

SFMC Meeting – January 24th, 2018

Attendance: Paul Chapman, Matthew Forbes, Ron Black, John Como, Ron Spence, Richard G. Gibbons, Robert Hanson, Brian Roque, Thomas Beaudry, Julianna Cook, Troy Werstroh, Wendy Creed, Shaun Kopeechuk, Laurel Palosaari

Welcome and introductions

The committee welcomed one new attendee to the meeting: Wendy Creed, Manitoba Sustainable Development.

Agenda review and approve

Agenda was reviewed and approved with no additions.

Minutes review and approve

Meeting minutes were reviewed with corrections made to names of John Como and Shaun Kopeechuk in attendance.

Business arising from the minutes

Richard Gibbons provided an update on his participation in the external audit on one of the field days on November 21, 2017. Aside from the weather, Richard indicated he was pleased with the tour on the Kississing and Hobbit Roads – making reference to the tree planting and free-to-grow blocks that were visited. Further, Richard was impressed with the debris burning that was observed during the tour – noting the concerted effort to leave debris piles at forest interfaces (i.e. “wildlife piles”). Paul C. added the company’s current debris burning guidelines include literature on leaving wildlife piles. John C. added he was out fishing and noted the piles on the Hobbit Road (Hobbit Stockpile) did not burn well. Paul C. indicated it’s not likely they’ll re-light the piles this winter yet given the conditions but some follow-up work may be done later in the year if required.

Richard G. requested the results of the November external audit be made available to the committee. Paul C. replied the company is in the process of developing a new website and that has delayed adding the results of the external audit. Agreed the company will use the mailing list of the committee to notify when the audit results are available.

Meeting assessment review

Paul C. reviewed the summary of the meeting assessments from last meeting.

Community reporting

Brian R. provided an update on The Hudson Bay Route Association and Gateway Keewatin Group regarding upcoming annual general meetings on April 4th and April 5th, 2018 at the Kikiwak Inn. The committee agreed they would like to receive updates from Brian R. on the meetings including an agenda through the committee mailing list. Thomas B. asked if someone from these groups was on the Plan North Committee. Brian R. continued to discuss GKG's proposal to improve the road between the junction of PR 282 and 283 (Carrot Valley Road) west to Nipiwini SK, (HWYs 9 and 55). Brian R. mentioned the group's research of a geo-cell technology product, produced by Paradox Access Solutions, which is used to increase load-bearing capacity of a road.

The committee discussed an update on the mining industry including current operations at Lalor and Reed Lakes and potential mine start-ups near Talbot, Lynn and Wekusko Lakes.

Industry report

Paul C. provided an update on paper mill upgrades proposed for later in 2018 and into 2019 including the chip screening and vibrating grate projects. This generated discussion on the production of hog fuel for use at the mill including potential for economic opportunities for local communities. There was a question regarding renewal responsibility on special allocation blocks where hog fuel is produced which was answered saying the company retains the responsibility for any softwood produced from these blocks. The industry report continued with an update on woodlands staffing – addition of one term Harvesting Supervisor. Following was an update on forest operations – finishing processing remaining wood at Halfway-Namew Lake and moving to Pothier Lake. Following was mention of the company's re-branding including a new company logo and creation of a new website. The industry report concluded with mention of a billboard that would be placed along PTH 10 north of the Sturgeon Landing Road turnoff that would showcase one of the company's previous harvest blocks. This generated discussion on the design of the billboard. One suggestion was to create a forest life cycle surrounding the company's logo. This life cycle would draw parallels to the trapping life cycle and other Indigenous teachings such as the medicine wheel. Another suggestion was to create a contest for schools on the DFA to design the billboard.

Public concerns table

Matthew F. reviewed with the committee the public concerns received between October and December of 2017 and the response/action taken by the company. During this period, there were three public concerns: in-person conversation with a bear outfitter concerned with timber harvesting in the jack pine budworm salvage area; a phone call from a Moose Lake resident regarding debris burning opportunities in the area; and, a phone call from a Mathias Colomb band member inquiring about use of the old Apeganau Winter Road. One question arising from the first public concern was the company's responsibility to communicate with impacted communities making specific reference to the cultural importance of the bear to these communities. The company indicated that with the nature of the harvest in the area the community discussions have been and are being done by the province who have been keeping the company informed of any concerns. In regards to the practice of bear baiting, it was mentioned that a guest speaker, such as the regional wildlife biologist, could be arranged to talk about the topic if that was of interest to the committee.

Another question arising from the second public concern was how the company communicates debris burning opportunities with communities. The company indicated that they have local contractors (i.e. Moose Lake, Sherridon) who are reliable and complete the work which was not tendered last year. With the small amount of debris burning work last year it would not make sense to subdivide it.

New business

A question was asked regarding any additional changes to the standing tree or coarse woody debris indicators since last meeting. There were no additional changes to these indicators and they have been finalized. Shaun K. mentioned the use of marten boxes not for trapping but for re-establishment of habitat and rearing young. Ron S. supported this idea indicating they have done the same thing with students in his community. It was requested the dimensions of these marten boxes be shared with the company so a partnership may develop where school groups from across the DFA can build these boxes.

SFM Plan review and required revisions for CSA Standard 2016 version

Paul C. discussed changes of the updated 2016 CSA standard. Through the process of reviewing the changes Ron B. suggested it would be beneficial if the committee could receive this material ahead of the meeting to provide them more time to make comments. This was agreed upon by everyone.

The existing SFM plan has been reformatted to line up with the indicator layout in the new standard, at the same time indicators and targets that were repeated through the plan were consolidated ensuring all the values, objectives, indicators and targets were preserved.

A question was asked regarding alignment of the new CSA standard with the framework created by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM). Paul C. indicated the original standard would more closely align with the CCFM framework and the updated standard still does but with revisions made by the national CSA committee to include a new Criterion, Aboriginal Relations.

Review of the new standard continued with discussion on CSA Element 1.4 - Protected areas and sites of special biological, geological, heritage or cultural significance as it appears under CKP indicator: Percentage of harvest blocks subject to Pre-harvest Forest Investigation (PHFI) surveys. The discussion started with a request from the company for the committee to provide indices of cultural activities that can be included in the company's PHFI survey guidelines. Many examples were provided by the committee. It was suggested the company should be discussing with the local communities these request to better gather community-specific information. Additionally, it was stated starting dialogue with communities will build more trust and community members will share more information as they become more comfortable.

There was concern around the use of the word "heritage" as it appears in the standard. Some committee members indicated Indigenous culture should not be included under the same indicator as heritage. There was much debate amongst the committee around the use of the word heritage and how it relates to Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures. Included in this debate was the question of whether it was appropriate to include both cultures under the same indicator or split the indicators.

Guest speaker

Review of the new standard was put on hold to provide an opportunity for a presentation from guest speaker Jim Berscheid. Jim B. provided an update from The Hudson Bay Route Association regarding the Churchill rail line. The objective of the group is to see the rail be a more significant economic business that would see products going both north and south on the rail line. The presentation included interesting insight into: the history and current potential of grain and other product transportation to the Port of Churchill; the current condition of the rail line; success story from KRC; update on court cases; public knowledge regarding organizations with interest in acquiring the rail line; and, the Churchill Regional Economic Development Fund. The presentation concluded with mention of the group's conference on April 4th, 2018 and their website.

SFM Plan review and required revisions for CSA Standard 2016 version (continued)

Discussion resumed with continued debate on use of the word heritage. In an effort to alleviate some of the concerns, the committee skipped ahead to reviewing new elements under the updated 2016 standard: 7.1 – Aboriginal and treaty rights and 7.2 – Respect for Aboriginal forest values, knowledge, and uses. One CKP indicator (indicator 40 under the new numbering

structure) where these elements appeared was: Documentation of public participation process followed, community meetings, concerns raised and strategies/mitigation developed to address concerns of local Aboriginal and other communities and non-timber resource users within forest management plans for the DFA (FMP, AOP, Road Management Plans).

The inclusion of these new elements and associated core indicators seemed to be sufficient for the committee in regards to documentation and implementation of Indigenous culture.

The following values were revised for the CKP indicator mentioned above:

- Split the following grouped values into two individual values: “Respect Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights.” And “Understand and comply with current legal requirements related to Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights.”
- Created a new value: “Acknowledgement of cultural connection to the land.”

The following objective was revised:

- From “Seek Aboriginal input to FMP and OP plans” to “Working together on meaningful input to FMP and OP plans

That concluded the progress on revising the CKP SFM plan to the new 2016 CSA standard. Paul C. requested the group consider for the next meeting proposed changes to the variance on CKP indicator: Forest cover composition of reforested cutover areas. The variance would be changed to allow an exception to blocks not meeting the standard due to “fire, insect or disease outbreaks” outside of the company’s control.

Completing the revisions will be made a priority on the agenda for the next meeting. The progress made from this meeting will be emailed to the committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22nd, 2018.