

Fraser Public Advisory Group (Fraser PAG)

Meeting #4 Minutes: Soil and Water

October 30, 2006

1. Call to order

Ron Frank, Fraser PAG Facilitator, called the 4th, meeting to order of the Fraser Public Advisory Group at 5:00 p.m. on **October 30, 2006** in the Pantry Restaurant, Chilliwack, BC.

2. Registration of FRASER PAG Members

The following members were present:

Al Stobbart, Inch Creek Hatchery	Jean Warkentin, Norrish Creek Resident	Lloyd Forman, Boston Bar Resident
Bruce Peel, Agriculture	Jim Baker, Boston Bar Resident	Sharie Conroy, Hatzic Valley, Durieu, McConnell Creek Ratepayers Association
Chief Andy Alex, Union Bar FN	John Warren, Boston Bar First Nation	
Garry Davidson, Seabird Island Indian Band	Keith Warrener, Fraser Valley Regional District	

Members Absent:

Chief Sidney Douglas, Cheam Indian Band	Gordon Sherwood, Cacus Point Resident	Martin Edwards, Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation
Dan Gerak, Pitt River Lodge	Gurdev Sidhu, Agriculture	Shawn Gabriel, In-SHUCK-ch First Nation
Don Harris, Douglas First Nation / In-SHUCH-ch FN	Ken Webb, Agriculture	Steve Harvey, Hope Machine Shop.
Earl Graham, United Steel Workers	Kerry Grozier, District Manager, Ministry of Forests and Range	

Others Present:

Ed McWaters, May Trucking	John Pichugin, Teal	Ron Frank, Facilitator
Heather Morlacci, Observer	Keith Chapman, Teal	

3. Documents Distributed to Members:

1. Fraser PAG Meeting #4 Agenda
2. Fraser PAG Information Tracking System – List of Outstanding Tasks
3. Conservation Data Centre – Red and Blue Listed Plant and Animal Species in the Chilliwack Forest District
4. Cover Letter from Fraser Valley Regional District re: Fraser Public Advisory Group
5. FVRD's Enclosed comments RE: Teal Jones' Forestry Plans
6. Fraser PAG Meeting Calendar – Updated Oct 16, 2006
7. Fraser Public Advisory Group Membership – Contact List
8. Fraser PAG Membership List
9. Fraser PAG Terms of Reference – Updated Oct 18th, 2006
10. Power Point slide notes (Meeting #4: Soil and Water)
11. Role in Global Ecological Cycles (Meeting #5) – “Homework”
12. 3-Ring Binder for Fraser PAG documents (to members not present at Meeting #3, Oct 10th)

4. Health and Safety

Ron Frank reviewed health and safety items and asked members for any health and safety issues.

5. Introductions of new faces at the table

Ron Frank asked Sharie to lead introductions with the people she had brought to the meeting. Sharie introduced Heather Morlacci. Heather sits on the Hatzic Prairie Watershed Committee and is a guest speaker tonight. Bruce Peel is Gurdev Sidhu's alternate for Agriculture. Bruce runs a nursery, located at Hatzic Prairie, for native plants.

Ron Frank introduced himself and Keith Chapman. Ron asked John Pichugin to introduce himself and the other Teal representatives. John introduced Ed McWaters, Regional Engineer for May Trucking.

Self introductions were continued around the table.

6. Present Draft Agenda for Meeting #4 / Adapt / Ratify

Ron Frank asked the group to look at the Agenda for Meeting #4. Review it against what issues you would like to see or that of your sector. Ron Frank asked for any changes. Sharie Conroy asked for a brief discussion regarding a comparison of the different certification systems. John Warren asked that the issue of Travel Allowance be put in the Agenda to discuss adequate compensation for travel – especially for long distances. No other Agenda items were offered. Ron Frank asked for the Agenda to be accepted. Lloyd Forman 1st, Jim Baker 2nd. Agenda unanimously adopted as presented and amended.

7. Review Previous Meeting Minutes

Ron Frank asked members to present any corrections to the Meeting Minutes for Meeting #3 on October 10th. Sharie Conroy stated that there are two corrections to these minutes: the population of the Hatzic Valley is actually 1800 people, and the amount of money spent in the area to repair damage from flooding and slides in the valley was actually \$10 Million. Bruce Peel commented that every flood in the valley heavily impacts farmers. No other corrections to the minutes were put forward.

John Warren raised concern over where this group was going and about the process. John asked if the group will sign off on the SFMP. Ron responded that the group would not sign off on the SFMP but the group would be putting forward the set of the Values, Objectives, Targets and Indicators and the PAG's support of this set. John Warren asked if the group would vote on the indicators. Ron Frank responded: "Yes".

John Warren asked who the auditor will be. Ron Frank returned the question to John Pichugin. John Pichugin said that the auditor had not been finalized but it may be QMI.

Jim Baker commented that this is a little too tightly structured. We need a bit more time for the "guts to spill". More discussion followed on the role of the PAG and the limited time. Ron Frank asked if members could commit to spending more time at each meeting. Brief discussion on alternative times. **Meeting time was amended to 4:30 to 7:30 pm to accommodate the extra time required.**

ACTION ITEM: 4A Keith Chapman to inform all members of the adjusted meeting time prior to the next meeting.

Environment Department, Nov 8, 2006

8. Terms of Reference

Keith Chapman reviewed the changes made to the Terms of Reference (TOR). John Pichugin noted a correction near the top of page 4. The word "requested" should read "rejected". No other changes to the TOR were offered by members. Ron Frank asked for a vote to ratify the TOR. Keith Warren 1st, Lloyd Forman 2nd. Members voted. 2 members abstained; the remaining members voted support for the TOR.

Ron Frank offered to speak with the two abstaining members to discuss the TOR issue(s).

John Warren requested that the auditor be set out. John Pichugin responded that an auditor had not been selected yet. He believed that QMI may be retained to perform the audit of the Sustainable Forest Management Plan.

ACTION ITEM: 4B Ron Frank to speak to the two abstaining members to discuss issues with the TOR

Ron Frank, November 14, 2006

9. Travel Costs

Ron Frank opened the discussion to the issue of Travel Costs. John Warren commented that he drives from Lytton and travels approximately 300 km to and from the PAG meeting. John commented that members should get mileage the same as consultants are paid.

Sharie Conroy commented that when she travels for other activities she is involved with, she receives \$65 for 135 km round trip.

John Warren asked when the Travel Allowance is paid. John Pichugin responded that they were going to pay it every couple of months. John Pichugin said that he understood the commitment involved in volunteering and that if he had to drive his own vehicle he would expect to be properly compensated. The members are making an admirable effort and that has to be recognized.

Action item: 4C Teal Jones to review travel allowance rates and report to Fraser PAG

Teal Jones Group, November 14, 2006.

Ron Frank moved to the next item: Comparison of different certification systems. Sharie Conroy commented that Keith Chapman had said that Sierra Legal Defense and Greenpeace are against CSA. Sharie had spoken to staff at Mission TFL and they have ISO certification. Why has Teal chosen CSA?

Keith Chapman responded that ISO 14001 certification is a general certification and does not address forest management. Teal has a Corporate Management System that is very similar to ISO 14001 in that it structures procedures and documents for environmental protection in respect to plans, fuel and chemicals. These two systems set the stage for CSA and provide the structure for ensuring that the commitments made under CSA are followed and tracked. For example the CMS and ISO 14001 have requirements for a field ribbon code so, for example, road ribbons are not confused with planting ribbons in the field. Also the CMS and ISO standard requires document control. For example, the Fraser PAG documents are all given the file code of "E2-1".

The environmental groups contacted to date only support the Forest Stewardship Council standard. This standard was created by World Wildlife Fund, Sierra Legal Defense and Greenpeace. This standard was originally made to address tropical forestry. Now we have BC standards and these standards are considered quite onerous by BC forest companies. BC companies are finding it difficult to fit this into their business model. The CSA standard has rigorous standards and is flexible and incorporates local input. The FSC standard is set by FSC. Keith commented and cautioned that this description is a brief overview and that a full comparison is still listed in FITS as an action item.

Ron Frank commented that CSA was selected by Teal Jones. It has a PAG and is able to be updated and improved over time.

Keith Warrener commented that it is important to note that comparing Tree Farm [Licenses] (TFL) to Forest Licenses is not the same. They are managed differently. Without a TFL companies are not going to be able to make the investment in FSC.

Ron Frank commented that he knows a woodlot operator who speaks candidly and he is not burdened by debt but it isn't necessarily easy.

10. Power Point Presentation: Soil and Water

Keith Chapman Presented the “Soil and Water” slide presentation. He commented that they were not able to arrange a hydrologist for today’s meeting but it is an action item and we can revisit water topics at future meetings.

Topics presented included:

1. Overview of the primary focus of conservation of “Soil” and for “Water”.
2. Legislated Site Degradation limits, Terrain Stability and Soil Nutrients.
3. Riparian Management Areas – definitions of RRZ/RMZs
4. Fish Habitat – stream classification
5. Water for domestic purposes: Community Watersheds, Water Use Licenses, Assessments

11. Identification of Local Values and Objectives for Soil and Water

Ron Frank opened the discussion up to the table and asked for examples of values that the members would like to bring forward. He commented that some soil and water values were brought forward at earlier meetings and have been listed and tracked on a table of values. He cited Jim Baker’s comment at Meeting #3 that “maintenance of soil productivity” is an important value. Similarly, Sharie Conroy stated that she wanted to “Maintain soil productivity” at Meeting #3.

Action item: 4D Consolidate and summarize the Fraser PAG’s *Soil and Water Values* and present to group at next meeting for review and discussion

Teal Jones Group, November 14, 2006.

Sharie Conroy stated that there should be no road working in her valley or anything that drains into the Hatzic valley. They get 5-8 year **floods**. Only helicopter logging is suitable. They are very concerned about any loss of canopy which can add water to the watershed.

Sharie Conroy explained that what she meant that they did not want flooding in winter and less water during the summer. **She understood that roads are one of the biggest issues for affecting water.**

Jean Warkentin asked whether a hydrologist would be the best person to help determine harvesting impacts to the watershed – especially on sensitive soil?

Keith Chapman responded “Yes”.

John Pichugin commented that in the past, for example Norrish Creek, that the issues needed to be identified. What is a sensitive site? Really Steep? Shallow soils over bedrock? Hard granite rock? Sites with high rainfall? Teal Jones wants to be responsive and we need to accommodate and acknowledge the needs of the public and come up with a strategy for operations and demonstrate that we are listening.

Jean Warkentin commented that “we” are not opposed to harvesting but have **specific areas which are sensitive**”.

Minutes Ratified by FPAG November 14, 2006

Ed McWaters commented that CWAPs [Coastal Watershed Assessments] are conducted in community watersheds by professional engineers. Teal did one for Norrish Watershed. They are costly to do. The CWAP for Norrish Creek identified Rose Creek, a sub-drainage, as an area that should not be exposed to more harvesting. Other watershed areas have not had CWAPs as harvest planning had not occurred yet.

Chief Andy Alex said that BC hydro had shown him areas where trails from hikers/ATVs were causing large transmission towers to destabilize [**erosion from trails**].

Lloyd Forman commented that there was a big fire at Big Bend followed by logging. We need to make sure that logging doesn't get blamed for everything. Topography is a big issue in BC.

Jim Baker commented that Stoyoma watershed – JS Jones will log in the future. [Transcriber's note: virtually the entire Stoyoma watershed is located outside of Teal's chart area]. If we don't have water we don't have anything. We need water in Boston Bar. If we do much more logging in Stoyoma we will be concerned about our **future water supply**. Anderson Creek was logged near the creek and the **natural pools** where fish rest and live are gone. We really have to look after water in the Boston Bar area.

Ron Frank summarized the values put forward so far for water:

- **Clean water and constant flow**
- **Natural pools are maintained**
- **No debris in stream.**

Sharie Conroy added "**maintain soil productivity**"

Jim Baker said that **increased sediment** is a concern. For example Anderson creek has a sand delta forming from all the erosion.

Sharie Conroy and Heather Morlacci commented that McConnell Creek in Miracle Valley, Bellchartin [spelling] creek (aka Wellington Creek) used to have salmon, coho, in the 1940s. Now there is only salmon up to 13361 Stave Lake Road (gravel quarry).

Ed McWaters commented that Teal has committed to walking the creeks with local people and looking at their concerns, buffers, and erosion.

Ron Frank summarized the values for water:

- **Natural water quality and quantity**
- **Naturally continuous flow of water**
- **Populations and abundance of naturally occurring salmonids.**

Bruce Peel commented that in order to achieve these values, you need to have the 'baseline' data.

Chief Andy Alex said that you need input from biologists and professionals

Al Stobbart commented that there is baseline information for fish: "F.I.S.S." [Fisheries Information Summary System]

John Warren said that we need water monitoring station to monitor flows.

Minutes Ratified by FPAG November 14, 2006

Ron Frank explained what could be done. Data is already being collected by companies, governments, stewardship groups etc. There is easily collectable data such as Oxygen and stream temperature at low flow and turbidity at high flow.

Sharie Conroy commented that on benches above the steep sections in the Hatzic Valley are wet areas where bears feed on skunk cabbage. These areas seem to be **recharge areas for the springs** below. We all have water licenses.

Jim Baker said that these buffer zones around streams should be left in order to **protect the stream**. Building a road through these buffers is a 'no-no' but sometimes has to be done. Need to exercise due diligence when determining when and if to encroach on these buffers.

Lloyd Forman said that his experience with a water board in Merit has taught him that there is little scientific knowledge on water. Lloyd used an aquifer in Merit as an example. Scientists could only tell if the water in the aquifer was "pre-bomb" or "post bomb" [i.e. evidence of nuclear testing is present in water molecules that bear a 'signature' from atomic activity]. There needs to be local knowledge to make up for the lack of scientific data.

Ed McWaters commented on wetlands – wetlands are classified according to their size. They are given appropriate buffers based on their class.

Bruce Peel suggested that the elemental aspects of soil must be maintained: **function / nutrients / humus content**.

John Warren commented that utilization of wood is important to communities – don't just get the best wood and leave the rest. Need to utilize the resource including lower quality / value wood. Communities may be able to benefit from this wood. **[Multiple benefits to Society]**

Ron Frank commented that earlier, broadcast burning was conducted 'because'. Burning can remove a lot of nitrogen from the soil.

Keith Chapman commented that leaf litter, alder and other nitrogen 'fixers' [plants and other organisms that take nitrogen out of the air and 'waste' it into the soil] maintain nitrogen in the soil.

Sharie Conroy said that there is a connection between Soil, Water and Trees. The residents all have water licenses. The benches with skunk cabbage above the community are very productive and could be areas for old growth retention and to protect these spring recharge areas.

Keith Warren asked whether companies can reach into Riparian Reserve Zones (RRZs) from the Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) to manage for other values such as log jams with the potential for devastating downstream impacts.

Keith Chapman responded that Teal could potentially work this into its Forest Stewardship Plan (i.e. for windthrow).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The Next FRASER PAG Meeting will be held November 14, 2006 at the Pantry Restaurant, Chilliwack

Note the new time will be 4:30 to 7:30 pm