

# Minutes Summary

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

Seymour Room  
Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel  
7671 Westminster Highway  
Richmond, BC V6X 1A3  
October 6, 2004 - 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Attendees:

Garry Merkel, First Nations Summit Task Group  
Brian McNaughton, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations  
Roy Nagel, Central Interior Logging Association  
James O'Hanley, (Weyerhaeuser) Major Licensees  
Ric Slaco, (Interfor) Major Licensees  
Ron Corbeil, IWA (United Steelworkers Assoc.)

Larry Pedersen, Chair, Ministry of Forests  
Ralph Archibald, Director, Forest Practices Br., Ministry of Forests  
Ian Miller, Legislation and Policy Specialist, Ministry of Forests  
Shirley Turcotte, PAC Coordinator, Ministry of Forests

### Via Teleconference:

Minister de Jong

### Guests:

Brian Nyberg, Manager Range and Integrated Resources, Forest Practices Br., Ministry of Forests  
Peter Bradford, A/Adaptive Management Manager, Forest Practices Br., Ministry of Forests  
George Hoberg, Professor and Head, Department of Forest Resources Management, University of British Columbia

### **1. Welcome / Agenda / Minutes - Larry Pedersen, Chair**

- Minister de Jong has the report from PAC and wishes to join today's meeting via telephone
- PAC will have the opportunity to convey advice to Minister
- Larry Pedersen announced his reappointment to ADM, BC Timber Supply

### **ACTION: PAC to raise PAC Chair with Minister de Jong**

### Review of PAC Sept 8<sup>th</sup> Minutes:

PAC Environmental Member – PAC Chair advised names from environmental community for PAC to approach with an invitation to sit at PAC table under consideration.

Woodlot Regulations – Communications – Woodlot Assn suggested documents be dated to avoid confusion wrt the latest version of amendments.

**ACTION: Policy Team will suggestion to date documents the legislation drafting team for reference.**

**ACTION: Amend wording in PAC Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> Minutes to read “Woodlot licences”.**

Timber Objective: - GAP Identified

Section 25 – PAC raised the wording in regulation as an issue.

**ACTION: PAC Chair committed to take the PAC comments back to the Deputy Minister for discussion.**

**ACTION: Shirley to amend wording in PAC Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> Minutes to read PAC viewed this as an important issue from a public perspective on a sense of balance.**

FSP Timing Issue – This is still an outstanding implementation issue for First Nations.

**ACTION: PAC to invite C&E lead to next PAC for discussion.**

## 2. FRPA Update

### Regulations – I. Miller

- Regulation package back from Leg. Counsel expected within next few days
- Next few weeks Policy Team will do analysis to ensure all policy intent is still valid.
- Once regulation package finalized, will go forward to Cabinet - early November
- PAC raised concern regarding changes in FPPR that may require changes to other regulations
  - Policy Drafting Specialists understood concern, however, need for consistency must be considered

**ACTION: PAC to be sent copy of regulation package when it is received back from Leg. Counsel**

### Transition – I. Miller

- No further opportunity to make any amendments to Act. Policy Team explored ways to achieve in regulation, however, still an outstanding issue.
- Woodlot Assn rep. noted the impact is even more acute on the small Woodlot Licensees

**ACTION: PAC wishes to raise this outstanding concern with Minister**

### Roles and Responsibilities for Guidelines and Guidebooks - Ralph Archibald

- Government session scheduled for Oct. 21st to discuss their vision on use of guidebooks under the FRPA model
- Broader session will be scheduled to include parties of interest outside government to discuss issue in depth
- PAC may choose how they wish to be involved, and if they wish to attend the broader session

**ACTION: Government will share outcomes from their Oct. 21st session with PAC.**

### Practices relating to the Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic – R. Archibald

- Mountain Pine Beetle Stewardship Team has been formed, Ralph Archibald is lead
  - members include MOF, MSRM, WALP
- Focus for Stewardship Team is on the practices for beetle killed wood
- Other groups are focused on Tenures and Utilization and Revenue concerns.
- This is the most significant biological event government has had to deal with
  - group is looking at ways to evaluate practices relating to MPB
    - Industry rep. raised noted need for Crisis Management - more resources and a full plan for action. Need to consider economic and cost efficiencies in plan.
    - Woodlot Assn rep. raised need to find way to fast track areas that are confronting us today e.g. species acceptable in stocking standards
    - CILA/ILA/NWLA rep. noted need to look to future (e.g. Douglas-fir) at same time as considering beetle management
  - PAC agreed need ensure all issues are analyzed to include practices, land use, reforestation plan, strategy on water impacts – PAC has strong interest in area external to gov't.
- First Nations Summip rep. sees this as a key test for FRPA, need to education public on the epidemic, projections, etc.

**ACTION: PAC wishes to raise their concern regarding urgency to manage MPB to Minister and convey that PAC wishes to have an oversight role**

## 3. Links between FREP and PAC – P. Bradford (overhead presentation)

- Program focused on Stewardship, limited scope due to resourcing available
- PAC noted need to ensure questions posed are consistent with objectives set by government
- PAC noted gap b/n this project and the RTEB-led project that focuses on the economic efficiencies.
- PAC noted FREP findings could be used as a tool for training and continuous learning, to assist those responsible for signing off approvals to assess if objectives set by gov't are being met, review the findings and recommendations, consider if balance is being achieved and help government determine their response.
- PAC noted value of having an environmental representative at the table to assist.

Q. How is the balancing piece was handled – as part of the evaluation process or at a different level AND how are the costs and implications factored in?

A. P Bradford noted that FREP focus is at the stewardship level of resource management, but acknowledged there will need to be close links with the RTEB program on the costing issues. The balancing considerations, weighing results and cost implications will likely be at a higher level (JMC/JSC or higher as required).

**ACTION: PAC Chair requested all FREP questions be posed from a positive stance**

**ACTION: FREP to carry out evaluations, do analysis and make recommendations available for PAC review and advice, prior to going forward for government response.**

**ACTION: PAC requested Minister be made aware of their concerns regarding the “balancing” and the linkages between the “stewardship” and “cost implications”.**

#### **4. Direction of FRPA reflected by the enactment of Bill 33 and its amendments to Section 16 of FRPA – PAC Discussion with George Hoberg**

- George Hoberg spoke to his concern regarding: delegation to professions
  - questioned whether professional associations are fully prepared for professional reliance (including responsibilities for continued education and discipline)
- George Hoberg believed that the model had been changed after it was reviewed
- George Hoberg raised his concerns around the Public Consultation Model generally
  - he noted his preference is for more open, broader public consultation
- PAC Chair explained that government had enabled a higher role for professionals, enabled, but not authorized.
  - Consensus was reached during Gov't/Prof. Assn. discussions that professional reliance should proceed slowly.
  - Continued dialogue between implementation specialists and the Prof. Associations is on-going.
- Policy Specialist rep. noted that the concept of professional deference was in the draft regulation last year, however, the draft had not been taken forward at that time as there was authority in the Act to create the model in regulation.
- Industry rep. noted that whether a professional works for a licensee or otherwise, they are all held accountable to the same level by the professional associations
  - First Nations Summit rep. agreed that it is important not to create “classes” of foresters e.g. “industry foresters” vs. “other foresters”
- PAC would be interested in opinion of Prof. Assn. Task Force regarding the continuing education role
- PAC noted interest in questions around the weighing of public interests by professional foresters external to government. Government has the mandate to balance public interests.
  - need to assist those responsible for signing off approval with strategies to ensure consistency with objectives (what conditions – not open-ended)
- In addition to this discussion with George Hoberg, PAC requested opportunity for further discussion around professional reliance with representatives from the Professional Associations Task Force to enable them to fully understand issues.

**ACTION: PAC requested Policy Team provide them with background information documenting the thinking during the first drafting of the FSP elements.**

**ACTION: PAC next agenda: Invite representative from Professional Associations Task Force to next.**

#### **George Hoberg Letter to Minister and Gov't Reply Letter – L. Pedersen**

- **PAC met with George Hoberg to seek clarification on statements in his letter to the Minister and to discuss the government's reply. For information letters are available at the following website**  
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pscripts/pab/fordisc/answer.asp?TopicID=47&RecordID=1012121424>

#### **5. Teleconference with Minister de Jong**

- Minister de Jong acknowledge receipt of PAC Issues, Concerns and Advice from their last PAC Meeting and thanked PAC for their time and work. The Minister noted that the broad public interests expressed in the PAC advice were very helpful to him.

#### **PAC Raised further issues for Minister's Information:**

##### **1) Transition – presented to Minister on behalf of PAC by Brian McNaughton and James O'Hanley**

- Expiry of FDPs under the FPCode – denied extension of date causing urgent problems with regard to plan approvals, cutting permits etc.
- Large workload for MSRM to adapt Land Use Plans/Higher Level Plans into FRPA model going forward
- PAC requested any assistance/support the Minister could provide to alleviate the problems
- Gov't has been unsuccessful in finding a way to manage in regulation

##### **2) Implementation Challenges – presented to Minister on behalf of PAC by Garry Merkel**

- Next PAC Meeting will focus on Implementation challenges
- Discussions with various groups, including the Implementation Team, PAC see the extension for Transition as urgent.
- The huge paradigm shift has not been made, people are having a difficult time moving out of the process model, C&E are experiencing challenges
- A collection of tools are needed to assist with the shift: e.g. education, incentives, etc.
- PAC believes lack of resourcing could cause implementation to fail, and managing this is critical to FRPA success

**3) Mountain Pine Beetle Program – presented on behalf of PAC to Minister by Roy Nagel**

- Roy Nagel advised Minister that he is a member of the MPB Advisory Group and a member of the Transportation Advisory Group
- Raised need for some overall communication between groups to ensure groups are aware of work being carried out by each other, and unnecessary overlaps do not occur – noted PAC interest in oversight role

**3) PAC Oversight – Missing Link – Larry Pedersen**

- Larry Pedersen advised the Minister that PAC is considering the complexities of implementing FRPA (including administrative efficiencies, cost savings and how to move forward)
- Minister expressed interest in being kept advised regarding the extent the regulatory regime may be assisting or hindering these various initiatives.

**5) George Hoberg Discussion – Larry Pedersen**

- Larry Pedersen advised the Minister that PAC had reviewed the “Hoberg letter” and Governments reply and George Hoberg had attended today to clarify statements in his letter and discuss issues.
- Minister thanked PAC for their views on behalf of the general public when considering policy issues, and believed that government is developing a better product with this insight.
- Minister de Jong advised he is scheduled to visit UBC with George Hoberg’s class

**6) PAC Chair – Larry Pedersen**

- Larry Pedersen reminded the Minister that as he has now assumed his reappointment to ADM, BC Timber Supply, the Minister may wish to consider the PAC Chair.
- Minister de Jong invited PAC Members to forward their suggestions/views regarding the position of PAC Chair to him.

**NEXT MEETING: (2 days) Implementation – Main Focus for next meeting**

IMPLEMENTATION: (Business Map – Ralph Archibald)

- 1) Update / Discussion on Professional Reliance - Professional Association Task Force
- 2) Implementation Team – I-Team Lead Bill Quinn
- 3) C&E / FRPA Implementation – D. Graham
- 4) Future FRPA Training – K. Hopkins
- 5) Roles/Responsibilities for Guidelines/Guidebooks Workshop – Update – R. Archibald
- 6) Timber Objective
  - Timelines
  - Background document to provide context