

Meeting Brief
Public Advisory Group (PAG) - Prince Albert Timber Supply Area (PA TSA)
November 9, 2021

16 participants attended the meeting, from organizations in 5 interest categories.

PAG Terms of Reference: Brief review of PAG member responsibilities, decision making process, logging of concerns, transparency of meeting summaries.

Updates

- Hydrology concern raised in the previous meeting will be considered in an upcoming review of the Forest Management Planning Standard.
- New wood allocations in the PA TSA were announced for two potential new mills (Paper Excellence Prince Albert pulpmill and One Sky OSB mill) and expansions of the Dunkley and Carrier sawmills. The two new mills would use small softwood and excess hardwood that is currently underused. Until they are announced and commissioned it is difficult to determine the specific impacts on wood harvest. *Further explanation added after meeting: Harvest footprint will be larger, however the FMP accounted for the harvest volume. These volumes aren't additional to the calculated AAC – just allocated to different/new companies. The footprint modeled in the FMP accounted for this.*
- The amended Forest Management Plan (FMP) to align with the final caribou range plan was approved. CPAWS feels caribou habitat targets will be hard to achieve with the changes made.
- Development of next year's Operating Plan is underway. Draft maps are available at www.sakaw.ca

FMP 2021 Annual Report (on the 2019-2020 Operating Year).

The rest of the meeting was used to review selected highlights from the second FMP Annual Report on performance against the social, environmental, and economic strategies for sustainability. Experience in compiling these reports has proven that "What gets measured, gets managed".

Harvest Event Sizes: Harvest strategies are aimed at approximating the patterns and structure of forest stands and landscapes created by natural disturbances. The size of harvest events is smaller than the established targets. It will take years to reach the targeted sizes, reducing fragmentation.

Maintenance of Species Groupings (stand types): There was not a close correlation between the harvested and predicted future stand types. Concern was expressed about monitoring for species other than trees, and an explanation was provided about the coarse and fine filter approaches used to preserve all forms of biodiversity by maintaining all forest ecosystems in the landscape.

Planted Seedlings from Wild or Improved Seed: It was noted that some pine and mixedwood areas scarified or left for natural regeneration are not regrowing. Agreement on a field visit to view the sites of concern. Companies are legally obligated to ensure areas regrow and survey them twice to check.

Stand Replacing Natural Disturbances: It was suggested the industry needs to invest more in wildfire suppression. This is a provincial responsibility, but Mistik paid for manpower and contractor equipment to protect communities this summer when provincial resources were tied up elsewhere.

Harvested vs Estimated Volumes: Harvest volumes predicted by the wood supply model were accurate at the landscape level for the entire forest area.

Compliance Indicators: Performance improved in meeting standards for soil disturbance, road reclamation, watercourse crossings, and riparian areas.

Economic Indicators: Harvest levels increased to 66% of the allowable cut. There was a corresponding increase in contributions to the provincial economy (GDP, jobs, labour income, taxes).

Next Meeting: Field visit in the spring /summer to look at the regeneration of harvested sites.