

Summary Notes

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

Meeting: October 19 - 20, 2005

Attendees:

Bruno Delesalle, Grasslands Conservation Council of BC
Dale Drown, Guide Outfitters, COTA
James O'Hanley, (Weyerhaeuser) Major Licensees
Corinne Lonsdale, Union of BC Municipalities
Brian McNaughton, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations
Garry Merkel, First Nations Summit
Roy Nagel, Central Interior Logging Association
Kim Pollock, United Steelworkers Assoc. Assoc.
Ric Slaco, INTERFOR

Jim Snetsinger, Chair, Ministry of Forests
Ralph Archibald, Director, Forest Practices Br., Ministry of Forests (Oct 19/05)
Ian Miller, Legislation and Policy Specialist, Ministry of Forests
Shirley Turcotte, PAC Coordinator, Ministry of Forests

Presentations by:

Bruce Sieffert, MAL
Bill Quinn, PFIT, Ministry of Forests
Ernie Fraser, Communication Strategy, Contractor

1. Introductions/ Welcome / Agenda / Minutes - Jim Snetsinger, Chair

Briefing Minister Coleman on PAC / PAC Membership

- Minister Coleman supported continuation of PAC and is scheduled to join by teleconference tomorrow.

PAC Minutes

- PAC June 1st Summary Notes

ACTION: Approved - S. Turcotte to post to website

- PAC June 27th PAC Teleconference
 - Review of PAC summary of issues and recommendations for Minister - Sept. 8/2004 (04-03)
 - Some interpretative policy work is being done within gov't. Guidance regarding one aspect of results or strategies for the cultural heritage resource objective (CHR) will be provided in a bulletin (FRPA Administrative Bulletin No. 3)

ACTION: Draft wording for bulletin re CHR to be circulated to PAC for review.

Range Branch - Jim Snetsinger

- A new Range Branch under the MOFR Operations Division will be based in Kamloops.
David Borth, P.Ag. has been appointed as Interim Director until March 31, 2006.

ACTION: Invite to D. Borth/T. Sheldon, ADM, Operations Division to attend Jan 2005 PAC to discuss Invasive Plants/Natural Range Barriers

2. PAC Administration - Shirley Turcotte

PAC Terms of Reference

- Term: 3-year term Dec. 2002-Dec. 2005 to be updated.
- Minutes: Clarity needed around Decision Making Process
 - PAC was requested by Minister de Jong to present multiple points of view, therefore, consensus is strived for, but not required, PAC can put forward options for opposing points of view. Update language.
- Consultation - B. McNaughton noted that PAC has ability to consult with other groups not represented at table
- Annual Report - PAC has not prepared an annual report in past
 - PAC agreed a short 1-2 page annual report, for calendar year, should be prepared and sent to Minister.

ACTION: I Miller/S Turcotte draft revised Terms of Reference for PAC review prior to next PAC meeting.

ACTION: I Miller/S Turcotte to draft Annual Report for PAC review before end calendar year.

Membership - Jim Snetsinger

- Due to the diverse issues, a Coast Industry Representative and an Interior Industry Representative would be better able to address the FRPA Implementation issues.

ACTION: PAC Agreed. Chair to recommend Minister extend official invitation to James O'Hanley as Interior Industry Representation on PAC

PAC Chair - Jim Snetsinger

- Chair: PAC to consider recommending an independent Chair or Co-Chair to Minister

ACTION: Draft roles and responsibilities for Chair/Co-Chair positions

ACTION: PAC Members to send expressions of interest / nominations for Chair/Co-Chair role to S. Turcotte.

PAC Member Biographies - Shirley Turcotte

- PAC had previously requested Bio's be posted to website - some members Bio's on File (styles not uniform)
- All members key information needed for uniformly formatting and posting.

ACTION: S. Turcotte to draft form and send to PAC members to fill out.

3. Worker Safety - Jim Snetsinger/Ralph Archibald

- Western Faller's Report raised issue of worker safety as high priority

ACTION: S. Turcotte to supply information re Western Faller's Report.

Internet address: http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/bcfaller/reports_publications.asp

- BC Forest Safety Council/PAC linkage - Roy Nagel sits as Director on BC Forest Safety Council
- Gov't has been challenged by BC Forest Safety Council to examine worker safety with respect to policy and practices under FRPA. Work is underway and gov't staff are doing an analysis on any correlation b/n FRPA policy and forest worker injuries. Results will be shared back to BC Forest Safety Council and PAC.

ACTION: S. Turcotte to invite P Bradford to attend spring PAC meeting to report out on results from the monitoring on Harvesting in MPB areas and discuss the worker safety element in the monitoring protocol.

ACTION: S. Turcotte to re-distribute earlier PAC Recommendation to Minister where PAC raised concern re Worker Safety to Minister de Jong

ACTION: PAC agreed gov't/FS Forest Safety Council analysis should be completed and distributed to PAC to review outcome of analysis before proceeding with further recommendation to Minister.

4. FRPA Updates - Ralph Archibald/Ian Miller

FREP Update - Ralph Archibald

- FREP - focus on monitoring 11 values under FRPA to evaluate environmental equivalency
- Gov't has approached Industry Associations to collaborate in identifying non-environmental (reduced costs, etc.) indicators - gov't is tracking some areas through internal performance measures, but needs to partner with Industry to carry out a case study approach.

ACTION: S. Turcotte to distribute FN Information Sharing Bulletin to PAC

ACTION: Invitation to Darrell Robb, Director, Aboriginal Affairs Branch to attend next PAC meeting to address PAC on FN consultation process.

Range Update - Bruno Delesalle/Dale Drown

- BCCA and Grasslands Assn reviewed monitoring protocols for Range InfoFlip, some amendments recommended
- Review of Range InfoFlip by Guide Outfitters also drew some comments

Non-Statutory Framework - Ian Miller

- Draft report underway by Roberta Reader ("non-legal" aspects, including guidebooks, scientific journals, market certification obligations, etc.) Final Report expected to go out early 2006.

Request for Legislation (RFL) - Ian Miller

- One RFL re C&E went forward last week and a second RFL with a small package of proposals (8 points on 7 sections of the Act) for amendments has been submitted to the Minister.
- Three proposals are housekeeping items and five are more substantive, as follows:
 - 1) FRPA section 46: Damage to Environment - This arose from PAC that raised issue of damage caused by public use of Crown Lands (mudbogging, etc.). Again, this may be reviewed in future and Recreation Use may be moved under the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Arts umbrella.
 - 2) FRPA section 74 Remediation Orders: to address timeframes to address remediation work (2nd opportunity to be heard resulted in too long a delay)
 - 3) FRPA sec. 214 Extends the Authority of Forest Practices Board to request an Appeal of Decision during transition
 - 4) FRPA section 30 Free Growing Obligations - re Forestry Licence to Cut
 - 5) FRPA section 112 Rationalize re some penalty provisions regarding exemptions and conditions.
- PAC agreed C&E needed, however, questioned if the environmental-related C&E (FRPA 46) fitted under FRPA, or environmental legislation
- MOFR C&E team are in currently place, however, the Ministry of Environment's Conservation Officers have all been deputized as Forest Officials, and can therefore enforce all of FRPA.

5. FRPA Communication Strategy - Ernie Fraser

- Minister de Jong specifically requested PAC to provide advice around a FRPA Communication Strategy in the Minister's Response to PAC Recommendations
- Strategy for communication needs to include: evaluation of results under FRPA, assessing licensee satisfaction and assess and increase public awareness, increase knowledge/training of practitioners, operators, increase public knowledge (provincially, nationally and internationally) that BC forests are being well managed.

ACTION: E. Fraser to gather the background information suggested by PAC, develop draft context piece, map out how to proceed, and draft framework that will lead to communication strategy for next PAC meeting.

6. Draft Land Use Objectives Regulation-implications as it relates to forest practices and management - Bruce Sieffert

- The policy intent for this draft regulation is to govern how land use objectives for FRPA are created
 - currently LU objectives are under sec. 3 and 4 of the *FPCode Act*
 - they will move to a new sec. 93.4 of the *Land Act*
- New regulation is in the gov't queue for fall approval and will go into effect February 2006.

PAC Comment:

- Ecosystem Based Management on Coast - if focus is changed by legislation, then an imbalance may occur e.g. balance for desired human well-being in desired outcomes
- wording should be qualified or moderated re "and management of land"

ACTION: S. Turcotte to circulate GAR Interim Guide to PAC for review as soon as available.

7. PAC Teleconference with Minister Rich Coleman

- Minister Coleman thanked PAC for their on-going work and committed to attend next PAC meeting targeted for mid-January 2006
- Minister Coleman stated that there are some important areas of concern that extend beyond FRPA that he may wish to have PAC consider, for example Worker Safety
- Minister Coleman requested any advice PAC may be able to provide around Worker Safety. He further noted that including pre-requisites that would ensure some safety standards may be considered to ensure gov't achieves a level of Safety. Two areas where he suggested gov't may be pro-active (but not limited to only these two areas) that PAC may wish to offer advice were:

BC Markets

- market based pricing wrt BC position
- need to build vision to attract investments to BC (both short term and long term goals)

BC Timber Sales - pre-requisites to achieving safety

- bidding on Lands - how to consider safety standards in the awarding process?
- interior BC - small scale salvage - how to include qualifications and standards?

ACTION: PAC Members to forward specific advice for government around providing for Worker Safety to S. Turcotte for PAC Chair to raise as a PAC Recommendation to Minister.

8. Implementation Issues and Consultation Process Issues - Bill Quinn

- MOFR is providing some guidance for DDMs to assist with the approval process
- Data Tracking: PFIT will be tracking data, including number of licensees, etc, which will provide indicators for workloads, etc.
- Workshops: further workshops are being scheduled for Delegated Decision Maker Training to focus on "results **or** strategies"
- FSP Learnings Workshop - intended to bring together group of people with experience
Also some Bulletins have been drafted that will provide some advice.
- I-Team Process for Issues Management: Issues are being tracked.

ACTION: B. Quinn to follow up at the Region and District I-Team levels re Woodlot I-Team representation.

9. Key Issues regarding PAC Recommendations to Minister - Brian McNaughton/Ian Miller

- PAC wants to re-affirm its recommendation that "Safety Lens" is needed and has committed to provide some thought to this matter and work is underway.
- Proposal - raise to Minister Coleman that PAC recognized need to address the Off Road Vehicle under FRPA in the short term, however, believes in long term may be better addressed under other legislation (recreation).
- FRPA Implementation recommendation
- Garry Merkel noted that a bullet should be added regarding First Nations

ACTION: S. Turcotte to set up PAC teleconference to review amended PAC Recommendations to Minister

Proposal as a PAC Recommendation: Government develop and resource a comprehensive evaluation program that includes all FRPA goals (streamlining, cost savings, professional reliance, environmental and compliance issues).