustainable timber supply analysis by having a more localized data and more precise measure of how the forest is growing.

Talked about the additional application of HRIS data, having a higher level of accuracy enables prediction of other values. System, which follows a similar process, can be built using same scheme to develop output for other values and objectives.

Agenda Item – SLS Presentation to stakeholders on developing a Detailed Forest Management

Half way through the meeting, SLS piped up that at our current pace the meeting might run latter than 7 tonight and probably will not make it to the last adgenda item (Power

point presentation on developing a DFMP) which was just a dry run to get feedback from the PAC, so it's ok if the guest speakers run a little longer than expected. PAC agreed and presentation was removed from the agenda

Adjourn

- 7:30 p.m.