

**Sustainable Forest Management Committee
“Ensuring the CSA Standard”**

SFM Committee Meeting

August 18, 2010 (evening)

August 19, 2010

Tolko Woodlands Meeting Room

August 18/19, 2010

Note: Due to some requests to juggle agenda items to accommodate members and speakers schedules these minutes are not sequential.

Supper was served in the Tolko meeting room.

Welcome, introductions were made.

Fiona Donald gave a presentation on the summary report on coarse woody debris sampling in the DFA which has occurred since 2002.

Group discussion on requirement for further sampling and how to set targets. Fiona suggested targets by cover type could be the way to go. Discussed necessity of burning all debris piles and brush disposal policy. Piles are good for wildlife but considered a fire risk from forest protection standpoint. Perhaps piles height and size could be managed to reduce fire risk. Effect of woody debris on future soil productivity. Now that the baseline sampling is complete the committee should consider setting a new target to replace this one and the chair suggested that Tolko propose a target at the next meeting. The core indicator is level of downed woody debris. Paul suggested that he may not propose a target of minimum volume/ha but rather something to support continued presence of DWD on the site in the future through maintaining standing structure.

Dates for remaining meetings in 2010:

September 22-23

October 20-21

November 24-25

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Richard was going to propose a target around the decommissioning indicator on closing roads promptly. On reflection it seems inability to obtain government permits would be a bottle neck that would hinder the company's ability to comply, so such a target was not appropriate. Suggested that MC should either permit road closure or step in and turn it into a resource road under provincial control. Suggested that we incorporate a management strategy to use the FRDP process as a tool to try to achieve road closures.

Paul submitted a proposal for indicator 3.1.1.1.1(C) This was discussed at the last meeting that if we controlled access on class two roads when harvest was completed that it would assist in regeneration on in block roads past the control point by keeping traffic off. Company's proposal was to target road closure within 3 years of identifying road as unneeded. Proposed variance because government did not have to approve closure requests was that company would submit decommissioning proposal to MC within the time period. Discussions around meaning and identification of road being not needed. Preference for wording 'on completion of final harvest'. Noted that the indicator on prompt regeneration is for completion within 3 years of harvest but with up to 5 years in some cases. Added a variance of up to 5 years post harvest to allow for planting if required. Committee will consider using this as a replacement for current indicator 4.1.1.1.1 (A)

Tolko was to bring a proposal for watershed disturbance 3.2.1.1.1. A proposal based on trying to keep recent disturbance below 30% on the watersheds was discussed. If it was a firm cap then it could result in some community based contractors having to go without work following a major fire event. The committee did not want to cause economic hardship through this indicator, particularly in an area where natural fire disturbance levels are historically high. Paul produced a list of watersheds showing the natural disturbance and harvest levels for the past 7 years. Discussions on whether the portions of the watershed outside the DFA should be included, or outside the province for that matter. Tolko concerned about including Saskatchewan portion of watersheds as Saskatchewan has significant areas where no fire control is conducted. There would be added reporting issues involved in securing harvest and depletion records from another province. Paul will suggest a target to track levels of disturbance and to put in place enhanced watershed protection through modified operations when disturbance levels reach 30%. (wider buffers, winter logging, greater protection and mapping of ephemeral drains, stay in low erosion risk blocks, still should take cost into account)

Increased participation for discussion of specific aboriginal indicators. Some contacts were suggested to supply participants or resource persons. (Michael Anderson, MKO Winnipeg; Grand Chief Dumas, Pukatawagan; Dave Buck, formerly with non timber forest products; Natalie Tays, Nelson House (traditional plants); Susan Koblinski, cultural awareness).

Reviewed and accepted minutes of May 27 meeting.

Meeting assessment report from May 27 meeting was reviewed and accepted.

Public concerns tables for April, May, June and July were reviewed with the committee. Discussions focused on the Crossing Bay road request to maintain the first section for community use. Government needs to be brought into the discussions. Mary suggested sending a letter to Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and copy the MLA to request a meeting to discuss the road. Extend the hand of friendship. Company has discussed this with Manitoba at high levels already. Mary suggested she would draft a letter and provide appropriate contacts.

Carbon Budget: Mike Doucette, Tolko Kraft Papers, gave an overview of the carbon budget project. They are going to try to account for all the green house gas emissions and sequestration related to producing the paper from the harvest of the trees through until the paper leaves the mill site. They are using an ISO standard for measurement as well as an American standard to satisfy major clients. A final report is expected by year end and will be supplied to the committee.

Paul Chapman gave an update on the summer fire around Cranberry Portage/Sherridon. Fire was lightning caused and there were crews right in the area when it started but the rate of spread was so fast that nothing could be done. Fire was 55,000 ha and burned some process wood piled in the bush, several hundred thousand seedlings ready to be planted and 1,700 ha of cutovers, most of which had already been planted. Over the last 4 summers wildfires have destroyed almost 5,000 ha of planted cutovers and Tolko has asked MC to replant them. Committee offered to support Tolko in this effort.

Discussion of Hydro proposed ROW for Bi-pole project. Does committee want to be represented on the proposal? Discussed salvage opportunity, some members feel the final route was prepared in advance and the other routes presented were just smoke screens, portions of the preferred route may have been cleared last winter. Committee should have a say in how forests are cleared, best management, risk management around burning and salvage.

Ron asked around if the committee was interested in him seeking independent funding. Some of the discussions revolved around opportunities for training, off site meetings. Some of the comments included the company need to do lots of work with other stakeholders in northern communities, need to see respect on both sides, Industry has never shied away from meeting first nations but if no one from the community shows up then no relationship is going to develop. True consultation begins when community participation occurs at planning level.

Review of name of committee, still want to call it the sustainable forest management committee.

New Indicator Discussions:

Net carbon uptake. Suggestions included not burning slash piles, more efficient and newer equipment in the bush, truck driver training such as 'drive smart', prompt regeneration, more efficient load configuration, biomass energy/bio fuels from logging operations. The indicator is to maintain *processes* that store carbon. Processes include slash burning, transportation, training, direct planting vs. site preparation. Natural process would be regeneration and forest growth. Targets discussed were annual driver training, results of annual net carbon uptake to be positive, forest renewal initiated within 3 years.

The committee suggested that they would like Tolko to produce some draft indicators and targets going forward to stimulate the process.

Meeting adjourned.

Attendance	
August 18 th	August 19 th
Paul Chapman	Paul Chapman
Angela Enright	Ron Black
Ron Black	Richard G. Gibbons
Richard G Gibbons	Troy Werstroh
Troy Werstroh	Mary Head
Doug Hunt	Ron Spence
Fiona Donald	Matt Sinclair
Ron Spence	Angela Enright
Matt Sinclair	Doug Hunt