

**Sakâw Askiy**  
**Public Advisory Group Meeting**  
**October 14, 2020**  
 GoToMeeting

**Participants**

Interest Category	Organization	Name
1_Environment & Wildlife	Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS)	Gord Vaadeland
1_Environment & Wildlife	Ducks Unlimited Canada	Mark Kornder
1_Environment & Wildlife	Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation	Jim Vancha
2_Indigenous Interests	LLRIB Land & Resources Management Board	Jeanine Patterson
3_Municipalities and Communities	RM of Big River	Doug Panter
4_Community Associations	Provincial Association of Resort Communities of SK	Doug Allan
5_Cottage Owners Associations	Whelan Bay Cottage Owners Association	Crystal Rinas
6_Recreation & Tourism	Big River Recreation and Conservation Committee	Gord Olson
9_Third Party Forestry & Contractors	Vermette Wood Preservers	Brian Clavier
12_Government. Advisors & Resource People	Ministry of Environment, Forest Service Branch	Mark Doyle Nadine Penney
12_Government. Advisors & Resource People	AC Forestry (Sakaw Shareholder)	Ken Thomas
12_Government. Advisors & Resource People	Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp (Sakaw Shareholder)	Tammy Hossain
12_Government. Advisors & Resource People	Tolko Industries Ltd. (Sakaw Shareholder)	Michelle Young
12_Government. Advisors & Resource People	Dunkley Lumber / Edgewood (Sakaw Shareholder)	Doug Braybrook
12_Government. Advisors & Resource People	Carrier Forest Products (Sakaw Shareholder)	Ed Kwiatkowski
12_Government. Advisors & Resource People	NorSask Forest Products (Sakaw Shareholder)	Robert Follett
12_Government. Advisors & Resource People	BBNR Management Solutions, Facilitator	Carl Neggers
12_Government. Advisors & Resource People	Sakaw Askiy	Diane Roddy Michelle Thompson

Meeting Convened at 9:10 am

**Introductions:** Diane Roddy, Carl Neggers (Facilitator)

**Comments:**

*Meeting Notes or Meeting Brief (from August 5, 2020 meeting)*

- A 1-page brief seemed useful for sharing with organizations and will be developed again after this meeting.

*PAG Terms of Reference*

- Two significant revisions were made based on review comments. The PAG representative(s) on the

FMP Planning Team and the FMP Management Implementation Team will be reviewed every 2-year, at the same time the organizations and their representatives are reviewed. Also, the Terms of Reference do not need to be approved by the PAG but require the general concurrence of the participating members. Those changes will be made and the revised document distributed.

**Updates:**

*Opportunities to engage in development of 2021/22 Operating Plan and FMP Amendment #2*

- A letter will go out next week to all current contacts in Sakâw’s stakeholder database (approx. 800 people). The letter provides information about safe options for reviewing the draft forest Operating Plans for 2021/22 in light of COVID guidelines. It also provides information on the start of developing FMP Amendment #2 for adapting the FMP to Saskatchewan’s caribou range plan and reflecting the most recent direction around leaving excess hardwood retention.

*Carrier’s recent request and approval for using a 12.5 cm sawlog top size*

- Carrier has requested and been approved to use sawlogs (for lumber) to a 12.5 cm top size instead of a 10 cm top size for the current operating year.

**FMP 2020 Annual Report (on the 2018-19 Operating Year):**

The rest of the meeting was taken up with reviewing selected highlights from the inaugural 2020 FMP Annual Report, which is still in draft form. Gord Vaadeland, Mark Doyle and Diane Roddy selected a cross section of 18 of the 30 forest management strategies and associated targets (Indicators) to talk about in the time allowed for this meeting. People were asked to bring forward any others they were interested in hearing about, now or after the meeting.

The Indicators overviewed were:

Category	Indicator #
Social	Engagement (22, 25, 29) Incorporating Traditional Knowledge into Planning Process (27) Non-timber Resources & Uses (23) Distribution of the Harvest (24)
Wildlife (Habitat)	Caribou (7c)
Events (Natural Forest Patterns)	Harvest Event Size (3) Harvest Event Retention (4)
Forest Management Activities	Wood Volumes –Estimated versus Action (13) Wood Volumes –Harvested versus Approved (21)
Economic	Economic Contribution from Forest Industry (28)
Compliance	Soil, Road Reclamation, Watercourse Crossings, Riparian Areas (16-19)
Silviculture	Softwood in Hardwood Stands (5) Species Groups Maintained (6)

## Social – Engagement

- This PAG was involved in helping to develop these Indicators. Three of them are not that different from each other, could be looked at when the FMP Standard is reviewed next summer. Feedback was invited on how to reformat or improve these indicators, and make them more measurable.
- A more structured process to respond to concerns brought forward at open houses was requested, in light of concerns that local input is not being heard. Examples used were concerns about the impact of harvesting on water levels in Whiteswan and Nesslin Lakes. If there was improved documentation of issues raised it would enable some of them to be picked up at a different level by people who can address them. A mechanism to respond to concerns expeditiously by the right people needs to be examined.
- Gord Vaadeland is the PAG representative on the FMP Planning Team, and he can be reached at [gvaadeland@cpaws.org](mailto:gvaadeland@cpaws.org).

## Distribution of the Harvest

- Indicator 24 is a social rather than an environmental strategy. It is aimed at distributing the harvest across the whole FMA area and in all stand types. However for environmental, wildlife (managing disturbance in caribou habitat) and forest health reasons it would make sense to drive the harvest to the southwest corner of the FMA area where the hardwood is, away from caribou habitat areas. That southwest corner has high human impact in it (non-timber users and hardwood harvesting). The environmental goal is to reduce disturbance in caribou habitat, but there is a conflict between Indicators 7c (clustering the harvest for caribou habitat) and 24 (distributing the harvest). The right balance between them needs to be found.

## Harvest Events (natural forest patterns)

- A harvest “Event” is composed of one or more smaller cut areas and a matrix of other areas between them. Targets are to create a range of harvest event sizes and have >9% retention within an event. It will take several years to reach the targets for harvest event sizes.

## Harvested vs Estimated Volumes.

- Harvest volumes predicted by the wood supply model were extremely accurate in this first year of data for this Indicator.

## Economic Impact

- A suggestion was made to separate the Direct, Indirect and Induced impacts and add a Totals column, so the individual numbers for each can be seen. This change will be made in the final report.

## Compliance Indicators – General

- Used a mix of data from Sakaw and the Forest Service to breakout the details needed to report on these Indicators. Action is taken to correct non-compliances wherever they can be fixed or mitigated. However there were no non-compliances for which there was a ‘Ministry approved action plan’ that would allow a non-compliance not to be counted against this target.
- Non-compliances don’t necessarily have an environmental impact; they may be related to administrative, operational, or safety issues. Tried to separate out those used for educating, informing, and communicating with people to improve compliance, from those where enforcement action was taken.
- Suggestion made to separate out the numbers for non-compliances which were “remedied”, “no action taken” or there was a “voluntary compliance opportunity”.
- These numbers include only the ministry inspections, not shareholder inspections, which could give a different picture. Forest Service inspections are carried out, and companies also certify their practices to sustainable forest management standards that are audited by independent auditors.

#### Compliance - Soil Disturbance

- Assessments for soil disturbance are done on the entire harvest block (not just the roads and landings where the wood is piled).

#### Silviculture – Maintenance of Species Groups (stand types)

- As Sakaw has not been around long enough, historical data from Weyerhaeuser harvest areas that are now 14 years old was used to predict how regenerating new stands would look at maturity. The stands predicted to be there at maturity do not reflect those that were harvested. Work to improve the data used for predicting future stand types is likely needed.
- Surveys to assess regeneration success (based on the densities and species of trees growing back) are done from 4-7 years after a harvest, and again after 8-14 years. Hydrological impacts from harvesting are considered to have disappeared after 10 years (a rule of thumb) of regrowth.

#### Environmental Assessments

- When was the last Environmental Assessment on forestry activities in the PA FMA area done? (Weyerhaeuser study was done in the late 1990s). Today FMPs still undergo an environmental assessment, but the environmental assessment requirements have now been incorporated into the Forest Management Planning Standard. (The FMP Standard meets the requirements of an environmental impact assessment).

#### Action Items:

- Diane will forward the revised PAG terms of reference with meeting notes and the meeting brief.
- A mechanism to better track and respond to concerns expeditiously by the right people needs to be examined.
- All were encouraged to raise questions and concerns about anything else in the FMP Annual Report. (The discussion doesn't end today.)
- Next Meeting – Diane to check for interest in another meeting to review progress on FMP Amendment #2 when there is something to report on (likely early 2021)

Meeting Adjourned 11:02 a.m.