

**Algonquin Park Forest Certification Advisory Group
Annual Report Meeting – 2011/2012
April 18 2013, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm
Algonquins of Ontario Office Pembroke**

Present: Ethan Huner, Gord Cumming, Shari Sokay, Tom Ballantine, Barry Bridgeford, Terry Mullin, Danny Janke, Shaun Dombroskie (minute taker), Emmett Godin, Lacey Rose, Joe Yaraskavitch, Steve D'eon, Nathan Mieske, Sherry Kohoko (alternate), Christine Luckasavitch (observer), Bob Craftchick, Katherine Cannon (alternate), Steve Bursey (observer), Richard Zohr, Bob McRae.

Regrets: Clifford Bastein, Doreen Davis, Randy Malcolm, Irvin Yateman, Dana Shaw, Anne Mundy, Deb Cumming, Dan Kohoko.

Agenda

Bob C. – led opening prayer.

Gord started by introducing observers and alternate members that were in attendance. Steve Bursey, AFA Area Forester and Christine Luckasavitch, AOO Economic Development Officer who were attending as observers. Catherine Cannon (Kijicho Manito Bancroft) and Sherry Kohoko (Pikwakanagan) alternate Advisory Group members.

1. General AFA Update

Danny- Two new board members were appointed to the AFA Board. Dave Lemke as Vice Chair and Sarah Bros. Long serving AFA employee, Larry Rosebrugh retired and Jim Turney was hired to fill the vacated operations supervisor position. Forest Resource Licence agreement containing wood supply commitment letters was finally signed after being five years overdue. Letters were then sent last fall to clients. AFA delivered 350,000 tonnes of forest resources this past season. Approximately 40,000 tonnes of planned inventory is also moving out now. Market place for low end material is tough, mills in Espanola and Thurso showing a little more interest in pulp quality material. Red pine product market is good. White pine product market is difficult and getting worse and has had an effect on pole production. Veneer market has picked up and flow of veneer products to market has been steady this winter. On the renewal side, level of activity this upcoming season will be similar to last year. Spring plant will start up in a couple of weeks. Last year was the year of the audits for AFA, roads audit, internal audit, IFA, and the CSA re-registration audit. The outcome has been positive. SAR habitat is still problematic, working through approvals and maintaining the balance. Three big bridge projects are scheduled this season, Kiosk, Radiant Lake and Narrowbag. Plans are underway to repair and secure resources to restore access as soon as feasible. Environmental Program on long skidding has reached a point where we have information now to implement some of the findings. Gord will be heading up FMP Phase II planning which will be starting soon.

Bob C.- Can the process for the election of board members be explained? Danny- questions of this nature should be directed to the Minister's office. The Minister signs off all appointments.

Barry – asked about a status update on the scheduled re-opening/construction of the roads that ABR commented on. Joe- understands the concern over final location of sections of these roads. Once the planned road location is determined on the ground we will communicate with Jeffery.

Steve D. – Did the tenure reform initiative affect the delivery of letters of commitment? Danny- could be the reason for the delay, other reason may have been the change in Ministers. We had direction in FMP and clients were committed to

receiving those volumes. Steve- were the commitment letters based on historic amounts? Danny- yes for the most part. Columbia, Tembec Mattawa and Commonwealth veneer mill did not receive a letter due to mill closures.

Richard – Is the road to White Partridge Lake still impassable by vehicle? Joe- Yes. MNR fire crews were in brushing but did not get far. Ontario Parks do not have funds to allocate to clear the right of way. Richard- has there been an estimate of cost? Joe- not sure, but based on the amount of material on the road and length it could be quite expensive relative to the revenue Ontario Parks would receive from cart trail users. Typically an inactive logging road would not get re-opened until the next cutting cycle. Barry- is the level of blockage quite extensive? Joe- I have pictures, but yes quite extensive(see photo attached to email).

2. Update on forest certification status / Review of 2012 Audits

Gord- showed the audit report letter from Martin (SAI Global Auditor) communicating that we successfully achieved the new standard. No non-conformances were identified. Positive findings were acknowledged including AFA work in achieving the CIF national award, the positive receptivity by Advisory Group members. Other notable mention was the high level of awareness of the SAR AOC and work on the ground for the protection of SAR. One OFI finding was identified and administrative in nature. One AOC finding was identified re: ensure 2011-12 annual report address preliminary progress and transition to new VOITs in the new standard. Gord thanked the Group for all the hard work helping AFA prepare to be audited to the new standard. The new certificate was shared.

Gord -Shared with the Group his recent appointment to sit on the CSA technical committee for the Z809 standard and reported that no change to standard is proposed at this time.

New certificate – media release

Gord -VOIT in system speaks to advertising/marketing certification. Currently working to do a media release on AFA achieving the new standard, shared drafted text with the Group and the plan is to release it shortly. Group members were invited to offer a quote to round out the press release. Gord- this would be included in the Working Forest and other local papers. Bob C.-advised to correct text to remove “nation” and insert “of Ontario” following the word Algonquins . Lacey – are you including a picture? Gord- Yes we are planning to use one on file.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Gord- the final meeting with respect to the preparation of SFM plan was back in September at Hidden Valley. The minutes of this meeting were reviewed. Wording around reference to aboriginals was addressed in the revised SFM plan text. Note - just recently received slightly revised wording from the AOO and AFA has no issue with new wording proposed. Gord will have to discuss with the registrar because we now have been audited. As long as the registrar does not have an issue we can accommodate the new text. Dan Kohoko also expressed interest in carbon credits. Some edits to the SFM plan were made, however, couldn't go as far as including wording to commit to future carbon credit management. MNR has not released a carbon credit policy for Crown forests. Joe- initial response is that it is outside the scope of CSA certification process. If the landowner “Crown” and Algonquins want to pursue a type of arrangement then it could be handled through other vehicles perhaps? Richard – just need to make a note that we have expressed interest. Gord- showed the changed references in the Plan text that identifies this AOO interest. These edits were made following last meeting, and the October 11th version of the SFM plan was used in the audit. The meeting at the end of January dealt with the previous annual report, 2010-2011.

AG – accepted previous minutes.

4. Review of 2011/12 Annual Report and VOITs

Gord- reviewed the executive summary of the annual report. Hard copies were distributed to members who then inserted it in their binder. The production of the SFM annual report occurs after the production of the MNR annual report. Highlighted the seven of the 32 targets that were not met for the 2011-12 season. Provided detail on them and others during the next segment of the meeting.

Bob C. – what achievement level did you receive for VOIT 1.2.1.2.1? Gord – will discuss in detail later. Joe – remember that we adjusted some of the targets in the new SFM Plan to account for unrealistic levels set during the old SFM Plan. Gord – also provided text in the annual report to explain changes in the new SFM Plan. Refer to the Annual Report text for complete details of all VOITs.

1.2.1.2.1 – AOC Rx with respect to Brook Trout Fisheries. Achieved 98% in-compliance, came up a little short and failed to meet target of 100%. Explained the reason on the incursion and provided background of the non-compliance. Due to an obsolete map being used, 7 trees were harvested within the buffer. There was no impact to water quality. Steve D.-it sounds like the Supervisor did not have a new map? Gord- have a good system of ensure most updated map is used in the field, contractors do not have access to latest map. Supervisor is responsible to communicate the changes. Unfortunately latest map was not in-hand when boundary line was determined.

1.2.2.2.1 – Hemlock regeneration/recruitment – there has been a lot of work over the years. 2011-12 status update summarized the detail from Lakehead student thesis. The thesis included work to re-evaluate and re-measure the original plots measured by Stan Vasiliauskus. Results obtained from original thesis work pointed out that severe moose browsing was extensive and hemlock was not recruiting above browsing height. Refer to annual report text for complete details.

After re-visiting the plots conclusions were made that in many cases single tree harvesting is helping create light conditions to better recruit hemlock. Barry – reading further understand that incoming maple recruitment is out-competing hemlock in some cases? Gord- yes. But study results found a little bit of both is happening. Hemlock is an elastic species that benefits from a single /group opening treatment. Study only has a measure on mortality not on ingress. Those individuals that established in the plots following original measurement were not counted. Bob C.-was this study done on entire DFA, or was it only conducted in hemlock stands found within the western uplands. Steve D- wherever Stan originally put the study plots. Bob C.-was the regen looked at in a Permanent Sample Plot PSP? Gord- no, but seedlings were all tagged. Logging was permitted if plot landed with an allocated stand. Bob C- was there an experimental control? Steve D.-no. you would have to put a fence up(exclusion area) and Stan did not so there is no experimental control as part of this study. Steve –during experimental design, controls are installed to determine the Principle Influence. Survey data is information to help deduce what is the most significant influence. We won't get to a definitive answer. Gord – discussed some of the additional data analysis conducted by Dr. Penner following the Thesis submission. Gord- Results of all regen success (including hemlock) is reported in annual in reports prepared by AFA for MNR.

1.3.1.1 Genetic diversity/ tree species – ensure seed is from the appropriate seed zone. Steve B. – we're okay with the level of red pine & white pine seed this year, but we are getting low. Richard – where is the bank? Steve B.- in Angus, where they extract the seed and store the seeds on our behalf. They also store extra seed from zone 29 for others to use. Bob C –can anyone else collect seed other than AFA? Joe- there is nowhere it says you can't. Steve D. – a good red pine cone will contain 25 seeds, but last year we were only getting 4 seeds/cone. Red pine trees aborted their cones last year in Renfrew County probably due to the drought.

1.4.1.1.1 – Respecting Zone Boundaries- Target was not met as a result of a short stretch of road from the previous cutting cycle that was re-opened. An Administration Penalty of \$3500 was paid and a Compliance Order to provide

training was issued. More specific training was provided to all staff and contractors. Joe – the amount of the penalty varies depending on history, in this case there was a history with this type of non-compliance. No ecological damage occurred and in the end the opening looks the same as it did before the incursion. Richard – AFA paid for it, not the contractor? Danny- in this case the contractor was working directly for AFA and our supervisor was not present at the time. But in some cases the contractor does pay the fine. Joe- follow-up training was important and all contractors, operators and supervisors received the training. Gord –provided more on the circumstance that lead to the non-compliance. Barry- sought clarification on the location of markers and understood how the error occurred in the absence of markers at the particular spot along the old road.

2.1.1.1.1- Area Successfully Regenerated – Steve D. – seems like there is an error in percentages presented in the report? Gord –the 865/933 (92%) silviculture success in the report is based on the area that was FTG, not the total area surveyed. Steve D.- suggested to go back and check previous measures in Annual Reports to ensure they all follow the same methodology. Gord – agree. *Post meeting note – Gord revised the percentages to be consistent with previous years. This dropped the silviculture success from 86% to 79% and the regeneration success from 14% to 13%.*

3.2.1.2.1 – Installation of monitoring wells – removed from the new VOIT Matrix. Joe- the data gathered from monitoring wells will come in handy during FMP Phase II planning. Results from this monitoring will be used to understand and map recharge area for brook trout spawning sites.

5.1.1.2.1 – Table FMP-19 outlines the current wood supply commitment. Competitive process has identified two potential new recipients (Lavern Heideman & Sons Ltd. And Woodville Pellet Corp). Previous recipients who are no longer in business had their commitment cancelled. Steve D. – how many commitment holders are there now? Danny- Eight instead of 12. Barry – is the announcement public? Danny – yes, announcement was released by the Minister's office in Jan 2012.

5.1.1.3.1 – Certification Status. Gord – provided an update in annual report text regarding the new certificate.

5.1.2.1.1 – Back-country Experience. Target met (99.9% in-compliance). Three complaints were discussed and have been addressed in the system. Barry- the math on determining level of compliance may be underrepresenting the true number of complainants – if one person is speaking on behalf of a larger affected party? Joe- understand the interpretation, we acknowledged that expressing math this way has fuzziness and that is why as a Group we revised this particular target. It is no longer expressed as a percentage of total camper nights. Gord- shared action plan with each complaint and how each was handled. Gord- shared new text with this particular VOIT from new Matrix

5.1.2.1.2 - New map of blocks by season for 2013-14 has been posted already on the AFA internet site. Barry- appreciates the new map and has posted it already to the ABR website.

5.2.1.2.1- Number of Local Production Facilities. Target not met. Benchmark number of mills was down from 12, currently at eight. Four mills are no longer recognized by the crown as commitment holders. Steve- doesn't make sense to retain the target of 12, did we not revise the number in the new Matrix? Gord- no. we kept this target the same to match the FMP commitments at the time. Gord - there will likely be a revision of Table FMP-19 in Phase II planning (2015-2020) and it would make sense to revise this target to reflect this updated table. But I agree, over the short term, we still will have problems meeting this target. Tom B.– was the Englehart mill closed or sold? Danny- no the mill is not closed and was sold to Georgia Pacific and it did receive surplus wood this year from AFA.

5.3.1.1.1 – Crown Revenue. Target was not met – and has been revised in the new SFM Plan.

5.3.2.1.1 - Maintain/increase volume harvested by ANR communities. Target met. Represented 16.7% of total harvested volume and above the target set of 12.2%. Richard- now the target been increased? Gord- yes in the new Matrix it is now 16%.

LUNCH

5.3.2.1.2 – Algonquin involvement in silviculture activities– target not met. The target in new VOIT Matrix has been changed to include all silviculture, not just tree marking and we would have met this new target in 2011-12. Gord- in order to address the low level of AOO tree marking activity in Algonquin Park, AFA has put out a recent specific **expression of interest** to get Algonquins more involved in tree marking and silviculture. Danny- AFA decided we needed a new approach to address this target. We understand that tree marking is complex. Right now we have a downturn in capacity. AFA can help create an environment for success for individuals to set up and become Algonquin contractors. In the past we did not get a response back following advertising opportunities through our website. Idea here is that an AFA employee would be the crew boss and mentor new potential entrepreneurs – to eventually start a business.

Bob C.-concerned that the ad is only targeting professionals, not those that are willing to learn without have formal schooling. I agree that it is a good idea and a step forward. We have younger girls and boys but do not have what it takes to go to school. Putting restrictions on candidates does not help build capacity within our communities. Barry- a job lasting a minimum of four months can be a deterrent. Those coming out with formal schooling may feel over-qualified. Bob C. - A. Commanda is a good example of a tree marker with no formal training that excelled in the trade. Barry - agree to what Bob is saying that an individual willing to learn could really be a good choice too. Joe- opportunities for a more initial entry point for someone willing to learn are already available. Steve B.- we did go through a recent process to hire on additional tree marking staff. This is bigger in that the individual starts off tree marking and can evolve to form a company and expand in other sectors. Barry- this is a good seed opportunity. Danny- AFA is looking for someone to start a business, not just tree mark for the summer. There are other contractors that can hire on those that want to see and experience what tree marking is all about. Richard- people are interested but may not be in position to be in business, need to walk before you run. Members that are interested may feel better not having to take on risk if they were employed by an Algonquins of Ontario forest management company? Danny- AFA would not have an issue with that concept. Richard - then perhaps we could use this company more elaborately across other Nation land. Danny- it may seem that we are moving too fast, but need to get it up and running to get marking done before Christmas. The more process that is introduced takes time away from getting the work done.

Bob C- we may be looking at this as an opportunity to fail? Richard- I see two business plans being potentially submitted. Danny- I don't agree with Bob C. that this is set up to fail. Tom B.– see a potential barrier with acquiring insurance - how much is it? Danny- approximately \$1200 is the cost of insurance. Could be barrier but could find ways to alleviate - AFA has helped other contractors in the past getting insurance. Emmett- what is the going rate for a tree marker on piece work? Danny - \$62/ha which is more than minimum wage - an experienced tree marker can do 6 hectares/day. Lacey – any enrolment of individuals from communities in forest programs at colleges/universities? Richard- yes, there may be two? Richard- I see the need for members from the community to survey the Nation land. Emmett- I hear forestry is bad (economically) - seems to me that it is a profession to avoid? Lacey- quite the contrary, there is a huge age gap right now; predictions are that there will be a significant need new forestry workers. Steve B. - Lacey, Shaun, myself are all here, and proof that there are jobs. Steve D.-it is a low capital investment to get into tree marking business - good for AFA for taking initiative. Danny- see where we end up - we are sincere in making this effort.

5.3.3.1.1- Maintaining a Level of Park Interior Visitor Days. Target not met – as explained in Annual Report. The target for this objective of supporting recreational forest access benefits has been revised in the new SFM Plan and is now related to the continuation of the AFA/Ontario Parks public roads maintenance agreement.

6.2.1.1.1 – Richard- asked to add “of Ontario” before representatives within the text.

6.4.1.1.1- Terry – what was the outcome from the TVO French film crew? Gord –not sure, but will look into it.

6.4.1.2.1- Information Available to the Public - Gord – certification was promoted through meetings, website, etc. We are also actively completing work in-house to update the website and plan in the fall to go live with it.

5. Forest Management Plan – Phase 2 Planning Update

Joe- we are close to kick off Phase II planning (for 2015-2020). Letter to Algonquin’s was mailed this week. Phase II planning will be operationally focussed, and officially starts after the MNR approval of the Year 3 Annual Report. A public review is scheduled for February 2014. During Phase II planning the strategic planning component is not re-opened. Need to look at what other direction from the Stand and Site Guide, the 2009 FMPM and SAR needs to be incorporated.

6. Lighten the Footprint Park Management Plan Amendment

Joe provided an update on the Lighten the footprint Park Management Plan amendment. A smaller amount of public input was received during Step 2 of the Amendment Environmental Registry posting. Algonquins of Ontario submitted their comments also. Review of comments continues. AFA has raised concerns about the wording related to maintaining practical access. Danny- still have issues with amendment and Minister has advised Ontario Parks to communicate with AFA to work to resolve outstanding issues. Have not heard for Ontario Parks yet.

Richard- where do those that are in support of this reside? Joe- mainly urban areas. Approximately 100 responses received with the majority supporting the proposed amendment.

Bob M –a proper economic study needs to accompany the amendment to the minister’s office. If we don’t start paying attention to the resource sector in Ontario we are going to lose more of our public services that it supports. The Deputy Minister and Minister should come out and see sometime. Who are these people making these big decisions? Bob M- a more cooperative effort can be made. Leslie Frost made good statements about the important role of the forest industry serves for the people of Ontario back in the 1970’s. Park Planners need to re-read those messages and keep those in mind.

Bob C. – there is a duty to consult and accommodate. What does accommodate really mean. The AOO didn’t get much satisfaction through the experience. Joe- folks should not say there was no involvement. Bob C- how well were our recommendations/comments received? Good thought was put into it. Joe- a lot of feedback has been provided to Park Planners it is an ongoing file.

Lacey – why did this resurface? Joe- it’s taking time between steps, took two years to get to stage two, public review and Algonquin comment and the next decision is to implement the amendment. Gord- AFA is looking for an answer because FMP is built on the first version with those LTF boundary lines. These lines have changed in the second (and current) version of the report. Going into Phase II planning now and need answers on how we are going to address on this issue.

Lacey – the proof is in the people involved in managing the Algonquin Park forest, and the success over the years. Joe- environmental groups keep applying pressure. Bob M – this area has to survive somehow? Joe- reassured the group that concerns are being read and hopefully understood.

7. Independent Roads Review

Algonquins have been consulted and provided comments back on the Algonquin Park Roads Review. A meeting was held with the Algonquins last week. Reason for Road Review was to address concerns brought up by an individual during the FMP process. Joe – shared some highlights/recommendations made in report with the group.

8. Cottage Leases Update

About 11,000 comments were received following the Environmental Registry posting for the proposed extension of the Algonquin Park cottage leases. This is the 2nd most number of comments ever received on ER. Decision is ongoing, majority were in support of extending leases. Environmental groups were against.

9. Land Claim Update

Joe – displayed a summary of all clauses in the draft Preliminary Agreement in Principle that pertain to Algonquin Park. Bob C- clarified that the AIP is not a binding document, it is a framework to start negotiations on land claim. Bob C- every time need to talk about access always told that it's not the forum, had to put in AIP help to voice concerns related to access. Richard- if people need a copy of the draft AIP we have copies.

Joe- showed picture of access blockage along White Partridge Lake road (picture attached to email with these minutes). Joe – not immediate plans to open this road. Steve B. – also no market demand for material in this state and local contractor have enough work cutting standing trees of this size.

10. Other / opportunities for improvement?

Membership – LCC member on the CSA Advisory Group is vacant as “Bud” Doering has resigned from both the AG and LCC committee. Tom Ballantine agreed to fulfill the role left by Bud.

Group Photo was taken (also attached)

Gord thanked the group for their continued involvement and interest in sustainable forest management in Algonquin Park.

Meeting was adjourned