

FOREST MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP TEAM (FMLT)

MEETING MINUTES

Metro Vancouver-Squamish District

January 11, 2012 (09:00-15:30)

Present: Stirling Angus, Tom Cole, Shaotang Deng, Danielle Dodd, Geordie Ferguson, Jeff Fisher, Jason Forsythe, Kevin Haberl, Kylie Harrison, Mike Hedberg, Angus Hope, John Howe, Ed Korpela, Joanne Leo, Abe Litz, Heather MacKnight, Alistair McCrone, Steve Rogers, Laren Saindon, Malcolm Schulz, Scott Shaw-Maclaren, Dave Southam, Andrew Spence, Terry Sullivan, Shawna Young

Co-Chairs: Dave Southam, Jeff Fisher

1. Agenda:

1. Introduction
2. South Coast Region Update
3. Unused Volume Planning
4. Resource Officer Update
5. Sea to Sky Trails
6. Fire Management Planning
7. Land Act Tenure Update
8. Forestry in the District
9. First Nations Consultation Update
10. Emerging Issues

2. South Coast Region Update (Heather MacKnight-Regional Executive Director)

- Provided overview of new ministry and update on how we got to where we are today.
- Retained 8 regions across province – Old Coast Region is now called Coast Area with two regions (West Coast and South Coast Regions)
- S.C. Region – strengthen Squamish District by revisiting decision to not have local district manager. Now have DMs in each of the 3 districts in South Coast Region.
- Squamish District Office –have been forced to realign staff resources in the office. Continue to be supported by Chiliwack staff in Stewardship, Tenures and Scaling business areas.
- Reduced one Operations Manager position and filled a LSO2 Tenures Forester.
- Current priority is reopening the front door in the afternoons and get return the office being open to clients from 8:30 to 4:30.

Strategic Priorities Focus

- Business model – one stop shop (e.g.) permits at the District level.
- Operational biologist assigned to each District. Steve Rochetta reports through district office.
- Specialized positions centralized in Surrey.
- Assignment of Surrey staff to District. Frank DeGagne for land use planning and Danielle Dodd, Lands Officer.
- Significant business improvements: e.g. Major Projects Group
- Flexibility to move resources around

Highlights of Business Improvement Initiatives – South Coast Region

See attached document:



SC BI EGs2.docx

3. Unused Volume Planning -Coast Area Forest Tenures– (Kylie Harrison/Steve Rogers)

- Kylie is the lead in volume planning-tenure service to Coast Region and presented a slide show outlining and explaining the following planning guidelines:
 - Background 2007-2011
 - Principles –
 - Government objectives and expectations: “A thriving forest industry to ensure a continuous flow of fibre”
 - First Nations becoming full partners in the forest industry
 - Support for bio-energy and innovative fibre use
 - Process for Approval
- Some comments/clarity provided by Kylie/Steve:
 - Legislation “Use It Or Lose It” explanation
 - Issuing tenure has to be competitive. Direct awards are rare except for First Nations.
- Suggestion will be explored as to holding workshops/training on licence submissions to streamline the applications. Commit to focus on real issues and focus on assisting the Resource Technologist (Tenures) to have the information for processing within an efficient time line.
- Copy of Principles/Coast Area Unused Volume Information Table is attached as requested by team members:



Unused Volume
Planning FMLT - DSQ



Coast Unused
Volumes Info by Mgt I

4. Resource Officer Update – (Joanne Leo – Resource Officer)

- *Cutting Permit submission and issuance times:*
 - Provided history of workshop which introduced the 10 day turnaround.
 - Prior to workforce adjustment, the district was able to process complete tenure applications in ~8 days or less. Post workplace adjustment, with only one resource person in the district and help from the DCK tenures team, the wait time in the queue increased to ~2-3 weeks (though once staff began processing a complete application is still within 10d). After receiving a TA position, the wait time in the queue dropped by ½ (a 3 week wait to 1 week). The 10 day turn-around time is still being met.
 - Application process was outlined: applications are still being submitted into the shared FTA e-mail inbox. Squamish applications being processed in Squamish; Chilliwack assists if we have overload.
 - In fiscal 2011, there were 55 road/cutting tenure applications (30 incomplete due to various issues primarily related to ECAS submissions or First Nations information sharing)
 - District would like to see improvement on ECAS submissions. The majority of issues can be attributed to discrepancies between the information – cruise information does not match ECAS, map information not correct, numbers not matching...many of these issues may be addressed by taking a 2nd look at information before submitting.
 - Problem is consistent across the Districts.
 - Joanne will follow up with Stu on net monetary errors in response to questions from the table.
 - All revenue related rationales should be in one's ECAS submission so the submission is complete.

- *Community forests/forest tenure opportunity agreements:*
 - Updates:
 - Anticipate moving forward with the Squamish Community Forest in the next fiscal.
 - Pemberton is still in the initial planning phase. Needs to decide whether they want a community forest so we can move forward with providing certainty across the district. Dave is meeting with Mayor of Pemberton early February.
 - FTOA discussions to be initiated this year.
- *FSP extension and mandatory amendment reminder:*
 - Reminder to review e-mail which outlined options on how to deal with the review and comment period associated with the FSP major amendment to incorporate the objectives of Sea to Sky Order
 - FSP major amendment for the S2S Order must be submitted by April 14, 2012.
 - FSP's can be extended after they expire, but no new tenures will be issued in that period.
 - Lucy Stad – is the Chilliwack lead on FSP amendments/extensions.

5. Sea to Sky Trails Update – (Alistair McCrone – Recreation Officer)

No new official trails planned.

Ongoing work is safety/rehab of established trails.

Issue: Lot of interactions between Foresters, Logging companies, Licencees (industry and recreation). Need identified to address knowledge gap between the two.

- Ideally would like to set up a working group with focus on opportunity to educate the recreational users and general public and bring into the fold.
- Once we have understanding, put in place protocols/agreements

Objectives: Language should be written to provide clarity for established trails

- When is an old road a trail?
- Non status roads that are called trails because of impacts on licencees and with recreational users. Section 57 does not exclude what the industry can do in way of construction and maintenance.
- Some issues identified:
 - Unauthorized trails being built regularly
 - Recreation users taking ownership
 - Trail builders not knowing what area (e.g. woodlot) they are constructing in
 - Social expectations
 - Resource provision: can we apply for these trails without buffering
 - Identify un-harvestable areas and provide to recreation clubs to possibly avoid unauthorized trails evolving.

Contact Information is attached for Alistair:



Alistair McCrone.JPG

6. Fire Management Planning (Ed Korpela- Fire Management Specialist for Coast Forest area)

Ed gave a presentation on the background, where we've been, current status, and where we're going with fire management plans. **Link of interest to Power Point presentation.**

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/!Project/Fire_Management_Planning/RCO/FMLTFireManagement.ppt

- Available plans:
- Canadian Wildland Fire Strategies
- Provincial Wildland Fire Management Strategy
- Coast Wildland Fire Management Strategy

Why?

- Climate change
- Changing fire environment
- 2011 was quietest year ever for fires in the Province
- National forest structure
- Compete for land and resources
- Changing forest and range practices
- Expanding urban settlement
- Public expectations (fire, smoke, health concerns)

Strategic Shift:

Goals of Fire Management and considerations

- Establish a basis for a Fire Management Plan on the coast (past and future)
- Fire management planning – a brief MFLNRO history and how they fit together
- 2012 will be the 4th generation of fire plans
- MFLNRO fire management plan philosophy
- MOFR fire management plan – organization and format (4 sections)
- Other fire management plans on the land base and landscape
- Recent developments: a) Forest Practices Board – report focused on increased stakeholder involvement and (b) land management prioritization of values
- Landscape fire management – what we have learned from 2009, 2010 Slave Lake, Texas fires, Cranbrook exercise
- What should our objectives be in the management of these landscapes?

Link of interest to BC Wildland Fire Management Strategy:

<http://bcwildfire.ca/prevention/PrescribedFire/docs/BCWFMS.pdf>

7. Land Act Tenure Update (Danielle Dodd – Land Technical Officer)-Provincial lead on Land Act authorizations.

An overview of current projects in the Squamish area:

- Mamquam Watershed (Skookum Creek)-nearing end of review
- Culliton Creek-early stages of the process
- Squamish Valley road – Mountainside Ecopower@ Chuck Chuck Creek
- Upper Lillooet- Environmental impact process application
- Sea to Sky Gondola proposal – finalizing details on “up front” work
- Q & A were received from the table as to the why, where, when of the projects (e.g.)
- Follow up on BC Hydro re power line analysis
- DFO Referrals: DFO has a new process with FrontCounter BC which is separate from ours.

8. Forestry In The District:

a) A/District Manager - (Dave Southam)

- Established Wildlife Management Areas (WMA):
- Pemberton Wildlife Management Area – press release December 7, 2011 to protect wetlands and riparian habitat.
- Squamish Estuary

b) Engineering-(Malcolm Schulz – Engineering Officer)

Ongoing projects:

- Road Safety Committee formed. Two procedures currently developed are:
 - 1) *Radio Frequency* – frequencies (through Industry Canada) need to be set as soon as possible due to safety concerns on our forest service roads. We are now included in the “pilot” project circle, so stay tuned for further developments. To standardize channels across the Province is the objective. FMLT unanimously agreed to implement new standardized frequencies all at once rather than rolling out one road at a time.
 - 2) *Driving on Forest Roads*
- Bridge inspections completed and will be posted in the near future.
- Coming, is map on Google Earth where we will be able to obtain quick details by drilling into Corporate Registry
- Joint strategic access plan with Chilliwack (why and how) we spend dollars on roads.
- Regulations, Act on Forestry roads
- Budget – looking similar this year with capital projects
- Meager Creek – little movement in this area at this time.
- Discussion on Forest Service Roads – deleting, re-assigning, maintenance, access, administrative clean-up of roads on the books. Mick McKechnie on 3 month auxiliary term to clean up RUP files.

Web sites of interest:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/areas/TSG/IndustryCanadaPRC07-1.pdf>

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/nrra/>

c) Spotted Owl Order Update – (Scott Shaw-Maclaren-Resource Manager)

- WHA – Spotted Owl Order target completion date December 31st was delayed due to FOI requests taking 2 months to resolve. Timeline now to be mid February for WHA draft review and briefing, and have order out for public review. Hope to have package ready for Minister by March 31st.
- More investment in breeding program, construction/expansion of breeding facilities – Ian Blackburn
- Andre Germain contracted to work on the timber analysis update, with TSR3 inputs. Andre to make a presentation to FMLT group with date to be determined.

d) Grizzly Bear Studies

- Steve Rochetta (Ecosystems Biologist) has provided good mapping of habitat use, bear crossings and migration within groups.
- Investment from government - funding for studies
 - Research
 - Habitat movement
 - Positive improvement in population

Link of interest:

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/474756515#Maps

e) OGMA (Old Growth Management Areas) Project Update – (Scott Shaw-Maclaren)

- Entire project is temporarily on hold, pending the return of Frank DeGagne
- Scott may be assigned temporary lead (TBD) – work is being done to “de-constrain” the THLB

9. First Nations Consultation Update – (Kevin Haberl – Manager)

Background:

- Work with First Nations for success for all
- Courts have given framework for consultation and guidance
- 2010 updated procedures and government mandated us to use these procedures

Structure:

- Victoria – FN Relations Branch
- Regions organize themselves
- Coast centralized – with staff of 7, to be staff of 9
- Consultation staff to support South Coast Region decision makers and District Managers

Provincial Goals:

- Streamline consultation
- Process
- Consistency in application/risk management
- Relationship building

Progress:

- How much volume is held by FN? = 12.8% (allocated) and 1/3 is competitive; 2/3 is non competitive
- District area = 5 First Nations is Squamish, all holding FCARS
- Agreement to work with In-Shuck-Ch
- Cultural places map – good relationships to help business

Q & A Time:

- Better way of sharing information?
 - new archaeological millennium model seems to be a good step in streamlining.

10. Emerging Issues

- *Priorities for coming year...what do we want?*
 1. Long term funding for FSR
 2. Regional IPP plan forum? Streamline process for proponents
- *Update on Export Review*
 - Dave Peterson, ADM, assigned to file
 - Challenge around local export files – export exemption
 - Draft paper (conclusionary note) may be available in near future.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	DUE DATE
Attached South Coast Region Organizational Chart	Dave Southam	Complete
Investigate opportunity to provide e-CAS training review session in District	Joanne Leo	Complete. Set for Feb. 28, 2012
Move forward with District-wide radio frequency	Malcolm Schulz	June 30, 2012
Follow up with Research Branch to see if Spotted Owl report has been released	Dave Southam	Complete. See below
Follow up with Tom Neiman to see next steps with Export review	Dave Southam	
Follow up with BC Hydro to see what process is for locating power lines. What analysis is done? Does it include impacts to forest industry?	Scott Shaw-Maclaren	

Research branch spotted owl follow up: Contract was issued to collect information in silviculture prescriptions / site plans for spotted owl blocks in support of a Coast Area Research project to develop a Spotted Owl Stand-level Habitat Monitoring - Effectiveness Evaluation Tool. The database will be used to select blocks for the research that will focus on selecting and field testing monitoring indicators and development of a draft protocol to evaluate the effectiveness of SOMP stand-level practices. Louise Waterhouse is now summarizing data and expects to have a report available by end of fiscal.

Next Meeting: *Date:* February 28, 2012. *ECAS Q&A with Bill Luscombe and George Silvestrini*

Co-Chairs: Dave Southam, Jeff Fisher

Scribe: TBD

New Org Charts:

http://gww.nro.gov.bc.ca/home/org_charts/exec/executive.pdf