

Fraser Public Advisory Group (Fraser PAG)

Meeting #5 Minutes: Global Ecological Cycles

November 14, 2006

1. Call to order

Ron Frank, Fraser PAG Facilitator, called the 5th, meeting to order of the Fraser Public Advisory Group at 4:40 p.m. on **November 14, 2006** at the Pantry Restaurant, Chilliwack, BC.

2. Registration of FRASER PAG Members

The following members were present:

John Warren, Boston Bar First Nation	Kerry Grozier, District Manager, Ministry of Forests and Range	Lloyd Forman, Boston Bar Resident
Keith Warrener, Fraser Valley Regional District	Garry Davidson, Seabird Island Indian Band	Sharie Conroy, Hatzic Valley, Durieu, McConnell Creek Ratepayers Association

Members Absent:

Al Stobbart, Inch Creek Hatchery	Earl Graham, United Steel Workers	Ken Webb, Agriculture
Chief Andy Alex, Union Bar FN	Gordon Sherwood, Cacus Point Resident	Martin Edwards, Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation
Chief Sidney Douglas, Cheam Indian Band	Gurdev Sidhu, Agriculture	Shawn Gabriel, In-SHUCK-ch First Nation
Dan Gerak, Pitt River Lodge	Jean Warkentin, Norrish Creek Resident	Steve Harvey, Hope Machine Shop.
Don Harris, Douglas First Nation / In-SHUCK-ch FN	Jim Baker, Boston Bar Resident	

Others Present:

Ed McWaters, May Trucking	John Pichugin, Teal	Ron Frank, Facilitator
Heather Morlacci, Observer	Keith Chapman, Teal	

3. Documents Distributed to Members:

1. Fraser PAG Meeting #5 Agenda
2. Fraser PAG Meeting #3 Minutes
3. Fraser PAG Meeting #4 Minutes
4. Fraser PAG Information Tracking System – List of Outstanding Tasks
5. Fraser PAG Information Tracking System – List of Completed Tasks
6. Copy of Email (letter) to members: review of Soil and Water VOITs
7. Excerpt from Preliminary Meeting document: CSA SFM Standard overview
8. Draft VOITs for Soil and Water for discussion
9. Presentation slide notes: Global Ecological Cycles
10. Homework document for Meeting #6: Multiple Benefits to Society
11. CSA Standard: Z809-02 *Sustainable Forest Management: Requirements and Guidance*

4. Health and Safety

Ron Frank reviewed health and safety items and asked members for any health and safety issues.

5. Introductions of new faces at the table

Ron Frank asked Kerry Grozier to re-introduce himself to members that may not have met him at earlier meetings.

Keith Warrener also re-introduced himself. He wears two hats: representing the Fraser Valley Regional District and also representing Labour as he works for Teal. He commented that he will strive to represent both adequately and try to be clear in regards to which perspective he is speaking from. He added that he has worked for Teal for 30 years and that he feels that Teal is a good company and a good forest steward.

6. Review Agenda for Meeting #5 / Adapt / Ratify

Ron Frank asked the group to look at the Agenda for Meeting #5. No additional agenda items were presented prior to the meeting. Agenda items must be presented prior to the meeting. Sharie Conroy asked why the meeting topic “Global Ecological Cycles” was going to be addressed before reviewing the Soil and Water items from last meeting. Ron Frank answered that this ensures that the topic is covered. The documents with the draft Soil and Water items will help to keep us organized. Lloyd Foreman commented that he was happy with the tables and how it is organized and that he found the format useful. Ron Frank added that the full indicator set will be signed off by the PAG and this table will be improved over time. Ron Frank asked for the Agenda to be accepted. Lloyd Forman 1st, Keith Warrener 2nd. Agenda unanimously adopted as presented.

7. Review Action Items

Keith Chapman reviewed the Outstanding Tasks in the Fraser Info Tracking System. The membership contact list is unchanged at the moment.

The pursuit of membership to fill the Environment Sector has been ongoing but is taking up some considerable time. The groups contacted to date have all declined and largely offered the same rationale for why: they only support FSC. Keith Chapman asked the group to consider the amount of time consumed in this pursuit and asked for direction from the table on how to proceed. Lloyd Forman responded that he prefer that we go with the people around the table for Environmental representation. We have good community representation of environment issues. If we need experts, we can bring them in. "I don't like re-inventing the wheel. We can pick the brains of experts. Let's not spend too much time pursuing Environment representation." Lloyd Forman added that it was his experience that these groups are more about politics than constructive dialogue. Keith Chapman commented that in his dialogue with prospective groups he asks for their participation and, if (when) they decline, for suggestions of other potential groups or persons to contact. During these telephone conversations, Keith Chapman also asks for what issues (values) they would want to be addressed. For example Joe Foy of Western Canada Wilderness Committee and Greenpeace said that Species at Risk were important. Keith Chapman noted that this Value was also raised by members at the earlier meetings. Ron Frank asked the table for a vote on whether the pursuit of Environmental representation could be paused. Groups would not be denied participation. The motion was moved by Lloyd Forman and seconded by Garry Davidson. The group voted and ratified this motion.

Action item: 1F Amend this action item to set aside the pursuit of securing a representative of the Environment sector temporarily to address other Action Items. Submit to the Fraser PAG table documentation of the engagement attempts to date.

Environment Dept, December 12, 2006

Keith Warrener commented that the FVRD had just received an in depth document on watersheds and was surprised by the how much this may affect how watersheds are dealt with in the future. Kerry Grozier commented this document was one that was requested from his office to help consolidate the issues regarding watersheds for applying a higher level of due diligence that is being applied in the Fraser Valley. It is a document that has not been publicized yet. It was initiated in response to the new subdivisions and other development in the valley. It will provide him a level of comfort with some of the decisions he has to make. He added that he doesn't think it will add too much of a burden to licensees. This document isn't finished. Ron Frank asked Kerry Grozier and Keith Warrener if they could provide a copy of the document to the table. Kerry Grozier responded that he could provide a copy when it was available for public distribution

Action item: 5A Follow-up with Kerry Grozier for a copy of the watershed report when it becomes available.

Environment Dept. Due Date: Ongoing

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Sharie Conroy commented that she wanted to know what is going to happen to protect the water Value and is concerned that there is not anything specific enough to satisfy her concerns.

Keith Chapman responded that there will be a review of the Soil and Water tables distributed and we can iron out concerns. The purpose of identifying Values and Objectives is to set Targets and Indicators so there is assurance that the Values are protected. There will also be a hydrologist at the next or following meeting and we can review these again.

John Warren commented that his concern with adequate representation was that the number of First Nations representatives participating looks to be declining. First there were 6 and now there are only 2. He is concerned that the First Nations' voice is not being heard. They have Aboriginal Rights and Title and as such must be accommodated. Keith Warren commented that he feels that FN's are represented here and that there have been representatives at all of the meetings. Ron Frank commented that he hopes that John Warren will take this info back and share it with the Boston Bar FN. It is important to notice changes and trends at this table and attempt to deal with them as they arise.

Action item: 5B Ron Frank and Keith Chapman to work more diligently on First Nations participation

Environment Dept. Date: Ongoing

Keith Chapman continued reviewing the Outstanding Tasks. The review of useful items from other PAGs is ongoing. There is a lot of material but much is relevant only to those Defined Forest Areas. Examples of the Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets from other PAGs appear to be the most useful and are incorporated into the back of the background ("homework") document for members to consider. The comparison of other certification systems will be coming out shortly.

Keith Chapman asked John Pichugin to address the Travel Allowance action item. John Pichugin announced that Teal determined that 45 cents per kilometer is a fair rate. He asked Ron Frank to describe how other PAGs determine how distances are calculated. Ron Frank said that Kms would be calculated by the distance from their community to the meeting location. He asked that members who are already being reimbursed not to "double – dip". Members can approach Keith Chapman at the break to provide their distances. Payment will be provided at the next meeting.

Action Item: 5C Member Travel distances and attendance to be tallied and provided to Teal Jones for processing. Payment to be provided at next meeting

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8. Review Previous Meeting Minutes

Ron Frank asked members to present any corrections to the Meeting Minutes for Meeting #4 on October 30th. Sharie Conroy requested that her statement regarding the statement on Page 6 regarding the "connection between soil, water and trees" be clarified in the record: The residents all have water licenses. The benches with skunk cabbage above the community are very

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productive and could be areas for old growth retention and to protect these spring recharge areas.

Keith Warrener commented that he did not make the comment to Sharie about forest canopy removal and helicopter logging. He also clarified the statement about protecting other values in the Riparian Reserve Zone. He was referring to the potential for log jams etc that can lead to **devastating downstream impacts to the communities** when they are suddenly broken loose. It would be very useful for these areas to be identified, reported and incorporated into forest management to deal with the problem.

Action Item: 5D Re-draft line 13 page 7 of the Draft Soil and Water VOITs table to accurately reflect the issues Keith Warrener raised.

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Ron Frank asked for any more corrections to the meeting minutes. No more corrections were put forward. Motion to adopt the minutes as amended was carried by John Warren and 2nd by Keith Warrener. The minutes were adopted.

9. Presentation: Global Ecological Cycles.

Keith Chapman conducted the PowerPoint slide presentation. The presentation topics included: an overview of the Carbon Cycle, the importance and role of forests to the Carbon Cycle, Global Ecological cycles and the DFA – management activities that influence the CO₂ cycle, CSA criteria and elements, potential values for consideration related to Carbon Uptake and Storage element and Forest Land Conversion element.

Keith Chapman commented that some gases are more problematic with respect to climate change due to global warming such as methane which has stronger greenhouse qualities than CO₂. The overall concentration of CO₂ is increasing: 70 ppm in 46 years.

After the presentation, Sharie Conroy asked if there is value in Old Growth (OG) as carbon storage. Keith Chapman responded that OG does not grow much and as such does not take in much CO₂ and are also decaying - resulting in a net release of CO₂. Keith Chapman described how durable forest products put into buildings etc store CO₂. Meanwhile the regenerating forest where those products came from are taking in and storing more CO₂. Keith Chapman referred to Dr Hamish Kimmins, forest ecologist at UBC, who had commented that a vigorous second growth Douglas Fir stand clears out the equivalent of all the CO₂ in the atmosphere above the stand. Keith Chapman added that there is a lot of conflicting science and unanswered questions regarding the role of forests in the Carbon Cycle and that one study noted that the amount of methane produced by some forests may counter the benefits of CO₂ uptake.

John Pichugin added that the Chilliwack Forest District has 21% of its land area in parks which is well above the 13% provincial target. The vast majority of this park area is old growth or mature second growth (previous fires and some historic logging). Kerry Grozier agreed with this and added that the parks are virtually all OG except for the fire areas and areas of rock and ice. Ed McWaters added that the GVRD also manages a significant area of forest (Seymour and Capilano watersheds) and has a no harvest policy.

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John Warren commented that the amount of **road area occupying productive landbase**, such as in the Anderson River Valley, offsets the potential productive capacity of regenerating forests (**loss of productive soils to roads**). Road networks allow rainfall to drain off more rapidly resulting in flooding, erosion and other impacts. Kerry Grozier responded that roads redirect and focus water in certain areas. Forestry activities in the Forest District landbase amount to about 4% +/- in long term roads. Roads are an asset and no one wants to build more roads than they have to as they are expensive. They are also costly to rehabilitate. Roads are assets in that they allow access for fire protection, silviculture, recreation etc.

Keith Warren commented that he was “stumped about the use of fossil fuels”. Are we talking about going to hybrid vehicles? Keith Chapman responded that this is about the amount of fossil fuels used in forestry which is influenced by factors such as efficiency of operations, the method of logging (fuel hungry helicopters vs. ground systems), and use of alternative fuels such as bio-diesel. Keith Chapman added that while helicopter logging is beneficial in that it leaves more biomass on the harvest area the net CO2 benefit is offset by the intense fuel demand of the helicopters.

Ron Frank asked John Pichugin if Teal’s CMS certification involved any fuel tracking. John Pichugin responded that it doesn’t other than tracking spills. Keith Chapman added that the business structure of Teal’s operations where a lot of contractors are used it would be difficult to track fossil fuel consumption in the DFA.

Lloyd Forman commented that he felt that this issue is a global issue and that they were there to talk about local issues. He felt that they should concentrate on local issues.

John Warren commented that the burning waste piles that may contain fiber that may be valuable to local communities such as Boston Bar is an area where CO2 may be reduced and benefits to the community may be available. There are ways to **efficiently use the timber which Teal cannot use in its mills**. John Warren added that Jim Baker has also raised this issue a number of times.

Ron Frank responded to John W. that this raises two issues: 1 – carbon cycle issues and 2. multiple benefits to society.

Action Item: 5E Track the topics and values (utilization, forest investment etc) related to Multiple Benefits to Society to be reviewed at that meeting.

Environment Dept. December 12, 2006 (Multiple Benefits to Society meeting)

Kerry Grozier commented that burning has decreased over the last 20 years. Now, the objective of burning is to reduce the hazard posed by fuel concentrations. Government is looking closer at un-used wood for local communities and also for co-generation (wood fuel for electrical energy etc).

John Pichugin commented that they have a few options for handling wood waste in the forest: burn piles, scatter slash in the harvest area, bury it, or simply leave it. Ed McWaters added that sometimes to manage the hazard they distribute the debris on old roads. Also, old roads are typically colonized by deciduous trees which take up CO2.

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Lloyd Forman commented that what is not burned under management will eventually burn naturally. Therefore there may not be much potential to avoid creating the CO₂.

Kerry Grozier commented that, before we were here, fire was a part of the natural ecosystem and it created ecosystems. Man has all but eliminated fire from the forest and, as a result, fuel loads have built up in the forest leading to greater potential for fires. Fire has a place in the ecosystem. Landing burns pale in comparison to the amount of CO₂ created by wildfire. Also, we are talking about burning diesel in the forest when there is a line of cars outside all the way to Vancouver. Therefore burning piles is not the issue.

Keith Warrener commented that, when it comes to re-planting harvested areas, he would like to see planting carried out ASAP. Lloyd Foreman responded that he thought that there was too much planting and that they should plant less and spend more on other aspects of forest management. He commented that often the planted trees are overtaken by natural infill and that effort and money spent on planting is wasted. Kerry Grozier commented that regeneration techniques have become much more sophisticated over the last 20 years and we are now better able to target the right crop trees to the best growing sites. Keith Warrener responded that Lloyd's comment is important and that Keith's comment could be more accurately stated: that there should be assurance that areas are reforested which doesn't mean that all areas have to be planted. Ron Frank commented that there should be **prompt reforestation (plant or natural) soon after disturbance**. John Pichugin commented that it is Teal's strategy to get harvested areas reforested within two years.

Ron Frank asked if Teal has a timber salvage strategy or if there is one for the Forest District. Ed McWaters responded that they are currently salvaging two blocks near Boston Bar that have been hit with Mtn Pine Beetle. Lloyd Forman commented that logging a block must pay for itself and some wood is not suitable for Teal's mills. The major issue is that the volume of timber salvaged from Teal's blocks comes out of Teal's quota (Annual Allowable Cut- AAC). Little mills in local communities may be able to utilize this wood but it costs Teal in the form of lost quota. This is a big problem. John Pichugin responded that other communities that Teal deals with are grappling with that problem. In addition there are 3 pulp mills competing for pulp chips. Other forest companies operate in areas that have old chip trade agreements where any pulp logs belong to pulp companies. The problem is not just getting the wood, it's also tenure reform. There may be potential for tenure agreements. The government is looking closely at this issue.

Ron Frank commented that tenure is a policy issue and as such is one of those things that this table cannot have much control over apart from making recommendations.

Action Item: 5F List and compile policy recommendations and concerns etc (i.e. tenure reform) that are outside of the scope of the Fraser PAG. Review list for potential referral to applicable agencies.

1. Tenure reform to provide community based enterprises access to un-utilized timber

Environment Dept. Due Date: Ongoing

John Warren commented that there is a company role where they should deck wood which they don't want and take the rest. The company could make it feasible. Ron Frank commented that

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there are issues with the Cutting Permit and the company obligations under it (debris disposal, waste penalties, and harvest completion timelines etc) as well as the cut control (AAC) issue.

Lloyd Forman commented that it is important to **utilize as much as possible**.

Ron Frank turned the discussion to the reduction of the forest landbase. John Pichugin commented that as a Professional Forester, permanent site degradation is a concern for any forester. Keith Warrener added that at the FVRD there is concern about urban expansion into the Defined Forest Area. The MOF guards the forest and does a great job. The FVRD is concerned about maintaining forest land base.

Ron Frank said that what he is hearing is that the existing land base is well protected by existing processes such as the MOF and FVRD etc.

John Warren commented that they should **encourage investments towards increasing the productivity of the forest landbase** and forests and use local community resources and government money (**Multiple Benefits to Society**). John Pichugin commented that Teal has Forest Investment Account (FIA) funds to do fertilization. Government has put quite a bit of money for forest certification and is aggressively pursuing money for forest enhancement work. Teal is using their FIA funds to enhance forest stands that they may not be harvesting in the future (due to the tenure/chart system). Teal will continue to pursue funds for forest enhancement. Kerry Grozier added that there are large amounts of money being spent by government on enhancement work. It is very expensive. It often comes down to a social question: is it better to spend the money and employ people while improving the forest or is it better to have the money targeted towards areas that will provide an investment return with little immediate employment benefits (i.e. aerial fertilization) Spacing is at least \$1000 per hectare. Fertilization is \$350 +/- per hectare.

Lloyd Forman commented that the forest industry has been treated like a milk cow. The milk gets sold for health care and education while very little goes back to feed the "cow".

Kerry Grozier commented that companies are now able to operate in fir areas that are only 40 years old that were spaced. Had this spacing not been done, those companies would be struggling with harvesting in the saturated Hemlock and Balsam market. Strategic forest investments are a complicated issue due to the costs and timelines etc.

John Warren commented that one of the issues in the Fraser Canyon was with a forest company operating there using herbicides. It is much more cost effective for that company to hire outside of the community and use herbicides to control brush than to use community workers to treat the brush mechanically (without herbicides). (**Multiple Benefits to Society**)

Keith Warrener commented that it appears that the wildfire /urban interface issue seems to be downloaded onto local governments. There is a need to manage the interface wildfire potential but communities need to know where it is. Licensees may be reluctant to point out the trouble spots in their areas as they may be stuck with the cost of managing it. Kerry Grozier responded that Forest Protection Branch of the MOFR will help develop a wildfire protection plan to fireproof a community – upon invitation. Many communities are taking advantage of this now. John Pichugin added that Teal does not have the information or expertise to address wildfire management but others such as the Protection Branch do have these assets.

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Ron Frank called for a 10 minute break. (6:52-7:02)

After the break, Ron Frank asked members if everyone had a chance to speak. He reviewed the Values raised so far for Global Ecological Cycles:

- Minimize the loss of productive landbase (roads etc)
- Efficient use of timber – maximum utilization (CO2 / Community Benefits)
- Prompt reforestation (planting and/or natural) after harvest
- Encourage investments towards increasing the productivity of the forest landbase
- Salvage of damaged or threatened timber (windthrow, insects, fire damaged)

Ron Frank asked if there were any more to add to the list. **Maintain natural ecological systems** was raised by *unknown*. No more values were presented. Ron Frank then asked Keith Chapman to review the Soil and Water tables.

10. Review of Draft Soil and Water Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets (VOITs)

The table was asked to turn to the document with the Draft Soil and Water VOITS. Lloyd Forman commented again that he thought that the tables did a great job of capturing and organizing the issues and thought that the layout was useful.

Kerry Grozier commented that the tables focused in on landslides related to roads. He added that **washouts were also a public safety issue as was road alignment and ditching**. He asked if these tables are draft. Keith Chapman responded that those were the issues raised by the table. They stemmed from the downstream risks posed to communities from slope and road instability. These tables are a first draft.

Heather Morlacci pointed to page **11 line 4** and commented that in 1998 there was an agreement that there would be no more logging on Crown land until the Draft Watershed Plan is in place. The Hatzic Valley Watershed Committee is working on a draft watershed plan. In 1998 FVRD helped to establish the committee. She commented that Kerry Grozier attended some of the meetings. Kerry Grozier responded that it is good to have established a committee but he is unsure if there is enough focus or the right people at the table since it appears that this process has stalled as there is no final plan after almost 8 years.

John Pichugin said that there is logging by a woodlot program operator in the watershed.

Heather Morlacci added that there is no ground water protection in BC. There are water licenses on both sides of the valley. Heather Morlacci offered two names as potential contacts: Hugh Sloan and Christie England (FVRD Watershed Coordinator). Sharie Conroy added that the Hatzic Valley Ratepayers were angry over the Cascade Creek flooding and landslides which affected areas to the north. A dike was put up and ratepayers were paying for it based on an assessed value or something else. All of the residents of Hatzic Prairie through the Dewdney Area Improvement District were paying the electric bill for pumping water and pump maintenance. Also two bridges on Legacy creek were lost. As a result the ratepayers were fed up and this led to the creation of the watershed committee. Sharie Conroy said that they want assurance that these problems will not occur again. Sharie added that the most important thing for the community is that they are safe and that they don't lose water. "We have such wonderful

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water; we don't want city water". Kerry Grozier raised the issues that the community of Tofino experienced this summer (water shortage). What context do we put around this issue? If Teal logs and we lose our water is it Teal's fault? No-one knows where the water comes from. A brief discussion among members broke this issue down to how it related to Teal and forestry: *there needed to be consultation with qualified professionals and a higher level of due diligence to ensure that Teal's forestry activities do not contribute to more problems.*

Kerry Grozier commented on Line 13 page 7: It may not be fair to ask Teal to focus on this problem (unauthorized trails, vandalism etc). Keith Chapman responded that this line does not put too much onus on Teal as it is a reporting issue. The idea is that the reporting may help to target the trouble spots and, in turn, a strategy for dealing with it such as road deactivation or gates.

Action Item: 5G Teal Environment Dept to refine the wording for Line 11 page 4 & Line 13 page 7 of the Draft VOIT table for Soil and Water (Dated: Nov 6, 2006).

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John Warren commented on Line 12 page 13: He raised the concern that this is simply a current legal requirement. Keith Chapman responded that by stating the Value, Objective, Indicator and Target it creates another level of scrutiny. In addition to the MOFR Compliance and Enforcement oversight there will be auditors reviewing this issue. The Objective is to "maintain natural habitat for aquatic species". There is not much more room to go farther with this value.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The Next FRASER PAG Meeting will be held December 12, 2006 at the Pantry Restaurant, Chilliwack

Note the new time will be 4:30 to 7:30 pm