

Fraser Public Advisory Group (Fraser PAG)

Meeting #2 Minutes: Biodiversity

September 19, 2006

1. Call to order

Ron Frank, Fraser PAG Facilitator, called the 2nd, meeting to order of the Fraser Public Advisory Group at 5:00 p.m. on **September 19th, 2006** in Pantry Restaurant, Chilliwack, BC.

2. Registration of FRASER PAG participants

The following participants were present:

Sharie Conroy, Durieu, McConnell Creek Ratepayers Association	Garry Davidson, Seabird Island Indian Band	Gurdev Sidhu, Agriculture
Gordon Sherwood, Cacus Point Resident	Al Stobbart, Inch Creek Hatchery	Lloyd Forman, Boston Bar Resident
Jim Baker, Boston Bar Resident	Keith Warrener, Fraser Valley Regional District	John Warren, Boston Bar First Nation
Martin Edwards, Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation	Jean Warkentin, Norrish Creek Resident	Shawn Gabriel, In-SHUCK-ch First Nation
Don Harris, Douglas First Nation / In-SHUCH-ch FN		

Invited Participants Absent:

Chief Andy Alex, Union Bar FN	Dan Gerak, Pitt River Lodge	Earl Graham, United Steel Workers
Chief Sidney Douglas, Cheam Indian Band	Steve Harvey, Hope Machine Shop.	

Others Present:

Marie Zerbe, Observer	Keith Chapman, Teal	Ron Frank, Facilitator
Shirley Wiesenhahn, Observer	Ed McWaters, Teal	John Pichugin, Teal
Chris Harvey, Teal		

3. Documents Distributed to Members:

- Fraser PAG Meeting #2 Agenda
- Preliminary Meeting Minutes (Meeting #1)
- Biological Diversity (Meeting #2),
- Power Point slide notes (Meeting #2)
- Copies of Pages 19 to 21 of Preliminary Meeting Document (for reference)
- Ecosystem Diversity and Productivity (Meeting #3) – “Homework”
- Fraser PAG Meeting #3 Agenda

4. Previous Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from the Preliminary meeting were read by Keith Chapman. Contact information sheet is ongoing as new members are still being added.

Action items from previous meeting: 2 new members (member and alternate) to represent Agriculture, Railways (CN Rail) contacted but will declined participation, Ministry of Forests may participate as observers.

Terms of Reference signoff or feedback via email. Info package for meeting #2 emailed/mailed to members. Future PAG meeting dates: calendar produced but potential conflict with Hallowe'en. Contacted Environmental organizations regarding membership: Greenpeace, Sierra Legal Defense, and Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC). Greenpeace and Sierra Legal Defense declined invitation to participate. SPEC has not responded. Western Canada Wilderness Committee has not been contacted to date.

Comments were requested from group, no comments presented.

Ron Frank asked whether anyone did not receive information package. If not, see Keith C at end. No members indicated they did not receive package.

Ron Frank asked group if amendments are proposed to the minutes. No amendments were presented. Ron asked if group would accept minutes as read. Keith Warren moved to accept minutes. Sharie Conroy 2nd.

John Warren gave corrected spelling of Gene MacInnes from MOF. Group asked by Ron Frank if in favour to approve minutes. Minutes adopted unanimously with the amended spelling of Gene MacInnes.

Action Item: 2A - Meeting Minutes will be emailed/mailed to members within 2 weeks of meeting.

[**Note:** Action Items will be tracked using the meeting number and a letter indicating the order of that item in that meeting, i.e. Action Item 2A is the first Action Item from the 2nd meeting]

Environmental Department October 3, 2006

Self introduction of 4 late members.

Ron Frank asked the group to pre-read the previous meeting minutes for efficiency, then Keith Chapman can focus on action items.

Ron requested that for members that have not signed on to the Terms of Reference that any discussion on the terms take place via email (environment@tealjones.com). The Terms of Reference will be on next meeting's agenda to try and finalize.

Action item: 2B - Finalize Terms of Reference at Meeting #3.

Environmental Department October 10th.

Ron Frank clarified PAG member's role: we are not decision makers; we give input to decision makers. If decision is made to not use PAG input, decision makers will need to provide rationale as to why.

Acknowledge First Nations members have special rights and are not stakeholders thereby they are different in that regard to other members.

John Warren asked if the PAG group would sign off on the SFMP. Ron Frank answered that the group would not sign off formally on the SFMP but through interaction with 3rd party auditors. John Warren commented that, for the Lilloet PAG, he did meet with auditors which asked why certain indicators were chosen etc. The Lilloet PAG signed off, therefore they are on the line to justify and clarify how indicators were developed. Ron Frank responded that the PAG will sign off on indicators and not SFMP. Teal is advised to support new indicator set by Fraser PAG. Ron Frank commented that it is preferred that the group not spend too much time on the process but that these questions are important and help to focus on continual improvement. The experience that the member brings from the Lilloet PAG is helpful.

The conflict between Meeting #4 slated for October 31st (Halloween) was reviewed. A day prior or after was suggested. The group voted and Monday October 30th won majority approval.

Action Item: 2C - Move Meeting #4 to October 30th, amend schedule and provide calendar with meeting dates.

Environmental Department October 10th.

5. Agenda

Keith Chapman presented the Agenda

6. Power Point Presentation: Biodiversity

Keith Chapman Presented the Biodiversity presentation. The following is a summary of some of the topics presented:

- Biodiversity Overview: Biodiversity is the variability of life forms, structure, ages, genes etc. Ecosystem diversity offers diverse environments for various life forms to grow, live and complete life cycles. Species diversity includes the range of species from bacteria to bugs to birds to mammals etc. Genetic diversity is the variation within species. Diversity of all types limits vulnerability to one single thing (i.e. Lodgepole pine is vulnerable to Mountain Pine Beetle while other species are not). Variations allow components of the ecosystem to withstand and recover disease, insect outbreaks etc. Lodgepole pine is adapted to the Mountain Pine Beetle and will come back but will take time.
- Biodiversity Overview: Special Sites: heron nesting sites are an example of a special site.
- The DFA and Biodiversity – Ecosystem Diversity: Old Growth Management Areas – areas managed in perpetuity as old growth; Stand level Representation: Wildlife Tree Patches (WTPs) – a percentage of the harvested area must be reserved as a WTP; General Biodiversity Measures includes block design for Grizzly Bears or managing Coarse Woody debris for certain plants, mammals, bugs, fungi etc for feeding, shelter and moisture retention.
- The DFA and Biodiversity – Landscape Unit (LU) planning. A map of a portion of the Nahatlatch LU (West of Ainslie & Boston Bar) was presented as an example of LU level planning. Landscape Units are typically defined by watershed boundaries. Map depicted examples of Wildlife Habitat Areas for Grizzly, Old Growth Management Areas, Goat (not within the DFA but adjacent) and Deer Winter

Ranges and the Nahatlatch Lake Provincial Park. Examples of these areas are distributed throughout to provide diversity and habitat across the landscape; many are often anchored adjacent to parks.

- Jim Baker asked who established these areas? Keith Chapman answered that it is largely completed by the Ministry of Environment, Integrated Land Management Bureau and Ministry of Forests. The proposals are presented to Licensees for ground truthing and to establish conflicts. John Pichugin added that Deer and Goat Winter Range areas are currently being planned and 10 Winter Ranges (Deer and Goat) are currently planned within the Fraser Timber Supply Area. A 60 day review period is available for Licensees to present a proposal to government. Process of establishing Winter Range is also open to public review.
- Jim Baker commented that areas directly north of Nahatlatch Lake are not winter areas as he knows those areas well and they are areas that typically get lots of snow. John Pichugin said that Teal is looking for and welcomes public input. Science can only go so far to determining ideal areas and local knowledge is very important.
- Keith Chapman commented that planners look at certain general criteria such as South aspect and may not be aware of local conditions that lead to high snow accumulations etc.
- Jim Baker commented on the areas mapped as Wildlife Habitat Areas are high altitude and also get lots of snow. Keith Chapman responded that those attributes may be critical for Grizzly feeding within avalanche tracks and for denning.
- Lloyd Forman commented that the point is that local knowledge is very valuable but how is it incorporated into the planning? Keith Chapman responded that local input is what the Fraser PAG meeting is about. Local people giving input on their back yard.
- Lloyd Forman responded that it is great (local input) but we need to take it a step further – how will it be incorporated?
- John Pichugin responded that interested members can contact Teal representative Ed McWaters (May Trucking) to incorporate local knowledge that makes sense. Winter ranges are anticipated to be finalized in the next month. Invited members to speak with Ed at the break.
- Jim Baker asked how many other species are becoming extinct locally. For example, used to have mountain beaver but very few left.
- Keith Chapman noted that the list presented in the slide show is not a comprehensive list and it is difficult to capture all species but we should concentrate on key species
- Sharie Conroy commented that the problem is that because she doesn't have the science background it is difficult to understand the connections between variability of habitat and wildlife. Suggested that there needs to be an inventory before logging. Sharie aware that Mission TFL had completed such an inventory.
- Keith Chapman responded that Sharie touches on a good point – many agencies would like to have such an inventory but it is prohibitively expensive even for one species, it is too expensive for Teal and is too much even for the Ministry of Forests and Range.
- Ron Frank suggested that the group flag issues that are important to members and track these items in a list (“a parking lot of items”) to be revisited through the meetings for follow up.
- Lloyd Forman commented that the Mission TFL is an area with fixed boundaries which allows for different management
- Keith Chapman commented that because the Teal DFA is mostly Forest License that such an inventory would need to be completed by all forestry companies in the Timber Supply Area.
- Sharie added that such an inventory would be very important.

- Ron Frank responded that not able to give justice to all issues as they come up but will flag most important issues Identify and list species at risk: Traditional Ecological Knowledge, local knowledge

Action Items:

2D - create Fraser PAG Issues Tracking System (FITS) and post current list of outstanding action items at each meeting.

Environmental Department October 10th.

2E – Teal Jones representatives meet regarding Deer Winter Range at break to discuss DWR

Teal Jones / May Trucking staff September 19th.

- Jim Baker that there are different kinds of inventories, for example the “Grizzly Bear Lady” in Boston Bar records Grizzly sightings and has an inventory. Therefore some inventory information is available.
- Jim Baker asked if Teal refers to other Public Advisory Groups?
- Keith Chapman responded that he had not had a chance to review products from other PAG groups but will look into it.

Action Item: 2F - Keith Chapman to look at other PAG groups for overlap

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- Ron Frank suggested that we move on with the Power Point Presentation.
- Keith Chapman continued the presentation at “Species Diversity, page 4 of PP notes): The listed species on this slide are considered to be red listed or endangered or have high values to people (viewing, hunting etc). Coastal Tailed Frog is red listed and sensitive to disturbance, Spotted owl is under pressure from interbreeding and predation with/from Barred Owls and logging is under a lot of scrutiny for its role in its population decline.
- Genetic Diversity: the Ministry of Forests and Range (MOFR) maintains and secures seed in its seed center. MOFR ensures that seed is procured from good parents from the geographic areas the seed is to be planted. MOFR ensures that genetic diversity for forest seedlings is maintained.
- Sites of Special Biological Significance: These sites include areas such as Heron nesting sites etc that are not identified by government agencies that are important to the group.
- Guidelines: Keith Chapman reviewed CCFM SFM Criteria for 1) Biological Diversity, 1.1) Ecosystem Diversity, 1.2) Species Diversity, 1.3) Genetic Diversity, and 1.4) Protected areas and Sites of Special Biological Significance.
 - Ron Frank commented that this point is where “the rubber meets the road”. The CSA process allows the group to identify shortcoming in process and offer input to the CSA to change the standard/element/criteria. There is a minimum requirement to follow the higher level aspects of the standard/organization.
- Shirley Wiesenbahn (Observer) asked for clarification on Wildlife Habitat Areas – these areas are not necessarily commercial timber?
 - Keith Chapman responded that Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA's) are areas targeted towards that species' critical habitat needs. For example Grizzly Bear WHA's may be targeted to areas that

have a large amount of slide tracks that are important for Grizzly Bears for feeding and winter dens

- Shirley Wiesenhahn asked whether Wildlife Tree Patches (WTPs) are commercial timber.
 - Keith Chapman responded that WTPs are targeted towards areas that are representative of the stand being harvested
 - Sharie Conroy asked that if the tree is not valuable or is rare is it protected? Keith answered that potentially these are protected.
 - Ed McWaters (May Trucking) added that, for example, large Douglas Fir Veterans which are much larger and older than the rest of the stand are often reserved.
- Keith Chapman continued the PP presentation with Examples of PAG groups from Vancouver Island. These groups followed a similar process and can offer a starting point or example for the Fraser PAG (i.e. Key values indicated by these groups). Note that the Weyerhaeuser and Canadian Forest Products PAG groups are associated with Western Forest Products' timberlands (WFP bought Weyerhaeuser and CFP) but WFP has not rolled the SFMP into its other CSA structure.
 - Choosing Values and Objectives (local level values and objectives), definition of a "value", values important to the group? – this is a question that we will start answering. Choosing Values and Objectives (definition of Objective). An example of Elk was used to illustrate the Value (Elk) and the objective (stable population)
 - The next three slides were skipped at the request of Ron Frank (Page 7 of handout). The slide show continued at Page 8 of handout: Examples of Values, Objectives, Indicators & Targets.

7. Group Discussion Regarding Values and Objectives

Ron Frank turned to the group for discussion: What is important to you and your constituents? For example, one extreme example would be monocultures of a minimum of diversity. The following is a summary of the discussion that followed:

- Jim Baker suggested "Water" as a value. Ron Frank responded that there would be a whole section on water at a later meeting.
- Sharie Conroy offered "Birds" and "Native Species" – wants to ensure that native species are protected
- Sharie Conroy offered "Natural Ecosystems" – to be kept healthy and stable
- Jean Warkentin offered "Safety" [human safety with respect to landslides and flooding], rugged wilderness, old growth trees – wants to maintain what we have while balancing logging and the economy
 - Ron Frank responded that soil and safety and water quality will come up in future meetings
- Ron asked group for any special sites that may be out there, interest in having different age classes represented (seral stages).
- Lloyd Forman requested that foresters avoid using acronyms and technical jargon in order for the group to understand
- Lloyd Forman suggested "natural ecosystems" balanced with economy as a value
- Ron Frank introduced the concepts of the "3 legged stool" representing balance between ecology, society and economy and the "2 legged ladder" representing a balance of only ecology and economy with society and quality of life being integrally related to both.
- Sharie Conroy pointed out that past logging has led to costs of \$10 million in damage in her valley that was borne by taxpayers

- Don Harris commented that First Nations are increasingly reviewing Traditional Ecosystem Knowledge or animals and plants with First Nations values and asks that consultation with their community regarding use.
- Ron Frank asked if Don Harris was speaking to access to traditional plants? Don responded that we should be aware and educated on uses.
- Keith Warrener commented that it is worth recognizing that urbanization and agriculture are by far the greater threat to biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Keith Warrener asked who identifies these ecosystems in the beginning? He is aware that a logging company on Sumas Mountain has a walkthrough with First Nations in proposed harvesting areas to screen them for cultural issues – this is very comforting to the community.
- John Pichugin said that during transition to FRPA (new legislative regime) Teal will work with First Nations to identify areas and values. If values are identified, Teal will invite the First Nation's representative to go on site to have a closer look. Teal is developing information sharing protocol agreements with First Nations with similar intent. Teal respects archaeological areas – management of areas may mean more research, forest buffers etc.
- Jean Warkentin commented that during a past Forest Development Plan referral people from her community in Norrish Creek were quite hostile towards Teal and its plans in their area. Teal listened to their concerns that they felt were critically important to the Norrish Creek residents and as a result dropped one of their proposed blocks.
- Sharie Conroy commented that she hopes that they can do the same in other communities.
- Ron Frank said that a summary of values will be presented at the next meeting. The list will ensure that nothing falls off or missed.
- Ron Frank asked if everyone who wanted to put forward values has done so.
- Marie Zerbe (Observer) began to offer a comment. Ron Frank interrupted her to remind her that she is an observer and as such is not able to offer comments to the group.
- Sharie Conroy offered “healthy populations of all species” as a value
- Jean Warkentin offered “eagles” as a value.
- Sean Gabriel asked what measures do you have? What do auditors do?
- Ron Frank responded that auditors will understand the indicators, and ask Fraser PAG how they were chosen.
- Sean Gabriel asked if there will be an ongoing commitment to these values etc.
- Ron Frank answered yes, as long as Teal maintains certification. There is a CSA requirement for Teal to produce an annual report that details how Teal performed relative to the indicators and targets in the SFM plan
- Sharie Conroy asked whether, if they noticed a decline in a species, could they ask for extra care?
- Ron Frank responded that this would be a case where the Value is Species at Risk and Habitat for Species at Risk
- Ron Frank summarized the values put forward:
 - Concern about logging
 - Habitat
 - Care of habitat

- Don Harris mentioned that more First Nations are recruiting the services of hydrologists and other professionals and have a lot of information. Don asked if a hydrologist /geotech university type people are available to Teal-Jones or the PAG with related knowledge.
- Ron answered that Chris Harvey mentioned that we could potentially bring in these types of experts as guest speakers in future meetings and we will explore our options as the need arises
- Ron Frank asked if FN information on the traditional aspects of these fields would be available to be shared.
- Don Harris said that they would be interested.
- Keith Warrener commented that much First Nation information (i.e., archaeological sites) is confidential and not public.
- Keith Warrener asked about invasive plants, he chairs a council on invasive plant species. Asked if limiting non-native species would be an aspect of protecting biodiversity. He deals with invasive species in an agricultural context but is not aware of how invasive species affect forestry
- Ron Frank responded that forest licensee's have to implement practices to limit invasive species
- Ed McWaters commented that Teal's Forest Stewardship Plan has a section that deals with managing invasive species. There are also provincial inventories of invasive plants.
- Sharie Conroy asked if one of the ways to manage invasive plants could be the type of logging method used?
- Ed McWaters said generally they are dealt with in other ways but most of the invasive plants do not live under the canopy of a mature forest.
- Ron Frank asked the group for values regarding genetic diversity. He commented that cottonwood plantations are monocultures and also, as clones from cuttings, do not have much or any genetic diversity
- Sharie Conroy commented that a healthy forest has genetic diversity, so of course it's important to maintain
- Ron Frank commented that Douglas Fir, for example, is one species but there is much diversity from one tree to the next —this is what is meant by genetic diversity.
- John Warren commented that the forest industry often views hardwoods as pests and focus on conifers in cutblocks for the next stand.
- Al Stobbart stated representative species and genetic diversity and natural regeneration [Transcriber's note: unclear]
- Ron Frank commented that the treatment of hardwoods is changing in the industry but they are in transition
- John Pichugin suggested that a summary of what commitments go with harvesting can be offered to the group to help members understand legal obligations involved in harvesting and regenerating forests.

Action Items:

2G – Clarify Al Stobbart's statement regarding representative species, genetic diversity, and natural regeneration

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2H - "FITS" item: Summarize and present commitments that go with harvesting to group.

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- Lloyd Forman commented that farming and real estate cause the greatest damage to the environment.
- Ron Frank asked the group for input regarding values and objectives for special sites. He summarized group comments that he thought he was hearing the group indicate that it was important to them for Teal to commit to management if the group identifies sites and put forward (Jean Warkentin alluded)
- Shawn Gabriel put forward salmon as a value
- Ron Frank asked for any examples of special sites such as mineral licks, unusual examples of trees, karst [limestone formations created by water]
- Al Stobbart suggested Boisey Bull Trout may be a local and rare species. He would do a bit of research and get back to the group if it was still important in the area
- Don Harris commented that more and more archaeological sites are identified but are not necessarily registered [with provincial Archaeological Branch]
- Ron Frank said that the next meeting will address what the group wants to measure.
- Ron Frank closed the meeting and thanked all for coming. Teal will respond to the requests for information.
- Sharie Conroy requested a map of the area on the east side of Hatzic.
- John Pichugin responded that Teal will be giving up that area so there is the potential that another licensee will be operating there in the future.

Action Item: 2I - Bring map of Teal's Chart Areas to display at meeting.**Environmental Department October 10th.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The Next FRASER PAG Meeting will be held October 10, 2006 at the Pantry Restaurant, Chilliwack