

October 15, 2003 Meeting

Doug Konkin opened the meeting as the Council's new Chair replacing Don Wright, past Chair.

A representative of PwC was present to discuss highlights of their Land Base Investment Program second quarter report. The following points arose from the ensuing discussion:

- ? Members were interested in a breakdown of funds spent on "environmental" projects. PwC is developing a definition for determining which activities fall within the scope of "environmental" projects.
- ? Licensees had received approvals for \$3.3 million in the Innovative Project category and PwC anticipated that the \$7 million Innovative Project cap would be reached this year.
- ? The Ministry of Forests and PwC will hold three regional workshops with forest industry representatives in January of 2004. Following last year's model, issues will be identified and resolutions will be generated in the interest of continuous improvement.

Ministry of Forests communications staff will be asked to develop a broad communications plan to communicate the value the Land Base Investment Program to local MLAs and members of the public.

A representative of FII Ltd. was present to provide an update on the International Marketing, Product Development and Research programs. The following points were raised in reference to the FII second quarter report:

- ? Reports are now available as products of market research being done in Asia and the United States.
- ? Considerable priority has been given to the Dream Home China project, which is unique in the world. The project will demonstrate the potential for BC forest products in industrial, commercial, and residential applications.
- ? Beginning in April 2004, the Research Program will no longer be administered by FII. Following a competitive tendering process, PwC has been selected as the new administrator of the research program called the Forest Science Program
- ? FII Ltd. is working with MSRMC on developing strategies for international communication of Central Coast decisions regarding land-use-planning negotiations

FIA program allocations for 2004-05 were discussed and various funding pressures were acknowledged including noxious weed control, timber supply analysis, reforestation of areas burned this past summer and a new initiative to abate fire hazard around certain communities.

The Council consensus was to continue to dedicate LBIP funds for *Dothistroma* needle blight reforestation and bark beetle suppression. Members also noted that funds to meet the immediate need for reforesting areas burned in the Southern Interior in 2003 can likely be found within LBIP allocations to licensees in that region.

MSRM requested funding for a forestry consortium—a proposal to develop a provincial governance structure and two pilot projects to rationalise the quantity and quality of inventory data to meet public and private needs.

Decisions regarding program allocations for 2004/05 including the funding of the proposed forestry consortium will be made by the Deputy Minister over the next few months.