

Forest Investment Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 4, 2007
Location: Ministry of Forests and Range, 1520 Blanshard Street, Victoria
Attendees: Doug Konkin (Chair) Joan Hesketh (MOE)
Ian de la Roche (Forintek) Ric Slaco (Interfor)
Ken Baker (FII) Mike Lambert (ILMB)
Rick Brand (MOFR) Dave Bodak (MOFR)
Via Conference Call Ian Brown (PwC); Kevin Bromley (PwC)
Regrets: Walter Matosevic (Canfor), Bruce MacNichol (West Fraser); Glenn Williams
(Gitanyow First Nation)

Guests: Bill Bourgeois (FSP Board); Jack Woods (FGC)

1. Meeting Opening / Agenda

Confirm Agenda – No items were added to the agenda

2. Action items from last meeting

Meeting with Glenn Williams – Rick Brand / Dave Bodak met with Glenn Williams in Gitanyow on August 29 to discuss FIC and FIA.

Administration Costs FSP & LBIP – A summary of the administration costs associated with the Forest Science Program (FSP) and Land Base Investment Program (LBIP) were included in the minutes of the last meeting to FIC members.

Grassland Ecosystem Restoration – Follow up with Greg Anderson (lead MoFR contact) regarding impact of climate change on grassland ecosystem restoration. Greg is willing to give a presentation on the grassland ecosystem restoration at the next FIC meeting.

Action: Arrange for Greg Anderson to provide a presentation on the grassland ecosystem restoration program at the next scheduled FIC meeting.

Greg is confirmed to provide a presentation at the next FIC meeting on January 24th, 2008.

Northwest Strategy – Clarification on the silviculture obligations associated with the Northwest Strategy – The Northwest Strategy identifies a funding need over 3 years to address the planting and brushing of areas associated with the MoFR outstanding silviculture obligations. These areas include the 3 tenures that were held by the former Skeena-Cellulose. The silviculture obligations affiliated with 2 of these tenures have been assumed by the new tenure holders. The forest obligations incurred under the 3rd former Skeena Cellulose license (Orenda) have legally been extinguished but remain unaddressed and abandoned on Crown land.

Action: Provide a copy of the Northwest Strategy to Ken Baker. Completed.
Ensure that Walter Matosevic and Bruce MacNichol are apprised on the clarification of the tenure obligations. Completed.

2007-08 FIA Budget – Rick Brand reviewed the 2007-08 FIA Budget allocations.

3. Second Quarter Reports

FSP – Bill Bourgeois provided FIC members with a presentation on the Forest Science Program (attached in the e-mail) and the current FSP Business Plan (handout). PwC reported that there are 265 projects underway. Audits of last years projects have been completed with no significant non-conformances identified.

Tree Improvement Program (TIP) – Jack Woods and Keith Thomas provided FIC members with a presentation on the TIP (attached in the e-mail with the minutes) as well the current Business Plan was provided as a handout.

LBIP – The PwC - LBIP second quarter report was provided as a handout. At this point, approximately \$26 million of \$30 million has been approved. It has been a very successful year for flying aerial photography (about 95% of proposed areas have been completed). Auditing of 2006-07 projects has been completed with not major issues identified.

Forestry Innovation Investments (FII) - Ken Baker provided a 2nd quarter FII report and spoke to some of the FII accomplishments.

CLUPE - Mike Lambert reported that CLUPE is on track in spending their allocation. Work has been initiated on OGMA's and biodiversity planning with 9 sub-regions / planning areas prioritized.

LBIP Ministries Admin - Dave Bodak provided a handout for FIC members outlining progress to the 2nd quarter on expenditures and key accomplishments.

Data Management – Mike Lambert provided a handout update on progress to date regarding the funding provided for data management.

4. FIA Looking Ahead to 2008-09

Fish Passage:

An issues note on strategically addressing significant impediments inhibiting fish passage and/or restricting access to fish habitat with FIA funding was distributed to FIC members for discussion.

Ecosystem Based Management (EBM):

Eligibility of EBM related projects for FIA funding was raised. One particular issue relating to inventory of monumental cedar on the coast which is needed as part of the detailed strategic planning associated with EBM currently is not eligible for FIA funding.

Action: Dave Bodak to work with Interfor representative towards ensuring clarity and understanding of LBIP funding for EBM related activities and the opportunity for the development of operational standards for conducting inventories of monumental cedar on the coast.

FSP Administration Agreement:

Current administration agreement with PwC expires March 31, 2008. A Notification of Intent (NoI) to award the administration of the FSP beyond March 31, 2008 to PwC is advertised

LBIP Allocation for Woodlot licenses:

A proposal was presented to the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations Executive that would see the development of a 3 year strategic plan for the identification of priority woodlot activities for funding as opposed to the current allocation model that is based on specific annual projects. The Board of Directors is considering the proposal and will be making a decision as to whether to proceed with this funding allocation approach.

Update: The Federation Executive would prefer to stay with the status quo for FIA delivery for the next fiscal year. They felt they needed more time and information to fully understand the implications of implementing a strategic model.

5. Meeting Wrap Up

Next meeting will be January 24th, 2008 to be held in Victoria, 1520 Blanshard, Executive Boardroom 3rd floor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.