

**SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 3, 2005
MANITOU LODGE, PINE FALLS**

PRESENT

Charlie Black	Black River First Nation
Earl Boyer	Manitoba Metis Federation
Bob Bruneau	RM Lac du Bonnet
Alain Chevrefils	P&A Contracting
Joel Chevrefils	P&A Contracting
Paul Chief	Brokenhead First Nation
Tom Collings	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
Denis De Pape	Facilitator
Robert Fenton	Resource Conservation Manitoba
Dave Howerter	Paddle Manitoba
Stuart Jansson	Manitoba Trappers Association
Vince Keenan	Tembec
Bill Kozyra	Laverendrye Trail Association
Peter Miller	Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystem
John Spence	Seymourville Community Council
Helen Thomas	Manigotagan
Walter Tokar	Manitoba Model Forest
Carissa Wieler	Minute taker
Mark Wynne	Town of Bissett

SPECIAL GUESTS

Kelly Leavesley Regional Wildlife Manager, Manitoba Conservation

1. Getting Started

Denis De Pape introduced himself and then had everyone around the table introduce themselves to the group and say one interesting fact about themselves.

2. Caribou Management – Kelly Leavesley, Manitoba Conservation

Ms. Leavesley gave a presentation on “Woodland Caribou Conservation in Eastern Manitoba”, which was an overview of the caribou management strategy based on research conducted by the Manitoba Model Forest. Ms. Leavesley also addressed concerns raised at the April 25, 2004 meeting. A copy of the powerpoint presentation and speaking notes are included with the minutes.

3. Non timber forest products

a. What are the main opportunities?

- Food and medicinal harvesting:
 - blueberry picking: by First Nations; many pickers at Deer Island
 - mushrooms: high demand for morels and pine mushrooms on West Coast; farmer's market buys them raw
 - fiddleheads: no commercial market yet; domestic
 - meat: domestic, deer, moose; outfitting
 - maple Syrup: made annually in Brokenhead; quantity depends on climate

- wild rice
- traditional medicines: herbs, roots (Seneca); there is an increased need
- cat tail heads in spring
- Fur harvesting:
 - Marten and beaver are main species; 160 traplines in region (roughly 50% are active; some not accessible); increased restrictions to trapping due to outfitters
- Recreation and Education:
 - wilderness experiences- canoeing, forest educational programs; interpretive guided tours
 - snowshoeing (alternative to snowmobiles)
 - fishing and hunting
- Arts and Crafts:
 - crafting supplies from bark, branches, cones, moss, lichens, pinecones
 - soapstone carvings

b. What are some of the concerns about forest management activities?

- Pesticides and Herbicides:
 - impact on food and medicinal plants
 - herbicide spray drifting onto mushrooms
 - application along road sides when windy by government
 - fuel or fluid spills such as hydraulic oils and antifreeze
- Impacts of logging and logging roads:
 - logging roads endanger wildlife
 - gates on operating roads impacting blueberry picking
 - need to balance the harvesting; need to reforest the area and not harm the other products
 - logging sometimes done in ways that intrude on the experience of harvesting non timber products
 - road crossings in streams may cause siltation and reduce water quality and harm fish
- Food supply and access:
 - resource allocations to American owned lodges resulting in trapping restrictions
 - blueberry picking areas decreasing in Gull Lake Area (access roads, tourism); competition for sites as people head north into back country
 - impact of silica operations on blueberries
- Appropriate and sustainable gathering of non-timber forest products:
 - ensure the diversity of age classes is maintained for what is harvested

- promote highest value product that causes the least damage; avoid long term alteration to the system
 - sustainable harvesting is a complex issue
 - ensure that whatever is happening isn't incrementally destroying the natural forest that you enjoy
- Recreation and education:
 - trails are littered with garbage
 - ATVs damage terrain; visible on TransCanada Trail near Great Falls.
 - concern about loss of specific orchids and plants growing in the Gull Lake wetlands at Brokenhead because of wetland drainage.
 - communities need to be educated and made aware of potential opportunities in non-timber forest products and how to take advantage of those opportunities in a safe way

c. What measures could address concerns?)

- Current Tembec herbicide spraying practices:
 - communities are sent a package before spraying occurs showing where Tembec will be spraying. Brokenhead to be added to distribution list for 2005.
 - a sign is posted at the entrance to all areas that will be sprayed 30 days prior to announce the activity
- Coordinate harvest of non-timber products with Tembec:
 - use pre-harvest surveys to identify species of value make allowances for those species to be collected before the harvest.
 - consider potential compatibility of blueberry picking and timber harvesting
 - maintain diversity of forest age class
- Education and awareness
- Develop a marketing framework for region
- Include in regional economic development programs

It was suggested that the topic remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

4. Carissa's Project

Carissa asked what people thought of the handout and if it was useful. The website links were valuable for some; others liked the pictures and the combination of pictures and website links.

5. Forest Tour

There will be two tours this year with Tembec Regional Advisory Committee (TRAC), a winter tour and a summer tour (which will look at reforestation and wood chipping operations). A tour in combination with TRAC will occur the **week of March 7, 2005**. Carissa will work with Linda at Tembec and inform members of the exact date. Transportation and lunch will be provided. The day will conclude close to 5pm. Approximately 8 people indicated that they would like to attend.

6. Update on Highway 315:

The proposed cut on Highway 315 has been put back into the 2005 annual plan. The plan is approved in principle, provided that the issue is resolved with Mr. and Mrs. Popp and a local outfitter. Mrs. Popp has agreed to take a tour of the site with Tembec in the spring.

A petition was submitted to the Minister with 540 signatories and a letter was submitted to the CEO of Tembec. The corporate Director of Environment is now involved in the issue.

7. FSC Report:

There three pre-conditions for Tembec to obtain FSC certification:

1. Finalize the dispute resolution mechanism and utilize it (Hwy 315 issue); incorporate the SFMAC in developing a dispute resolution (handout distributed)
2. Complete the wood supply analysis
3. Complete a long term plan – this could take some time.

The report does not become public until the issues are resolved.

Conditions for certification related to the SFMAC:

- Terms of reference need to be updated to include the following:
 - Annual goals and workplan for SFMAC
 - External communication
 - Conflict of interest statement or determine how dealt with
 - Dispute resolution mechanism for the committee
- Include public more in advance planning
- **Does the committee want to have a more active role in long term or short term plans, and if so, what kind of process will facilitate that?**

8. Next meeting:

- Dispute resolution mechanism
- SFMAC terms of reference – attached to minutes
 - Annual plan
 - External communication
 - Conflict of interest
 - Dispute resolution
- Should SFMAC be more active role on annual plan?
- Brainstorm other ways to improve the committee
- Non- timber products – how can economic development be realized?

Attachments: caribou presentation notes, caribou powerpoint presentation, draft dispute resolution mechanism, SFMAC terms of reference.

