

## Summary

## Notes

# Minister's Forest and Range PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

April 29, 2004

Whistler Room  
Vancouver-Marriott Hotel  
7571 Westminister Highway

### Attendees:

Duncan Barnett, BC Cattlemen's Association  
Corinne Lonsdale, Communities and Resources Committee, Union of BC Municipalities  
Brian McNaughton, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations  
Roy Nagel, Central Interior Logging Association  
Ric Slaco, INTERFOR

Larry Pedersen (Chair), Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests  
Ian Miller, Ministry of Forests  
Shirley Turcotte, Ministry of Forests

### **Presenters:**

Bruce Fraser, Forest Practices Board  
Brian Nyberg, FRPA Resource Evaluation Program  
Peter Bradford, FRPA Resource Evaluation Program

### **1. Introduction / Agenda - Larry Pedersen, Chair**

- Larry Pedersen announced Terje Vold, who had provided such stellar technical support to PAC, retired March 31, 2004. PAC recognized his contributions and sent their thanks and good wishes. The Chair noted staff retirements and changes in resources are a challenge and this is a transition period for the ministry.
- Larry Pedersen introduced Ian Miller, who is the MOF staff support on the policy team and will provide technical depth for PAC discussions.
- PAC Membership – Letter of Resignation from PAC to Minister de Jong from BC Environmental Network dated March 22, 2004.
- Stakeholder representation on I-Teams (Cattlemen, Wood Lot Owners)  
*Linked to Agenda Item #7 and added for discussion.*

### **Review: December 11th Minutes:**

- Accepted

## 2. PAC Protocol

### **PAC Discussion: PAC Alternates?**

- Members agreed that it is important to have proper representation at table in relationship to agenda topics, however, need to be mindful that members are volunteers. Costs are an issue. Value in having opportunity to discuss issues amongst diverse membership.
- PAC Members should prioritise / with option to send an alternative if necessary, or bring their technical support with them.
- Members agreed PAC Membership valuable, provides an opportunity to raise concerns and have direct communication both with the Minister and senior ministry officials.
- PAC has had more influence than probably realised, need to raise the profile of PAC influence, track successes, accomplishments that occur between meetings. This will also act as a "Status Report for the Minister".

**ACTION: S. Turcotte to identify PAC Progress – Standing Agenda Update.**

**ACTION: PAC Chair to invite Minister to attend future PAC meeting.**

### **PAC Discussion: PAC Advice for Minister re Environmental Representative on PAC?**

- Representative, Mark Haddock, was a respected member who provided a good presence and brought valuable environmental perspectives to the table.
- PAC agreed important to have member at table with conservation background.

**ACTION: PAC Chair to contact West Coast Environmental Law and invite them to appoint a representative from the environmental community.**

**ACTION: PAC Members to forward names of candidates with solid environment/conservation background to Chair for Minister's consideration.**

## 3. FRPA Update – Ian Miller

- Most licensees still operating under Forest Practices Code, moving to Transition as licensees start to work on their first FSPs

### Implementation Team Update:

- Focus of I-Team at present is to keep licensees informed)

**PAC note: Important to ensure *all* other licensees are also kept informed. Licensees include Cattlemen, Recreation, etc.**

Objectives: (Old Growth Order, Visual Quality Objectives and Wildlife

(MSRM) Old Growth Order - not yet spatial

(MOF) Visual Quality Objective

- Grandparented scenic areas require VQOs to trigger FSP results and strategies.
- The wording in Order is now being incorporated into the Forest Planning & Practices Reg. as it was not applicable under the Government Action Regulation (GAR) tests.

(WLAP) Wildlife Order - needs list of species at risk and - Habitat - habitat criteria

### Delegation Matrix –

*The Forest Practices and Range Act* came into effect Jan. 31, 2004. The act and regulations required significant change in how business is done. One of those changes is that the act and regs refer to the minister but there is a provision for the minister to delegate decisions to where he feels is most appropriate and he may also provide direction in that delegation. To accomplish it is recommended that the a matrices be utilized.

.. **PAC Supports need to ensure Range representation at suitable level. Ian Miller to follow up with I-Team and report back to PAC.**

### **FRPA Act Amendments**

- Sec. 5 of Act - content piece - 16 approval tests of Forest Stewardship Plans

- movement towards professional reliance.
- model must maintain public confidence

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- Amendment to PAC's name - Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council
- Transferring obligations to Third Parties
- Process-related changes to give clarity

**ACTION: (as promised, URL to the first-reading version of Bill 33, the latest *Forest Statutes Amendment Act, 2004*) [http://www.legis.gov.bc.ca/37th5th/1st\\_read/gov33-1.htm](http://www.legis.gov.bc.ca/37th5th/1st_read/gov33-1.htm) The FRPA-related provisions are found in sections 76 through 128 inclusive.**

### **FRPA Regulation Amendments**

- long list of outstanding proposals (2 packages - one Order In Council (OIC) going forward June/July 2004 the second OIC going forward winter 2004/05)

### **FRPA Training**

- initial training delivery to forestry and woodlot audiences completed (included recorded sessions, Q&A sessions and live sessions for woodlot and C&E) – all material is posted on website
- further modules under development for public and other resources (e.g. Seed Transfer)
- separate component for logging - funding is unavailable at present

.. **PAC Supported need for information tool for logging sector.**

**PAC Influence: Risk re lack of FRPA Training was brought to Minister's attention by PAC in their report, and resulted in expanded ability to provide some level of training into this fiscal.**

**ACTION: PAC Chair to follow-up on Communication Tool in the form of a "pocket guide" for the Logging community.**

### **Industry FSP Component**

- Industry sponsored/leading FSP component to be held May/June

### **FRPA Range Training**

- Southern Interior completed. Northern Interior to be held in June to allow for calving season
- separate *Range Act* - minor amendments.

#### **4. Forest Practices Board - Bruce Fraser**

- Board has been working on process to fit into FRPA developments and identifying priorities.
- Professional Reliance - need to establish how results on the ground are monitored against scientifically acceptable criteria. Results must be measurable.
- Board are reviewing other indicator sets, both government and non-government (e.g. Certification, etc.) with a view to harmonize overlapping elements, find efficiencies/\$ savings for both Licensees, C&E and Board Audits.
- Board has been partnering with MOF Effectiveness Evaluation Program to identify and ground-truth Indicators.
- Board members enthusiastic on potential under FRPA and would like to work with Licensees developing first FSPs, to test indicators and Board audit procedures.
- Board interest cut across broad scale public issues (public water supply, endangered species, biodiversity, fine management, forest health (epidemics e.g. beetles). Current Board studies include Mountain Caribou, Fire Management and Mtn. Pine Beetle.
- Forest Practices Board's Biodiversity Report is an example of changing conditions. Report took over one year to produce and audit was under prescriptive rules of the Forest Practices Code. If audit was under FRPA, the questions would be very different.

#### **Lunch Presentation: Invasive Plant Strategy for BC - Duncan Barnett**

- Trust Fund will allow funds to be channelled into pool to address broad provincial-wide research and public information/education items.
- Memo of Support (may be signed individually or as an organization) distributed along with invitation to any interested party to attend Inaugural Meeting June 24th.
- Any organization/group wishing to have a presentation on the Invasive Plant Strategy for BC may contact the Strategy Writing Group listed on the inside cover.

#### **5. FRPA Resource Evaluations Program (FREP) - B Nyberg/P Bradford**

- Indicators to date are comprised of work from various previous initiatives gathered together and best available knowledge. Many of indicators still require further peer and/or stakeholder review. Draft Indicators have been developed or are underway for components of soils, riparian, stand-level biodiversity, range, water, visuals, karst (resource feature), timber, wildlife and recreation.
- It is recognized that various models or mix of models, scales and intensities of evaluations will be required, to assess FSPs and practices under FRPA. Stewardship objectives on 11 values include defaults or innovative practices.
- MOF partnering with Forest Practices Board to develop indicators for Board's use on pilot audits of individual licensees.
- Resource Evaluations Website should be available soon.

**Note: Website Link will be <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep>**

## PAC Discussion:

- *Need to consider how to assess under variable site disturbances/conditions. Will there be any cost to licensees wrt the information they will be requested to provide? Need to ensure we do not create model that only collects information. Must get end result.*

**Reply:** *Opportunity for licensees to participate. Not a download of responsibility and/or cost.*

- *Will only the 11 values be evaluated? What about the higher level objectives? (Have streamlining/cost efficiencies been met? Code equivalency? Professional Reliance? etc.)*

**Reply:** *This is focused on the resource values. Resource Tenures and Engineering Br. are undertaking the business evaluation work and will begin next year.*

- *CWD numbers appear too low, indicating a "clean site" is desirable. Noted: Range Monitoring is a top priority, need to ensure a Range expert has opportunity for involvement. Grasslands Council interest in grasslands and not other FRPA values.*

- *Focus has been on process and indicator design and identifying what the appropriate level of the particular indicator should be. There will be a variety of scales depending on question being answered.*

*Comment (Larry Pedersen): PAC had indicated interest in playing role. The Indicators will be developing over time and a feedback loop will be needed. The review role of evaluation results as related to recommend policy/legislation changes will be an important role. PAC may wish to take this role on and provide advice to the Minister. Add to next PAC Agenda.*

**ACTION: D Barnett/B Nyberg/P Bradford to follow up / discuss Range Monitoring issues.**

**ACTON: PAC future discussion re role in FREP.**

## **6. Future Issues for PAC Discussion and Consideration - Brian McNaughton**

• PAC role is to provide advice to Minister on broad provincial issues linked to FRPA

**Note: Need to remain within PAC Terms of Reference.**

• Advisability of managing for Old Growth in midst of Mtn. Pine Beetle epidemic

• Use of Fire funding provided to Communities (options re fireproofing adjacent areas, managing adjacent forest areas more actively, did past forest mgmt practices lead to high fire concerns today?)

• Key Indicators - risks for future (beetles-blowdown, etc.) (Invasive Plants - track if increasing or not)

• Evaluate if FRPA has delivered on high level objectives (*Streamlining/cost efficiencies been met? Code equivalency / Environmental Equivalency? Evaluate in meaningful way if we have become more effective (Professional Reliance)? etc.*)

**Note: Draft a "Report Card"**

*Comment Larry Pedersen sits on the national Sustainable Forest Management Working Group under the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers and recently took on a role with the BC Coalition of the National Forest Strategy Coalition and this may be way to have Prov. C&I information flow into the National databases and strategies.*

**Note:** *some C&I may be harmonized, but some may be unique to BC.*

**ACTION: B McNaughton to review the National Forest Strategy and identify options - for PAC discussion.**

## **7. PAC Workplan - Where to Next?**

• **Role of PAC Members?** Minister had made clear that each PAC Member was an individual, bringing to the table unique perspectives from various backgrounds and levels of experience.

PAC Members agreed that as Members affiliations may alter, their individual backgrounds and experience is still valid.

- PAC Members supported bringing technical/expert colleagues to PAC table as support.

## **PAC Meeting Wrap UP - Larry Pedersen, Chair**

### Invasive Plant Strategy

- Province, as steward of Crown Land, needs to understand implications to asset. This is compelling information that province needs to be aware of.  
PAC agreed that, a province-wide approach - working in partnership with others - to address this problem most efficient and supports concept to keep this strategy moving forward.

*PAC Resolved to raise the Invasive Plant Strategy to Minister's attention.*

**ACTION: Larry Pedersen raise PAC support of Invasive Plant Strategy to Minister de Jong (cc Min. Harris, Min of WLAP, Agriculture, etc).**

### FRPA Regulations

- PAC review role.

**ACTION: S. Turcotte to arrange 2-hour teleconference within next few weeks to discuss and map process for regulation review. (PAC Teleconference scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1:30-3:30 p.m.)**