

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**(Committee of the Whole)**

**Thursday, March 8, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Chris Beach  
Eileen Benedict  
Shane Brienen  
Mark Fisher  
Tom Greenaway  
Dwayne Lindstrom  
Bill Miller  
Rob Newell  
Mark Parker  
Jerry Petersen  
Darcy Repen

Directors Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers  
Absent Thomas Liversidge, Village of Smithers  
Rob MacDougall, District of Fort St. James

Alternate Director Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Eamon O'Donoghue, Regional Executive Director Skeena,  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and  
Rural Development – left at 1:37 p.m.  
Miles Fuller, Chinook Community Forest (Burns Lake) – left at  
1:37 p.m.  
Brent May, District Manager, Regional Operations Nadina,  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and  
Rural Development – left at 1:37 p.m.  
Dion Oake, Babine Forest Products (Burns Lake) – left at 1:37  
p.m.  
Klaus Posselt, Tahtsa/Pacific Timber (Burns Lake) – left at 1:37  
p.m.  
Darrell Whelan, Resource Manager, Regional Operations  
Nadina, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development – left at 1:37 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

## **AGENDA**

Moved by Director Miller  
Seconded by Alternate Director McGuire

F.C.2018-1-1

“That the Forestry Committee Meeting Agenda of March 8, 2018 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **MINUTES**

Forestry Committee Meeting  
Minutes – November 9, 2017

Moved by Director Brien  
Seconded by Director Petersen

F.C.2018-1-2

“That the Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2017 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DELEGATION**

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Eamon O’Donoghue, Regional Executive Director Skeena, Brent May, District Manager, Regional Operations Nadina, Darrell Whelan, Resource Manager, Regional Operations Nadina Update re: Nechako Lakes and Spruce Beetle**

Chair Thiessen welcomed Eamon O’Donoghue, Regional Executive Director Skeena, Brent May, District Manager, Regional Operations Nadina, Darrell Whelan, Resource Manager, Regional Operations Nadina, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Mr. Whelan provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

### **Status of Spruce Bark beetle in the Nadina Natural Resource District**

#### **Outline**

- Spruce in the Nadina District
- Provincial Aerial Overview Survey (PAOS)
- Detailed Aerial Overview Survey (DAOS)
- Actions to date
  - Licensee harvest plans
  - Trap tree program
  - Fall & Burn
- Other Resource Values

#### **Spruce Forest in the Nadina District**

- Approximately 25% of stands are spruce leading
- Scattered on the landscape
- High value/importance
- Spruce Beetle is a natural occurrence in these stands
  - 2 year life cycle
- Prefer green blowdown
- Historical cycles
- Is climate altering the cycle?

## **DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

### **MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT re: Nechako Lakes and Spruce Beetle (CONT'D)**

#### **PAOS (Provincial Aerial Overview Survey)**

- High level
  - Provincial scope
  - Higher altitude
- Fixed wing
- Not always accurate
  - Data interpretation (T,L,H)
- Shows trends

#### **DAOS (District Aerial Overview Survey)**

- Helicopter
- Entire district flown
- 139 IBS (Spruce Beetle) points & 6 IBS polygons ID'd

#### **Action Taken:**

##### **Tactical Plan**

- DAOS data provided to licensees and they have committed to action 107 of 139 points and all the polygons;
  - Half of remaining sites in constrained areas other half being actioned by SSS (Small Scale Salvage) or probed by district

##### **Trap Tree Program**

- All licensees are using trap trees to contain spruce bark beetle in areas until they can be logged or to draw beetles out of sensitive or constrained areas

##### **District Probing & Fall & Burn**

- Wildfire Management Branch Staff hired to help probe and conduct fall & burn

##### **Monitoring**

- Will continue to conduct annual overview flights and action-identified areas

#### **Must continue to consider all resource values**

- Biodiversity
- Cultural heritage resources
- Fish
- Forage and associated plant communities
- Recreation resources
- Resource features
- Soils
- Timber
- Water
- Wildlife
- Water quality

Director Miller questioned age class that has the percentage of spruce leading stands. Mr. Whelan indicated that FLNRORD staff is noticing that the higher percentage of spruce leading stands currently being impacted by spruce beetle is in older stands that are more susceptible.

Director Miller asked if the removal of trees killed from the Mountain Pine Beetle is exasperating and having an impact on the outbreak of the spruce beetle. Mr. Whelan commented that currently there is no correlation from the harvesting of the mountain pine beetle infested trees and the outbreak of spruce beetle. The Nadina District has witnessed impacts of the spruce beetle outbreak in areas where there is significant blowdown such as the north side of Babine Lake.

**DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT re: Nechako Lakes and Spruce Beetle (CONT'D)**

Director Miller requested information in regard to the feedback being received from area based tenures. Mr. Whelan referenced the 107 of the 139 IBS (Spruce Beetle) points that have been actioned including area-based tenure. Mr. Whelan noted there has been a very good response in the Nadina area from licensees.

Discussion took place regarding strategies for managing old growth, riparian areas, etc. impacted by Spruce Beetle outbreaks. Mr. Whelan mentioned that the Nadina District is learning from the Omineca District which is one of the initial areas experiencing Spruce Beetle outbreaks. Falling trap trees outside old growth management areas and fall and burns are just two potential strategy options to manage sensitive forest areas. There is a guide book available through the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development website that contains information and strategies in regard to the Spruce Beetle.

Director Brienen requested clarification in regard to Spruce Beetle outbreaks in the Houston area. Mr. Whelan mentioned that there have been areas west of Houston that have been harvested and BCTF and Canfor are utilizing trap trees south of Houston near the Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Trails to mitigate Spruce Beetle impacts. Mr. Whelan commented that licensees have been encouraged and requested to cut fiber immediately once hauled to milling facilities. Director Newell has received numerous calls from area residents and has visited the site being harvested on Buck Flats road near the ski trails. Concerns have been raised regarding the road leading to the area currently being harvested from Buck Flats Road and the collateral damage occurring from the harvesting. Mr. Whelan will provide further information to Director Newell in regard to the amount of fiber being removed in the infested area being harvested.

Director Greenaway questioned if licensees were or have requested the ability to harvest the Spruce Beetle similar to the Mountain Pine Beetle during prime weather and temperatures to ensure the beetle remains dormant during transportation of the trees for processing to mitigate infestation. Mr. May mentioned that he is unaware of this practice. Mr. O'Donoghue commented that the Mountain Pine Beetle and Spruce Beetle have very different behavior from one another and response to each beetle is different. The Mountain Pine Beetle spreads in a wave pattern where the Spruce Beetle spreads in pockets throughout the forest.

Chair Thiessen requested an update in regard to the Timber Supply Review (TSR) and the responsibility of licensees to communicate with communities in regard to the forests/timber surrounding a community. Messrs. O'Donoghue, May and Whelan will attend a future Forestry Committee Meeting to provide an update.

Director Miller along with Chair Thiessen has a meeting scheduled with Mr. O'Donoghue on March 14, 2018 in regard to forest concerns in the Lakes region. Director Miller extended the invitation to Director Beach.

Discussion took place in regard to salvaging fiber to mitigate the need to burn waste fiber in the forests. Mr. O'Donoghue noted that licensees are utilizing more fiber for the bioenergy sector and leaving less waste on the ground.

Chair Thiessen granted permission for a gallery member to speak. Miles Fuller, Chinook Community Forest commented that when the re-inventory is complete it would be beneficial to include information in regard to the predicted amount of biofuel that may be available.

Chair Thiessen thanked Messrs. O'Donoghue, May and Whelan for attending the meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Temperature Strategy for Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreak**

Discussion took place regarding the past application to haul fiber impacted by the Mountain Pine Beetle to the processing companies during temperatures that would keep the beetle in its dormant state. During the beginning stages of the outbreak there were a number of strategies investigated and applied to mitigate the Mountain Pine Beetle outbreak.

### **Sort Yards**

Director Lindstrom brought forward the potential benefits of sort yards in cutting areas. Chair Thiessen mentioned that small independent producers in the region could potentially benefit from the ability to access fiber through sort yards. Discussion took place regarding the challenges of implementing sort yards under the current forest regulations and systems. It will take cooperation from the entire forest sector to consider a sort yard system. Chair Thiessen spoke of the need to continue to work on creating more opportunities to utilize volume from cut trees and mitigate waste. Discussion took place regarding comments made by Premier John Horgan concerning forestry in the province.

### **Bioenergy Plants**

Director Parker brought forward concerns regarding bioenergy plants utilizing chips from other producers to operate and the need for requirements to be in place when obtaining a license to produce their own energy. He also noted the impact to the agriculture sector regarding the lack of available wood chips for operations.

Discussion took place regarding the Fort St. James Bioenergy Plant and its application for a license and the need to request clarification from FLNRORD staff.

Chair Thiessen spoke of the importance of fiber utilization and the economic value of small mills for regional and community sustainability.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Miller  
Seconded by Director Petersen

### **F.C.2018-1-3**

“That the meeting be adjourned at 1:57 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Gerry Thiessen, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant