

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

Thursday, November 9, 2017

<b><u>PAGE NO.</u></b>		<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
	<b><u>Agenda – November 9, 2017</u></b>	<b>Adopt</b>
	<b><u>Supplementary Agenda</u></b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>MINUTES</u></b>	
2-6	<b>Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes - July 21, 2016</b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>DELEGATION</u></b>	
	<b><u>MINISTRY OF FORESTS LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT</u></b>	
	<b>Dave Van Dolah, District Manager, Stuart Nechako District John Pousette, RPF, Major Projects Team Lead for the Omineca Region, Prince George Kelly Izzard, RPF, Timber Supply/Geomatics Forester for the Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch, Victoria RE: Chief Forester's Allowable Annual Cut Determination for the Prince George Timber Supply Area</b>	
	<b><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></b>	
7-11	<b>Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – <i>Forest Stewardship Plans: Are They Meeting Expectations? (August 2015) and District Managers' Authority over Forest Operations (December 2015)</i></b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u></b>	
	<b><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></b>	
	<b><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></b>	

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**(Committee of the Whole)****Thursday, July 21, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Chair Rob MacDougall

Directors Taylor Bachrach  
Eileen Benedict  
Shane Brien  
Mark Fisher  
Tom Greenaway  
Thomas Liversidge  
Bill Miller  
Rob Newell  
Mark Parker  
Jerry Petersen  
Darcy Repen  
Luke Strimbold  
Gerry Thiessen

Director Dwayne Lindstrom

Absent

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Marc Bekar, Smithers  
Anna-Maria Spooner, Cluculz Lake  
Roy Spooner, Cluculz Lake  
Heather Wiebe, Omineca Spruce Beetle Project Manager,  
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations –  
Via Teleconference 10:06 a.m. to 10:24 a.m.

Media Flavio Nienow, LD News

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair MacDougall called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**AGENDA** Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Newell

**F.C.2016-5-1** "That the Forestry Committee Meeting Agenda of July 21, 2016  
be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MINUTES**

Forestry Committee Meeting  
Minutes – April 14, 2016

Moved by Director Repen  
Seconded by Director Bachrach

F.C.2016-5-2

“That the Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2016 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**DELEGATION**

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS – Heather Wiebe, Omineca Spruce Beetle Project Manager RE: Update – Spruce Beetle Management Plan Via Teleconference 10:06 a.m. – 10:24 a.m.**

Chair MacDougall welcomed Heather Wiebe, Omineca Spruce Beetle Project Manager, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations via teleconference.

Ms. Wiebe provided a Spruce Beetle Outbreak – Update.

**Spruce Beetle Outbreak – Update**

**Spruce Beetle**

- Endemic to B.C.;
  - o Beetles are in the forests at all times;
- Certain conditions that will allow for the population to increase:
  - o Blow down – more significant wind events from climate change;
  - o Warmer winters – allows beetle to have a one year life cycle instead of a two year life cycle;
  - o Very long and dry summers – stress the trees and not able to pitch out the beetles and more susceptible to infestation.

**Outbreak confirmed**

A spruce beetle outbreak was confirmed in Omineca Region in October of 2015. Elements of an outbreak:

- Significant # of hectares impacted: 156,000 ha for Omineca;
- Beetle present in both one and two year life cycles;
- Beetle successful in attacking large and small diameter spruce;
- Populations are increasingly severe.

**Responsibilities during a spruce beetle outbreak**

FLNRO: Detection through annual aerial overview surveys, helicopter surveys, and ground surveys.

Licenseses: Treatment through conventional trap trees, targeted harvest. Planned hauling and milling of infested timber to reduce spread.

**FLNRO Detection (2015-2016 fiscal)**

- \$250,000 aerial surveys;
- \$500,000 ground surveys.

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

### **MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS – Heather Wiebe, Omineca Spruce Beetle Project Manager RE: Update – Spruce Beetle Management Plan Via Teleconference 10:06 a.m. – 10:24 a.m.**

#### **TSA (Timber Supply Area) Working Groups (operations)**

Working groups were established for both the Mackenzie and Prince George TSA's in 2015 with the primary focus of using the detection information from FLNRO to prioritize treatment.

Working groups bring licensees and FLNRO to the same table for collaborative planning.

- 5,300 ha was treated in the spring of 2016 with trap trees;
  - Two methods of treatment:
    - o Trap trees – mimic blowdown – large diameter spruce trees that are cut down and jammed into the shade;
    - o 10 times more successful to draw spruce beetle than live standing trees;
    - o Those trees are removed – brought to the mill for processing, bucked up and burned, or the bark can be peeled off them;
- Sanitization treatment:
  - Harvest green timber and process:
    - o 4,680 ha harvested removing 226,000m<sup>3</sup> of spruce trees with live beetle during the 2016 fiscal year.

#### **Omineca Working Group (strategic)**

Licensees impacted by the outbreak reviewed the direction from government (BMPs (Best Management Practices), expectations, guidelines) and developed recommendations to government to support suppression.

- Licensees will share operating areas where necessary;
- FLNRO will provide a formal response document that will outline ongoing efforts, options/decisions/choices/results/findings

#### **Public Advisory Committee**

The first meeting of the Omineca Spruce Beetle Public Advisory Committee occurred June 15, 2016. This group will review direction from government and recommendations from licensees and provide advice on forestry and non-forestry values of importance to the citizens of British Columbia.

- Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC);
- Academia;
- First Nations;
- Community Forests;
- Local governments;
- NGO's;
- Commercial recreation users (guide outfitters);
- Non-commercial recreation users (hunters).

#### **FLNRO Removing Barriers**

- Tenures, Competitiveness & Innovation investigating tenures and pricing options;
- Newly developed survey methodologies will eliminate redundancy and costs to licensees to capture data necessary for expedient treatment;
- Will conduct extensive heli surveys with licensees to identify areas for suppression harvest;
- Engineering branch analyzing infrastructure needs to access impacted timber;
- Working with BC Parks to establish trap trees within parks and safeguard values with adjacent harvest opportunities;
- Expedition of authorizations, extension with FN for trap trees;
- Field trials on new pheromone attractants and experimental horizontal traps.

**DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS – Heather Wiebe, Omineca Spruce Beetle Project Manager RE: Update – Spruce Beetle Management Plan Via Teleconference 10:06 a.m. – 10:24 a.m.**

**Knowledge Management**

Spruce beetle outbreaks usually last 7 years; in year 3 in Omineca. There is a small window to mitigate impact by thoroughly and judiciously applying tactics at population epicentres. Industry, stakeholders, and government need to capture, develop, share, and effectively use knowledge for success.

- Recalling retired FLNRO staff (contract/emeritus) & connecting with Beetle Bosses from MPB outbreak to learn from the past;
- Hosting a summit in 2016 to bring together North American experts for BC to gather information on new research or successful operational techniques and for BC to provide training to other provinces experiencing spruce beetle population growth;
- Durable products and processes developed for Omineca are provincially relevant therefore shelf- ready for other regions;
- Reaching out to all NRS staff to increase knowledge of the outbreak to better integrate with their clients and communities.

Ms. Wiebe mentioned that 2016 will be a very telling year in regard to the population of the spruce beetle.

Ms. Wiebe commented that there are limitations to hauling the spruce beetle impacted trees to mills as the beetle flies when it is warmer than 16 degrees Celsius and between May and August. During those times there will only be night hauling and the trees arriving at the sawmills are processed immediately. Discussion took place regarding the risk to transport the trees. Ms. Wiebe noted that there is a higher risk of infestation if the trees remain in the bush and every attempt is made to mitigate the risks.

Director Miller requested clarification as to the sharing of the information provided in regard to the spruce beetle outbreak. Ms. Wiebe indicated that all information can be shared and that documents produced will be available online.

Discussion took place regarding the potential volumes impacted in the Mackenzie and Prince George areas.

Chair MacDougall thanked Ms. Wiebe for attending the meeting.

Director Miller provided a brief summary of the Spruce Beetle Public Advisory Committee (PAC).

**SPRUCE BEETLE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Knowledge Management**

- Province sensitive to social license;
- Host of pressures;
- Don't overharvest:
  - o impact midterm timber supply;
  - o Riparian areas, etc.
- Individuals chosen on PAC:
  - o wide spectrum of knowledge and experience;
  - o engaged University of B.C. representatives;
  - o FLNRO;
  - o Good cross section of stakeholders;

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**SPRUCE BEETLE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONT'D)**

- Ministry of Forests, Lands and Resource Operations has indicated that the information and recommendations that will be produced from the PAC will be information that government uses.
- Working with licensees and licensee foresters.

Director Miller will bring forward further information in regard to comments made at the PAC meetings and can provide comments from the RDBN Forestry Committee to the PAC.

Director Miller indicated that First Nations are being consulted but he noted the need to have First Nations representation on the PAC.

Discussion took place regarding partition cuts and potentially shifting cuts from some areas to other areas. Director Miller commented that it is currently being discussed.

Silviculture, reforestation and the possible use of other species of trees was brought forward for discussion. Director Miller mentioned that discussions throughout the region have taken place in regard to building a better more resilient forest.

Director Newell brought forward concerns regarding the socio economic affects management plans provided by the pipeline companies and the lack of methodologies for the use of fibre from the pipeline right of ways/corridors and the replanting of cleared areas. Chair MacDougall directed staff to work with Director Newell to write a letter to TransCanada Coastal GasLink to address the concerns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Brien

F.C.2016-5-3

"That the meeting be adjourned at 10:34 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Rob MacDougall, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

**Cheryl Anderson**

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**From:** Gerry Thiessen <mayor@district.vanderhoof.ca>  
**Sent:** April-18-16 3:09 PM  
**To:** Cheryl Anderson; mayor@fortstjames.ca; Bill Miller (bmiller.pbm@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** FW: Government's response to FPBs- recommendations Forest Stewardship Plans  
**Attachments:** 221036 response.pdf; ATT00001.htm

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**From:** Wayne Salewski [mailto:salewski@telus.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2016 9:35 AM  
**To:** Wayne Salewski  
**Subject:** Fwd: Government's response to FPBs- recommendations Forest Stewardship Plans

HI

I have attached an important response from the Ministry of FLNR to the chair of the Forest Practices Board and the subject of Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP).

On the surface I see this as a huge win but it will be important that we ensure that we have not only an improved and measurable FSP process but that where we have multiple licensees working in one watershed that all of these FSP's are in agreement with the objectives. This might mean that we will need or request on FSP being submitted by these licences in order to ensure consideration for finding the right balance and that the many other values on the landscape are being considered.

I think this has been an important first step in moving us back to managing and growing a healthy forest and this is your opportunity to ensure that those that are harvesting are aware of the other values on the landscape.

Its a great read and certainly a step in the right direction.

Wayne

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Clarke, Dave FPB:EX" <Dave.Clarke@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: Government's response to FPBs recommendations  
**Date:** April 18, 2016 at 8:16:11 AM PDT  
**To:** Wayne Salewski <salewski@telus.net>

FYI



File: 280-30  
Reference: 221036

APR 14 2016

Tim Ryan, Chair  
Forest Practices Board  
PO Box 9905 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8W 9R1

Dear Tim Ryan:

On behalf of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR), please accept this letter as government's response to the Forest Practices Board's recommendations in its reports: *Forest Stewardship Plans: Are They Meeting Expectations? (August 2015)* and *District Managers' Authority over Forest Operations (December 2015)*.

As Deputy Minister Sheldan indicated to the Board in his letter of December 18, 2015, the ministry has placed a high priority on obtaining improvements to forest stewardship plans (FSPs) over the coming years. To achieve this objective, we have several initiatives underway, as outlined below. We are grateful for the efforts of Board staff in helping government and industry professionals better understand the Board's methods, analysis and findings. This has been instrumental in improving our collective understanding of opportunities to improve FSP results, strategies, and measures.

We also appreciate the Board's analysis and recommendation to strengthen the authorities of District Managers in legislation to prevent unintended outcomes, such as the potential for unintended adverse impacts to public health and safety, the environment, resource values, and the rights of other tenure holders.

The ministry views these two reports collectively, as they both identify opportunities to improve to the underlying mechanisms that enable effective operational planning and practices under the *Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)*. The ministry is in the process of developing a multi-year strategy for improvement of the FRPA framework and its implementation: elements of the Board's findings and recommendations in both reports will be further addressed in this strategy.

The following reflects activities now underway and planned (as part of the FRPA strategy) to address the Board's specific recommendations in both reports.

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**FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANS (FSPs)*****Recommendations to government***

1. Government and its decision makers should not extend or approve FSPs that include:
  - results, strategies and measures that are unenforceable,
  - results or strategies that are not consistent to the extent practicable with government's objectives, or
  - measures that are not reasonable and appropriate.
2. Government should ensure that the public has at least one opportunity every five years for full review and comment on forest stewardship plans.
3. Government should establish a process for public review and comment on planned roads and cutblocks.

***Government activities underway and planned:***

- To support immediate improvements to FSPs, Minister Thomson issued province-wide expectations to District Managers, the Minister's delegated decision-makers under FRPA responsible for approving the content of FSPs. Pursuant to this government direction, the province's Chief Forester, Diane Nicholls, provided specific guidance on the replacement of FSPs. This guidance is intended to inform District Managers as they set their local expectations for FSPs in advance of FSP approval decisions. A copy of this guidance was shared with the Board upon its release in early March 2016.
- The ministry has developed a provincial FSP workshop that will be hosted across FLNR regions throughout spring 2016. These sessions are designed to assist industry professionals and government staff who are responsible for preparing, reviewing and adjudicating FSPs. The ministry has worked with the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) and forest industry representatives to help design the workshops. I wish to thank the Board for contributing staff time during the development of the workshop content.
- To support public consultation on FSPs every five years, the Chief Forester's recent provincial guidance expressly notes that government expects replacement (new) FSPs, not extensions, for FSPs that are coming to the end of their term. By submitting a replacement FSP, the legal requirement for public consultation is triggered. This enables communities, tenured users, the general public and other affected parties to have a formal opportunity to present their perspectives during the planning phase. As per the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulations Section 21 and 22*, these comments must be considered, and the actions taken to address them must be included as part of the FSP submission to the District Manager.
- Government would like to see enhancements to public engagement in forestry planning. An area that government will be working on further, is building technology-based solutions for sharing the right information with the right parties at the right time. As such, government has no plans at this time to explore a new legislated process for public review and comment on proposed cutblocks and roads. Instead, we will turn resources toward finding solutions that support meaningful sharing of information between the forest industry and First Nations, non-forestry tenured users, municipal government, and the public.

- FRPA is a results-based model, where improvements are enacted over time based on evidence. We remain committed to the continuous improvement model for FRPA, and will continue to identify annual priorities for FRPA enhancement.

#### **AUTHORITIES OF DISTRICT MANAGERS**

##### ***Recommendation to government***

Introduce a regulation to implement *Forest Act* section 81.1. The regulation should authorize District Managers to refuse a cutting permit or road permit if the Minister determines that any of the following applies:

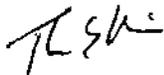
- there is clearly significant risk to public health or safety;
- there is a clearly significant risk to forest resources or values;
- there is likely to be a contravention of legislation; or,
- the interests of another tenure holder have not been adequately addressed (if that tenure holder requests District Manager intervention).

##### ***Government actions underway and planned:***

- The ministry is currently working with District Managers, legal counsel and policy specialists to further investigate and document: (a) the current suite of authorities that District Managers have; and, (b) the range of circumstances District Managers may face that challenge the exercise of such authorities.
- As a result of this work, any identified opportunities to strengthen legislation, policy, or decision-making support will be addressed as part of the annual FRPA continuous improvement strategy.

In closing, if the Board has any questions regarding the ministry's actions to address the Board's recommendations, please contact Norah White, Sustainable Forest Management Policy Officer, Resource Practices Branch, at [norah.white@gov.bc.ca](mailto:norah.white@gov.bc.ca).

Yours truly,



Tom Ethier  
Assistant Deputy Minister

cc: Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister  
Jason Fisher, Associate Deputy Minister, Forest Sector  
Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester  
All Regional Executive Directors  
Jennifer Davis, Director, Resource Practices Branch  
Kevin Edquist, Director, Compliance and Enforcement Branch  
Perry Grilz, Director, Range Branch  
Doug Stewart, Director, Forest Tenures Branch  
All District Managers

Doug Fraser, Range Practices Officer, Range Branch  
Lou Tromp, Senior Timber Tenures Forester, Forest Tenures Branch  
Norah White, Sustainable Forest Management Policy Officer,  
Resource Practices Branch  
Christine Gelowitz, Association of BC Forest Professionals  
Mike Larock, Director of Professional Practice and Forest Stewardship,  
Association of BC Forest Professionals  
Larry Fossum, President, BC Cattlemen's Association