

**Sakâw Askiy**  
**Public Advisory Group Meeting**  
**June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Prince Albert Travelodge, McKenzie King Room**

**Participants:**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Doug Braybrook   | Edgewood  |
| 2. Ed Kwiatkowski   | Carrier   |
| 3. Cam Brown (p.m.) | Forsite   |
| 4. Michelle Young   | Meadow Lake OSB                                 |
| 5. Pat Mackasey     | Ministry of Environment (MoE)                   |
| 6. Narayan Dhital   | MoE   |
| 7. Katherine Mehl   | MoE   |
| 8. John D. Stauffer | District Lakeland #521                          |
| 9. John Quinn       | Resort Village Candle Lake (RVCL)               |
| 10. Mark Kornder    | Ducks Unlimited Canada                          |
| 11. Naomi Carriere  | Lac La Ronge Indian Band                        |
| 12. Blake Charles   | Lac La Ronge Indian Band                        |
| 13. Susan Carr      | Prince Albert Model Forest, scribe, facilitator |

**Regrets:**

Joan Corneil	Resort Village Candle Lake (RVCL)
Louise Tarasiuk	RVCL
John Quinn	RVCL
Bart Smith	Kaskew Forestry Products LP
Kevin Bendig	Big River
John Teer	RM Big River
Kerry McIntyre	Meadow Lake OSB
David Harman	

Ann Allen  
Bob Gerow  
Brad Dahl  
Brian Hoffart  
Bernadette Slager  
David Pezderic  
Dean Christiansen  
Don Cody  
Donna Tymiak  
Doug Panter  
Gordon Pacholko  
H Gange  
J.E. Kennedy  
Lyndon G  
Sask trappers  
Sask wildlife  
**Shaun Meisner**  
Zane Delainey

Meeting Convened 10:10 a.m.

**Meeting Objective:**

1. Update PAG on FMP progress since last meeting
2. Provide information on:
  - Wetlands
  - Provincial Standards / Codes
  - Province’s Woodland Caribou work
3. Presentation early results of forest estate modeling
4. Review draft Values Objectives, Indicators and Targets VOITS and seek input
5. Gather input from PAG

**Agenda:**

Time	Topic	Lead(s)	Visuals
0.10	Welcome & Introductions	Susan Carr PAMF	
0.10	Management Updates at Sakâw	Michelle / Doug	
0.10	Review June 17 <sup>th</sup> Agenda and Minutes of Apr 30 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Carr,	
0.30	Wetlands Overview	Mark Kornder, DUC	PpT
0.25	Update on Provincial Standards / Code	Pat Mackasey MoE – Forest Branch	
0.25	Woodland Caribou Recovery Research and Range Planning overview	Pat Mackasey	PpT
0.75	Lunch		
1:00	Initial Timber Supply Results	Cam Brown	
1.00	VOITS review	Cam Brown	
0.30	Round Table Issues and Opportunities	PAG	
0.05	Next Meeting Dates	PAG	
	Adjourn		

**Welcome and Introductions – Susan Carr**

## **Sakâw management changes – Michelle Young**

Dave Knight resigned as GM of Sakâw and accepted a position with Carrier Forest Products as Woodlands Manager. The Board of Directors will be hiring a new GM and setting up an interim management solution in the meantime.

Forsite Cam Brown has been contracted as interim management of Sakâw until Board selects new manager. Posting went out and closed June 1<sup>st</sup>. More information will be provided by next meeting.

## **Review of agenda**

- **Agenda satisfactory to group**

## **Minutes review.**

- **No changes recommended.**
- **Cam's workplan will describe when public engagement points are happening.**

## **Presentation: Wetlands Overview, Mark Kornder, DUC**

- Will be posted as pdf on Sakâw website.
- Boreal Wetlands brochure distributed
- Field Guide for wetland plants will be available from DUC available at <http://www.ducks.ca/what-we-do/where-work/boreal-forest/>
- Guide will be available soon as hard copy from DUC
- Field work for PA FMA will be ground-truthed this summer
- Provincial gov't is co-owner of this data, is using it to develop the Ecosite map, and will be used to define caribou habitat. Industry and province are partners in this work with DUC.
- Each plant has a unique spectral reflection so can be determined from satellite imagery what types of wetlands are featured on the landscape.
- This work complements the Saskatchewan forest inventory.
- More detail <http://www.ducks.ca/what-we-do/where-work/boreal-forest/>
- When building roads, challenges for industry – settling material, sinking culverts, beaver problems.
- DUC classification system identifies risk assigned with various types of wetlands
- Operational Guide will be on DUC website in August 2014 that can provide recommendations about how to assess risk in various wetlands when it comes to building infrastructure.
- FP Innovations website provides free information on road crossings
- <https://fpinnovations.ca/ResearchProgram/Pages/research-program-forest-operations-resourceroads-wetlands.aspx#.U78JsZRdXnh>
- **ACTION Mark will let us know when guides are available on website and when paper copies are available.**

## **Discussion**

How do we access west side information and PA FMA classification?

**ACTION Mark Kornder, DUC will talk to Michelle Young about how to access the classification info TSL on**

**west side.**

- DUC can partner with industry for use of data so that they become co-owner with it.
- DUC wetland classification information was used to inform the provincial Ecosite guide.
- Mike McLaughlin and Lane Gelhorn have used the wetland information.
- DUC would like to eventually develop a quick cross-reference system between EWC wetland classes and SK ecosites.
- Map layer – includes 19 wetland types rolling up into 5 classes, the upland or disturbed site information including range from agriculture, fire, forestry activity, upland forest types, urban, oil and gas development.

**Presentation: Update on Provincial Standards / Code, Pat Mackasey, MoE – Forest Branch**

- Environmental code awaiting proclamation by Cabinet
- Code chapters under development provide overview of standards
- Natural forest standards under development
- Cam Brown's presentation this afternoon will address how the standards are incorporated into the Sakâw FMP development. Community engagement will occur following that. Pat compliments Cam on the excellent work he has done in this regard.
- Never had provincial standards or codes development.
- A draft under development will be discussed with forest industry team, First Nations reps and public advisors.
- Number of FMA standards have been developed since 2002 and will be incorporated into FMP process
- linear code chapter applies to any road, trail, oil and gas developments

**ACTION Pat will have Earl Bourlon follow up with Susan who will inform group if linear code public review meetings are still being held on this.**

Saskatchewan Environmental Code will take you directly to:

Codes and chapters online on Saskatchewan Environment website

See Division D – Forest Management Planning standards Chapter currently under revision

Also of interest, see *“Qualified Persons Core Skills and Competencies.”*

**Presentation: Woodland Caribou Recovery Research and Range Planning overview, Pat Mackasey.**

**ACTION Pdf presentation will be distributed by e.mail to PAG Susan, Pat.**

- Katherine Mehl here today, is assessing Sakâw's tactical plan on boreal woodland caribou habitat.
- Environment Canada's Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou.
- In Saskatchewan, priority is to research Boreal Shield to inform the range plan submissions by 2015.

- Large research study in boreal shield, involving satellite collaring, pellet sampling, DNA-based capture-mark-recapture studies.
- Predictive ecosite mapping – used ecosites to predict habitat suitability for caribou.
- Habitat landscape connectivity – Prince Albert National Park and Greater Ecosystem study (PAGE). At the time the study was done, the habitat was more fragmented across the landscape. Now more clustered, so biologists look at how the connectivity is between the patches. Drs. Paul Galpern and Micheline Manseau will be leading that study.
- Community engagement and traditional knowledge gathering will also be conducted to help inform caribou habitat and trends research.
- Disturbance Mapping – province has done initial drafts for east and central administrative areas. Report will be released by July on assessment of both natural and anthropogenic disturbances across each administrative area. Work collectively with province, federal gov't and industry to assess disturbance levels.

### **Discussion:**

Q. What does range plan entail?

Range planning brings all the elements for woodland caribou recovery strategy, and includes population structure, identification of caribou habitat, predictive ecosite mapping, landscape connectivity and disturbance mapping. Will look at evaluation of boreal plain this summer through a 6 step process, including habitat, cumulative effects, characterized level of current risk where more development, define evaluation criteria.

Woodland Caribou Technical Committee (WCTC) research includes identification of caribou habitat and population structure. Ministry is responsible for predictive ecosite mapping, landscape connectivity.

Q. Forest Management Plans – how do they relate to caribou studies?

- Draft FMPs due Dec 2014 for PA and Pasquia Porcupine FMAs
- Ministry works with Sakâw to review their draft FMAs and provide input.
- Acceptable solutions to mitigate impacts are recommended.
- Sakâw's tactical planning, are providing input from Forestry branch.

### **Lunch**

### **Presentation: Forest Estate Modeling – Cam Brown, Forsite**

Presentation online

- PA FMA description
- Overview of timber supply planning and criteria considered.
- Landbase older than it might have been without human interaction

Q. Is there data comparing forest natural event vs. managed forest practice events?

A. Dr. Dave Andison (sp?) natural forest patterns standards research, source of work that FMPs analysis is based upon. Coarse filter approach to biodiversity managing for habitat will manage for wildlife, also reconcile social values.

- Built caribou habitat into model. Tracking fisher and moose habitat also and interior forest habitat, merchantable growing stock targets, minimizing roads and infrastructure.
- In the future, we'll be harvesting younger stands than we are today. This is an expression of the forest age class. Average harvest age now is 100-120 yrs old. In future, average will be around 80yrs old. Conscious decision we are making.
- We have a choice of how we harvest over time. We could take same assumptions and land base and change the decision of how and when to harvest. Could take a path to start high and drop to steady state right away or we could start with low harvest and adopt flat line over time. We can argue both are effectively the same over the long run. If we adopt the steady state right away, we lose volume of older stands available now because stands die and volume is lost.
- We selected option to capture older stands then gradually move into a steady state harvest.
- We have to figure out how to manage for spatial configuration of old stands so that we keep a representative amount of interior old. This is still a work in progress.

Q. These areas being harvested and then reforested, do you keep the same species mix when reforesting?

A. Yes, that's the intent. FMP has specific strategies to achieve that. Softwood needs to be actively managed. Hardwood comes back more easily without active management. e.g. aspen suckering.

- Numbers of hectares we're harvesting remains fairly consistent over time. There's an age at which every stand reaches its peak average growth rate and that's the target age to harvest.

### **Presentation: Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets, (VOITS) Cam Brown Forsite**

Presentation online Sakâw

"You can't manage it if you can't measure it."

- Key criterion based around the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers work:
  - Value - Biological diversity:
    - Objectives – conservation of biological diversity of Sask forests
      - Indicator – amount of old and very old forest by species
        - Target – 15% of productive forest
- Always looking for input if there are issues the group or the public wants considered.
- Need to be able to measure in order for it to be a good indicator.
- Species diversity of moose, fisher, and caribou by measuring their suitable habitat.
- Caribou is more challenging to measure and set a target for because of the need to define suitable caribou habitat. There is a basic definition using species/age/proximity to muskegs, but there is a need to also consider that adjacent disturbances can render habitat unattractive or less helpful to animals. The width of these disturbance buffers is a subject of debate.
- Until directed studies and range plans are completed, interim FMPs need to be completed.

Should there be a VOIT in FMP that can be caribou habitat related?

**ACTION draft a VOIT in FMP for suitable caribou habitat as a placeholder without the target measurement defined. Cam Brown, Pat Mackasey.**

Q. How is the issue of connectivity addressed?

A. by default, measuring for natural forest patterns and accounting for suitable habitat should get at managing for connectivity.

- Target: Ecosystem Condition and Productivity
  - Value: Sustainability of ecosystems and forests.
    - Main objective: is to maintain the stability, resilience and rates of biological production in forest ecosystems.
      - Indicator: Average annual softwood and hardwood harvest volume vs. approved harvest volumes (HVS), determine cubic meters/yr of hardwood and softwood sawlog, as one example.
  - Value: Soil and water
    - Objective: is to maintain and enhance the quantity and quality of soil and water.
      - Indicator: Percentage of SASK MOE inspected harvest blocks that are in compliance with provincial standards related to soil disturbance, road reclamation, water quality and fish habitat (roads and crossings), riparian assessment.
  - Value: Global Ecological cycles.
    - Objective: Mitigate the impact of forest and forest activities on the productive land base.
      - Indicator is how much of net land base are being converted to permanent access.

Q. What is a carbon source vs. carbon sink?

A. Carbon source is an emission into the atmosphere. A carbon sink holds carbon from being emitted into atmosphere, as a storage mechanism.

- Forestry is a good news story for carbon storage. Stores carbon in wood throughout cycle as opposed to steel, which is high in carbon emissions to manufacture. If you keep a healthy functioning, sustainably managed forest that includes the harvest of wood products, this is the best positive forest outcome when it comes to carbon storage.
- Saskatchewan is very good at rehabilitating their in-block roads.
- Value: Economic and Social Benefits.
  - Key driver is harvest volume. Are we harvesting what we said we could within a sustainable environment?
  - Ongoing Public Advisory Group to consult with public annually or as determined by the PAG themselves.

Q. Is there a certain buffer around traplines?

A. Buffer is approx. 100 metres around cabins; need to identify with each trapper or cabin-owner individually when it comes to dealing with specific values. Map of where cabins are is the overall strategic measurement.

Other indicators being considered include employment benefit.

Q. How do we track how Sakâw cooperates with other forest-dependent businesses, forest users, and local community – number of permits of non-timber forest products as one measurement?

A. Possibly number of permits for non-timber forest products as one measurement but this has little to do with Sakâw.

Another view is to look at this as is Sakâw engaging and cooperating with groups who are out on the land.

Can create a map layer of all trappers and outfitters, but interaction between mushroom pickers is harder to do.

**ACTION** This is about communication. We need an indicator that speaks to active engagement and communication and accommodating interests expressed by public. Sakâw VOITS development. Cam Brown.

Number of times you've communicated is fairly easy to measure. What materials were distributed, how many meetings and locations, attendance, etc. **Could specify number of meetings and field trips per year.**

**Next Steps:**

- PAG suggests that once VOITs are approved, we hold PAG meetings at least twice per year. One of those could be a field trip.
- When VOITs are finalized, they will be recirculated back to the PAG.
- Candle Lake, a July Saturday would be ideal to target summer residents. They'd like to hear how environmental issues are being addressed.
- Sakâw schedules have been reviewed, late August might work better. Could an evening work later in August? It's easier to get away. resort communities September long weekend could be considered
- **ACTION** John will take it back to the administrator to discuss.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 location Travelodge, P.A.**

/sec