

Fraser Public Advisory Group (Fraser PAG)

Meeting #16 Minutes: Registration Audit Report

November 13, 2007

1. Call to order

Nate Ryant, called the 16th, meeting to order of the Fraser Public Advisory Group at 4:49 p.m. on November 13, 2007 at the Pantry Restaurant, Chilliwack, BC.

2. Registration of FRASER PAG Members

The following members were present:

Al Stobbart, Inch Creek Hatchery	John Warren, Boston Bar First Nation	Sharie Conroy, Hatzic Valley, Durieu, McConnell Creek Ratepayers Association
Bruce Edwards, Hatzic Prairie	Keith Warrener, Fraser Valley Regional District	

Members Absent:

Allan Johnsrude, Ministry of Forests	Garry Davidson, Seabird Island Indian Band	Kerry Grozier, District Manager, MOFR
Bruce Peel, Agriculture	Gordon Sherwood, Cacuse Point Resident	Lloyd Forman, Boston Bar Resident
Chief Sidney Douglas, Cheam Indian Band	Gurdev Sidhu, Agriculture	Mark Bond, Reo Rafting
Chief Andy Alex, Union Bar FN	Jean Warkentin, Norrish Creek Resident	Martin Edwards, Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation
Don Harris, Douglas First Nation / In-SHUCH-ch FN	Jim Baker, Boston Bar	Shawn Gabriel, In-SHUCK-ch First Nation
Earl Graham, United Steel Workers	Ken Webb, Agriculture	Steve Harvey, Hope Machine Shop.

Others Present:

Ed McWaters, May Trucking	John Pichugin, Teal	Nate Ryant, Facilitator
Heather Morlacci, Observer	Keith Chapman, Teal	

3. Documents Distributed to Members:

1. Fraser PAG Meeting #16 Agenda
2. Fraser PAG Meeting #15 Minutes: *Variance Development*
3. FPAG Meeting Evaluation Questionnaire
4. FPAG Priority Survey

4. Health and Safety

Nate Ryant reviewed health and safety items and asked members to put forward any health and safety issues. Nate reminded Members that some were traveling through early winter weather and to drive safely.

5. Review Agenda for Meeting #16 / Adapt / Ratify

Nate asked the group to look at the Agenda for Meeting #16 and asked for any proposed revisions.

No additional Agenda items were put forward. Nate Ryant motioned to accept the revised agenda. Keith Warrenner 1st, Al Stobbart 2nd. All in favour, none opposed.

6. Introductions

No new faces were present.

7. Previous Meeting Minutes

Nate asked the group to review the meeting minutes from meeting #15. No revisions were put forward. Nate Ryant motioned to accept the revised minutes. Sharie Conroy 1st, Al Stobbart 2nd. All in favour, none opposed.

8. Registration Audit Report

Nate Ryant asked Keith Chapman to begin the presentation of the Registration Audit Report. Keith Chapman put the report on the overhead screen. Keith explained that the document is considered confidential but it will be shared with the FPAG tonight. Paper copies of the report itself will not be distributed. A summary of the report will be issued to FPAG Members. This summary will be put on the website. Keith explained that lawyers have cautioned licensees from distributing the confidential reports from audits. Keith pointed out the "Confidential" notation at the beginning of the Audit Report.

Keith Chapman reviewed the covering letter thanking Teal and its employees for their co-operation during the audit. The audit was conducted over 4 days. The Registration Audit was completed by Wayne Coombs, RPF, EMS(LA) and Will Sloan, RPF, EMS(A) of Quality Management Institute.

The Audit Report (Report) was organized into the following six sections:

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction to CAN/CSA Z809
3. Description of the Defined Forest Area (DFA)
4. Organization
5. Audit Findings
6. General Assessment and Recommendations

The Executive Summary discussed the purpose and scope of the audit, which is to evaluate the sustainable forest management requirements applicable to Teal within the Defined Forest Area including planning, harvesting, road construction and maintenance, transportation of logs, silviculture and public participation (i.e. the FPAG) in the SFM planning process.

The Audit did not find any non-conformances. There were six System Weaknesses that will need to be addressed by the time of the first surveillance audit. Teal was recommended for registration under CSA.

The Report gave a description of QMI and the Audit Team. QMI is a third party "management system Registrar" that works around the world issuing registration certificates to organizations that meet the management system standards that they are implementing.

Keith Chapman reviewed the Report's "Introduction to CAN/CSA Z809-2002", the "Description of the Defined Forest Area (DFA)" and the "Organization" section.

Keith Chapman reviewed the Report's section on "Audit Findings". The following is a summary of the audit results:

- All of the applicable requirements of the CAN/CSA-Z809-2002 (CSA) and the Teal-Jones Group Corporate Management System (CMS) were audited and considered to be adequately implemented.
- No Non-Conformances were identified with respect to the CSA and CMS systems.
- Several Significant Issues related to the Fraser Public Advisory Group (FPAG) were identified:
 - There is general feeling that the public advisory process is working out well.
 - The FPAG members interviewed felt that the First Nations representatives on the committee have given very good input in the process.
 - The one First Nations representative interviewed felt that the First Nations input is being listened to by the other FPAG members.
 - There was a general feeling that the Company was giving good information to the FPAG members from which they could do their job. There was concern raised by one group that there was too much information given to them in a short time to review thoroughly.
 - There was a general feeling that the facilitators were working out well. There was, however, one group who felt that the facilitator was not listening to their requests.
 - Several (x7) of those interviewed felt that there should be field trips for the FPAG of the various areas in the DFA so that they could get a better understanding of each area to enable them to provide more productive input.
 - Several of those interviewed (x4) felt that there should be more outside experts brought into the FPAG meetings, including: biologist on species at risk, a geo-technical expert and a water management specialist.
 - One group felt that there are few non-forestry representatives on the committee.
 - There was a general feeling that there needs to be more involvement of other representatives on the FPAG, including: Green NGOs, resort & cabin operators, and representative from the City of Abbotsford Water Works.
 - It was felt that allowing observers to sit in during the FPAG meetings was good.
 - There was a feeling expressed (x2) that the FPAG meetings should be held later during the day to allow those working enough time to make the meetings. It was also suggested that maybe the meetings could be held in different areas associated with the DFA.
- Interviews with staff of the Ministry of Forests and Range (MOFR), Chilliwack Forest District indicated that Teal has a good record with respect to its relationship with the MOFR and sustainable forest management
- Several positive aspects of the Management System were identified:
 - An excellent system was implemented in contacting and tracking potential FPAG members,
 - There is a high level of First Nations involvement in the FPAG with 6 different First Nations groups/members serving on the FPAG.
 - The Company has implemented the use of electronic tracking systems to track all of the action items that are identified during the FPAG meetings, and other operational issues.
 - Detailed minutes are being taken during each of the Management Review Meetings.

- The Company has implemented the use of a FPAG Member Satisfaction form which is filled out annually by the PAG members indicating their level of satisfaction with the PAG process (Indicator 59)
- The Company's internal audit completed in August 2007 was found to be very effective in ensuring proper implementation of the requirements of the CSA and CMS standards.
- The QMI Auditors identified several Opportunities for Improvement and made the following recommendations related to the relevant sections of the CSA standard. Recommendations in an Audit Report are not formally required to be addressed prior to the next Audit:
 - 5.2 Interested Parties: Continue contacting interested parties for involvement in the FVPAG
 - 7.3.6.1 General: Finalize "indicators under development" (Indicators 45, 47 & 50)
 - 7.3.6.1 General: Consider reviewing the Indicator monitoring strategies to ensure that they better align with all of the actual procedures being used.
- The QMI Auditors made the following recommendations in regards to the Sustainable Forest Management Plan Indicators:
 - Indicator 1: Consider specially identifying the area of old forest by BEC required to be retained, as well as the current status for each of the BECs, in the DFA. [in progress]
 - Indicator 5: Consider changing the wording in the Indicator and Target so that it better reflects the intent of the wording in the Value and Objective.
 - Indicators 15/19/34/37: Consider combining these indicators as they share similar VOITs, reporting and legal requirements.
 - Indicator 41: Consider identifying the specific projects to be funded for the fiscal year, and what projects that may be funded in the future.
 - Indicator 55: Consider reviewing the Objective and Target to ensure that the Target reflects the Objective.
 - Indicator 61: Consider focusing the wording in the Indicator and Target to first developing a community Communications Plan.
- The QMI Auditors identified several System Weaknesses with respect to the relevant sections of the CSA Standard. System Weaknesses have to be addressed before the next Audit. If not addressed appropriately, it can be assessed as a major non-conformance.
 - Incorporate recently approved Indicators into the SFMP, and ensure that the Indicator wording meets the intent of that specific Criterion/Element
- The QMI Auditors made the following "General Assessment and Recommendation":
 - that there was an effective inter-action between all elements of the management system
 - that the top management of Teal has demonstrated a commitment to maintain the effectiveness of the system.
 - That, based on the review of the SFM program and the audit results, that the Management System of the Teal-Jones Group's Teal Cedar Products Ltd. is suitable and effective and Teal will be recommended for registration to the CSA Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-2002).

During the course of the Audit, QMI Auditors interviewed 5 Teal Forestry and Engineering staff at the main office in Surrey, 5 workers in the field (road construction and helicopter logging), 6 FPAG Members and 1 Observer, and 2 MOFR Compliance and Enforcement staff. Two FPAG Members selected for phone interviews were not available to be interviewed.

The next Audit will need to be conducted within the next 12 months.

9. FPAG Discussion of Audit Report

Keith Chapman concluded the presentation and asked for questions from the Table.

Keith Warrener asked if the full Audit Report will be on the Teal website?

Keith Chapman responded that the full report would not be on the website. There has been legal advice to not put this information into the public realm. We have shared it with the PAG tonight and will summarize the report, put the summary on the website and share it with the PAG.

John Warren asked if the detailed points that were raised in the report will be included in the summary?

Keith Chapman responded that the summary would include the points that the Report raised (i.e. the references to the sections of the CSA Standard) that needed to be addressed.

Nate Ryant commented that they would need the references to understand the work that needs to be done. The particulars of who were interviewed etc. will need to be kept confidential. I think that John, your concerns are that you would not get the true meaning of the finding?

John Warren responded that there are specific comments on the Indicators.

Keith Chapman responded that he will include the references and Indicators so that we can discuss them.

Sharie Conroy commented that it will be important to get that section verbatim in order to address the issues and resolve them.

Keith Chapman agreed. The working part of the Report will be fully presented to the Membership. The names etc will need to be kept private.

Keith Chapman asked for any other thoughts or discussion regarding the Report.

There were no more questions from the Table. Nate Ryant called for a 10 minute break.

10 minute Break

10. Review of outstanding Values from the Fraser PAG

Nate Ryant called the meeting back to order.

Keith Chapman distributed new (empty) binders to Members present. Keith commented that they could put a cover page in at the next meeting. Keith asked Members to forward any pictures to him that are associated with the Defined Forest Area and they could make up a more interesting cover page.

Keith Chapman put up a copy of the **Fraser Public Advisory Group Member Priority Survey** which lists the outstanding Values from FPAG Members. These Values were raised in previous meeting during discussions. The new Values were noted and put aside to be worked on later. This "Survey" is included with the meeting documents. List also includes the outstanding Values that have been worked on but not resolved to date.

Keith Chapman reviewed the listed Values.

After reviewing "Birds" and "Blue Herons" Sharie Conroy commented that there needs to be an inventory of these species in order to establish how they are being managed.

Keith Chapman responded that inventories are one potential step to sustaining these species. However, Teal is a tenant on the landbase and rents the right to harvest timber from the Crown. The Crown could 're-chart' the landbase and force Teal to operate in an entirely new location so for Teal to invest in inventories may not be practical. Keith explained that, to be sustainable, Teal does not need to solve all of the problems associated with different species. Rather they would need to take steps to ensuring that they are not impacting them un-sustainably. There are some elegant ways to address this. Birds for example, generally like forest edges where they feed in the openings and nest and roost in standing timber. By providing or maintaining a diversity of habitats they can manage these species. Keith added that the best way to deal with these Values and the others under "Species Diversity", it would be best to

have an expert present to the group what approaches are best to take. We can't manage the 600 species of wildlife in the Chilliwack District individually. Maintaining critical habitats such as Heron rookeries is also important.

Heather Morlacci commented that naturalists groups may have good information.

Keith Chapman responded that he contacted the naturalist groups in the Fraser Valley for participation in the Fraser PAG but they declined. Naturalist groups are not biologists necessarily but may have information regarding where to go to look for various species. Most of the naturalist groups participate in the Christmas Bird Count which provides some very good general information. The problem with these types of snapshots it depends on the location and weather. Birds are very transitory. Biologists are finding that bird populations are increasing in the interior of BC with the Mountain Pine Beetle outbreak and decreasing on the coast. It is almost a 1 to 1 trade off and the biologists are thinking that the birds are shifting to the interior to take advantage of the abundance of food. It would be better to have an expert from the Ministry of Environment or from one of the Universities provide input.

Keith Chapman continued with the list of Values at "Hardwoods". There could be First Nations' traditional interest in hardwoods or economic or biodiversity values within this Value.

"Rare and Unique Trees" were identified as a Value. Keith had done some investigating of what would be considered Rare and Unique in the Chilliwack Forest District but the FPAG table was concerned about locally rare and unique trees that are special to people locally.

"Flora and Fauna associated with Sites of Special Significance". Keith noted the comment on the Survey form. The question is whether this Value is addressed in the ratified Indicators regarding Sites of Special Significance (SSS). Keith noted that the ratified Indicators on SSS include language about identifying and managing local values. The Flora and Fauna could be addressed in this language.

"Mushroom picking" & "Non-Timber Forest Products" are similar. Keith commented that Teal has no control over Non-Timber Forest Products and the BC forest legislation does not regulate these products beyond limiting environmental damage. There could be ways that Teal can work to manage access to these products.

Sharie Conroy commented that logging pine mushroom locations destroys the mushrooms. I think it is important especially to First Nations. The humus needs to be deep and if the 'roots' – mycelia - of the mushrooms are damaged they are lost.

Keith Chapman responded that this would be a good subject for a guest speaker.

"Accessible Old Growth for hikers" may be managed by maintaining road access to old growth or identifying where it may be accessed etc.

"Economic benefits to local communities" is an important issue for the Fraser Canyon folks. Potentially a good topic for an expert guest speaker.

"Timber for Cultural Use" and "Traditional Plants": Keith Chapman commented that this would be a very interesting set of topics for a guest speaker.

"Traditional Trails" would involve issues around protecting trails or limiting access to those that would abuse the trail or helping FN's with recovering these routes.

Keith Chapman reviewed the list of potential guest speakers. The topics are some initial thoughts about the relevant issues that are of interest to the FPAG.

Heather Morlacci suggested that there should be a speaker on Global Warming. Keith agreed. We would need to focus the topic. Is it "how to limit global warming" or how to adapt management practices to preparing for a warming world?

11. Review of FPAG Homework

Keith Chapman asked the Table to look through their meeting documents to find two documents: “*Fraser Public Advisory Group (Fraser PAG) Meeting Evaluation*” & “*Fraser Public Advisory Group Member Priority Survey*” and a self addressed envelope. Members are requested to complete these two forms and put in the mail by November 27th [**Note: this date has been extended to December 14th**].

Fraser Public Advisory Group Member Priority Survey

Keith Chapman explained the survey form. Keith reviewed the CSA definition of Value. The outstanding Values are listed in no particular order than by the relevant CSA Criterion/Element. Members are asked to rank [1= highest priority, 21 = lowest priority] these Values as they relate to them. If Members have difficulty in differentiation a priority for one Value over another they can give them an equal number and carry on with their numbering for the remaining Values. Members can also suggest Objectives and Indicators and Targets on the form.

Fraser Public Advisory Group (Fraser PAG) Meeting Evaluation

Keith Chapman commented that he doesn't get many emails or phone calls from the Membership so these two documents will be very helpful. Keith also commented that he is wondering if the emails are getting to people or if Members are struggling with the attachments. Members should comment on the Meeting Evaluation form if they are having technical challenges. Members without email are sent documents etc via regular mail.

Field Trips: Keith noted that they had time left in the meeting and asked the Table for thoughts or ideas for field trips.

Bruce Edwards said that it would be very valuable to see some active logging operations – especially where they are associated with some of our indicators.

Keith Chapman suggested that they could look at harvest areas that are laid out in the field but not harvested to discuss the pre-layout stage and maybe follow a block from mature timber, to harvest, to regeneration and on. We need to keep in mind that the DFA is a vast area spread out from Lytton and Pitt Meadows so it does not

Sharie Conroy suggested a block with slopes and creeks.

Al Stobbart suggested visiting Teal's offices to look at the work that goes on 'behind the scenes' as there is a lot of work that is completed before any harvesting is done.

Keith Warrener commented that the Regional District often has presentations with pictures and maps that delve into subjects and this is another way to review issues.

Ed McWaters commented that there are good examples of re-habilitated roads out there that may be of interest to the group.

12. Next FPAG Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**The Next FRASER PAG Meeting will be held February 5th, 2008 at the Pantry Restaurant, Chilliwack
at**

5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Please note the new time!!