

**Spray Lake Sawmills  
Public Advisory Committee  
SLS Boardroom  
May 18th, 2017**

**Present:** Bette Beswick, Ken Birkett, Erik Butters, John Buckley, Tim Giese, Daniel Grant, Mike Korman, Jacqueline Nelson, Denise Nickel, Judy Stewart, Corey Stoneman, Gord Lehn, Matt Denney

**Absent:** Liz Breakey, Doug Collister, Scotty Many-Guns, George Roman

New PAC member John Buckley has replaced Harvey Buckley as representing the ranching community.

Meeting kicked off at 4:09

**Agenda item – Review of silviculture activities for the upcoming season**

- SLS – describe when silviculture starts, legislated requirement to treat a block within two years of harvest. Harvest areas are site-prepped the year before, most commonly with drag scarification (heavy duty barrels with fins welded to the side so the barrel rolls as it's dragged). Site prep gets ground for seedlings to be planted as well as promote natural regeneration. Planting is a tool to capture the site and help ensure tree re-growth is not lagged. Eight years after harvest a block is surveyed to assess the stocking and then 14 years after to assess growth. Last year, there was approx. 75 blocks surveyed at year eight and only 2 failed to achieve the 80% standard for stocking.
- SLS – Stump-side processing is a big part of the silviculture success rate, leaving the materials on site provides microsites for the planted seedlings as well as cones to improve natural germination of seedlings. This has been a learning process, 20 years ago it was not the norm.
- PAC – What proportion of the trees in a harvest area are planted vs. natural regeneration?
- SLS – It is variable by each site, but generally speaking a tree planter aims for 1600 trees/ha. At year 14 in a harvest areas life there can be appx. 5,000 – 10,000 trees/ha.
- PAC – Does this practice carry over to C5 operating area?
- SLS – We use the same process in the C5 area. Other quota holders are still required to follow the same ground rules and standards for assessing reforestation. Quota holders can vary the silviculture prescriptions as they see fit.
- PAC – How many trees are going to be planted?  
SLS – there will be appx. 2 million trees planted in the FMA and another million on the C5 FMU.

**Agenda item – Review of General Development Plan**

- SLS – Five year plan that is renewed every year; a new year has been added and the previous completed year has been dropped off. The current plan will be available online at the SLS website very soon.

- SLS – Reviewed the planning hierarchy, starting with the highest level (SSRP) and then moving down the line, midpoint is the general development plan (GDP). Submitted in April annually. *See attached handout*
- SLS – Walked through the contents of the GDP. Went through the map and the corresponding tables, highlighted that a stakeholder can see what compartments or licences there will be operations up to five years out and provide input as they see fit. The second table shows the hectares of area that will be cut each year by licence, first table is in cubic meters.
- SLS – Went through the access management plan part of the GDP. This shows what roads SLS will be constructing, maintaining and totally reclaiming.

#### **Agenda item – South Saskatchewan Regional Plan updated**

- SLS – GoA working on sub plans that flow out of the Regional plan. Active ones are the Linear Footprint Management Plan and Biodiversity Management Framework. Also working on a Recreation Management plan for the Livingstone & Porcupine Hills area. Recreation Management Plan will be on the same level of planning as Spray's DFMP. Anticipating public consultation for the rec management plan sometime this summer.
- SLS – Rec management plan will establish a Public Land Use Zone for the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills. Plan then seek to identify a designated trails network for the areas. Administration of the plan post completion is still being determined for ongoing effectiveness.

#### **Agenda item – Forest Health Update**

- SLS – Every year government officers use a helicopter and fly a grid pattern over the landscape. This year they found around 270,000 ha of forest health damage consisting of:
  - ~200,000 of large aspen tortrix;
  - ~58,000 ha with needle cast (sub-alpine fir die back)
  - ~12,000 ha with desiccation,
  - Found some hail damage in some of Spray Lake Sawmills regenerating harvest areas.
- SLS - In terms of mountain pine beetle, there has been an increase around the Canmore area but nowhere else in the Calgary Forest area (which includes Provincial parks but not National Parks).
- *See attached map of Calgary Forest Area survey results*

#### **Agenda item – Forest Management Plan Update**

- SLS – Gord has been traveling to various groups and organizations to speak about forest management planning what is Spray's role and how people can be involved. As well one public session was held at the end of April. If there are other groups that should be contacted, please forward their name to Gord.
- SLS – One of the major building blocks of a Forest Management Plan is the Forest Inventory. SLS has been working on completing an automated process that uses additional remote sensing information (LiDAR) as well as ground tree measurements as opposed to the traditional photo interpretation process. Being that it is a new process, SLS is falling behind on the timely completion in part

because the product needs to be reviewed and approved by the provincial government.

- SLS – This could lead to delays in reviewing some of the technical content of the DFMP with the PAC and will be re-evaluated in the fall.

#### **Other items**

- Spray Lake Sawmills is now advertising forestry related information in local newspapers. Currently in the Cochrane Eagle, Rockyview Weekly Sundre Roundup and Crowsnest Pass.
- PAC – Getting some concerns coming out of Okotoks, so the Western Wheel should be included on the list.
- PAC – Feedback for future ads includes: promote the planting of trees, reclamation of roads and the benefit from forestry. How many homes are built, meters of paper, or acres of landscape products are generated. Need to find a way for the reader to relate to the material and try to associate the company with positive messages. Having someone submit an articles to the paper helps. Promote that one hundred percent of the product is utilized and sold locally. Promote that local seed is used in the regeneration and that some seedlings are grown in Water Valley (local employment). Advertisements needs to be consistent so that there is not a break and people don't forget.

Looking to have another meeting after summer is completed.

#### **Adjourn**

- 6:47 p.m.

Figure 1: GDP Handout

# PLANNING HIERARCHY

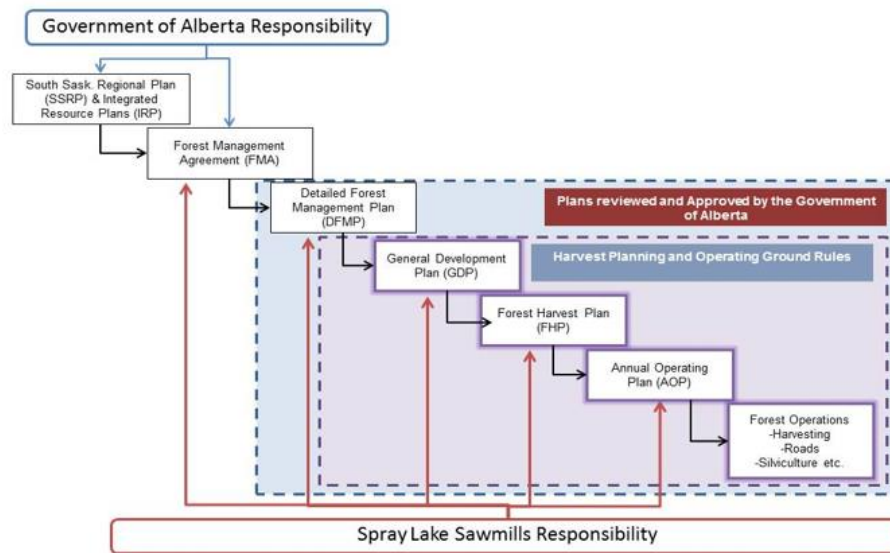


Figure 2: Forest Health Handout

