

MEETING SUMMARY: Dec 12, 2006

In Attendance

- KNPS: President Kent Goodwin, Vice President Pam Chenery, Secretary Susan Bond, Director Chris Ferguson, Member Laura Duncan.
- City: Mayor Jim Ogilvie, Councillors Kieran Hickey, Albert Hoglund and Bob West-Sells, Administrator Mike Dodd, Fire Chief Al Collinson.
- Others: Brian Dureski, Planning Superintendent, Tembec
Bob Gray, Fire Ecologist

Participant Statements:

- (1) Jim Ogilvie: The City is concerned about what will happen to the Nature Park as a result of fire risk reduction and mountain pine beetle control. The City wants clean-up of a higher standard than the Nordic Trails and a lighter touch than conventional logging. Recreational, esthetic and ecological values must be incorporated. The City is prepared to work with Tembec to have stumpage lowered and is supporting Bob Gray's proposal for a workshop where all parties will arrive at a fire-reduction plan through consensus. The City also wants a commitment from Tembec that logging won't take place until a memorandum of understanding is in place. If Tembec logs the Park without an MoU, it does so at its own peril.
- (2) Brian Dureski: Tembec has already demonstrated in the Nordic Trails that it is prepared to do more extensive clean-up than in a standard logging show. Prairie Holdings extracted sawlog, post, pole and rail-size stems as part of its logging contract, and Tembec ground harvesting waste into hog fuel. This added more than \$5 a cubic metre to logging costs, nonetheless the company will make the same clean-up commitment in the Nature Park. Extra financial help in the form of lower stumpage would be welcome but is not likely to be forthcoming from Revenue Branch.

Prescriptions in the Russ Hawkins' site plan were based on Bob Gray's fire plan and follow his fire management unit recommendations. Leaving more trees has operational and lost revenue costs.

Tembec will sign off on an MoU if its terms are reasonable, don't lead to exorbitant costs, and don't require wholesale changes to the existing site plan. Tembec is willing to look at cutting specs and roads, and is open to other suggestions that aren't too costly.

Tembec will participate in the workshop process but can't commit in advance to what comes out of it. If decisions come out of the workshop that aren't operationally feasible, Tembec won't support them. Consensus is desirable but possibly not achievable. BD will see if Tembec will contribute to workshop costs.

The matter of former Teck Cominco land in the Nature Park not being part of the provincial forest, and thus exempt from stumpage, needs to be cleared up with MoF before the workshop.

Logging practices used in the Park now will determine the Forest Stewardship Certification special management strategy for the area. This means harvesting to a higher standard than normal. The FSC process is not currently endorsed by government; MoF will monitor the process for 5 years and then assess it. FSC practices may eventually affect Tembec's AAC. Tembec is the first large industrial logging company in BC to get this high-level certification.

As planning superintendent, Brian's recommendations carry a lot of weight in the company but he is constrained by financial considerations, such as delivered log cost.

BD will assign a forester to the Nature Park logging plan soon, possibly by next week. He also wants to look at where the current plan protects Park trails on both sides, one side or not at all. There are lots of reserves in the plan; are these fire wicks into the community?

- (3) Kent Goodwin: KNPS is willing to use the workshop process. Starting with a clean slate, and using Farsite modeling and participants' expertise, the goal is to arrive at a logging plan everyone can live with. The problem statement as defined by Robin Gregory needs work. A lighter logging touch involves leaving more trees than in the R Hawkins' plan.
- (4) Bob Gray: Objective of the workshop is to arrive at a base level of fuel treatment in order to qualify for government funding. BG has verbal confirmation that province will commit treatment funding if a consensus plan is reached. Nordic Trails clean-up doesn't meet fire risk reduction objectives. No guarantees re: workshop outcome. Participants provide the expert opinions and required data; Robin Gregory is the facilitator only. BG is also concerned about how a mosaic of fuel treatments will affect fire behaviour. Park trails will be identified on the Farsite modeling maps used at the workshop.
- (5) Albert Hoglund: The province/MoF need to apply different rules in the Nature Park.

Points of Agreement/Action Items:

- (1) MoF must be a workshop participant.
- (2) No restocking in Managed Forest categories.
- (3) MoF agreement on forest health issues, eg, retaining trees with mistletoe, wildlife vs danger trees. Apply for variances where necessary. Consult Rocky Mountain Forest District manager Tony Wideski for variance advice.