

MEETING BULLETS

DATE: August 17, 2023
PREPARED FOR: Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests
REGARDING: BC Community Forest Association Meeting on August 26, 2023

INTRODUCTIONS: Meggin Messenger, Executive Director, Forest Tenures and Engineering
Integrated Resource Operations Division
Doug Kelly, Director, Forest Tenures Branch
Derek Lefler, Director, Forest Science Planning and Practices Branch
Jennifer Gunter, Executive Director, BC Community Forest Association
Randy Spyksma, President, BC Community Forest Association
Board of Directors – BCCFA (Virtual Meeting)

SUMMARY:

- The BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA) will want to introduce the minister to their directors and invite the minister to their annual general meeting scheduled for summer 2024. Each year the BCCFA publishes an Indicators Report that summarizes activities on community forest agreements (CFAs) and is widely distributed through government: <https://bccfa.ca/indicators-report/>.
- The BCCFA supports greater emphasis on wildfire management and the concept of a wildfire objective to reduce risk to communities from catastrophic wildfire. The current priority of the BCCFA is engagement on the addition of “wildfire” to the suite of *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) values through Bill 23.
- In 2018, the BC Wildfire Service developed the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Class Framework based on structure density to support initiatives related to wildfire risk reduction (WRR). Most community forest agreements (CFAs) have portions of their tenures that overlap with areas in the WUI. Staff have been engaging with the BCCFA since November 2022 through the Wildfire Regulation Working Group (WRWG) and the Office of the Chief Forester.
- The BCCFA has three areas of concern related to the WUI, and believe the outcome may be that legislation will create a significant financial disincentive to critically important WRR work:
 - CFAs currently benefit from a discounted tabular rate stumpage and there are challenges in reaching agreement as to how to acknowledge the costs of fuel treatments in the Stumpage System.
 - Once fuel treatments become a legal requirement, CFAs are concerned they will be unable to obtain outside funding to support fuel treatments.
 - There are also concerns around the level of treatments that will be required given there has been limited operational engagement with industry. FOR is proposing the regulation would provide authority to the chief forester to establish standards. The BCCFA would prefer standards be discussed prior to any regulatory authority being established.
- Another priority for the BCCFA is maintenance of the discounted tabular rate pricing and the one-cutting permit (CP) model. The group is aware of the challenges government has rationalizing this model in discussion with First Nations, and over time has engaged in discussions with Forest Tenures Branch and Timber Pricing Branch.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION AND MESSAGES:

- Government recognizes the leadership role the Community Forest Program demonstrates in the province.
- In light of recent wildfire seasons, including the 2023 season, and the impacts to interface communities across North America, including B.C., government is taking a multifaceted approach, which includes regulating forest practices in combination with funding to reduce risks to communities and fire fighting personnel.
- Community forests have played an important role as proponents of historic and current WRR treatments. In response to feedback from the BCCFA, I have directed staff to continue working with your board through the WRWG, established in November 2022.
- Staff have heard the BCCFA concern that establishing legal requirements in FRPA may limit access to WRR funding; and concern that the Appraisal System will not fully account for costs of treatments for tenures, like community forests, who are eligible to use the discounted stumpage rates.
- We will work towards a solution that enables community forests to continue harvesting and treating the WUI with a cost structure that will minimize additional costs to CFAs
- I acknowledge your concerns around the transition between regulatory mechanisms and chief forester standards being in force. Staff will continue to work with you as we develop these standards using a continuous improvement approach to make adjustments as needed.
- I recognize the importance of tabular rates and the one-CP model to the success of the program, in its current form. Government is also working on other priorities such as the New Fiscal Framework with First Nations, which may create challenges with the current model.
- I am aware of the strong relationships you have built with government staff and that much of the work with this ministry is coordinated through a Joint Working Group (JWG) with Forest Tenures Branch. I encourage you to continue to raise any issues through the JWG.
- I have been advised that there is a directors' meeting scheduled in Victoria on November 29, 2023, and I will see if my schedule allows me to attend a portion of the meeting. I hope that senior executive will be available to participate in the discussions.
- Please advise me once you have selected dates for the BCCFA AGM in 2024, I would be interested in attending.

Attachment(s): 1. DRAFT Agenda for Board of Directors Meeting in Victoria, BC (November 2023)
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PREPARED BY:

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Senior Timber Tenures Forester
Forest Tenures Branch
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REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
a/ADM	MM	Aug 22
Program Dir/Mgr.	PR	Aug 17



Hotel Grand Pacific - 463 Belleville St, Victoria, BC
 Meeting Room TBA
Tentative Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2023

DRAFT

Timing of each topic to be determined based on the availability of potential leads.

Time	Proposed Topic	Potential Leads
TBA	Executive priorities for the remainder of Government's mandate and discussion of what may come next.	Rick Manwaring (DM) Eamon O'Donoghue (Associate DM) Melissa Sanderson (ADM, Timber, Range and Economics Division) Matt Austin (ADM, Integrated Resource Operations Div) Rachael Pollard (ED, Forest Sector Transformation)
TBA	Status update of legislation in the current session of the 42 nd Parliament.	Rick Manwaring (DM) Eamon O'Donoghue (Associate DM) Melissa Sanderson (ADM) Matt Austin (ADM) Doug Kelly (Director, Tenures Branch)
TBA	New Fiscal Relationship	Ariel Taylor (Exec Dir, Indigenous Relations Branch, Assoc. DM Office)
TBA	Old Growth Strategic Review Action Plan	Norah White (ED, Provincial Old Growth Strategy, OCF)

TBA	British Columbia and the conservation economy. Topics may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to achieve the Nature Agreement's goals of 30% protection of BC's land base by 2030, including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas. • Work to develop a new conservation financing mechanism to support protection of biodiverse areas. • Framework for ecosystem health and biodiversity 	Brian Bawtinheimer (ED, Provincial Stewardship Strategies & Planning) David Muter (ADM, Land Use Policy, Planning and Ecosystems Div. WLRS)
TBA	Update from the Office of the Chief Forester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LiDAR investment • Provincial AAC Trends • Discussion on wildfire salvage (roundtable discussion with community forest managers) 	Albert Nussbaum (Exec Dir, Deputy Chief Forester)
TBA	Pricing & Waste	Allan Bennett (Director, Timber Pricing Branch)
TBA	BCCFA BCWS Partnership & Wildfire Resiliency Project	Chris Hodder (Manager, Wildfire Prevention, BCWS) Anthony Pesklevits (Deputy Director, Provincial Operations, BCWS)

INVITED BCCFA BOARD AND STAFF

Randy Spyksma, President, *Logan Lake Community Forest*
Aurora Lavender, Vice President, *Wetzin'kwa Community Forest*
Tania Solonas, Secretary, *McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest*
Ken Nielson, Treasurer, *Chinook Community Forest*
George Brcko, *Wells Gray Community Forest*
Dan Macmaster, *West Boundary Community Forest*
Warren Hansen, *Sunshine Coast Community Forest*
Klay Tindall, *Spelkúmtn Community Forest*
Daniel Gratton, *Creston Valley Community Forest*
Steve Lorimer, *Qala:yit Community Forest*

Jennifer Gunter, Executive Director
Susan Mulkey, Manager of Extension & Communications
Carly Dow, Administrative Assistant
Debbie Zandbelt, Pricing Forester

TENURES BRANCH HEADQUARTERS STAFF

Doug Kelly, Director, Forest Tenures Branch

Patrick Russell, Manager, Timber Tenures
Emma Neill, Senior Timber Tenures Forester
Geoff Klassen, Timber Tenures Forester

PROPOSED GUESTS

Rick Manwaring, Deputy Minister, MOF
Eamon O'Donoghue, Associate Deputy Minister, MOF
Matt Austin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Integrated Resource Operations Division
Melissa Sanderson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Timber Range and Economics Division
Albert Nussbaum, ED, Deputy Chief Forester
Rachel Pollard, Director, Forest Sciences, Practices and Planning Branch
Allan Bennett, Director, Timber Pricing Branch
Chris Hodder, Manager, Wildfire Prevention, BCWS
Anthony Pesklevits, Deputy Director, Provincial Operations, BCWS
Ariel Taylor, ED, Indigenous Relations Branch, Assoc. DM Office
Norah White, ED, Provincial Old Growth Strategy, OCF
Brian Bawtinheimer, ED, Provincial Stewardship Strategies & Planning
David Muter, ADM, Land Use Policy, Planning and Ecosystems Div. WLRS

Page 6 of 8 to/à Page 8 of 8

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