

NICC FMLT

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2014 9:30 – 11:00 am

Conference Call 1-877-353-9184 ID 7664179

In attendance: Andrew Ashford, Cyndy Grant, Amy Beetham, Scott Mitchell, Randy Hart, Paul Barolet, Kai Sonnenburg, Steve Check, David Flegel, Mike Beck, Mike DesRochers, Lisa Nordin, John Pezel, Bill Grutzmacher, Peter Share, Vadim Stavrakov

Welcome/Housekeeping – Andrew

Review of minutes of October 22nd FMLT

DM letter sent December 19th. There were no responses on the direction letter. Want to remind the group that the RPF responsible for RESULTS is required to report tree layer 1. One silviculture surveyor commented that they'd never been asked to measure residual basal area. Andrew's response was that this is has always been a requirement – failure to do so would constitute inaccurate RESULTS entry. Paul suggested that this might be a training gap on the part of surveyors – has made recommendation to Branch for provincial training for surveyors. Left unchecked this will impact inventory. Paul will bring this up at Coastal Silviculture Committee winter meeting. This data could also be identified by waste assessor. Needs to be assessed and reported at regeneration date. Regardless who conducts assessment - the information must be entered into RESULTS. Dave Weaver, SEDRSS workshop has put on training.

Cutting permit submissions - for 2013 calendar year 4.3 million m3, 111 permits, avg time to issue 15.1 days. Andrew asked for feedback on turn-around times – a couple of positive responses were received. Open for feedback, suggestions for improvement – send to Amy. Communicate priorities. Otherwise, permits will be processed on a first in-first out basis.

Timber Pricing update – Problem forest type pilot was discussed in October. There have been no submissions at NIC under this policy to date. Andrew polled the group for reasons why no licensees are taking part. No response.

Fire Hazard Assessment – The FMLT will try and engage with Wildfire Management Branch should any local site reviews be planned this spring.

Discovery Islands Tourism/Forestry Industry Awareness – since October, FLNRO is working with Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to build collaborative model so that tourism and forest industry can work together. This is related to the Discovery Islands conflict on resource use. Two workshops will be held in CR this winter: one for tourism sector (Feb 20), one for forest sector (Jan 28) to build understanding of each other's business. Following these sessions, there will be a joint

workshop. John Andres (250-286-9403) is contact in CR; he is working with Rory Annett. No one at the meeting had received an invitation to date.

Randy asked about MaPP process. Which govt agency will be responsible for managing the plans after sign-off? Andrew indicated uncertainty around legal enactment. They will be guiding documents for professionals. If they are legally enabled, it will likely be administered jointly by BC Parks and FLNRO. Andrew recognized there may be a federal role as well but it has not been determined how they will come to the table.

Conservancy Management Plans are at issue currently. Andrew is dealing with BC Parks, reviewing draft MPs. They are due for sign off by March 2014. There is question around whether BC Parks has jurisdiction into marine (~200 m) – should they be terrestrial only? David suggested that before MPs are finalized, keep an eye out for opportunity to comment and engage. There remains jurisdictional question around management of marine environment – Public and FN expectations will be high – potential for conflict. Andrew asked about certification implications around following plans that are not legally enabled.

Working Group Activity:

Salvage (Rob, lone, Tom) – Bring forward to April meeting.

TSR Tracking (Scott, Steve, Amy, Christina) – Amy will be arranging meeting of this group before next FMLT. Second growth tracking strategy (Kingcome) is one of the priorities; working with Melody (mapping) and Christina (TSR Forester – Stewardship) internally to prepare for tracking to address Chief Forester's instructions. IFP is looking at Second Growth strategy in Mid Coast.

Fire Hazard Assessment (Scott, Mike) – Hold over, looking for report out in April if WMB conducts spring audits. Working group will be preparing link/index of policy put out by different guidance from ABCFP, WMB, etc.

Round Table Check In on Topics for our next FMLT meeting:

Steve Check would like face to face in April. Would like to see EBM update.

Vadim Stavrakov – no specific topics in mind.

John Pezel asked for updates on EBM and goat UWR order. (Note: Lisa Nordin is looking for feedback on goat UWR direction note, which is posted with minutes). Staffing update: Mona has left WFP.

Peter Share suggested that professional reliance would be a good topic. Review of manual – promised by Timber Pricing Branch. Point of Origin – application of policy – need consistent interpretation among region/district/industry. Cyndy will contact Alan to ask about any upcoming training. EBM, old growth/second growth tracking/conservation (old growth patches), SLRD. Fire weather – for the information of the working group, TW has weather stations in camps, connected to Nanaimo where

reports are analyzed and ratings are communicated back to camps. Peter will connect with Scott. Requested Conservancy update to identify potential conflicts among resource users.

Mike DesRochers would like to discuss species selection and implications to AAC Timber supply – will be discussed at CSC. EBM update from Rory or Lisa Brown.

Randy Hart supports April face to face. Is interested in how uplift in markets will affect how to make old growth hemlock profitable. Andrew indicated that of the harvest in the district, 20% of AAC is avoidable & unavoidable waste – 1,000,000m³. NICC staff regularly field calls from public, FNs, folks looking for restricted NRFLs for bio-energy. May have to look at different practices. This group could put their minds together to look at practices and advocate for policy changes: fee in lieu, exports, problem forest type pilot. Peter Share – is there an export market for OG Hemlock? Look at expanding problem forest type criteria to include “economic bias against that species”. Look at this topic for field trip. Forestry Innovation Investment - FII (UBC) were looking at options. Bring some of these updates to the next meeting – Paul.

Mike Beck requested EBM update, as well as report out on the tourism/forestry workshop.

Scott Mitchell – Pete Laing spoke about fire weather, need to get a sense from other operators- methodology to take fire weather indices during fire season where there are no weather stations. Challenges in translating readings to ratings.

Amy- willing to wait until April. Next meeting – professional reliance in timber pricing, local implications – possible field trip. EBM update – report on 2014 Amendment deadline.

Paul –EBM deadline may shift to September. CFCI recommendation should be ready for discussion by April. Non-JSP companies’ participation has been limited. TW (Rick) is involved; Nuxalk getting regular updates.

Lisa – conducted flight recce in November and found that the habitat suitability that was modelled was quite accurate. There is room in some polygons for boundary amendments. She is looking for feedback from licensees. To refine boundaries, surveys are to be conducted prior to recommending boundary amendments. Allowable incursion, helicopter GWMs. Expect to be revising order as per information document. Lisa will send out for licensee consultation over the next month. Lisa – looking for feedback asap.

Andrew – has received info that OIF is looking into the issue of phase congestion as a safety hazard (Forest Safety Council). Any local examples to provide context for Andrew to have conversation at OIF. Peter Share noted that there is potential for road construction and falling to occur in close proximity (time and space) - this is related to timely planning. Delay in approvals also contributes to this (FN consultation, resourcing, markets, multiple permits from companies etc). Peter recognized that planning is critical. So is communication of priorities. Andrew asked whether this is an issue at NICC, understanding that sometimes FN consultation can delay approvals – we are bound to Reconciliation Protocols and Consultation Policies. Licensees are reminded to prioritize, communicate operational

changes to district staff. Andrew asked about total chance planning. Peter – try to have a year of permits in hand to give flexibility.

Small licensee was asking professional question – peer review is especially critical in smaller company. If someone is looking for instant feedback on a local issue (that can't wait for regular meeting), is this group open to being contacted to give peer advice. All in favour. May want to look at areas of expertise for each member. Amy suggested that a question be floated to entire group for feedback. Also look to CRIT silviculture group.

Andrew is looking at drafting a follow up letter to the RESULTS Reporting direction, related to standing waste and post-harvest cruise requirements. When choosing a silviculture system leaving dispersed retention, there is a professional requirement to check post-harvest. If more timber is left than has been prescribed, there is a standing waste element. Both standing waste and prescribed retention has to be reported in RESULTS.

Professional Reliance in Timber Pricing Update – Amy has found the recent note; it is posted with these minutes.

Wrap Up – Andrew

Feedback on conference call – good for a short meeting – good for winter meeting, safe driving, will keep this format in our toolkit.

Next meeting: April 29-31, 2014,

Topics for April Meeting:

- Report out on Forestry, Tourism and Joint workshops on coexistence of tourism/forestry sectors.
- MaPP report
- EBM Progress Report – 2014 Amendment
- Salvage Working Group – Dual mark permit paper.
- TSR Tracking Working Group report.
- Fire Hazard Assessment Working Group report on spring abatement assessments from WMB- group will be preparing link/index of policy put out by different guidance from ABCFP, WMB, etc. Methodology to take fire weather indices during fire season where there are no weather stations.
- Goat UWR Order
- Professional Reliance in Timber Pricing - Cyndy will contact Alan to ask about any upcoming training
- Species selection and implications to AAC Timber supply (CSC topic) – Mike D
- How markets affect how to make profitability of old growth hemlock. Consider expanding problem forest type criteria to include “economic bias against that species”. Paul B will check into options being developed through FII (UBC).

Field trip topics to date – problem forest types, standing waste

Please remember to forward field trip topics for review.