

Sakâw Askiy
Public Advisory Group Meeting
April 30th, 2014
Prince Albert Travelodge

Participants:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Bart Smith | Kaskew Forestry Products LP |
| 2. Doug Braybrook | Edgewood |
| 3. Ed Kwiatkowski | Carrier |
| 4. John D. Stauffer | District Lakeland #521 |
| 5. Joan Corneil | Resort Village Candle Lake (RVCL) |
| 6. Louise Tarasiuk | RVCL |
| 7. John Quinn | RVCL |
| 8. Kerry McIntyre | Meadow Lake OSB |
| 9. Kevin Bendig | Big River |
| 10. Mark Kornder | Ducks Unlimited Canada |
| 11. Naomi Carriere | Lac La Ronge Indian Band |
| 12. Susan Carr | Prince Albert Model Forest, scribe, facilitator |
| 13. John Teer | RM Big River |

Regrets:

Dave Knight
Ann Allen
Bob Gerow
Brad Dahl
Brian Hoffart
Brown, Chris
Bernadette Slager
Cam Brown
David Harman
David Pezderic
Dean Christiansen
Don Cody
Donna Tymiak
Doug Panter
Gordon Pacholko
H Gange
J.E. Kennedy
Lyndon G
Mackasey, Pat ENV
Michelle Young
sask trappers
sask wildlife
Shaun Meisner

Meeting Convened 10:10 a.m.

Meeting Objective:

1. Management changes at Sakâw
2. Introduce new Facilitator
3. Update PAG on FMP progress - Planning Team Minutes , Forsite Powerpoint
 - Correspondence from FMP Consultant re: progress challenges
 - PP Update - Critical Path
4. Update from Shawn M., Kerry M., on Riparian Standards
 - Volume 5, Environment Impact Assessment;
 - PA Model Forest Facilitated work on Big River Opportunities (Les Cooke and Associates)
5. Open Forum - issue and opportunity identification
6. Schedule future meetings

Agenda

Time	Topic	Lead(s)	Visuals
0.25	- Welcome & Intro	Dave K	
0.25	Management Changes at Sakâw	Dave K	
0.25	- Introducing Susan Carr as your new facilitator	Dave K / Susan / Susan	
1.00	- FMP Update and Discussion	Susan / Sakâw Staff	PowerPoint
Lunch 0.75			
1:30	- Riparian Standards Discussion	Susan / PAG	Screen visuals
0.5	Open Forum on issues and Opportunities	Susan / PAG	
0.25	- Next Meeting Dates	Susan / PAG	
	Adjourn		

Welcome and Introductions - Doug Braybrook

Sakâw management changes: Dave Knight has recently resigned as GM of Sakâw and accepted a position with Carrier Forest Products as Woodlands Manager. The Board of Directors will be hiring a new GM and setting up an interim management solution in the meantime.

Review of agenda

Presentation: FMP update – Doug Braybrook

ACTION Presentation on file, will be distributed, and now available on website. Forsite completed.

Volume 1 document which is the background history of the Forest Management Agreement (FMA) is now finalized and once signed by the Forest Service will be available on Sakâw website www.sakâw.ca

Landbase

Base file for timber supply monitoring has been approved by government: results in 1.4 MA ha *net* landbase, Sakâw website provides clarification: www.sakâw.ca

Next meeting more formal presentation will get into wood supply modeling

Q. What is net landbase?

A. Shareholders can conduct forestry operations only on certain percentage of the total landbase allotted to them in the FMA. Total amount of FMA is over 3.0MA ha, so the 1.4 MA hectares represents the net area that can be operated on, or 42% of that total.

Reviewed maps in presentation.

Q. Will there be any cutting allowed in the new Great Blue Heron provincial park at Anglin and Emma?

A. This would only occur if Parks Branch requested cutting as a management tool. It is not part of the FMA. Sakâw will be meeting with Rob Wright to see how park would like logging to take place in areas adjacent to the park and cooperate with Parks Branch when making these plans.

Age of Forested Stands – there are more large areas of older age classes present today than there was historically because of fire suppression.

Three bubbles of age classes can be seen in table: 120-140 year old forest is declining; starting to lose volume with each year cutting is deferred.

Timber supply modeling is in preliminary stages –Forsite Consulting Ltd was hired to do the FMP and related modeling for Sakâw. Cam Brown is their Team Lead and sits on the planning team.

Discussion

Concern: Perception is that surge cuts aren't necessarily being targeted to overmature (declining) stands. In Big River, according to a specific forestry history book, [Please provide reference for book–Kevin Bendig] initially when logging came to the area, all the really old trees were selectively logged, fire would take old forest, but not all areas hit equally by fire. Age of trees has declined, but these models now say there's old wood being wasted. From personal observation, don't see big logs going out, so much as it is the smaller diameter trees on the logging trucks.

Response: Lack of access sometimes prohibits us from physically getting to everything on the FMA or to cut all/only *declining* stands. We can't get to every overmature stand without building a bunch of roads – most of what we're cutting is 80-120 year old, but some 60 or 70 yr old stands get harvested when you're opening up the forest to get to the older stands.

Diameter of tree isn't always a good judgment of age. Diameter can also be impacted by species, growing conditions, soils, moisture levels, etc.

Technology has changed in mills so that smaller diameter wood and tops can be milled where historically it would have been too small and left standing or discarded.

Graph doesn't show actual hectares that have been reforested – graph shows succession, health of forest, and change in age classes from today, that's not the age of the forest.

Hardwood – Meadow Lake OSB and Meadow Lake mechanical pulp uses smaller dimension and at Pasquia Porcupine Weyerhaeuser can use it.

You can find planning team minutes, PAG minutes, and presentations at: www.sakaw.ca

Presentation cont'd

Values Objectives, Indicators and Targets (VOITS) plan for:

- Biological diversity
- Ecosystem condition and productivity
- Soil and water
- Role in global ecological cycles
- Economic and social benefits
- Society's responsibility for sustainable development

The VOITS concern the entire region's concerns, not just the Sakâw shareholders, for instance

Public process will feed into VOITS

Concern: Candle Lake feel meeting did not occur at a good time for them, but Sakâw has agreed to come on the community's terms, provide maps in advance – Joan Corneil will target their meeting ahead of the VOIT planning part of the process

ACTION - Example indicators for biological diversity – *who and by when?*

Q. Will the definitions in old Weyerhaeuser agreement (FMP) still apply? For instance, definition of islands as 4 trees or more, cuts of more than 500 ha and even getting down to single trees, definitions of swamp areas or bogs?

A. Some will be changed and some remain the same – overall management objective isn't necessarily changing, you'll see similarities, size of events (sequence of cuts) is likely changing in some areas on the FMA– government natural forest patterns standards (NFP) specify event size to mimic natural disturbance. You may see planning for series of interconnected cuts within an event, more complex plans to achieve events than currently. It is how the government is approaching concerns about caribou management and other issues.

Government has identified target sizes, proposed event sizes based on mimicking fire for instance. This is all under discussion. The current FMP also targeted natural disturbance emulation, just a different means of achieving similar objectives.

Stakeholders are being consulted in the development.

ACTION – identify stakeholder/public engagement points. Sakâw will clarify – Cam Brown

Industry recognizes the public concerns, as they are the ones doing the engagement – PAG can provide support to Sakâw in discussion with province on standards.

PAG request: Would like opportunity for whole PAG group to provide that feedback directly to province.

ACTION – identify how/when. Pat Mackasey to discuss during his presentation with group at next meeting.

Woodland caribou – Susan provides update of WCTC process.

Environment Canada's Caribou Recovery Strategy stipulates legal requirements under the Federal Species at Risk Act which province must fulfill to address gaps in research and knowledge of actual woodland caribou status in Saskatchewan Boreal Plains and Boreal Shield. These requirements led to the Woodland Caribou Technical Committee (WCTC) being struck to address the research gaps. The group consists of Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment – Fish and Wildlife Branch biologists, university research professors from U of S, U of Manitoba, and U of Victoria, and an independent researcher. The Prince Albert Model Forest is contracted as the project coordinator. The WCTC has developed a 6-year Directed Studies Research Plan to address the gaps and meet legal requirements under the Species at Risk Act. The research began in early 2014. The Research findings will feed into both Environment Canada's requirements and into the Forest Management Planning process, as that information comes available from the studies. These findings will be used by the provincial Ministry to inform the development of their Range Plans which demonstrate how habitat is managed over time and space to ensure that critical habitat is protected from destruction, in a way that will maintain or recover caribou populations. Boreal Plain has 4 administrative units that will need to be submitted initially in 2011. Boreal Shield requires 1 Range Plan.

ACTION - Draft VOITS will be emailed to everyone. – Sakâw

Timeline

VOITs – finalization process is behind – Cam Brown is putting certain inputs into the model including caribou management.

Government FMP was delayed with industry shut down, by Apr 2015 – legal deadline for approval for government.

Existing 20 year plan is what SAKÂW currently operates under; a legislative amendment would be required to extend timelines for resubmission. Some approaches to forest management have changed from previous submission, so there are several reasons for government to have an updated, current plan.

PAG document required by end of Dec 2014 – government has 4 months to approve it.

Planning team, PAG and government work together.

Public review Vol 1 – VOITS have not been done. We assume Silviculture Ground Rules (SGRs) have been prepared

ACTION – provide checklist of what’s been completed and what’s not for **next PAG meeting**. - Sakâw

Consultation summary has not been completed yet.

Public review and comment – hasn’t been completed.

ACTION - Clarify where public input points can still occur for discussion at next meeting.

Status/timelines

See final slide – VOIT standard government currently working on

ACTION - Next PAG meeting – PAG requests we invite Woodland Caribou Technical Committee rep to provide update to group – Pat Mackasey has confirmed he will present at next meeting

ACTION - PAG members are invited to suggest other presenters to inform ourselves of the FMP process for next meeting. Submit your suggestions to Susan for agenda for next PAG.

Presentation - Riparian standards discussion – Kerry McIntyre

ACTION – Presentation on file and will be on website. Cam Brown to post online a.s.a.p. – Kerry to supply presentation to Cam Brown a.s.a.p.

Prince Albert Forest Management Area (PA FMA) is on website.

Mistik's *buffer system* is fisheries based – PA FMA used to be the same. *Riparian areas are very important and considered more than fisheries-based. We provide riparian management on those areas that would have been cut to the edge based on the fisheries reserve standard.*

Current PA FMA – large rivers, lakes and streams, are treated all as riparian and many receive higher level of protection than old system, slopes play into riparian management areas. , Sakâw treatment is intended to be more natural rather than artificial strip buffers.

Aesthetics, visually sensitive areas – are taken into account – combination of protection of riparian areas and aesthetic. Accomplishes protection of riparian zone.

ACTION - Cam will be able to respond to some of these concerns in more depth for next PAG meeting.

ACTION – find riparian cutting amount for logging – Doug has document that estimates the values. – provide for next meeting.

Discussion

Cutting, riparian standards, erosion

ACTION - Readdress forest management planning points of public input - Sakâw

Q. Anyone who has concerns about when and where cutting occurs, how do communities become informed?

A. Letters go out to stakeholders and industry will meet with whoever expresses concern. See “Operating Plans” at: http://www.sakaw.ca/operating_plans.html

Individuals have to take responsibility to inform themselves also.

Annual operating plan process involves public engagement – advertises on media, on website – sends to communities, held open houses in Candle, Big River PA, and several other communities, contacted registered stakeholders

ACTION – Sakaw will continue to insure communities are informed, and that RMs also receive notifications

Response: Contact list is increasing each year.

Riparian will need further discussion – we'll make concessions where it's critical for various reasons.

Industry is learning from past mistakes, making improvements, engaging public dialogue to learn more about each other's concerns and adapt our plans accordingly.

Next PAG meeting:

PAG suggested Wed, June 11th, 2014 however Cam Brown, an integral presenter required for the next meeting, can be available for **June 17th**.

ACTION – group will need to be informed of this change a.s.a.p.

PAG work together as a team when meeting with Ministry, to present our concerns

- Recommended reading: Les Cook and Associates document Identifies forestry and tourism working together. See http://www.pamodelforest.sk.ca/pubs/Tourism_Business_Survey.pdf Reference mentioned by John Teer, RM Big River.

Potential recommended presentations put forth by the PAG for the next (or future?) meeting(s).

- Cam Brown – FMP Modeling and Riparian planning update
- Pat Mackasey/ Earl Bourlon – FMP Planning Team update and standards
- Mark Kornder – Ducks Unlimited Canada – Wetlands 101 and Roads, time permitting at future meetings.
- Gigi Pittoello/Tim Trottier/Pat Mackasey – Woodland Caribou Technical Committee update

Meeting adjourned 12:12

Next PAG meeting Tuesday, June 17th 2014

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