

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****RDBN FORESTRY COMMITTEE
(Committee of the Whole)
Agenda**

Thursday, March 10, 2016

PAGE NO.**ACTION****Agenda – March 10, 2016****Adopt****Supplementary Agenda****Receive****MINUTES**

2-5

**Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes
- February 11, 2016****Receive****DELEGATION****MINISTRY OF FORESTS LANDS AND NATURAL
RESOURCE OPERATIONS (**TENTATIVE)****Terry Sullivan, Director of Major Projects
RE: Update re: Lake Babine Nation
Woodland Tenures****DISCUSSION ITEM****Proposed 9 Axle Log Truck****CORRESPONDENCE**

6

**Wildfire Symposium Follow Up
- February 29, 2016****Receive**

7-10

**BC Government News – B.C. Increases
Investments in Forest Stewardship****Receive****SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA****NEW BUSINESS****ADJOURNMENT**

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING**
(Committee of the Whole)**Thursday, February 11, 2016**

PRESENT: Chair Rob MacDougall

Directors Eileen Benedict
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Dwayne Lindstrom
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Luke Strimbold – arrived at 10:48 a.m.
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers
Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) \\
Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle

Alternate Bob Hughes, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)
Director

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Manager of Protective Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Karen Andrews, Operations Manager, Fort George District
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure – Via Teleconference
- 10:37 a.m. to 10:58 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair MacDougall called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

AGENDAMoved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Lindstrom**F.C.2016-2-1**"That the Forestry Committee Meeting Agenda of February 11,
2016 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Forestry Committee Meeting
Minutes – January 14, 2016

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Repen

F.C.2016-2-2

“That the Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2016 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

Karen Andrews, Operations Manager, Fort George District, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (via teleconference) RE: Proposed 9-Axle B-Train Log Hauling

Chair MacDougall welcomed Karen Andrews, Operations Manager, Fort George District, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure.

Ms. Andrews provided an overview of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's (MoTI) role in approving the proposed 9 – Axle B-Train log hauling. The Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement (CVSE) department of the MoTI provides a stringent permitting process for any changes to commercial vehicle transportation. The proposed 9-Axle B-Train log hauling process began two years ago and Ms. Andrews became aware of the proposal six months ago. CVSE implements a stringent engineering process in regard to the impact to bridges, vehicle tracking, safety, and functionality on MoTI roadways.

FP Innovation is the consultant working with the companies involved in the proposal for a 9-Axle B-Train for log hauling. The unit will be approximately 5.2 ft. longer and will have more axles for weight distribution than a current log truck unit. The final weight of the unit loaded has yet to be determined. One of the reasons for the proposed change is to address driver shortage. One test has been completed on Highway 16 which is the jurisdiction of the MoTI. If the permitting process and a submission to operate on a specific route is approved and a Letter of Authority is granted by MoTI then other companies may also choose to utilize the same unit and apply for approval. The routes in which an application has been submitted are Highway 16 from West Fraser's Fraser Lake Sawmill in Fraser Lake to Canfor's Isle Pierre Sawmill in Prince George and Highway 27 to the end of the MoTI road on the North Road, 106 kms past the Tachie junction. Ms. Andrews noted that Canfor (Canadian Forest Products Ltd) is leading the proposal and specific questions can be forwarded to them. Ms. Andrews will provide the contact information to the Forestry Committee.

Director Lindstrom brought forward his concerns regarding the extra weight being added to the unit and the damage to the highways. He also brought forward concerns regarding the unit's maneuverability on forest service roads. Ms. Andrews noted that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is responsible for Forest Service Roads. Ms. Andrews spoke of the rutting occurring on the highway surface from all commercial and vehicle traffic. The MoTI currently has paving engineers examining methods to gain more strength in the pavement applied to the highway surfaces. Ms. Andrews mentioned that there would be zero tolerance in regard to the weight carried by a 9-Axle B-Train log hauler. Director Miller also noted the importance of axle spacing to distribute weight on a log haul unit and asked if this had been considered. Ms. Andrews will forward the question to ministry staff for comment.

Ms. Andrews mentioned that the MoTI investigates the operation, safety, and tracking of a unit along with whether or not current infrastructure can handle the additional type of unit and the potential benefit to infrastructure. Chair MacDougall brought forward challenges associated with improving the North Road in Fort St. James and the need to maintain the infrastructure. Ms. Andrews noted the importance of the North Road and the changes that have been made to better

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

Karen Andrews, Operations Manager, Fort George District, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (via teleconference) RE: Proposed 9-Axle B-Train Log Hauling

the use of the road. Director Miller noted that the maintenance and improvements to road infrastructure is a cost to tax payers of the province and this needs to be considered when approving a permit application. Discussion took place regarding consultation and an opportunity for local government to provide comment when the MoTI is determining the approval of a permit such as the 9-Axle B-Train log hauling unit. Ms. Andrews mentioned that MoTI receives a number of permit applications that do not move forward thus the delay in consultation.

Chair MacDougall and Director Thiessen have been in contact with Jason Fisher, Director, Forest Sector Strategies, Competitiveness and Innovation Branch, Prince George, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Chair MacDougall thanked Ms. Andrews for attending the meeting via teleconference.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Newell

F.C.2016-2-3

"That the Forestry Committee receive the following correspondence:

- FP Innovations – Realizing the Benefits of Maximizing Payloads in BC's Transportation Sector;
- Canadian Forest Products Ltd. – Canfor's Plans in the Fort St. James Forest District."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Electoral Area Directors Forum – February 2-3, 2016 -Richmond, B.C.

Director Miller mentioned that he provided a presentation in regard to Wildfire Interface at the Electoral Area Directors Forum on February 2-3, 2016 in Richmond, B.C. and it was well received.

Fraser Lake Community Forest

Director Lindstrom commented that the Village of Fraser will meet with Stellat'en First Nation and Nadleh Whut'en Band along with Director Parker, Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural) this evening (February 11, 2016) in regard to the Fraser Lake Community Forest.

RDBN Forestry Committee Message to the Province

Director Thiessen noted the importance of the RDBN Forestry Committee developing a regional message in regard to forestry issues in the region, fibre supply and shortage, wildfire mitigation, road protection, safety, employment and investment potential that can be provided to the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

Weight Load of Log Haulers

Safety concerns were brought forward in regard to the added weight on the proposed 9-axle B-trains and the potential for braking issues. The extra axles proposed may assist in stopping power for the truck during summer months but during winter months that would not be the case.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Strimbold
Seconded by Alternate Director Hughes

F.C.2016-2-5

"That the meeting be adjourned at 11:18 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rob MacDougall, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

6

WILDFIRE SYMPOSIUM FOLLOW UP

February 29, 2016

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Room 1069, UNBC

Prince George, BC

Prince George

Darrell Whelan, Resource Manager, Nadina
Lori Borth, Resource Manager, Vanderhoof/FSJ
Les Husband, Wildfire Management, PG
Brent Martin, Wildfire Management, Smithers
Dana Hicks, Fire Management Specialist, PG
Jim Martin, RDFFG
Michael Higgins, RDFFG
Art Kaehn, RDFFG
Sharon Tower, OBAC

Conference Call

Gail Chapman, RDBN
Bill Miller, OBAC/RDBN
Al Gorley, OBAC
Regrets Rob MacDougall, OBAC/RDBN

Introductions were made and a brief background and overview of the meeting's purpose and agenda were provided

The group discussed the distributed OBAC/ RDBN Dec 2015 draft follow through plan and highlighted key priorities for follow through. Comments:

- Communication and coordination between all stakeholders is critical.
- There is not a one size fits all approach to risks i.e. offensive or defensive.
- Capacity is essential and is a critical issue.
- Wildfire prevention is common ground.
- Firesmart needs to be done collaboratively.
- The 2015 Provincial Threat Analysis was released on February 26, 2016 and is available on FLNRO website. It will be updated summer/fall. It was noted that the Caribou Regional District is piloting a project using this type of data.
- The Forum can provide an operational/policy interface.

The establishment of a "Regional Forum on Wildfire" was discussed. The intent of the Forum would be to meet periodically to deal with matters such as those identified as key priorities at the October 13, 2015 workshop in Burns Lake. It was agreed that once established and success had, industry, BCTS, small scale salvage licensees, woodlot owners, Forest for Tomorrow program, First Nations etc. can be added.

It was agreed that, following BC Wildfire Services discussions March 1 – 3, 2016 on the recently released Forest Enhancement Society of BC, a meeting date would be set for late March. The Terms of Reference for the Forum and confirmation of priorities will be agenda topics for the meeting.

It was agreed that OBAC will provide secretariat support for the Forum for the immediate future.

ACTION ITEM: Les Husband to contact Sharon Tower with information regarding the Forest Enhancement Society of BC.

ACTION ITEM: Sharon Tower to arrange the next meeting for late March 2016.

British Columbia News

1

B.C. increases investments in forest stewardship

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/10379>

Friday, February 26, 2016 1:15 PM

Vancouver - The new Forest Enhancement Society of B.C., supported by \$85 million in government funding, will focus its efforts on wildfire risk reduction to complement the ministry's existing forest stewardship programs and world-class wildfire suppression capabilities.

Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Minister Steve Thomson provided details of the society in his keynote speech at the Association of BC Forest Professionals annual general meeting.

The new society will concentrate its activities on the following:

- **Wildfire risk reduction:** Fuel management activities such as thinning, pruning and removing woody debris from forests, especially those impacted by the mountain pine beetle infestation, to reduce wildfire risks in key areas. The recently updated Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis will provide guidance for potential treatments.
- **Forest rehabilitation:** Clearing stands damaged by wildfire, or at high risk from wildfire, and reforesting them.
- **Wildlife habitat restoration:** Designing fuel management and forest rehabilitation activities to promote desired wildlife habitat characteristics.
- **FireSmart program:** Raising awareness among local governments and rural property owners about steps they can take to protect their homes from wildfire.

The Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities, focuses on reducing the wildfire risk in the two-kilometre wildland-urban interface surrounding communities. With its latest \$10-million commitment, government has provided \$78 million to this initiative since 2004. The Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. will complement the efforts of the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative by supporting critical wildfire prevention work outside of interface areas and providing a landscape-level approach to wildfire risk reduction.

Local forest products businesses will have opportunities to purchase the timber, roadside debris and other forest fibre resulting from these activities, at market prices. This will, in turn, support rural employment.

The work of the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. will help meet the goal of a sustainable and reliable timber supply under the Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy and aligns with the ministry's other programs designed to enhance B.C.'s forests, most notably Forests for Tomorrow, Land Based Investment Strategy and integrated silviculture strategies.

The inaugural board meeting of the society will take place in March. The society's immediate goals will be to set short-term priorities and engage with stakeholders.

As part of Budget 2016, the ministry's Land Based Investment Strategy will see an increase of \$12 million for 2016-17. Most of the increase will go toward Forests for Tomorrow, translating into increased fertilization of 8,000 to 20,000 hectares and providing for additional surveys and site preparation to plant 28 million seedlings annually by 2019-20.

Quotes:



Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Minister Steve Thomson –

“The new society allows us to make new investments in our forests and protect the investments that we have already made. Altogether, we're investing an additional \$107 million to ensure healthy and resilient forests for future generations to enjoy.”

Association of BC Forest Professionals CEO Christine Gelowitz –

“The investment will benefit the long-term health of our forests and bring new opportunities for forest professionals and other people who work and live in forest-based communities across B.C.”

Council of Forest Industries president and CEO Susan Yurkovich –

“The forest industry contributes \$12 billion to the provincial GDP and supports 145,000 direct and indirect jobs in B.C. We are happy to see that the provincial government remains committed to ensuring a healthy, vibrant and sustainable natural resource sector.”

Quick Facts:

- In September 2015, the B.C. government and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) launched the \$500,000 FireSmart community grant program to encourage more communities to participate in the program.
- Homeowners who live in wildland interface areas can help protect their properties from wildfire threats by using FireSmart principles. FireSmart Canada works closely with communities throughout the country to mitigate wildfire risks in interface areas, where urban development borders on forest or grassland areas.
- Since 2005, government has invested more than \$400 million in the complementary Forests for Tomorrow program to survey more than 1.5 million hectares and plant 175 million seedlings over 128,000 hectares in areas impacted by wildfire and the mountain pine beetle infestation.

Learn More:

The Homeowner's FireSmart Manual was developed to help people reduce the risk of personal property damage due to wildfires. More information about the FireSmart program and copies of the manual are available at: <http://bcwildfire.ca/Prevention/firesmart.htm>

Responding to catastrophic wildfires and the mountain pine beetle epidemic through Forests For Tomorrow: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/land-based-investment/forests-for-tomorrow>

Backgrounders follow.

Media Contacts

Vivian Thomas
Communications Director
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
250 356-2475

Backgrounders

Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. directors

9

The inaugural Forest Enhancement Society of B.C.'s board of directors consists of:

Wayne Clogg – Clogg graduated from the University of British Columbia with a bachelor of science degree in forestry in 1977. He worked with West Fraser from 1980 to 2012 as a field forester, woodlands manager and general manager. Since his retirement as senior vice-president of woodlands in 2012, he has been working as a consultant.

Derek Orr – Orr graduated from the business management program at the College of New Caledonia and is a certified life skills coach trainer. Chief of the McLeod Lake Indian Band, he also serves on the boards of Duz Cho Logging, Duz Cho Construction, Summit Pipeline Services, McLeod Lake Indian Band Exploration Corporation and the Aboriginal Business and Investment Council.

Jim Snetsinger – Snetsinger graduated from the University of Toronto in 1979 with a bachelor of science degree in forestry, moved to British Columbia and started working for the B.C. government in 1986. He worked in a variety of positions before being appointed the province's chief forester in 2004. Since his retirement from that position in 2012, he has been working as a forestry consultant.

Dave Peterson – Peterson graduated from the University of Victoria with a bachelor of science degree in physical geography – Natural Resource Management in 1980 and became a registered professional forester in 1985. He worked with the Ministry of Forests until 1995, when he moved into the private sector. He returned to the ministry in 2005 and has served in a number of assistant deputy minister positions. He is currently the assistant deputy minister for the Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation Division.

Robert Turner – Turner graduated from the University of Guelph with a master of arts degree in international development studies. He has over 20 years of international experience in humanitarian and disaster response operations, including large-scale program management in natural disaster, conflict and post-conflict environments. Prior to joining the ministry in 2015, he served as the director of operations for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the Gaza Strip. He is currently the assistant deputy minister of the Integrated Resource Operations Division.

Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis

The 2015 Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (Wildfire Threat Analysis), and an accompanying series of maps, were produced using geographic analysis and a wide range of data to assess various wildfire threat elements, including vegetation types, historical wildfire data, forest fuel classification, fire behaviour patterns, geography and other factors.

The maps indicate potential wildfire threats throughout the province, using a scale of 10 Fire Threat Classes (with 1 being the lowest risk and 10 being the highest risk). These 10 levels represent estimates of relative fire threats, taking into account fire occurrence history, derived fire intensity under severe fire weather conditions and the impacts of fire "spotting" (where embers are blown ahead of the main fire and start new fires).

In the wildland-urban interface – the two-kilometre buffer areas surrounding communities – about 1,347,000 hectares are considered to be high-risk.

The Wildfire Threat Analysis presents these relative wildfire threats at a provincial scale only. In an area where a high risk is indicated, a qualified professional should confirm the actual rating at the

forest stand level.

10

The 2015 Wildfire Threat Analysis and associated maps are available online at <http://bcwildfire.ca/Prevention/PSTA.htm>