



Spray Lake Sawmills

**Crowsnest Forest Products
Public Advisory Committee
Kanata (Blairmore)
January 25th, 2023 Meeting Notes**

- Present:** Brian Gallant, John Kinnear, Larry Sears, Ron Davis, Shannon Frank, Glen Girhiny (for Vicki Kubik), Gary Clark, Alix Hennig, Jim Lynch Staunton, Annette Mahieux-Bone, Dianne Sawley, Don Scott, Duncan Abercombi, Matt Denney (SLS), Jake Guay (SLS), Jason Mogilefsky (SLS), Cade Nixdord (SLS) Michael Wagner (GoA)
- Absent:** Brenda Davidson, Bruce Mowat, David Whitten, Kyle Rast

Meeting started at 11:00 a.m.

Agenda item –Welcome and Round Table introductions

- Round table of introductions

Review of last meeting

- Review of forest management planning process and the consultation timelines
- Purpose of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC), intent of the PAC
- Brief overview of the ongoing Public Consultation Program
 - Public Advisory Committee
 - Public consultation

- PAC member brought forward a map of cross-country ski trails and multi purpose trails in the Allison/Chinook area they are concerned with.
- CFP will connect with the PAC member to capture the information.
- PAC: noted that the trails are formally recognized by the Province.
- PAC: How do harvesting activities affect motorized recreation and access within the PLUZ
- CFP: explained that access issues are dealt with during operational planning as per the Timber Harvesting Planning and Operating Ground Rules (OGR's). Designated roads/trails are protected, and temporary forestry access controls are implemented. Forestry roads are required to be fully reclaimed within 3 years.
- PAC (new member)– question about what a VOIT is and the timelines associated with the VOITS, and what can be included in the VOITS.
- CFP: Explained what VOITs are and initiated a VOITs discussion as per the agenda.

Agenda item – VOITs identifying potential issues and opportunities

- CFP distributed a handout with the current wording of the VOITs and started discussion around the current state of the VOITs.
- PAC: How is the Linear disturbance on the landscape and its associated limits determined?
- CFP: By the existing linear disturbances along with the sub regional plans that address linear footprint for the area.
- PAC – Looking for a value that explicitly takes into account the integration with other users – specifically as it relates to grazing and their tenure rights on the landbase. Within their range management plan, they are guaranteed a certain amount of AUM in their disposition.
- PAC: Expressed concern that the VOITS on this table should represent the values of the other users on the landbase.
- CFP: There is an opportunity to add to the VOITs and CFP is willing to work with parties to address their concerns.
- PAC: Tourism operators are rarely recognized as an actual land use and is not given any credit for those trails and developments they make.
- PAC: Would it be possible to buffer water springs in the management plan? Is it properly captured in VOIT #26 (Effective riparian habitats)?
- GoA: The goal is to identify collectively values that can be measured and implemented on a broad scale. Discussed how VOITs are strategic values and not tactical decision, tactical items are better handled by the Operating Ground Rules (OGRs).
- PAC: How are the effects of harvesting monitored? Expressed concerns specifically about their area-of-interest and how this spring, when things start to melt, deleterious material will start to move down.
- GoA: There are regulations in place and lots of legislation to deal with deleterious material (both organic and inorganic). Part of the GoA program is to inspect CFPs operations for these sort of things.
- PAC: Concerned about how streams are assessed and if they are done at the correct time of year.
- CFP: clarified how streams are assessed and that classification is based on wetted width and not the amount of water present.
- GoA described the intent of the best management practices and how they are developed to mitigate possible impacts of harvesting operations and the intent is that through following and implementing the best management practices further monitoring is not a responsibility of the tenure holder.
- PAC: Water quality is not specifically a VOIT?
- GoA: Water quantity is addressed through 3 different VOITs, specifically around effective riparian habitat and then through water quantity and with riparian management.
- PAC: Looking to add some content to the VOITs or the Plan around the Grazing Timber Agreement (GTA) process but recognizes that a lot of a GTA is the responsibility of the Range Management division of the GoA.

Agenda item – FMP progress Report

- CFP provided an updated GANTT chart to the group and describe the current stage of the Forest Management Plan.
- PAC: How do smaller forestry firms fit into this landbase
- CFP: CFP is required to work with the smaller firms to identify where they will be harvesting in the future, to the amount required in their tenure. This is also the case with the Community Timber Program (CTP). However we are not responsible for the firms.
- PAC: Would like to understand if there can be an indicator for the success or failure of things that are mentioned in the creation of GTAs.
- PAC: Relating to trapping, there is a lot of data collected.
- CFP: The current species listed in the VOITs relate to a keystone/indicator species approach for modeling habitat and monitoring forestry.
- PAC: Discussion on current forest health risks and how it might be interesting to have a Forest Health office present to the group.

Agenda item – FMP Watershed Management- Mike Wagner Alberta Forestry

- Michael Wagner started his presentation discussing how forest are managed in Alberta, where the VOITs come from.
- PAC: There's no mention of grasslands in the VOITs
- GoA: This somewhat relates to a scope of control for forest management. Grassland tie to a bunch of different values. Typically, forestry focus on forest stand vegetation management and their change through time.
- GoA continued to present on Forests and watersheds and how forest management and silviculture (the practice of growing trees) is applied. Roads are part of forest management so that is also a large focus area.
- Described the different processes for water movement.
- Reviewed what the scope of the forest management plan is and what are the Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Ground Rules (OGRs) and how Alberta manages their processes.
- PAC: Concerned about how invasive species are addressed.
- GoA: There are specific guidelines and legislation for invasive species. GoA does monitor for this and requires specific measures by the company. Detection can require a work plan.
- GoA continued presentation to review what a forest management plan is and how watershed management is addressed. Discussed how water quantity, quality and healthy riparian habitat are all components of the forest management plan. Wildfire values, and the impact of catastrophic wildfire on drinking water and other values are also items the GoA manages for.

Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m. Anticipate the next meeting will be some time in the May of 2023.