North Island – Central Coast Resource District
Forest Management Leadership Team
Meeting #21 - Minutes

Date: January 11, 2017
Location: NICCRD Office, 2217 Mine Road
Time: 9:30-3:40

Attending In-person: Andrew Ashford, Jon Flintoft, Lisa Brown, Ione Brown, Josh Hiebert, Cyndy Grant, Kai Sonnenberg, Joe Leblanc, Kim Lefebvre, Megan Hanacek, Paul Barolet, Rob Ziegler

Attending By Phone: John McLaughlin, Blair Wigglesworth, Gary Gallinger

Attending by Video: Lisa Nordin, Ivan Tallio, Hans Granander

1. Introductions, Safety Briefing, Review of Previous Minutes, Agenda – Andrew
   October 2016 minutes – reviewed, no revisions

2. ABCFP report – Megan – Cumulative Effects policy in progress. Megan will keep FMLT advised of any developments.
   Riparian management, small streams – hosting Webinar Tuesday January 17th, 8:30 – invitation to go out today. (Postponed to March 14, 2017)
   F&W Vulnerability Tool (government product related to Climate Change) – Webinar invitation going out soon.
   New standing column re: Climate Change in magazine.
   Summer climate change survey – working on results.
   Looking at Terms of Reference for all committees – looking for synergies.
   Webinars are geared toward ABCFP membership. Lisa Nordin asked if others could attend – FREP group, most of whom would be forest professionals. Megan saw the benefits of including some biologists as well.
   Always looking for timely topics to highlight for members in publication. Email Megan.

   It was suggested that government &/or ABCFP develop EBM workshops for stakeholders, public (Wilderness Tourism, etc)? There are some mis-conceptions out there. (UBCM Old Growth Resolution). Many practitioners are still not fully up to speed.

3. OIF Report – Andrew

No report for this meeting.

4. GBR Update – Randy Husband 10-10:40
See: http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/content/oic/oic_cur/295112230/1491069317/340482803/?xsl=/templates/browse.xsl - OIC 970, 971, 971, 973, 974 – January 1, 2017.

Randy reviewed the regulations, principles for proportional AAC reductions and licence splitting. Staff tried to work within current systems to ensure there will be continuity of harvest rights and operations. Three new Timber Supply Areas created: Great Bear Rainforest North (GBRN), Great Bear Rainforest South (GBRS) and North Island (NI). Where existing licences straddled Vancouver Island and mainland in the Strathcona and Kingcome TSAs, existing licences were assigned to GBRS and new licences will be issued in NI TSA. In these split licences, existing CPs and RPs will be associated with new or existing licences, depending on location. FSPs will have to be updated to reflect new licences. Cut control will be based on the combination of pre-reduction AAC and reduced AAC, as was done in previous AAC reductions. Where licences are split, harvest against cut control will be based on actual harvest in either MUs and assigned to the appropriate licence. The volume attribution strategy has yet to be determined. There will be the ability to carry forward undercut based on previous AAC; this may affect the maximum harvest level initially, but this is expected to even out over time. The group asked Randy if there are plans to develop a set of principles to deal with some of these details – he will pass along this request. There will be no changes to district boundaries; both CRRD and NICCRD will process permits within NI and GBRS TSAs. There will be a re-charting exercise conducted for GBRN, GBRS and NI TSAs. Timeframe is uncertain- depends on level of collaboration. There should be no operational disruptions while re-charting is in progress.

5. Aboriginal Forest Resources – Kai – Powerpoint attached
Interfor demonstrates Aboriginal Forest Resources (AFR) management through block recce while developing the site plan. Yew trees are spatially identified; for all other Aboriginal Forest Resources, site plan captures incidences. If additional resources are identified through information sharing, they are included as an aboriginal interest. There is some difficulty in taking inventory of resources at a given time of year, when some of these species are not evident. Option to look at existence of the resources at time of regen survey to demonstrate that timber harvest results in increase abundance of AFR.

First Nations are partners in the LRD process; this should help foresters to manage and prioritize the resources relative to how individual FNs value them.

There was some discussion as to how the species listed in the order were selected. The Background and Intent document speaks to how the species in the GBR LUO are managed. The list was negotiated by First Nations. Need to rely on Due Diligence to ensure that management strategies are sound and reasonable relative to the specific

resource. Training of field staff in identification and management of AFR is another component of demonstrating diligence in this area.

6. Lunch – Haida Way Pub

7. Cruise Based Billing - Alan Rudson, Coast Area Pricing Section Head

The purpose of this presentation was being an ongoing discussion with the FMLT about cruise based billing (CBB), specifically in the GBR North TSA.

Beginning January 1, 2017, all non-BCTS cutting authorities in the GBRN TSA must be CBB together with tabular stumpage rates. TFL 25 remains scale based tabular rates and BCTS subject to their pre-existing processes.

CBB remains an option for licensees outside of the GBRN. These licensees can elect that any future CPs be approved as CBB if the CPs satisfies the CBB requirements of the cruising manual. These CPs will be require regular full appraisals (not tabular rates as per GBRN)

The cruising/compilation requirements differ for CBB in the GBRN verses CBB elsewhere. Additionally, TFL 25 has a unique requirement. Please refer to the Cruising Manual for assessing? the correct cruising and compilation requirement for your specific CP.

In the case of all CBB CPs, once harvesting begins, reports summarizing the amount of harvesting completed during the month must be submitted to the district by the 7th day of the month following. Presently, these reports can be a one-line email containing the amount the harvest. These reports are required even if there has been no additional harvesting during the month. The requirement to provide harvest reports will be included in the CP document and failure to provide required submission by the 7th could be a compliance issue.

For CBB reporting, harvest means that timber has left the cutting authority area (hauled-out). This is different from the previous requirement that had falling as the activity being reported. Once the district has reviewed the submission, it will be forwarded to regional billing staff (around the 10th of the month) for recording. Report identifying harvesting activity during the month will then initiate a billing event – the issuance of an invoice.

Upon the completion of harvesting, a reconciliation billing will be made to ensure that billing activity accounts for exactly 100% of the CP net merch volume. Timber authorized for harvest but remains standing, decked or otherwise not reported, will be billed (volume and value) as part of this reconciliation.

Road permits in GBRN are also subject to CBB – Ministry staff are working with licensees to develop a streamlined process. Hopeful ETA of Spring 2017.

Streamlined harvest reporting process (including the HBS reporting tool used in interior) will be explored by the ministry working with licensees. Any suggestions on this or other potential enhancements to CBB processes should be sent to Alan.

District contact will be Darren Rowsell (Revenue Supervisor) & Amy Beetham (Tenures Officer). Could look at front-loading the report if licensee knows that there will be no harvest for a period of time. Lisa will share BCTS spreadsheet to build on to meet reporting criteria.

GBR Tabular Rates:

The schedule of Tab Rates for GBRN and TFL 25 will be re-established effective March 1st. The existing tab rates will be applicable to all harvest volume reported for months prior to March 2017, with the new rate applicable to all harvest volume reported from March 2017 and onwards.

The GBR tab rates are determined through district averages, with adjustments made for the uniqueness of the GBR. Alan is not familiar with the specific process.

Hans asked whether CFA's (and WLs) continue to use the published CFA/WL tabular rates or if they will be subject to the GBR tab rate schedule. Alan has confirmed that the CFA/WL tabular rates (Section 7.2 of the Coast Appraisal Manual) continue to apply to CFA and WLs in the GBR.

8. Riparian Emphasis Guidance – All

After the FMLT Riparian Management Emphasis Field Guide (REG) was sent out, some of the members were concerned that there had not been enough discussion. Points raised for discussion by this subgroup, as presented by Ione, included:

- The document looked different from the one for which comments were requested.
- Some felt that it had been sent out pre-maturely, without final endorsement by the FMLT.
- FMLT TOR speaks to a consensus-based approach;
- the members asked to discuss process by which documents go out under FMLT endorsement.

- Timing of release was tricky, given upcoming small streams workshop, ABCFP Small Streams webinarscheduled for next Tuesday (subsequently postponed to March 14th),
- DM expectation letter regarding FSPs - riparian management,
- current round of FSP amendments/replacements.
- DM expectation letter references the REG.
- Would have been preferable to have Workshop preceding direction, guidance, etc. Concern about timber supply impacts.
- There will be 3-4 FREP extension notes released in the near future regarding small streams.

Question: what are the implementation timelines for DM Letter of Expectation. Currently laying out cutblock to the standards in a yet-to-be approved FSP. Answer: Bottom line is that everyonemust be compliant with the FSP that is in place.

May be some disconnect between FREP results and district MRVA results. In district ~40% of streams were either at risk or actually not functioning properly. [Post meeting note from Paul: *FREP results are at various scales (provincial, regional, District, or stratified further such as EBM MRVA). All district and MRVA results are consistent on the coast; about 60% is sustainable and 40% are not*.]

Andrew – With other documents, the group has followed the process of: discussion, working group, draft document, discussion, feedback, comments incorporated, endorsement. In this REG, there were additional steps: second chance to review, field trip with expert (Derek Tripp). Was surprised that there were people signing onto the response letter who didn't make comments on the original document. Since only two comments letters were received from members on the REG drafts that were circulated, and they were considered in the final revision, the co-chairs believed consensus had been achieved. Acknowledge that there was a timing issue (lag between comments and document being sent out to public). Would have rather had the opportunity to discuss the REG prior to a formal letter being sent out to co-chairs. Forest Practices Board made a comment that this process/document shows a progressive approach. The DM Expectation letter was in response to the need to proactively manage FSP submission quality and provide writer clarity to submitters on approaches they might want to consider to meet the approval test There is some TSR risk built in to address management of small streams. Incrementally, we should be looking to improve from here. We can have another stream session in the spring field trip.

May need to revise the FMLT TOR to include all steps in the development of FMLT-endorsed documents (including follow up on how comments were addressed and what revisions were

made, prior to release of final document). In addition, could enhance the section around participation, document review/comment.

In future, direct communication is preferred. Timely turn-around of comments to revision. Look to the CRIT TOR when updating the FMLT TOR. All members can have a look at the TOR to propose changes to document development/endorsement process at the April meeting.

Content issues on the REG can be discussed – willing to update, revise – REG 2.0. During the meeting, no FMLT members raised issues with the content of the current REG.

9. Working Group Reports

Large Cutblocks and VILUP (objective 7) (Christina, Kim, Kai, Josh, Ione, Jon) – Blocks > 40 ha require rationale (at CP application) as to how VILUP values will be met, for determination by the DM. Five values to be considered. Site plans tend to answer site specific questions about 4 values (Wildlife, Biodiversity, Visuals, Recreation); challenge remains with landscape level hydrological values. It is a struggle for BCTS working with licensees and private land, requires collaborative process to conduct a hydrological assessment. Need guidance. Provided information on a component of the watershed; is the expectation to conduct a comprehensive hydrological assessment? When it appears unsurmountable, licensee may decide not to embark on the assessment and reduce size of the cutblock to <40ha. This may have timber supply impacts.

The role of the working group: how to provide the DM with adequate information (including collaborative, landscape-level information). Andrew and Jon will revisit this working group to help out with identifying the lead.

10. Ideas for April field trip & office meeting

Field trip:
Riparian guidance document for stream crossings
Field test REG (RichPly's area) - *look at unlogged streams and determine the emphasis based on stream flow and downstream values present.*East Creek – high value fish, etc.
Large cutblock (Timberwest?)
Red-Blue listed field guide - EBM Mock Up (2018)

Office:
Revenue update
FREP workshop
Cumulative Effects
MRVA

EBM objectives
FN update
Old growth – Ministry strategy

11. Check-in –
Good discussion – revenue, AFR, REG

AFR – implementation of legal order – timely and good to hear how folks are interpreting this section. Good insight, opportunity to calibrate process.

Timely topics

Professional dialogue – strength of FMLT

Good amount of time

REG discussion was respectful and will result in a stronger FMLT

Could look at developing a 2017 version of REG

Next meeting: April 26/27, 2017 – Office/Field trip