

## Fraser Public Advisory Group (Fraser PAG)

### *Meeting #3 Minutes: Ecosystem Condition & Productivity*

October 10, 2006

#### 1. Call to order

Ron Frank, Fraser PAG Facilitator, called the 3rd, meeting to order of the Fraser Public Advisory Group at 5:05 p.m. on **October 10, 2006** in the Pantry Restaurant, Chilliwack, BC.

#### 2. Registration of FRASER PAG Members

The following members were present:

Al Stobbart, Inch Creek Hatchery	Jim Baker, Boston Bar Resident	Sharie Conroy, Durieu, McConnell Creek Ratepayers Association
Clem Seymour, Seabird Island Indian Band	Keith Warrener, Fraser Valley Regional District	Shawn Gabriel, In-SHUCK-ch First Nation
Jean Warkentin, Norrish Creek Resident	Kerry Grozier, District Manager, Ministry of Forests and Range	

**Invited Participants Absent:**

Chief Andy Alex, Union Bar FN	Garry Davidson, Seabird Island Indian Band	Ken Webb, Agriculture
Chief Sidney Douglas, Cheam Indian Band	Gordon Sherwood, Cacus Point Resident	Martin Edwards, Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation
Dan Gerak, Pitt River Lodge	Gurdev Sidhu, Agriculture	Steve Harvey, Hope Machine Shop.
Don Harris, Douglas First Nation / In-SHUCH-ch FN	John Warren, Boston Bar First Nation	Lloyd Forman, Boston Bar Resident
Earl Graham, United Steel Workers		

**Others Present:**

Doreen Lanoville, Observer	Keith Chapman, Teal	Ron Frank, Facilitator
John Pichugin, Teal	Kevin Boness, Teal	

#### 3. Documents Distributed to Members:

1. Fraser PAG Meeting #3 Agenda (revised Oct 10, 2006)
2. Meeting Minutes (Meeting #2)
3. Fraser Public Advisory Group Membership – Contact List
4. Fraser PAG Meeting Calendar

5. Soil and Water document (Meeting #4) – “Homework”
6. Power Point slide notes (Meeting #3)
7. Fraser PAG Information Tracking System – List of Outstanding Tasks
8. Fraser PAG Terms of Reference
9. 3-Ring Binder for Fraser PAG documents

#### **4. Health and Safety**

Ron Frank reviewed health and safety items.

#### **5. Present Draft Agenda for Meeting #3 / Adapt / Ratify**

Ron Frank asked the group to look at the Agenda for Meeting #3. Review it against what issues you would like to see or that of your sector. Ron Frank asked for any changes. No changes were forwarded. Ron Frank asked for the Agenda to be accepted. Al Stobbart 1st, Keith Warrener 2nd. Agenda unanimously adopted as presented.

#### **6. Introductions of New Faces at the Table**

Ron Frank asked for self introductions from new faces:

- Kerry Grozier, District Manager for Chilliwack Forest District, participated with the Lillooet PAG. Ministry (representatives) would like to sit as members of the Fraser PAG.
- Clem Seymour, Seabird Island Indian Band. Clem commented that there are some differences out there that this group has to make. There have been a lot of changes to the land since European contact.
- Doreen Lanoville, Observer, member of Hatzic Valley, Durieu, McConnell Creek, Ratepayers Association.

#### **7. Action Items from Previous Meeting Minutes**

Ron Frank requested that all cell phones be turned off. Action Items from Meeting #2 (September 19, 2006) were reviewed by Keith Chapman. All Action Items and other items important to the group are listed on the Fraser PAG Information Tracking System (FITS). FITS list of items will be updated and distributed at each meeting. Keith Chapman requested that members please provide input to improve FITS.

Ron Frank requested that the November 21st meeting be moved, suggested Nov 14th. Ron Frank asked the group to show hands in favor. All accepted the change. (vote – majority accepted the change. No one opposed.)

Discussed Action Item **2E** concerning public input to designing Deer Winter Ranges (DWR). It was not clear if the interested members met with Teal staff to discuss DWR's. John Pichugin commented that the DWR are still being worked on. John suggested that Ed McWaters (Divisional Engineer, May Trucking) will contact the interested member (Jim Baker) when the issue is revisited during future DWR planning.

Jim Baker asked that Action Item **2F** include a list of species in the DFA that are considered at risk. Keith Chapman will search out information and get it out to members. A general discussion on various wildlife inventories followed. Sharie Conroy suggested contacting BC Naturalist groups etc.

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Ron Frank suggested that info will be gathered now and added over time. Kerry Grozier commented that the Ministry of Environment has a mandate to inventory wildlife and the Ministry of Forests and Range can access that info. BC Conservation Data Center (CDC) maintains information on species at risk. Sharie Conroy commented that the Federal Government just put up \$9.2 M for communities to work on species at risk.

**ACTION ITEM:** Keith Chapman to search out information regarding Species at Risk in the DFA.

Sharie Conroy requested a correction to the Meeting #2 Minutes:

- Pg 2 – Western Canada Wilderness Committee had NOT been contacted, Society Promoting Environmental Conservation has not responded.
- Pg 6 – bullet at top of page says “Shirley Conroy”, **should read “Sharie Conroy”**

Action Item 2G – Clarify member Al Stobbart’s comments: **Al Stobbart clarified his statement: He had pointed out that when looking at any location at a single point in time (e.g. after a fire) that the levels of biodiversity can change dramatically. One surviving fir tree can re-establish the whole forest. To evaluate biological diversity one needs to look at the long term.**

Action Item 2I: Display maps of Teal Jones’ chart areas at meeting. Maps were displayed at the meeting. John Pichugin commented that when looking at these maps, to be cautious. The areas shown as Deer Winter Range are not final and are areas presented by the Ministry of Environment. Teal has to manage for deer and goat. But this kind of habitat is very site specific. They will probably end up with a bigger area for deer and goat winter range that will allow some harvesting.

Ron Frank asked group if there were any other changes to the minutes. Ron Frank reminded members that once minutes are adopted by the PAG, they become public record, so it is important for members to ensure comments attributed to them or their stakeholder group or First Nation, reflect the intent of what was said. No more changes were offered by the group. Ron Frank asked the group to accept the minutes with the changes. Keith Warrener moved to accept the minutes, Sharie Conroy seconded the motion. Minutes were adopted unanimously, with noted changes.

**Action Item: 3A: Update Fraser PAG meeting Calendar with date changes and distribute at next meeting.**

**Environment Department, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**Action Item 2E: Update this action item: That Teal Jones/May Trucking Staff contact Jim Baker and other interested members regarding their input to selection of Deer Winter Range.**

**Teal Jones/May Trucking, Date: TBA**

**Action Item 2F: Update this action item to include a list of species at risk in the DFA as listed on the BC Conservation Data Center.**

**Environment Department, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**Action Item 1F: contact Environment groups for potential Membership in Fraser PAG**

**Environment Department, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**Action Item 3B: Contact naturalist groups for any inventory information that they can share.****Environment Department, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006****8. Terms of Reference Review**

Ron Frank said that the Terms of Reference (TOR) need some wording included regarding Observers and Guests and the role and level of participation that they can have at the table.

Sharie Conroy commented that she felt it would be good for Observers to be able to speak in order to get as much input as possible. She had asked to bring observers to each meeting. She represents over 1800 people and finds the responsibility to be enormous. Was uncomfortable with how the First Nations person (Marie Zerbe, Observer) was not allowed to speak at the last meeting. Sharie Conroy felt that as long as people are talking and discussing it would be okay but when it comes to decision making then observers may not speak.

Jean Warkentin commented that she understands Sharie Conroy's points but she liked how the Observer status was handled at the last meeting (i.e. the Observer was not allowed to address the table). Members have invested a lot into the meetings and there is a limited amount of time.

Al Stobbart commented that he had been to many meetings and his experience has been that there needs to be some control over the input to the table in order to complete the agenda items. They don't have a lot of time.

Clem Seymour commented that he had been to a lot of meetings with various companies and government ministries. He questioned if the observers bring all the necessary background to the table (i.e. from past meetings) and asked if they understand the process. He stated that he does not have time to sit and listen to too much of that. Clem added that the group is setting up a process that the group needs to look after; this group has a lot of work to do and needs to stay focused.

Jim Baker commented that his experience on the Lillooet PAG, they met in different places. For two years people came and 90% did not say anything. He added that the meetings are important for informing the public and if there is a lot of interest that was a good thing. Observers help distribute information which helps PAG members with this task. Having the Observers at the table was well worth it.

Ron Frank offered that if an Observer wants to speak there needs to be some control. He will draft some rules for Observers to incorporate into the TOR.

Keith Warrener asked if they were talking about if Observers want to come OR if they want to come and speak. He added that Observers would be crucial for buy in.

Ron Frank clarified that the issue was to address how or if Observers could address the table.

Ron Frank asked about interest in rotating the PAG meeting locations. Keith Chapman commented that he had been receiving feedback from an issue first raised at the first meeting regarding having the meeting locations rotate around communities associated with the DFA. This issue may not have been definitively resolved. He asked that the group discuss and resolve the issue openly. Ron Frank asked the group to indicate whether they were happy with the Chilliwack location. The group indicated by show of hands that they all would like to leave the location as is in Chilliwack.

Sharie Conroy suggested that maybe once a year the group meet in communities that need it.

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Jim Baker suggested that the PAG could provide a little paper (newsletter) for members to take back to their communities and groups to help inform them of what is happening. Suggested it would be good for his community to post something at the post office.

Ron Frank commented that there had been a query (email) regarding how the table votes and how a vote is requested. Ron Frank clarified that a vote is requested from the Chair i.e. "I would like a vote on that". Voting would pertain to recommendations and proceedings. The voting procedure could be written into the Terms of Reference more definitively. Ron Frank said that they will make changes to the Terms of Reference.

Ron Frank stated that the next meeting would spend a maximum of ½ hour on procedural items so the group can get to the important part: speaking. Ron Frank called for a 5 minute break.

**Action Item 3C: Ron Frank to draft Observer / Guest status for Terms of Reference, clarify wording on voting procedure.**

**Ron Frank, October 30, 2006**

## **9. 5 minute break**

## **10. Power Point Presentation: Ecosystem Condition & Productivity**

Keith Chapman Presented the Ecosystem Condition and Productivity slide presentation.

Topics presented included:

1. Overview of Ecosystem Condition and Productivity – definitions and examples for Ecosystem Resilience and for Ecosystem Productivity.
2. Forest Regeneration – post harvest silviculture to establish a Free Growing stand (Basic Silv)
3. Incremental Silviculture – examples and general goals
4. Forest Health – examples of general forest health concerns in the DFA
5. Access Structures, Silviculture Systems, and Seral Stage Representation – how these attributes affect Ecosystem condition and productivity
6. CSA Guidelines – CCFM SFM Criteria 2.0 Ecosystem Condition and Productivity
7. CSA SFM Elements 2.1 and 2.2 – Forest Ecosystem Resilience and Ecosystem Productivity

Sharie Conroy noted that they had Hemlock Looper outbreaks in their community and asked for information on that forest pest.

Keith Chapman responded that the Hemlock Looper is a small caterpillar that eats the needles of Hemlock trees and hence reduces the tree's ability to photosynthesize [produce food]. There have been Hemlock Looper outbreaks in the past and in the 50's they were often aerially sprayed.

Ron Frank added that the Canadian Forestry Service works with the MOFR and forest licensees to do annual insect and disease surveys to monitor for problem outbreaks.

Sharie Conroy commented that there was a lot of hand logging in the 1940's that was not followed by planting. The lack of forest cover resulted in a lot of landslides and trees blowing over on rocky areas. An earthquake caused a lot of slides in the 1870's which left more areas as bedrock.

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## **11. Identification of Local Values and Objectives for Ecosystem Condition & Productivity**

Ron Frank opened the discussion up to the table and asked for examples of values that the members would like to bring forward.

Sharie Conroy commented that, in her area, there are rock outcrops in steep areas and then plateaus where there is good soil. Harvesting should not just take the 'good' and the healthy out but **maintain the profile**.

Jim Baker stated that **maintenance of soil productivity** is important.

Ron Frank said that the table should not agonize over the definitions of what is "productivity" and what is "resilience" – let's just put our values on the table.

Jim Baker commented that it is important to talk about things in the field with Industry and MOFR. **There needs to be policing to make it work** [plans/prescriptions/commitments carried out].

Sharie Conroy commented that inventories were described as being expensive for Teal to do and the same thing with the Juvenile Spacing. Concerned about the licensing (i.e. Forest License chart system) limiting good stewardship by companies.

Keith Chapman responded that investing in the land base is a good thing. The Forest Investment Account [replaced Forest Renewal BC] gives licensees back a portion of their stumpage to invest in the land base. These limited funds are targeted towards a best use of them. For example, it may not make sense to Juvenile space a steep inaccessible area far from mill sites.

Ron Frank asked the group to 'put on our thinking caps' and bring forward values.

Clem Seymour addressed the table:

*Ecosystems were taken care of long before Europeans came to our land. What is happening here? We started out with a prayer. Our elders always left the table with something for the young. The prayer, "The Creator is not going to make any more land." You must look after the land. We must understand the impacts of what we are doing. Millions of people came to this land because it is so beautiful. This is your table, but the benefits of this table will be for your children and grand children.*

*We need to look after the water. You can blame it on cars and everything. Cycles are being interrupted and it is affecting winter and forests and water. To me there is a balance we have to look after. Water: we have to look after it. Pesticides and herbicides affect the balance. There used to be a balance that looked after these things.*

*Once I walked in a forest with a guy who walked there for 45 years but he didn't see what I saw. He didn't see the balance. The wallet that industry is filling up won't look after the values out there. The strength of the mountains is the strength of our people. Water is the basis of everything. We have been consuming more water than ever. You and I are not going to make any money out of it. We want something out of it. It is the balance which is upset and you need to sit down and work with us all.*

Shawn Gabriel put forward "**old growth characteristics**" as a value and is not sure how this is being managed.

JP responded with a description of the Old Growth Management Area approach to ensuring that old growth values are protected on the land.

Shawn Gabriel added that the quality of the fiber is different in old growth than second growth. It is important to manage for **wood quality**.

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John Pichugin responded that planning has allowed for the protection of old growth. Licensees must ensure the regeneration of harvested areas. Planning helps to ensure that species diversity is preserved. This all must be done in a sustainable manner.

Ron Frank asked the group if **regeneration of harvested areas** is a value that the table would support. Many agreed, no one objected.

Sharie Conroy commented that, on steep slopes, planting should be done sooner to hold the soil [prompt **reforestation on steep slopes**].

Ron Frank asked the group if **preventing industrially caused fires** was something that they would support. All members agreed.

Keith Warrener commented that at the Fraser Valley Regional District he hears complaints from woodlot owners regarding ATV's (All Terrain Vehicles) destroying newly reforested areas. Site Security is an issue. Ruts and tracks and other damage needs to be limited by controlling access or other methods of **site security to allow regenerating forests to grow**.

Ron Frank stated that this discussion on values will be continued via email.

Al Stobbart requested that Keith Chapman resend Meeting #3 documents (Elements 2.1 and 2.2) via email. The electronic version helps Al share information with his alternate. Many members at the table indicated that they did not receive an email with the Meeting #3 documents.

Keith Chapman responded that he will send the Meeting #3 documents to all the members to ensure that everyone gets complete packages.

Ron Frank added that Keith Chapman will scan and send out a letter that the Teal Jones' Environment Department received from the Fraser Valley Regional District regarding its input to the Fraser PAG.

**Action Item 3D: Email or Mail members Meeting #3 documents.**

**Environment Department, October 17, 2006**

**Action Item 3E: Scan and send copies of Fraser Valley Regional District letter RE: Fraser Public Advisory Group.**

**Environment Department, October 17, 2006**

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

**The Next FRASER PAG Meeting will be held October 30, 2006 at the Pantry Restaurant, Chilliwack**