

Prince Albert FMA Forest Management Planning Process

Meeting Minutes for April 25, 2013

Coordinates: Sakâw Office 1:00 - 3:30

Attendees:

Pat MacKasey, Forest Service

Spencer McDougald

Chris Brown, Forest Service

Dave Knight, Sakâw

Michael LeBlanc, Forest Service

Cam Brown, Forsite

Dave Harman, MLMP

Luke Gubbels, Forsite (Minutes Author)

Kerry McIntyre, MLOSB

Material Covered:

1. Workplan and ToR Approval, Public Consultation Plan Approval
2. Update on PAG Formation
 - Mechanics of PAG formation finalized and first PAG meeting scheduled for April 29 in Prince Albert.
 - Forest Service has requested that MLA's shouldn't be invited to participate in the PAG, can attend as interested observers
 - Ministry of Environment, Forest Service and Planning team to receive invites to PAG meetings
 - Aiming to nominate a member of the PAG to the planning team at the second PAG meeting
 - Next PAG meeting will be June 11 in PA
3. Updated on Issues:
 - New Legislation;
 - Forestry code chapters sitting in front of ADM's - yet to be approved; no specific dates set for approval but trajectory seems to be on track to use with this FMP process.
 - Planning manual
 - No change to the idea that meeting the requirements of the existing FMP process will satisfy the EA requirements (harmonization of process for licensees). Internal to government, although protocol issues remain to be worked out around who signs and approves. Process appears to have stalled with change of personnel on the EA side but both departments continue to work through the process.
 - Caribou recovery strategy
 - Province continuing to work on evaluation of Caribou habitat using ecosite mapping. Expect to be able to provide something (draft maps and mgmt. strategies) to Sakâw for inclusion in the plan by Sept 30, 2013. Finalization of the Range Plans could take considerably longer (2016?). It was agreed that data would have to be ready for inclusion in the FMP by then or extensions would be required.
 - Range Plans being developed for two main ranges (Boreal shield, Boreal plains);

- Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA) group has apparently been communicating with province on possible strategies – but province will be making decisions independent of the CBFA.
 - Pat felt that Caribou mgmt. guidance was unlikely to result in landbase reserves/set-asides. They are leaning toward management of age classes / rotation lengths.
 - Natural Forest Patterns
 - Michael LeBlanc working towards a September 30, 2013 completion date for guidance (description of acceptable solution). Could look at Mistik's NFP's in their approved FMP.
 - In order to complete the plan in time to allow for final approval (December 2014) Sakâw will need to seek clarification from the Forest Service Executive Director (Bob Wynes) on how to proceed if required information is not available by September 30, 2013 (Caribou, NFP, EIA / FMP alignment).
4. Progress on Volume 1
- Description of work completed; Luke reviewed current Draft Vol. 1 document
 - Provincial sources of direction
 - Summary of current FMP and EI statement conditions; Pat M. to work with Forsite on commitments. Includes approval conditions and FMP strategies. This is a key piece of the doc for gov't review. Can look at Mistik's "Change of Development Report' for example.
 - Resource Management Plans – Luke to work with Michael LeBlanc
 - Aboriginal Agreements - Dave K. to provide
 - Sustainability Forest Management Audits (KPMG did report) – teams created to solve issues and Coordinated Action Plan developed. Pat/Mike to provide info on where this ended up.
 - FMP area summary
 - Michael and Lane working on GIS data package for Forsite
 - Traditional Use, Archaeological, cultural and heritage sites
 - Forsite has had no response from ACTC or ML (looks unlikely to get input)
 - Forsite to ask for TUS's from Forest Service and Sakâw
 - Chris Brown to provide info on Non-traditional forest products (Luke to talk with Chris)
 - Recreation
 - Forsite to contact Tim Ouellette (Tourism Saskatchewan)
 - Review of tourism plans (example: Lac La Ronge)
 - Licensee description
 - Dave K. to provide input
 - Independent operators - Dave Knight to get 3rd party allocations to Forsite
 - Forest management principles and certification
 - Dave K. to provide
 - PA FMA Economic profile
 - Forsite/Dave K. to contact Shane Vermette
 - General harvest trends
 - Forsite to contact Shane Vermette (or extract from Nadine Penny's report)
 - Volume by product tables
 - Silviculture accomplishments
 - Forsite to work with Heather (ha/planted over time) and ask Michelle Young as needed.
 - Inventory, G&Y, Research program
 - Forsite to contact Michelle Young for info/ideas

- Monitoring program
 - Previous FMP required participation in provincial monitoring program (now dead). Need to get summary of findings and actions to document progress/status quo on a range of issues so we don't revisit them.
 - Key learning's in there on soil disturbance, in-block retention
 - Mike MacLauchlan – provincial coordinator may be able to provide provincial reports (Forsite to contact)
- 1) Inventory Update
- Approach to blowdown in inventory
 - Intending to follow Island Forest example generally
 - Roll age back for severely impacted stands; rest have volume reduction
 - Need to address NRL's generally as there are other events that were never mapped.
- 2) Clarification of Landbase Assumption
- Exclusions / landbase dispositions
 - Use dispositions data provided by Lane/Michael (draft version provided earlier will be fine – don't need to wait for final)
 - Different types of dispositions will require different approaches.
 - Buffer cabin sites, gravel pits, exploration sites and remove?
 - Others may be able to be ignored if logging still to occur
 - Forsite to work with Terry on how to use the exclusions layer
 - Non-merch types
 - Issue to be taken up with Shareholders in a meeting
 - Minimum volume per hectare threshold to be determined?
 - Steep slopes?
 - Isolated stands of small diameter black spruce?
 - Riparian Buffers
 - Variable width buffers are preferred on the ground but we will need to ID an average to apply in the modeling. Issue to be taken up with shareholders.
 - Visual quality
 - There is a desire to get rid of linear buffers along roads – need to address with public
 - Issue to be taken up with Shareholders in a meeting
 - Check Weyco map and approval conditions

Subsequent meetings:

Next meeting planned for Tues May 28, 2013 (1-4pm, Sakâw Office)