

Date: Thursday, April 27, 2006
Location: Room 142 in OFRI

FRP Management Group Meeting Minutes

Participants: Jim Baker, Darwin Burgess, Brian Batchelor, Bill Meades, Al Stinson, John Pineau, Sue Pickering (by conference call)

- Reviewed Tembec closure of SRF mill and Mattawa shut-down
- Chipping implications (block 18 in the RMF)...
- Sue Pickering and Guy Noel moving into office at CEC
- Dan Puddister will be taking Vivienne Scott's position at OFRI
- Tembec has appointed Bill Snell as General Manager of the FRP (corporate link with Tembec); still keeping his other duties – part-time assignment; Mike meeting with Al and John on a monthly basis; plan is to eventually replace George's position
- Added to Al's workload; and everyone else's workload... day to day work of the FRP...
- Darwin remains as liaison to PRF, CFS, reporting requirements, etc.; participate in both committees
- CFS/Fibre Centre still sorting out relationships with FRP, Forest Co-op, etc.; spirit of original MOU will continue
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- Budget/work plan review
 - Three segments – two fiscal years (FRP and Tembec)
 - Need to meet both year-ends – keeps us honest...
 - Al reviewed spread-sheets provided (digital will be sent to Mgt. Group)
 - Need to meet \$278,000 net expenditure in Tembec fiscal - i.e. by Sept. 30, 2006
 - Concerns re field season – implications;
 - ***AI – Talk to any project leads re project implications***
 - \$337,000 from EFPS before end of September; resources will be available
 - One new project added for this fiscal year – Doug Pitt's Critical Stages; maintain science program, emphasize transfer (Romeo/Nipissing FMP's)
 - Make sure all project leads understand budget requirements – need to meet this budget...
 - \$350,000 from Tembec in second half; will allow \$500,000 in the next fiscal year (better for next field season) – keeps us on our \$850,000 net for Tembec
 - FRP fiscal year: soft \$ - don't count as combined in-kind – Executive direction
 - Administrative costs are \$118,000 – typical and reasonable; under 20%
 - Research Affiliations – NCE - \$125,000 to \$75,000 to \$10,000

- Shouldn't be a surprise to NCE/SFMN; tough times; other companies have done and are doing the same...
 - Huge hitters – Patchworks, Inventory/LiDAR, RMF EFP Pilot
 - Fibre Theme – scaling back in Tree Improvement – down to \$64,000
 - Holding NESMA to their budget... Focus on first generation...; all Sb planted this year are going to be first generation improved...
 - Boreal mixed-wood study – big hitter...
 - NSERC grant – Jeff Dech, Nipissing University...
 - Parkside Gully – 4th cutting cycle – oldest single tree selection site in Canada
 - Sustainability – Multi-cohort – Ben Kuttner – U of T...
 - Marten work – Brian Naylor; short term project; wraps up soon
 - Forest Management Context – not spending this year (collaboration in past with Forintek) – first year; need collaboration with Tony Zhang
 - Use DMD's – put this to work for us
 - Spray Safe DSS project - \$225,000 – role out onto Block 18 – merging with EFP Project on RMF...
 - Extension - \$285,000 – need every penny and then some – huge hitter, John is a couchon...
 - MNR cash and in-kind \$810,000
 - CFS cash and in-kind \$600,000
 - EFPS - \$518,000 (could pump number up - \$ associated with other projects that are indirectly associated with FRP)
 - Rule of thumb: Where we are peripheral players – would have fled without us – don't count
 - ***AI – AI will add in column – other cash and in-kind not officially counted as direct leverage...***
 - Some of the MNR numbers might need to be tweaked – prior to sending it to the Executive...
 - External Cash - \$775,000
 - (EFPS, OCE, LLRP, etc.)
 - Grand total: \$2.9 million (cash \$1.7 million; in-kind: \$1.3 million)
 - CFS – planning 25% reduction – worst case scenario
 - Take approach to protect well-leveraged projects
- EFPS outcome (latest round)
 - Four proposals under the round; more through Forest Co-op
 - RMF EFPS Pilot - \$152,000 over three years – 30% reduction
 - Bird monitoring elements may be scaled back
 - CFS will put a bit more leverage – A base salary
 - Issues re bird habitat – helps with perception
 - ***AI – ensure Dana Kinsmen is in the loop***
 - Jim is connected with Dana – submission to MOE (talk more this p.m. with Science Advisory Group)

- ***AI – Steve Mills or Dean Phoenix – make them aware/get them involved (AI to chat with Bob Watt)***
- Critical Stages Vegetation Re-measurement – Doug Pitt as investigator with University of Maine - \$20,000 over two years – request to carry analysis further, EFPS offered to pay extra...
- Review project around Science Meeting this p.m. – ensure all controversy is put to bed...
- Have done well with EFPS – 68% success... better than average
- ***AI – Executive should discuss the creation of another Forestry R&D pot at their next meeting...***
- Collectively and at the Executive level – need to look into OCE – opportunities to expand funding...
- Forest Co-op – MOSSY tentatively funded with independent peer review
- Forest Co-op – 30% of projects approved
- Reports to EFPS submitted; invoices submitted... doesn't appear to be a problem
- FRP also took a lot of the \$ through its projects...
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- FRP has joined the Tembec Chief Forester's Group
- Subjected to a Federal Tax Audit – past three years... R&D at Tembec
- Background document and Five Year Report...
- Preliminary numbers last fiscal year: \$1,780,000 – past fiscal year ending March 31st, \$952,000 – external funding; \$48,000 under-spent...
- Assembling in-kind numbers
- ***AI – flip this to Mgt. Group to pass on to Executive members***
- Executive scheduled for June 28th and 29th (Bill Snell)
- Hoping the Ecology Centre – field tour the second day...
- Andy Mutchmor is contracted to do annual report, and to get status reports together – knows our business...
- Guy Noel – EMS – going to help us with to quantify FRP results – what did we get out of it... Benchmark work done with Andy Mutchmor in 2000; Benchmark tracking...
- Vision/objectives for this year – common message: Manage our existing projects, max. leverage, move to application/operation...
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- Core Team update
- John provided update – Nipissing starting up again – coincides with FMP 2009
- Chief Forester's Group – writing TofR, and managing the planning program
- Northeast working well – too much of an Extension/workshop flavor – need a new co-ordinator – Scott McPherson was suggested...
- ***AI – AI, Sue, John – sit down with Mary Ellen and Bob and Dianne Corbett – anticipate expertise on plan... define roles***

- Support from NESI for key areas - what do we want on ground and how reflected in the plan
 - FRP is written into the Terms of Reference... John submitted to Bazely; developed with Brian, Al, Scott, etc.
 - Need to engage Northeast Planning
 - Local FRM Tembec, District, Science Review Team, Rouilliard/Bondar, NESI... (policy buy-in)
 - ***AI – engage Dan Rouillard in Northeast***
 - ***AI – new facilitator/coordinator in the northeast***
 - Wayne can help out on the silviculture side...
 - Jeff wants to move basic things ahead – general silviculture...
 - Improved habitat modeling for the RMF...
 - FSC challenge – herbicides – reduction required... aggressive plan to reduce... push back a bit; realistic with the target...
 - ***AI – talk to Tom about a license for Patchworks for Nipissing***
- EFP Pilot/Block 18 update
 - Established south of Timmins; Doug Pitt has done a very thorough partners report – see the FRP website...
 - Showcase for FRP science... Science and Technology rolled out and used...
 - Some utilization issues; resolved
 - Deal with white birch down to 10 cm. (half was free of charge)
 - Some concern over residual leave blocks
 - Now have EFPSP funding – official science project
 - FSC – annual audit – field visit – auditors – questions – people not well versed... major CAR – Corrective action required...
 - Three months to respond – pulled group together – lack of distribution of snag trees over the block – didn't like aggregated patches...
 - Response – 3-4 weeks ago – standard actually preferred aggregation
 - Disjoint between implementation and FSC certificate maintenance – communications issues
 - Proved to be a very useful exercise...
 - Still waiting for a response – indications are that package should be sufficient...
 - Definitely a positive project now...
 - Grant has committed to cutting poplar...
 - ***AI - need to work with Grant (Bob Fleet and Faye) deal with birch and poplar; FRP could initiate...***
 - ***AI – Mgt. Advisory Committee meeting – Timmins – Oct. in conjunction with Boreal Conference – Mixed Wood/NEBIE/EFP Pilot***
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 - Progress on FRP strategic plan 2006-2010

- ***A/I – John to draft for Bill and Jim (include Bob); review, then take to larger Mgt. group; have final version ready for Executive by the end of June (first draft by May 19th, 2006)***
- Quarterly Report – typically for Tembec
- ***A/I - Expand to include all partners - Mgt. Group in distribution (run by Mgt. Group for comment before final distribution)***
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- Thunder Bay meeting – moving from site class to site index; good opportunity to apply science we have worked on...
- OCE – 5 EOI' submitted – keeping the FRP nimble – taking advantage of opportunities – need review by Science Advisory Committee...
- Potential Forestry Centre of Excellence – CEC-FRP... might be more of a virtual centre – opportunity for the Executive to investigate...
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- Next Meeting: July 5th – Conference Call...

Science Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Participants: Jim Baker, Darwin Burgess, Guy Smith, Wayne Bell, Al Stinson, John Pineau, Brian Batchelor, Sue Pickering (conference call)

- Review draft budget and identify concerns and issues
 - Al had a conference call with Wayne re NEBIE budget – it is in Steve's court
 - Al reviewed budget again (see above)
- Review EFP funding for FRP projects
 - Block 18 and the Searchmont study...
 - Al reviewed – see above... another \$180k for next three years...
- Science support needed for RMF and Nipissing Core Teams
 - Core Teams – changed; role of Tembec Chief Forester's Group - restructured – coordinating the development of plans – Sue gave a brief rundown... see above...
 - Mike Malek – modeling; Jeff Leach – silviculture...
 - Regional Team – moves from plan to plan, uses local on the ground knowledge of planning superintendent and operations staff; GIS coordinated by Ken Durst

- Development of strategic science plan for next 5 years as context for science priorities for next year
 - Modeling, silviculture, yield curves
 - FRP advice/support in developing the plans
 - People: John Pineau, Dave Ethridge, Steve Mills, Scott McPherson
 - ***A/I – sit down with Core Team to identify what we want; and who we need... and when... associate with specific Task Teams...***
 - ***A/I –new science – Pj - roll out to the Core Teams – John to work with Wayne***
 - ***A/I – Darwin will be involved with the Nipissing Core Team***
 - Avoid Superior-Martel situation on the RMF plan (bump-up and FSC challenge)
 - Lack of new science in the way we model for wildlife habitat – not peer reviewed... etc. Dave Isler...
 - Jim reviewed background on wildlife habitat component of SFMM modeling, and other wildlife models, and the status of the issue...
 - Rob Remple (CNFER) has new wildlife habitat model
 - Current matrix used in SFMM is not reliable
 - Matrix is about 65% at best; false positives vs. false negatives; standard is 70%
 - Developing new plan for RMF – old model? Or do we go to Rob Remple's
 - Planning Team has to make a decision; based on how we deal with Superior Plan... Better knowledge now than before; new model is adequate – Rob's model does require spatial platform...
 - New inventory is on target to be ready for the plan...
 - More habitat than we think we do – could see an increase – speculation...
 - Preferred habitat vs. used
 - Balance of natural variation...
 - Bump-up caught MNR off-guard; opportunity to be more prepared...
 - ***Strategic Science Plan – flesh out goal # 2 and other goals***
 - More emphasis on knowledge transfer rather than knowledge creation
 - What emerges from the plans – where we should invest in new knowledge
 - What have we discerned from the FRP adaptive framework...
 - Major areas of uncertainty – 10/10 objective? Research complete but haven't transferred
 - Use RMF and Nipissing to feedback questions...
 - Next year – room to build additional science projects...
 - Maintenance and Knowledge Transfer/synthesis and Knowledge Creation; use Transfer to feedback to Creation side...
 - Opportunity re habitat modeling and AOC – re applying FRP science
 - Weak point – back to the leaky bucket syndrome
 - ***A/I – Reflect any new science that helps us where we are overly cautious...***
 - Make sure transferred into the policy – writing teams – guidelines – working in tandem with each other...

- ***A/I - Ideal time to have stuff inserted into those guides; we have to work at this... A/I***
 - ***Joe Churcher/Mike Briennesse/Chuck Mason – make sure we have a champion...***
 - ***E.g. of policy changes in progress: Commercial thinning in the boreal (Gordon Kayahara); Spatial Planning; Yield Curves; Osprey/Heron guidelines – (Naylor); Inventory policy; influencing policy by rolling it out to the planning teams...***
 - More emphasis on how we influence policy – implement in both the Romeo and Nipissing plans... circle back and influence policy...
 - Some agreement from policy that the plans are trying new things – dealing with effectiveness of science and impact at policy; involve ENGO's – Wildlands League – learned to involved folks with issues/concerns...
 - FSC coarse woody debris not a big issue – focused on herbicides...
 - FSC – Riparian zones – also a difficult issue...
 - Some rumblings on dealing with slash piles...
 - Inventory and Growth and Yield – LiDAR – influence...
 - Growth Intercepts are coming soon to a forest near you...
 - Strategic science need – coarse woody debris – over the next 5 years
 - OCE approach MNR about co-gen
 - ***A/I - Sue will help student with Sb Growth Intercepts sites...***
 - ***A/I – do a rough draft of science strategy/needs in parallel – finalize by Oct. – have as a living thing... update regularly...***
 - ***Based on FRP strategy – falls within/fits within goal 2, and some of the others...***
- Agree on process for review of science/transfer proposals to FRP
 - Science Advisory group to reference science strategy, compare, done anywhere else, etc. – standard sort of form... LOI – letter of intent – pass around to members of the group... except where there is another agency's form... i.e. OCE, EFPS, etc...
 - ***A/I – Form/Checklist for program... A/I to provided committee project description template***
 - Project deemed FRP – looking for FRP funds – review by committee
 - Others – quick LOI, then proposal to external agency – circulate to committee...
 - Strike a balance between nimble and process (getting it right)...
 - Target best scientist/researcher/specialist to do a specific project in this time – most successful components of the partnership...
 - Be out ahead of the game – be ready for opportunities and know our needs
- Discuss and determine if additional members are needed on science advisory team

- Representation? Broaden? – need somebody from northeast region – normally Jeff Leach
 - ***AI – Jim to call Bob - Gordon or Scott or Dave Ethridge to add to the team... (Ethridge getting knowledgeable with Patchworks)...***
 - Doug Pitt normally here; somebody from OFRI – Ian Thompson or Steve Holmes or Rob Remple... or Lisa??? Michael Gluck
 - Experience with doing a plan...
 - Outside CFS, OMNR, Tembec – Academia?
 - Key areas of interest – attract appropriate/relevant groups... permanent core – a little broader – how things fit within strategic plan and priorities...
 - Good with model, but also understands the underlying knowledge of the model...
 - Practitioners needed...
 - Transfer to Policy group – Peter Henry and Dan Rouillard – supposed to be here today
 - ***AI – add Mike Briennesse to represent policy section as a whole...***
- MOSSY independent review – AI will go to Ken VanEvery with names: Peter Marshall, Mensuration Prof. at UBC (one of the reviewers of the Penner curves); Guy will make inquiries; Michael Drescher of OFRI – working for Ajith; and Fred... Mike Termicalian, Art Groot, Pierre Bernier of Laurentian Lab, Quebec..., John Casperson, U of T; Guy Laroche, Laurentian – Quebec City...; Nancy Luckai at Lakehead...
- OCE Expressions of Interest
- See above – 5 EOI's submitted; waiting for word if they want full proposals; will circulate to committee...
 - Required a quick turn-around... consultation/communication was side-tracked temporarily...
- Schedule for meetings in the remainder of the year
- ***AI - After the Mgt. Group meeting – afternoon of July 5th...***
 - Introductory piece – or everybody join for the one call – results of Executive meeting – then separate...