

Forest Investment Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 21, 2008
Location: Ministry of Forests and Range, 1520 Blanshard Street, Victoria

Attendees: Doug Konkin (Chair) Ian de la Roche (Forintek)
Ric Slaco (Interfor) Ken Baker (FII)
Mike Lambert (ILMB) Walter Matosevic (Canfor)
Bruce MacNichol (West Fraser) Ian Brown (PwC);
Rick Brand (MOFR) Dave Bodak (MOFR)

Regrets: Glenn Williams (Gitanyow First Nation); Joan Hesketh (MOE)

Guests: Greg Anderson Manager, Provincial Ecosystem Restoration
Melanie Boyce, Director, Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch

1. Meeting Opening / Agenda

Confirm Agenda – Ric Slaco and Mike Lambert tabled an EBM training funding proposal for consideration under the 2008-09 FIA Budget agenda item.

2. Action items from last meeting

Action items from the October 4th, 2007 meeting were addressed in the minutes that were sent to all council members.

3. Ecosystem Restoration presentation

Greg Anderson, MFR Provincial Ecosystem Restoration Manager, gave a presentation on ecosystem restoration providing background, focus and direction, overview of treatments and future planning and issues of the ecosystem work to date.

4. Vegetation Resource Inventory Update

Melanie Boyce, MFR Director Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch, gave a presentation on the vegetation resource inventory providing background, the role of the Vegetation Inventory Advisory Council (VIAC), status of forest inventory, accomplishments, and short and long term goals for improvements.

5. 2007-08 Third Quarter FIA Program Reports

Forestry Innovation Investments (FII) - A 3rd quarter FII report was provided to FIC members sent out with the meeting agenda. Ken Baker spoke to some of the FII issues highlighted in the report.

CLUPE – The CLUPE 3rd quarter report was sent out with the meeting agenda. Mike Lambert reported that CLUPE is on track in spending their allocation.

LBIP – The PwC - LBIP second quarter report was sent to FIC members prior to the meeting. PwC investment managers are working with recipients to ensure any surplus funding is being redirected towards funding pressures identified by other recipients provincially.

FSP – PwC provided the FSP 3rd quarter report to FIC members prior to the meeting. The Forest Science Board recommended 51 new projects for 2008-09. Focus in 2008-09 will be on more partnerships and less stand alone recipient led projects.

There was some discussion on the integration of Ecosystem Based Management with the FSP.

FIA - Ministries Admin and Other Ministry Administered Activities- Dave Bodak provided a handout for FIC members outlining progress to the 3rd quarter on expenditures and key accomplishments.

6. 2008-09 FIA Budget

The original FIA budget for 2008-09 was \$121.800 million. However there has been a 1% reduction applied to ministry budgets in 2008-09 resulting in an overall FIA budget of \$120.600 million.

Additional FIA funding from FIA in 2008-09 included requests to address FSP, fish passage, road inventory update, forestry education, EBM training, and FPIInnovations work associated with Coastal Forest Action Plan.

FSP: An additional allocation was provided to the FSP to accommodate some additional funding priorities around the Future Forest Ecosystem Initiative (FFEI) and growth and yield modelling.

Fish Passage – A funding request for strategically addressing significant impediments inhibiting fish passage and/or restricting access to fish habitat was distributed. Based on member's discussion, it was recommended to focus \$5.0 million towards fish passage issues.

Road Inventory Update – FIA funding was sought for 2008-09 aimed at ensuring improved management of resource roads in BC, primarily through the rationalization and coordination of the multiple regulatory and permitting processes that currently exist. Discussion focussed on the value of this to industry and other agencies contribution. Recommendation by FIC that further clarity and information is needed.

Forest Education Program – The purpose of soliciting FIA funding for the forest education program in BC is to create a “wood culture” through educational opportunities with schools, communities and forest licensee employees and to promote careers in the BC forest sector. Funding for this initiative has been previously funded largely by forest licensees. Council members felt this issue was quite important and recommended that funding this initiative should be explored.

EBM Implementation Education at Operational Level: Ric Slaco and Mike Lambert submitted a request for FIA funding that provides forest planners and practitioners the tools necessary to implement EBM on the Coast.

FPIInnovations Coastal Forestry Action Plan – there was discussion by council members regarding the understanding of this funding, how it's different from what they do within their regular program and which other agencies contribute funds towards.

5. Meeting Wrap Up – Doug Konkin summarized the meeting by providing an overview of what went well, some of the “tricky” items and what can be done better in the meeting.

Next meeting will be October 9th, 2008 to be held in Victoria, 1520 Blanshard, Executive Boardroom 3rd floor.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.