



Spray Lake Sawmills

**Crowsnest Forest Products  
Public Advisory Committee  
Kanata (Blairmore)  
May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Alix Hennig, Dave Whitten, Brenda Davidson, Shannon Frank, Annett Mahieux-Bone, Dianne Sawley, Larry Sears, Duncan Abercombie, Kate Hamilton, Brian Gallant, Vicki Kubik, Jim Lynch Staunton, Bruce Mowat, Cade Nixdorf (SLS), Jason Mogilefsky (SLS), Errol Kutcher (SLS), Matt Denney(SLS)

**Absent:** Gary Clark, Kyle Rast, Ron Davis

Meeting started at 11:00 a.m.

**Agenda item –Welcome and Round Table introductions**

- Round table of introductions

**VOIT identification potential issues and opportunities**

- Crowsnest Forest Products (CFP) is still working on the VOITs (Values Objectives, Indicators and Targets). CFP anticipated turning in the VOITs to the GoA in the Spring of this year, however the GoA is looking at adding additional items that are related to the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and the Livingston Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan and as a result CFP is still working on the VOITs. Anticipate turning the VOITs in in the fall of 2023. VOITs are one of the building blocks of the FMP and provide a means of balancing values. They were not developed by the company, or the Government of Alberta, but rather come from the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers and are largely present across most Provinces in Canada.
- Anticipate having another meeting with the group in November. VOITs will be shared with the group.
- As requested by the PAC, forest health and fire management experts were invited to the meeting, but because of the Provincial election, a representative was not able to attend.
- PAC – Question about how consultation with the First Nations and Metis is proceeding?
- CFP – It is moving along well as a parallel process.
- PAC – How important is the formatting for the VOITs when providing input?
- CFP – Format is not that important. Finding the correct scope is more important.
- PAC – Interested to see what other have put in.
- CFP – The intent is not to openly share what others have provided, but PAC members are able to email or communicate with other members freely.
- PAC – Wondered if there is any water testing happening in the Forest?
- PAC – Addressed the question with current activities and efforts for monitoring.
- PAC – Interested in how water values are managed within Forest Management Area

- CFP – Described the ECA process that is used in the management plan, as well as the buffers and setbacks that are required for creeks/other water bodies, as well as best management practices.

### **FMP Update**

- CFP described the current efforts for the forest management plan (FMP). The Company is working on the technical items which will then be submitted to the GoA for agreement at the end of September of this year, that is the inventory and the yield curves. Initially we were working on the forest inventory and now are focusing a lot of effort on how the forest grows (yield curves). This area has a lot of historic forestry by different companies, so the company is reviewing how some of those older stands are growing.
- PAC – interested in the Local Timber Permit/ Community Timber Program (LTP/CTP).
- CFP – The areas of the CTP will be selected within the CTP and provided to the Government of implementation of the program.
- PAC – interested in seeing some Douglas Fir as part of the CTP.
- PAC – Forest Encroachment in to range and historic tree line levels.
- PAC – Has the company reviewed carbon credits at all, could provide a business opportunity?
- CFP – SLS/CFP is more looking at carbon to understand the carbon balance of the forest and operations.
- PAC – Could there be an alternative method for a fire break where grazing is shifted to specific areas & forestry converts some rangeland?
- PAC – Addressed the question. Current management focus is on keeping landuse the same.

### **Agenda item – General discussion**

- PAC requested a guest speaker for the group. Did not specify a topic.

Meeting adjourned around 1.30 p.m. Anticipate the next meeting will be some time in the November of 2023.