



**Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.**

# **Public Participation Group Report**

**2007-2016 Detailed Forest Management Plan**

Prepared by Public Participation Group

Jerry Bauer, Jerry Bauer Consulting

June 15, 2007





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# 1. Introduction

To ensure that its 2007-2016 Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) and CSA Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) reflect the issues, concerns and priorities of the public living and working in and around its defined forest area (DFA), Millar Western struck a Public Participation Group (PPG), as part of its comprehensive public participation strategy. The PPG was composed of representatives of stakeholder groups and the general public from throughout the DFA, with each member serving as liaison to their respective group and/or geographic area.

Since September 2004, the PPG has been integral to the development of the company's long-term sustainable forest management plans, raising many valid issues for the company's consideration. Despite the complexity and length of the exercise, the PPG remained fully engaged in the process, asking important questions and making thoughtful suggestions that have served to improve the final plan, which is due to be submitted to the Alberta government in 2007.

This report is intended to summarize the PPG's activities over the DFMP and SFMP development phase (September 2004 to early 2007), focusing on how their involvement has helped to shape the sustainable forest management plan. It was prepared by Jerry Bauer, an independent consultant who acted as facilitator throughout the process, with editing support provided by Millar Western's Corporate Communications Department.

In keeping with the requirements of the Basic Operating Rules of the PPG, this report was circulated to PPG members for review and comments. Their feedback is included in the process evaluation section of this report.





## 2. Process Overview

According to the PPG's Basic Operating Rules (BORs), the PPG was scheduled to meet for only one year, until the fall of 2005; however, after an extension of the DFMP's preparation timeline, the PPG agreed to continue its involvement until the new submission deadline of 2007.

From September 2004 to April 2007, the PPG held a total of 16 meetings, to review the DFMP and its components at various stages of completion. The group was disbanded at the April 4, 2007, meeting, at which point the PPG deemed the DFMP review process to be complete. *(Note: As part of the DFMP Implementation Communication Plan, Millar Western has formed a permanent public consultation mechanism, the Public Advisory Committee (PAC), to advise the company on environmental issues, including forest management, on an ongoing basis.)*

This section of the report summarizes the events that transpired from the time the PPG was formed until its last meeting, held on April 4, 2007.

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### 2.1 PPG Selection

In a letter dated July 29, 2004 (Appendix I), Planning Supervisor Ray Hilts invited 12 stakeholder groups to participate in the PPG process. All 12 groups responded and agreed to be part of the process. Members were then invited to the PPG's inaugural meeting, held September 20, 2004, in Whitecourt.

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### 2.2 PPG Composition

#### 2.2.1 Public Advisory Members

The original PPG included 12 members, representing a variety of stakeholder organizations; however, by November 2006, only six continued to actively serve on the committee:

**Table 2-1. Public advisory members, affiliation and duration of involvement.**

Name	Duration of Involvement	Affiliation
Colin Berg	Resigned: June 29, 2006	Local logger and citizen
Leann Caron	Resigned: March 16, 2006	Woodlands County
Gary Smith	Accepted then declined before first meeting	Whitecourt Environmental Society
Deb Edney	Entire process	Councillor, Town of Whitecourt, until election Independent Logging Contractor
Ron Hellekson	Resigned: October 20, 2005	Alberta Trapper's Association
Dale Holub	Entire process	Councillor, Town of Swan Hills
Alex Manweiller	Entire process	Trailblazers Snowmobile Club
Ken Porter	Entire process	Alexander First Nations and Ft. Assiniboine citizen
Don Price	Entire process	Burlington Resources
Carmelle Seabrook	Last attended: June 20, 2005	Citizen, Town of Swan Hills
Derek Schlosser	Resigned October 2005	Whitecourt Citizen
Trevor Thain	Entire process	Town of Whitecourt

## 2.2.2 Support Group

The following team of Millar Western employees and consultants provided support to the PPG, arranging meetings, preparing documentation and arranging guest speakers:

**Table 2-2. PPG support group, affiliation and role.**

Name	Affiliation	Role
Jonathan Russell	Millar Western	Company Representative
Ray Hilts	Millar Western	Company Representative
Deb Choma (to Oct. 20, 2005)	Millar Western	Communications
Louise Riopel (from Oct. 20, 2005)	Millar Western	Communications
Ted Gooding	The Forestry Corp.	Technical Support
Gunnilla Nilsson	The Forestry Corp.	Technical Support
Jerry Bauer	Jerry Bauer Consulting Ltd.	Facilitator

## 2.3 Basic Operating Rules

### 2.3.1 PPG Goals

The first step of the PPG process was to develop the group's Basic Operating Rules (BORs), which are included in their entirety in Appendix II. The BORs were based on the CSA-Z809 standard and intended to guide the PPG's involvement in the DFMP process, setting ground rules for how Millar Western and the PPG would interact with each other. The rules were reviewed during the September 20, 2004, and October 19, 2004, meetings and approved on November 4, 2004. The goal of the PPG, as outlined in the BORs, was as follows:

*To actively engage public representatives, who may not have full knowledge of the industrial forest planning process, in establishing the strategic direction, by way of setting VOITs, for development of a publicly defensible DFMP for Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.*

### 2.3.2 Resources, Roles and Responsibilities

As well as setting out timelines, the BORs explained what resources would be made available to the group to enable it to carry out its review, and defined roles and responsibilities. Millar





Western assumed responsibility for all physical and financial requirements, including meeting room rentals, per diems, and mileage reimbursements. The company also engaged an independent facilitator, to act as a neutral mediator, ensuring that the BORs were respected and a bias-balanced discussion was maintained.

The role of the PPG, as defined in the BORs, was “to represent a broad range of public values and opinions while engaging in a meaningful discussion related to the selection, review and public review of the VOITs for the DFMP”. Millar Western’s role was to “engage the PPG in meaningful discussion around the selection, review and public approval of the VOITs for the DFMP.”

### **2.3.3 PPG Orientation**

In keeping with its obligation to provide any and all resources necessary to helping the PPG fulfill its role, Millar Western briefed PPG members on the contents of the previous DFMP, as well as the company’s approach to development its next long-term SFMP. The PPG heard that the company had engaged a number of experts to assist it in understanding the impacts of emerging issues such as population growth and climate change on the land base, which went beyond government requirements as outlined in the Alberta Forest Management Planning Manual. The PPG was also made aware of CSA public participation requirements, and informed that these requirements served as the basis for the company’s public participation efforts. PPG members were invited to attend a two-day plan-development-team workshop, held in Edmonton, but none elected to participate.

### **2.3.4 Level of Involvement**

As the process evolved, the PPG took on a more active and expansive role than required, reviewing not only the VOITs but also various management-strategy options, the timber-supply model (Patchworks), the basic harvest sequence, and the preferred management strategy. Having expressed curiosity about many aspects of the planning process, the PPG also heard from guest speakers on topics such as buffers and buffer management and the modelling of cumulative impacts of climate change, oil and gas development, human population growth and wildfire, and reforestation policies. Government representatives also were brought in, to respond to an issues list that the group had developed over the course of its deliberations. As well, Millar Western organized a field trip, to enable the group to see first hand some of the management challenges it faces in its operating areas and various ways it has sought to address them.

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## **2.4 Meeting Summary**

The following is a listing of meeting dates and a summary of main topics discussed. All meeting minutes are provided in Appendix III; a PPG member attendance record is located in Appendix IV.



**Table 2-3. Meeting dates and key purpose.**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
September 20, 2004	Introduction to DFMP communication process, PPG objectives, VOITs; review/discussion of basic operating rules based on CSA Z809 standard.
October 19, 2004	Review of BORs document; review of VOITs.
November 4, 2004	Final review/approval of BORs; review of VOITs.
December 2, 2004	Review of VOITs; review of Millar Western management strategies under current DFMP.
January 31, 2005	Timber supply model demonstration using Patchworks and discussion.
March 30, 2005	Presentation on buffer management by Hugh Wollis, Alberta Fish and Wildlife; presentation on biodiversity, climate change, oil & gas modelling, carbon, & wildfire, by Stephen Yamasaki, IQAFF.
May 5, 2005	Discussion of Millar Western approach to DFMP; development of issues list.
May 31, 2005	Review of issues list; discussion of PPG draft report; PPG presentation of issues to Millar Western.
June 20, 2005	PPG presentation of issues to SRD representatives Doug Sklar and George Robertson.
September 8, 2005	Field trip to view old growth, FORWARD installations, stream crossings, impacts of industrial activity on landscape, regenerated stands, thinned areas, herbicide-treated areas, and active logging areas.
October 20, 2005	Field trip review; viewshed review; continued review of PPG draft report.
January 19, 2006	Presentation by The Forestry Corp. of basic spatial harvest sequence and management strategy
March 16, 2006	Presentation by Millar Western silviculture forester on reforestation.
June 29, 2006	Presentation by The Forestry Corp. on preferred management strategy.
November 9, 2006	Review of CSA-Z809 standard; final review and approval of VOITs; final review and approval of issues list.
April 4, 2007	Review CSA-Z809 audit results; review VOIT revisions; review Management Plan Overview; discuss new public consultation process; formally conclude the work of the PPG.



## 3. PPG Input

A critical part of the forest management planning process is to identify values, objectives, indicators and targets, or VOITs. These values represent important qualities or characteristics that a company must respect in the course of managing its defined forest area (DFA). Most VOITs are determined by the Alberta government and set out in the Alberta Forest Management Planning Manual, which is based on the CSA-Z809 standard; however, companies can develop and include their own VOITs, providing that they relate to values over which they have responsibility or control and are non-regulatory in nature.

One of the PPG's primary roles was to review and comment on the VOITs, including those mandated by the Alberta government, and to propose the creation of new VOITs, to reflect local and stakeholder priorities and concerns. The PPG's input into this process is summarized below.

### 3.1 PPG Influence on VOITs

The PPG carefully considered all VOITs and commented on many of them, as indicated in the comment column of the VOIT table located in Appendix V. Some comments resulted in adjustments to existing VOITs or the addition of new VOITs, as reflected in the tables 3.1.1 and 3.1.2, respectively. PPG comments/suggestions that were not accepted by the company are addressed in 3.1.3.

#### 3.1.1 PPG Revisions to Existing VOITs

VOIT	PPG Recommendation; Millar Western Response
1.1.1.5 Maintain unique habitats provided by wildfire and blowdown events	PPG recommended that the target for blowdown events of 100 ha and more be the same as those for unsalvaged burned forest (i.e. 10%). Millar Western agreed. Target now reads: Blowdown patch > than 100 ha: retain >10% of merchantable blowdown trees in patches of 10 to 100 ha.
5.1.2.2. Protect heritage values	PPG recommended that the protection of historical values be added as a target for heritage value. Millar Western agreed. Target now reads: Zero(0) incidents of non-compliance with Historical Resources Act; minimize disturbance of heritage resources, e.g. historical trails.



### 3.1.2 PPG Additions to VOITs

VOIT	PPG Recommendation; Millar Western Response
3.2.1.1 Maintain water quality	That an objective for maintaining water quality (nitrogen, phosphorous, and suspended sediments) within a natural range be added. Millar Western agreed to add objective 3.2.1.1 and to initiate research to develop measures for mitigating impact on water quality.
5.1 Timber and non timber benefits – Establish appropriate AACs.	That indicators for the objective “to maintain harvest strategies” should all become means to identify targets for the AAC objective. Millar Western responded that, through the TSA trade off analysis, social and non-timber values are used to establish AAC objective (e.g. BAP, trapping etc.) During the implementation of the SHS, additional non-timber values that can’t be addressed through the DFMP are addressed at the stand and compartment levels. That Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) become a monitoring and measuring item for this objective. Millar Western responded that PSPs are used as a long-term measurement tool to allow it to calibrate current growth and yield and biodiversity models used in the DFMP process. Data collected from the PSPs will be used in subsequent DFMPs.
5.1.2.1 Maintain communication with non-timber commercial right holders.	That, for value “maintain non-timber supplies”, objectives be added to address commercial and non-commercial forest uses. Millar Western agreed, adding objective 5.1.2.1, which will be addressed through DFMP implementation communication plan.
5.1.2.3 Minimize visual impact of harvesting activities along defined corridors.	That an objective be added to maintain aesthetic characteristics around high recreation areas. Millar Western agreed, adding 5.1.2.3. It will develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for identifying areas of high aesthetic value and limit negative impacts in them.
5.2.1 Reduce wildfire threat potential by reducing fire behaviour, fire occurrence, threats to values at risk and enhancing fire suppression capability.	That the phrase “enhancing fire suppression capacity” be added to the objective, and that the company’s “tree-free” policy be used as a means of achieving the objective. Millar Western adopted both recommendations.
6.4.3.1 Develop 24-hour hotline for public comments regarding forestry issues.	That a contact process be established for the public. [Millar Western response]

### 3.1.3 PPG Recommendations Not Reflected in Final VOITs

The PPG VOIT recommendations reflected in the chart below were not incorporated in the final VOITs. These omissions have been discussed with and approved by the PPG.

PPG VOIT Recommendation	Reason for Omission
Under the objective 1.1.1.3 - “Maintain biodiversity by minimizing access”—the PPG recommended that “road surface area” be included as an indicator.	VOIT 3.1.1.1 addresses bared areas (e.g. road surface area) within harvest blocks. The benchmark is <5% of block area.
With reference to objective 1.1.2.3 – Maintain aquatic biodiversity by minimizing impacts on water crossings – the PPG recommended an objective and target for minimizing water crossings.	At November 9, 2006, PPG meeting, MWFP’s Shelley MacLean explained that the company endeavours to minimize the number of crossings, but that it would be difficult to develop a practical target. PPG agreed that a new VOIT was unnecessary to address this concern.
The PPG indicated that, in reference to objective 3.1.1, rutting was not a sufficient indicator of soil quality and suggested adding one for soil compaction.	Strategy described in VOIT 3.1.1.3 only achievable way to assess site disturbance objectively.
The PPG suggested, in reference to 5.1, that the process for determining the operable land base be improved and included as a monitoring and measuring item.	Millar Western responded that the operable landbase is defined by SRD through the forest management planning standard. Any adjustment or methodology changes to determining the operable landbase would have to be approved by SRD.



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## 3.2 Issues List

Over the course of its deliberations, the PPG began to develop an issues list, comprising VOIT-related issues and other matters relating to sustainable forest management. Some issues, like the use of herbicides in silviculture, were directed toward Millar Western for response, while others, such as overlapping tenures, were referred to the Alberta government. The PPG met with company and provincial government representatives on May 31, 2005, and June 20, 2005, respectively, to discuss these issues and obtain responses. All issues and responses were compiled into a table, which can be found in Appendix VI. The issues list was revisited on November 9, 2006. Asked if they had any other questions or comments relating to the issues list, PPG members in attendance responded that they did not.

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## 3.3 Other PPG Comments

In addition to advising on the VOITs and raising a number of issues for the company's and government's consideration, the PPG expressed its concern regarding several matters judged too comprehensive to be sufficiently resolved over the course of the development of the SFMP/DFMP. The issues are listed here, to ensure PPG concerns are fully reflected in this report and to encourage regulators to consider them in policy making.

- **Landscape fragmentation:** PPG feels that VOIT 1.1.1.2 would be better addressed if it accounted for the cumulative effects from other sources, such as the energy sector.
- **AAC calculation:** PPG is of the opinion that factors such as climate change, human population growth, oil & gas activities and wildfire should be included in AAC calculation.
- **Sustainability:** PPG is concerned about the sustainability of the forest, given all the pressures on the landscape, and threat of natural events such as mountain pine beetle infestation.





## 4. PPG Process Evaluation

As part of its continuous improvement program, Millar Westerns seeks to review and learn from its experiences, and apply results of these assessments to its future planning and operations. In keeping with this intent, the company has provided its own evaluation of the PPG process in the following section. It also sought feedback from PPG members themselves, asking them not only to evaluate the usefulness of the public participation exercise but, also, to review this report, to ensure it accurately captured their involvement in the process.

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### 4.1 Millar Western Evaluation

Although Millar Western continually seeks the advice of several different advisory groups on its SFM activities, the PPG represents the first time the company has formed a public group specifically dedicated to helping it develop its detailed SFMP. Though the PPG review and approval process was a time- and resource-intensive endeavour, requiring the involvement of many employees, outside consultants, and representatives of the Alberta government, in addition to the PPG members themselves, Millar Western is of the view that the process was tremendously valuable. Thanks to the exceptional level of interest and energetic participation demonstrated by the PPG, the company feels its 2007-2016 DFMP and CSA sustainable forest management plan have been significantly improved by the PPG's involvement and, moreover, that the company has become more knowledgeable of and sensitive to public concerns relating to its DFA. As a consequence of the success of this process, Millar Western will form a permanent PPG as part of its 2007-2016 public participation plan, with the hope that many of the current PPG members will choose to remain involved and lend their talent and insight to the continuous improvement of the company's SFM activities. Millar Western will also strive to improve the PPG process, taking into account the PPG's evaluation of the process, as summarized below.



## 4.2 PPG Evaluation

To gauge their satisfaction with the process, Millar Western distributed a questionnaire to PPG members at the November 9, 2006, meeting, asking them a number of questions relating to their experiences as a PPG member (Appendix VII). They were asked to submit their responses directly to consultant Jerry Bauer, anonymously if they wished. Mr. Bauer's summary of their responses follows in Section 5.2.1.

### 4.2.1 PPG Comments on the DFMP and the PPG Process.

At its November 9, 2006, meeting in Whitecourt, a "PPG Questionnaire" was provided to those who were present. It was also e-mailed to all members on November 14, 2006. The purpose of the questionnaire was to obtain comments and feedback from the PPG on the public participation process. Five completed questionnaires were returned and form the basis of this summary. The questionnaire covered three main areas: DFMP Input, PPG Process and Overall Comments.

Generally speaking, the responses were very favorable toward the public participation process. Members of the PPG recognized the difficulties in attracting broad public input, given the complexity of forest issues; despite these hurdles, they deemed the process rewarding and successful.

#### *DFMP Input*

Four PPG members answered affirmatively to all the questions posed in this section of the questionnaire, with one respondent indicating that he did not feel the issues list was dealt with adequately and that some issues were not responded to satisfactorily (*note: no comment on why*). Respondents found the PPG process to be long and complex, with a great deal of new information to understand and comprehend. This made it difficult, at times, to provide input. They found the VOITs to be the most confusing and difficult aspect of this process; however, in the end, they felt that Millar Western did a good job of listening and dealing with the issues raised by the PPG. They also commented that the staff of Millar Western were very professional in how they responded to questions and concerns.

#### *PPG Process*

Every respondent answered "yes" to all questions posed in Part II of the questionnaire that related to the PPG process. While many commented on the huge volume of material they were given, they also said it was necessary to being able to make informed comments. Respondents said Millar Western did a good job of providing technical information in a way that could be understood by all members of the PPG, adding that the company went out of its way to encourage meaningful input, address all concerns and deal with the issues.

#### *Overall Comments*

Responses to the "Overall Comments" section were also positive, commending Millar Western for its commitment to public participation and input. Most respondents said it was a great





learning experience, one that gave them have a much better understanding of how forests are managed and what Millar Western does to address issues, problems and concerns. One member commented that some issues were made more complicated by too much information.

PPG members also raised a number of questions for the company to consider as it moves forward, such as the long-term sustainability of the forest, given all the industrial activity taking place today, and whether the forests were being over harvested. PPG members also voiced concern over the recent arrival of the mountain pine beetle and its potentially negative impact on some of the VOITs. They also suggested that public participation should be an ongoing process.

Other direct quotes from the questionnaires are provided below:

“.....the VOITs were the most difficult (concept) to grasp.....”

“There was a good, knowledgeable cross section of representatives for the PPG.....”

“Believe company acted very responsibly in gathering input and addressing concerns.”

“MW walked the extra mile to ensure information was provided to address concerns.”

“Still very hard for us to reach the broader general public but company is to be commended for their approach.”

“Millar Western has a very professional staff that made every effort to answer our questions.”

“Very informative”

“Appreciate that our comments and concerns were always discussed and dealt with.”

“This is a long process but is required.....”

“Very interesting and a great learning process.”

“Public participation should be an ongoing process with regular update meetings.....”



### 4.3 PPG Comments on PPG Report & VOIT Endorsement

Intended to be a frank and honest assessment of the group’s work, this report has been reviewed by the following PPG members:

**Table 4-1. PPG members' comments on review of PPG report.**

PPG Member	Report Approval (Y/N)	VOIT Endorsement (Y/N)	Additional Comments
Deb Edney	Yes	Yes	Very impressed with Millar Western and have confidence in them to manage the forest resource and to consider all the concerns and issues raised by the public.
Dale Holub	Yes	Yes	Very good learning experience; the VOITS were a very painful and, at times, boring process, made worse by not always understanding the process or content; but in the end it made sense and understood the importance and need to get through this process.
Alex Manweiler	Yes	Yes	No longer supports the need to place signs on cut blocks that would identify the Company; this is not practical. The public should take any concerns directly to SRD. Still has concerns about the right of public access versus management of the resource. Need more control or restrictions on public access (including recreation and especially in the summer) to prevent damage and to protect all resources.
Ken Porter	Yes	Yes	Millar Western needs to be recognized and commended for their efforts to provide the PPG with information and how they responded to issues and concerns.
Don Price	Yes	Yes	No additional comments.
Trevor Thain	Yes	Yes	Would recommend that any future public process include an intensive 2 day workshop or retreat for all members. This would help to educate members on forestry issues and the process and get everyone up to speed quicker; would make the rest of the process easier and faster.



## 5. Conclusion

Soliciting public input into a process as complex as the development of a Detailed Forest Management Plan poses many challenges but, if successful, can contribute greatly to enhancing the plan and garnering public support for sustainable resource development. Millar Western is of the opinion that the PPG has helped the company meet its objective of crafting a publicly defensible plan that reflects the concerns and priorities of local stakeholders. For this, the company would like to express its deep appreciation to all PPG members, for the interest they have shown and time they have taken to learn about the DFMP and CSA processes, and to provide constructive feedback. As this report demonstrates, the PPG is credited with making concrete and measurable plan improvements: it modified the wording of two existing VOITs and added six new VOITs for the company to address over the next 10 years. The group also raised many issues for ongoing consideration by both the company and the Alberta government, as they work together to ensure the sustainability of Alberta's forest resources and all the values they represent.





# Appendices

Note: Due to the volume of material considered by the PPG, not all handouts referenced in the meeting minutes are included as appendices. They are, however, stored in the Communications Tracking tool, set up for managing DFMP documentation, and are available upon request.

- Appendix I: Letter of Invitation to Potential PPG Members**
- Appendix II: Basic Operating Rules**
- Appendix III: Meeting Minutes**
- Appendix IV: PPG Member Attendance Record**
- Appendix V: PPG Comments on VOITs**
- Appendix VI: PPG Issues List**
- Appendix VII: PPG Questionnaire**





## Appendix I Letter of Invitation to Potential PPG Members

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Dear [name]:

**Re: Invitation to Participate in Management Planning Process**

Millar Western Forest Products Ltd is underway in developing a Detailed Forest Management Plan for submission to Sustainable Resource Development in 2006. Millar Western needs the assistance from [name of organization]. You (or a designate) are invited to be part of a small public group that will assist our Company build the framework for public participation in our FMA.

Your involvement will be required for a few evenings (2 or 3) in October and November to help our Company develop Basic Operating Rules for public participation as part of sustainable forest management and also to review our Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets.

Millar Western will be happy to provide you a per diem and mileage for your efforts in this regard. Supper will also be served as part of these meetings.

The first meeting took place on September 20<sup>th</sup> and the next one is scheduled for Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, 3 to 9 p.m. at the Whitecourt Travelodge.

The Public Participation Group will determine when and how many more meeting are required to fulfill their role. I apologize for the short notice. Please let me know if you would like to be part of this process. I can be reached at 778-2221 ext 2014.

Sincerely,

Ray Hilts

Planning Supervisor

004 – 52 Street Whitecourt, Alberta, Canada T7S 1N2

Tel: 780.778.2221 Fax: 780.778.4631







## Appendix II Basic Operating Rules

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**The Forestry Corp.**

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# **Basic Operating Rules for the Public Participation Group**

**To support the development of Millar Western's  
2006-2016 Detailed Forest Management Plan**

**Prepared for:**

**Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.**

**October 19, 2004**

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# 1. Overview

According to the terms of the Forest Management Agreement (FMA), Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. is developing a Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) to submit to the provincial government on May 15, 2006. The 2006-2016 DFMP follows through on commitments made in the Company's first DFMP, which covers the period 1997-2006. Upon approval, the new DFMP will guide the Company's forest management activities within the defined forest area of the FMA for the next 10 years, at which time another DFMP will be developed and submitted. The DFMP guides all of the Company's lower-level management and operational plans.

The DFMP reflects all pertinent provincial and federal legislation. It describes the:

- current status of the forest;
- Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets for the management of the forest;
- timber and non-timber resource analyses;
- predicted impacts of forest management for up to a 200-year horizon;
- selection of a preferred strategy for forest management;
- implementation of this strategy; and,
- approach for monitoring performance.

Millar Western is using many different public participation processes to engage public stakeholders in the development of this DFMP; the Public Participation Group (PPG) is one of these methods. By involving the public early in the planning process, Millar Western hopes to create a publicly defensible DFMP that incorporates the values and concerns held by public stakeholders. Furthermore, provincial policy requires forest products companies who operate on crown land to engage the public in the development of forest management plans. The government has adopted the guidelines for public participation published by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA, 2002), which give the public an opportunity to be proactively involved in the management of public forests.

As one of the processes for public participation, Millar Western has invited representatives from a range of public stakeholder and interest groups to be members in the PPG. The PPG has been convened to:

1. assist Millar Western in building the framework for the public participation group for the development of the DFMP; and,
2. participate in developing the strategic direction for the DFMP by way of setting Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets for forest management.

This strategy for public participation is part of a suite of activities including open houses, information sessions, meetings and newsletter distributions. The activities are aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of Millar Western's forest management plans and practices within a broader public audience.

## 2. Content

The Basic Operating Rules (BORs) guide the PPG's involvement in identifying and selecting forest Values that are important to the public, along with associated Objectives, Indicators and Targets (VOITs). The recommendations forwarded from the PPG will be used to complete the set of VOITs that have already been identified by the provincial government and Millar Western.

The PPG reserves the option to expand the group's level of involvement in developing the DFMP, until such time as they have completed their review and public approval of the VOITs.

## 3. Goals and Objectives

### 3.1 Goal

The goal of the Public Participation Group (PPG) is to actively engage public representatives, who may not have full knowledge of the industrial forest planning process, in establishing the strategic direction (by way of setting VOITs) for development of a publicly defensible DFMP for Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.

### 3.2 Objectives

To achieve the goal of the PPG, the group and Millar Western representatives will promote meaningful dialogue and the two-way sharing of information regarding forest management VOITs. Together, they will strive to:

- foster teamwork and relationship-building;
- facilitate constructive learning by means of education and information sharing;
- ensure a fair and adequate facilitation process, both in structure (meeting times and places, and clearly-defined organization and structure in meetings) and process (clearly-defined objectives, monitoring of process, leadership, impartialness, and consensus seeking); and,
- promote inclusiveness, accessibility and adequate representation.

## 4. Timelines

The expected workload and time commitment for the PPG to review and approve the VOITs is presented in Table 4-1.

**Table 4-1 Timelines for Public Participation Group to review and approve VOITs.**

When	Time Commitment	What
September 20, 2004	5 hours	Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background on Millar Western’s planning process, motivation for convening PPG</li> <li>• Introduce draft Basic Operating Rules (BORs)</li> <li>• Introduce draft VOITs, which include VOITs required by the government and VOITs proposed by Millar Western</li> <li>• Detailed review of draft Basic Operating Rules (BORs); discuss changes proposed by PPG; PPG approval of final format and structure of BORs</li> </ul>
Individual time	Individual time	Individual document review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review VOITs document</li> <li>• Consider additions and/or changes</li> </ul>
October 19, 2004	5 hours	Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a quick review and approval of revised BORs</li> <li>• Review VOITs</li> <li>• Review the level of involvement by the PPG in the Content section (section 2) of the BORs</li> <li>• Develop more detailed timelines depending on level of involvement decided upon by PPG</li> <li>• Review/discuss the overall Communication Plan for the DFMP</li> </ul>
To Be Determined	To Be Determined	Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued review of VOITs.</li> <li>• Additional involvement as decided by PPG.</li> </ul>
June 2005	N/A	Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete PPG review and approval of VOITs.</li> </ul>
September 2005	N/A	Deadline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final VOITs must be completed.</li> <li>• PPG process complete.</li> </ul>

## 5. Provisions for Internal and External Communication

The success of the PPG is greatly influenced by the extent and quality of internal and external communications.

### 5.1 Internal: The PPG and Millar Western Representatives

- Communications will occur through face-to-face meetings with the PPG and Millar Western representatives.
- A Millar Western representative will confirm the meeting dates and locations with the PPG via telephone, email or post.
- Draft meeting minutes (to be approved by the PPG) and working documents, as well as any relevant legislation, policy documents, and/or background literature, will be distributed by Millar Western to all members of the PPG either at meetings or via email, post, or other appropriate methods.
- Similarly, the PPG will distribute relevant documents to Millar Western representatives via the same methods.
- Millar Western representatives will incorporate feedback, comments or changes to meeting minutes via the same methods or by telephone.

### 5.2 External: Broader public

- Based on their affiliations, PPG members are expected to carry communications to and from the public stakeholder groups they represent.
- If they choose to do so, the PPG may designate a public spokesperson for media communications.
- The PPG has the option to issue press releases regarding the PPG process, and these press releases must be agreed to by all members of the PPG.
- Members of the PPG are invited to attend Millar Western's public open houses, and to share their views on their involvement in DFMP development process.
- Millar Western will present all work done by the PPG to the broader public; for example, at public open houses and in the final DFMP document. This does not include meeting minutes.
- Millar Western will bring public feedback from open houses back to all members of the PPG.

### 5.3 External: DFMP Plan Development Team

- Millar Western will distribute PPG meeting minutes, as well as any other output from meetings, to the DFMP Plan Development Team (PDT)<sup>1</sup>.
- Millar Western representatives will provide feedback from the PDT to the PPG.

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<sup>1</sup> The Plan Development Team, or PDT, is the collection of committees and groups Millar Western has convened to develop the DFMP.



## 6. Resources

### 6.1 Human

- Millar Western representatives will attend all meetings of the PPG.
- Millar Western will hire a facilitator to attend each meeting.
- Other interests, experts, or government representatives, may be invited to PPG meetings on an as-needed basis.

### 6.2 Physical

Millar Western will provide meeting places; location and accessibility will be selected to best meet the needs of all members of the PPG.

### 6.3 Financial

Millar Western will provide the financial resources for all activities relating to the PPG process including:

- a per diem to attend meetings, available for each PPG member to claim at their option;
- travel expenses (mileage) to and from meetings, available for each PPG member to claim at their option;
- meeting rooms;
- meals at meetings;
- facilitator;
- information resources; and,
- technological resources.

### 6.4 Information

Millar Western will make available to all members of the PPG:

- Defining Sustainable Forest Management in Canada - Criteria and Indicators National Status 2003 (Canadian Council of Forest Ministers);
- CSA Z809-02 Sustainable Forest Management: Requirements and Guidance (Canadian Standards Association);
- Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard - Draft 1A (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development);
- Terms of Reference for the development of the 2006-2016 DFMP (Millar Western, September 3, 2004);
- Guide to Millar Western's 1997-2006 DFMP (abridged version); and,
- Ground Rules (Millar Western, March 14, 2002).

Millar Western will provide upon request to all members of the PPG:

- Millar Western's provincial FMA agreement (FMA9700034);
- Millar Western's 1997-2006 DFMP (unabridged version – on CD);
- Millar Western's 1997-2001 Stewardship Report;
- Millar Western's 2002-2003 Stewardship Report (when available);
- Millar Western's Annual Performance Reports (when available);
- Millar Western's Forest Management Unit W11 Preliminary Forest Management Plan;
- provincial or federal legislation, policy and directives; and,
- any additional information resources that may be requested or deemed useful.

## 6.5 Technological

Millar Western will provide any technological resources (i.e. computer, projector, etc.) that may be required for the meetings.

# 7. Roles, Responsibilities, and Obligations of Participants

## 7.1 PPG Members

### *Role*

Represent a broad range of public values and opinions while engaging in meaningful discussion related to the selection, review and public approval of VOITs for the DFMP. The PPG reserves the option to expand the group's level of involvement in developing the DFMP, and hence their role, until such time as they have completed their review and public approval of the VOITs.

### *Responsibilities*

- Attend planned meetings and any additional meetings. In order to maintain continuity in the PPG process, members are encouraged to participate as often as possible. In the event that a PPG member is unable to attend a meeting, that member may send an alternate representative and should provide the alternate with background information to the PPG process.
- May provide represented public stakeholder groups with information, and may bring information from those groups back to the PPG.
- Review documents distributed at or prior to PPG meetings and provide feedback and recommendations.
- Provide feedback on the PPG final report including an opinion statement, developed by consensus, regarding the PPG process and final report.

### *Obligation*

The PPG members have an obligation to represent the views of the public stakeholder groups that they represent.

## 7.2 Millar Western Representatives

### *Role*

Engage the PPG in meaningful discussion around the selection, review and public approval of the VOITs for the DFMP. Should the PPG decide to expand their role beyond the review and public approval of the VOITs, Millar Western will accordingly expand their role to accommodate this.

### *Responsibilities*

- Coordinate and schedule meetings.
- Provide a facilitator.
- Provide any and all resources (human, physical, information, and technological) as required.
- Attend planned meetings and any additional meetings. In order to maintain continuity in the PPG process, the same Millar Western representatives will attend as often as possible. In the event that a Millar Western representative is unable to attend a meeting, that representative may send an alternate representative and should provide the alternate with background information to the PPG process.
- Represent the views of Millar Western and of the DFMP Plan Development Team (PDT).
- Review documents distributed at or prior to meetings of the PPG and provide feedback and recommendations.
- Record the minutes of each meeting, and distribute these minutes to all members of the PPG for their review and approval.
- Act as a liaison between the PPG, the PDT, and Millar Western.
- Present VOITs, as agreed-upon by the PPG, at public open houses.
- Provide public feedback to the PPG so that the VOITs may be finalized.
- Produce a draft report on the PPG process that accurately documents the recommendations of the PPG, where and how recommendations were incorporated into the VOITs and the development of the DFMP, and, if recommendations were not incorporated, an explanation as to why not.
- Distribute the draft report to all members of the PPG for review and comment.
- Incorporate PPG's comments and minority opinions on process and content into the final report.
- Millar Western will respond to the PPG's comments and minority opinions in the final report.
- Include the final report in the DFMP.

### *Obligation*

Millar Western representatives are obligated to fairly consider all recommendations made by the PPG regarding the VOITs.

## 7.3 Facilitator

### *Role*

Help to manage the process of information exchange during PPG meetings.

### *Responsibilities*

- Attend planned meetings and any additional meetings.
- Summarize and integrate information presented during discussions.
- Help the PPG and Millar Western representatives to follow the Basic Operating Rules (BORs).
- Encourage active participation of all group members.
- Help participants to understand each other by translating information presented by one participant into terms that the other participants can also grasp.
- Assist all participants being heard and understood, and maintain bias-balanced discussion.
- Help to set up an effective meeting format and structure for meaningful engagement of all participants.

### *Obligation*

The facilitator has an obligation to maintain neutrality while encouraging participation from everyone.

## **8. Provisions for Conflict of Interest**

The PPG members and Millar Western representatives must make allegiances known at the outset of their involvement in the PPG process. In the event that such an allegiance is announced, the PPG will decide whether the allegiance represents a conflict of interest. If a conflict of interest exists, the PPG will decide upon a reasonable action to mitigate the conflict and will implement that action.

## **9. Decision-Making Methods**

The PPG and Millar Western representatives will seek consensus on all decisions.

## **10. Authority for Decisions**

The PPG has the authority to decide upon the BORs by consensus, and to make public recommendations regarding the VOITs. Should the PPG decide as a group to expand their role beyond the review and public approval of the VOITs, the PPG will have the authority to make public recommendations regarding that expanded role.

Millar Western representatives have the authority to accept or reject recommendations made by the PPG. Millar Western will address all accepted and rejected recommendations that are made by the PPG, as well as minority opinions of subsets of the PPG, in a final report.

The provincial government has final authority on approval of VOITs.

## 11. A Mechanism to Adjust the Process

At the conclusion of each meeting, the facilitator will obtain feedback on the effectiveness of the PPG process. Any PPG member or Millar Western representative, or the facilitator, may raise issues, concerns and suggestions for improvement at any time during the process.

Proposed changes to the process will be considered by the PPG and Millar Western representatives. Such changes must fit within the parameters of provincial and federal legislation, and within the broad review and approval timelines for the development of Millar Western's DFMP. The decision-making methods outlined in this document will be used to agree to any ensuing changes to the BORs, and such changes will be documented accordingly. If changes are made to the BORs, the facilitator will help to ensure the PPG and Millar Western representatives abide by these changes.

## 12. Access to Information

Millar Western will provide the PPG with access to:

- the CSA document, *Z809-02 Sustainable Forest Management: Requirements and Guidance*, upon which the Alberta Forest Management Planning Manual is strongly based;
- any Millar Western public documents (non-public documents may be provided at the discretion of the Company);
- meeting minutes (distributed by Millar Western);
- government documents and legislation; and,
- expert opinion as related to the development of the VOITs (upon request).

In addition, Millar Western representatives will make the names and affiliations of PPG members available to the public. Any information Millar Western representatives collect that is of a personal nature, including contact information, will be protected as per the Personal Information Protection Act.

## 13. The Participation of Experts, Other Interests, and Government

- PPG members, Millar Western representatives and the facilitator may request that experts, government representatives, or other interests be invited to attend PPG meetings.
- Public citizens not sitting on the PPG may apply/request to provide input into the PPG process; the PPG will decide how to incorporate such input.
- Public citizens not sitting on the PPG may also apply/request to join the PPG; acceptance will be decided by PPG members and Millar Western representatives.

## 14. Dispute-Resolution Mechanism

Disputes regarding the PPG process that may arise in meetings, either within the PPG or between the PPG members and Millar Western representatives, will be dealt with through meaningful discussion. The group will seek agreeable resolution with involvement and guidance from the facilitator.

If the dispute still exists after discussion, the matter will be passed on to the DFMP Steering Committee<sup>2</sup>. The Steering Committee may gather additional information or recruit additional human resources in order to gain more knowledge on the issue. The Steering Committee will suggest a suitable resolution. In the event that the Steering Committee cannot decide on a suitable resolution, or the PPG does not agree to a suggested resolution, the chairman of the Steering Committee will make final judgment.

The provincial government has final authority on the PPG process and approval of VOITs.

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<sup>2</sup> The Steering Committee is part of the Plan Development Team (PDT); this committee guides the DFMP development process.



## Appendix III Meeting Minutes

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## Meeting Summary and Minutes: Public Participation Group for Millar Western’s DFMP

Date: September 20, 2004  
Location: Travel Lodge, Whitecourt, Alberta.

### Attendees

Deb Edney  
Colin Berg, R.P.F.  
Derek Schlosser  
Ken Porter  
Leann Caron  
Carmelle Seabrook  
Alex Manweiler  
Dale Holub  
Ron Hellekson  
Jerry Bauer  
Deb Choma  
Jonathan Russell  
Ray Hilts  
Gunnilla Nilsson

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### **Documents distributed at meeting:**

- Meeting agenda
- Guide to Millar Western’s 1997-2006 DFMP
- Four back issues of the DFMP Newsletter
- Draft Basic Operating Rules
- Introduction to VOITs
- Proposed VOITs

### **1. Introduction And Welcome - *Jonathan Russell***

#### **Description of Millar Western’s forest management planning area:**

Millar Western holds a Forest Management Agreement (an area-based agreement) on a small area around Whitecourt. It is comprised of two “forest management units” called W11 and W13. The same area is shared with Quota holders who hold volume-based harvesting agreements with the government.

#### **DFMP structure:**

A Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) is a 10-year, “spatially-explicit” plan (i.e. it shows exactly where on the landscape forest management activities will occur) that allows a forest company to harvest in the FMA area. In the past, the province of Alberta required that DFMPs include:

- Yield curves –The volume of stands of trees at various ages.





- Landbase – Detailed, spatially explicit description of the forest management area, including tree species and ages, operable and non-operable areas, etc.
- Timber supply analysis – Calculation of the maximum amount of timber that can be harvested every year for 200 years (annual allowable cut, or AAC).
- Management assumptions – Strategies around how the company will conduct harvesting operations (e.g. green tree retention in harvest blocks, which may serve to provide nesting habitat or aesthetic value); these assumptions will typically reduce the level of the AAC.
- Future forest conditions – Projections of what the forest will likely look like 200 years in the future, given the current AAC and management assumptions. Future forest conditions are examined to see if the AAC is sustainable (i.e. at a given AAC, the forest in 200 years should look much the same as it does today).

### **Millar Western’s last DFMP:**

Millar Western’s 1997-2006 DFMP included the above plan components, as well as additional components that went beyond provincial planning requirements:

- Biodiversity Impact Assessment – Fine-filter analyses (large-scale; e.g. nesting and food availability, thermal cover) and coarse-filter (small-scale; e.g. landscape forest structure, connectivity among forest types) analyses that examine the impacts of harvesting operations on wildlife and the forest ecosystem components that support wildlife.
- WRENS (Water Resources Evaluation for Silviculture) – Analyses of impacts of harvesting on water flow and water quality.
- Static assessments – Archaeological resources; rare, threatened and endangered plants; wildfire.

### **Millar Western’s next DFMP:**

Millar Western’s 2006-2016 DFMP is looking at issues that extend beyond what the province requires in a DFMP and beyond what Millar Western incorporated in their last DFMP. Findings from addressing these issues will not, however, be incorporated into the calculation of the AAC. These issues are:

- climate change and associated vegetation change;
- population change - both changes in size, and changes in how the population values the forest;
- wildfire - future risk of wildfire as influenced by changing climate and population change; and,
- oil and gas development.

The groups who are working on the above items for Millar Western are coined “Landscape Projection Groups”. The output from these groups will not influence the calculation of an AAC. Instead, their output will be included in the DFMP as a source for discussion on issues that impact forests but are currently not considered in forest management plans.

The new DFMP will also include (as now required by updated 2004 provincial planning standards):

- a timber supply analysis;
- impact assessments of harvesting on biodiversity and water;
- impact assessments of harvesting on carbon stocks; and,
- FireSmart strategies.



The groups who are working on the above items for Millar Western are coined “Impact Assessment Groups”. All components of the new DFMP will undergo a formal peer review.

## **2. Communications – Deb Choma**

Millar Western is currently developing a Communications Plan for the development of the DFMP, which has guidelines for:

- Internal communications - Communications among the DMFP “Plan Development Team”, which consists of 48 individuals working within 14 subgroups. Plan Development Team includes representation from Millar Western, provincial and federal governments, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Academics, Industry, and the Town of Whitecourt.
- External communications - Individuals and groups not on the Plan Development Team, but with an interest in plan development. This includes people from Millar Western, provincial and federal governments, industrial and non-industrial stakeholders, First Nations, and the general public. External communications involve a 2-tiered approach:
  - General communication - Information dissemination; Access to information; Opportunity for input/feedback.
  - Engaged communication - Discourse on plan elements and framework; Identification of key values to be considered; Interactive participation through planning period (to May 2006).
- Public Participation Process – A component of external communications plan that is aimed at the general public.
  - Covers both general (Open houses, DFMP Newsletter distribution, Website postings, Direct delivery, Media – advertising and editorial) and engaged (Public Participation Group) communications activities.
  - Involves input from the Public Participation Group.
  - Should result in effective two-way exchange of information between Plan Development Team and the general public.
- The role of the PPG is to:
  - establish Basic Operating Rules for group activities;
  - identify Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets for the Millar Western 2006-2016 DFMP; and,
  - provide input to public participation process, of which the PPG is one element.

➤ **ACTION** *Millar Western will add members of the PPG to the DFMP Newsletter distribution list.*

## **3. Public Involvement in the Planning Process – Jerry Bauer**

(Note: The CSA voluntary standards, *Sustainable Forest Management: Requirements and Guidance*, have been adopted by Alberta into their provincial forest planning requirements. Therefore, the standards in the CSA document must now be followed by companies in Alberta who are developing DFMPs.)



**Content:**

The CSA standards require companies to seek “comprehensive continuing public participation” (section 0.2).

**Mandate:**

- Build a framework for public participation process.
- Develop strategic direction for the management of Millar Western’s FMA area.

**Things to consider:**

- Level of involvement is to be decided by the PPG.
- Public participation has its limits – laws, regulations and policies cannot be changed, actions must be legal and respect existing authority (Millar Western and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development).
- Everything the PPG says (output from the group) has to be submitted to the government, including how the PPG input was incorporated in the plan, and if it was not incorporated, an explanation as to why not.

**Expected outcome:**

- Final Basic Operating Rules.
- Clear expectations on the next steps.

**Jerry’s background:**

Jerry is a Registered Professional Forester who lives in Grande Prairie. He worked for many years for Canadian Forest Products. Jerry is not a professional facilitator

**4. Introduction to VOITs – Gunnilla Nilsson**

**Background:**

The Criteria, Elements, Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets come from national and international commitments to sustain and enhance Canada’s forest resources, as follows: Provincial and federal governments > Canadian Council of Forest Ministers > Criteria and Indicators > Canadian Standards Association > Alberta Forest Management Planning Manual > Millar Western’s DFMP > proposed list of VOITs.

**VOITs – PPG input:**

As members of the PPG, you are invited to review and comment on the proposed VOITs, and identify additional VOITs that you feel should be included (within the bounds of what is changeable). At the next meeting (or possibly more meetings) we will review and discuss PPG comments and additions to the VOITs and seek consensus on a set of PPG-proposed additions and changes to the VOITs document.

- *ACTION Millar Western will reformat the VOITs to clearly indicate which items can be changed and which items are mandated by the province and therefore cannot be changed; hard copies will be mailed to members of the PPG by September 24<sup>th</sup>.*



## **5. Basic Operating Rules – interactive discussion**

Reviewed document. Revisions were made to the following sections; those sections not listed here were accepted without changes by the PPG. (Please refer to the revised BORs that incorporate all changes made during the discussion.)

### **Content:**

- ***REVISION** At this point the PPG will focus on reviewing the VOITs. The PPG will reserve the option to expand the group's level of involvement until the group has completed their review of the VOITs.*
- ***DECISION** In order to maintain the cross-section of public representation on the PPG, expanding the group's level of involvement should be a group decision. In the event that only a subset of the group wishes to continue, they will constitute a different representation/role; i.e. not a PPG.*

*Expanded involvement may include input into the greater public participation process, and/or those items from section 5.4 of the CSA document (develop alternative strategies to be assessed; assess alternative strategies and select the preferred one; review the sustainable forest management plan; design monitoring program, evaluate results, and recommend improvements; discuss and resolve any issues relevant to sustainable forest management in the defined forest area).*

### **Timelines:**

- ***DECISION** The PPG will complete the timelines schedule at the next meeting.*
- ***REVISION** The target to complete the PPG's review of the VOITs is June 2005 (with a maximum deadline of September 2005).*

Additional information may be required by the PPG in order to conduct a thorough review of the VOITs. Refer to the comments on Resources section (6.4 Information), and to the document 'Document Deliveries and FTP Site For PPG', for the list of documents that will be distributed to the PPG to provide this background information.

### **Provisions for Internal and External Communications:**

- ***DECISION** In the event that Leann Caron is not re-elected she is still welcome to remain on the PPG.*
- ***REVISION** 5.1 – Clarify that draft minutes will be distributed to the PPG after each meeting; these minutes will subsequently be approved by the PPG (i.e. at the next meeting).*
- ***REVISION** 5.2 – Add that the PPG has the option to issue press releases regarding the PPG process, and these press releases must be agreed to by all members of the PPG.*

*Clarify that Millar Western will present the work done by the PPG to the broader public; this does not include meeting minutes.*



**Resources:**

- REVISION 6.3 – A per diem to attend meetings is available for each PPG member to claim at their option.

REVISION Travel expenses (mileage) to and from meetings are available for each PPG member to claim at their option.

- REVISION 6.4 – Millar Western will make available to all members of the PPG:
  - CCFM Criteria and Indicators
  - CSA Sustainable Forest Management: Requirements and Guidance
  - Alberta Forest Management Planning Manual
  - Millar Western’s 2002 Operating Ground Rules
  - Millar Westerns Terms of Reference for the 2006-2016 DFMP

Millar Western will provide upon request to all members of the PPG:

- Millar Western’s provincial FMA agreement
- Millar Western’s 1997-2006 DFMP (unabridged version)
- 1997-2001 Stewardship Report
- 2002-2003 Stewardship Report (when available)
- Millar Western’s annual performance reports (when available)
- provincial or federal legislation, policy and directives
- any additional information resources that may be requested or deemed useful

The priority for reading documentation relating to the development of VOITs is (top-down, in order of how they have influenced the VOITs):

- i) CCFM Criteria and Indicators
- ii) CSA Sustainable Forest Management: Requirements and Guidance
- iii) Alberta Forest Management Planning Manual

- ACTION Millar Western will send a hard copy of the 1997-2001 Stewardship Report to Derek Schlosser, as requested.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

- REVISION 7.1 – The PPG may choose to expand their role beyond the review and public approval of the VOITs.

Additional PPG responsibility is to provide feedback on the final report.

The PPG will develop, by consensus, an opinion statement regarding the PPG process and final report; this will be included in the final report.

- REVISION 7.2 – Should the PPG decide to expand their role beyond the review and public approval of the VOITs, Millar Western will accordingly expand their role to accommodate this.



*Millar Western will produce a draft final report on the PPG process....*

*Millar Western will distribute the draft final report to all members of the PPG for review and comment.*

*Millar Western will include in the final report the PPG's opinion statement regarding the PPG process and final report.*

#### **Authority for Decisions:**

- **REVISION** *The PPG has the authority to decide upon the BORs by consensus, and to make public recommendations regarding the VOITs. Should the PPG decide as a group to expand their role beyond the review and public approval of the VOITs, the PPG will have the authority to make public recommendations regarding that expanded role.*

*Millar Western will address all accepted and rejected recommendations that are made by the PPG, as well as minority opinions of subsets of the PPG, in a final report.*

#### **Access to Information:**

- **ACTION** *Millar Western: Confirm whether the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act is the appropriate Act to reference here, or whether the Personal Information Protection Act should be referenced instead.*

NB: PIPA is the appropriate act to reference in the BORs as it applies to private-sector organizations whereas FOIP applies to public bodies:

PIPA: “The (PIPA) Act protects individual privacy by requiring private-sector organizations to obtain consent for the collection, use and disclosure of personal information in most cases, and provides individuals with a right of access to their own personal information.”

(<http://www.psp.gov.ab.ca/>)

FOIP: “...to control the manner in which a public body may collect personal information from individuals, to control the use that a public body may make of that information and to control the disclosure by a public body of that information”

([http://www3.gov.ab.ca/foip/legislation/foip\\_act/page2.cfm](http://www3.gov.ab.ca/foip/legislation/foip_act/page2.cfm)).

- **DECISION** *PPG contact information will be distributed **only** among the PPG.*

## **6. Next Meeting**

The purpose of the next meeting of the PPG is to:

- conduct a quick review and approval of revised BORs;
- review the VOITs;
- review the level of involvement by the PPG in the Content section (section 2) of the BORs;



- develop more detailed timelines depending on level of involvement decided upon by PPG; and,
- review/discuss the overall Communication Plan for the DFMP.
- **DECISION** *The next PPG meeting will be held **October 19th from 3pm to 8pm**, with the location T.B.A. by Millar Western. Lighter dinner to be included and a shorter dinner break (half hour).*
- **ACTION** *Millar Western will mail to the PPG, by September 24<sup>th</sup>, the following items:*
  - *minutes from September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting*
  - *reformatted VOITs*
  - *revised BORs*
  - *additional documentation according to individuals' requests (see table of document deliveries on document 'Document Deliveries and FTP Site For PPG')*
- **ACTION** *Millar Western will set up an FTP (file transfer protocol) site for the PPG with secure access (see details on document 'Document Deliveries and FTP Site For PPG').*

## **7. DFMP Plan Development Team Workshop**

Millar Western is hosting a 2-day workshop for the DFMP Plan Development Team in November of this year, likely in Edmonton. The purpose of the workshop is to:

- present DFMP-related progress and products;
- discuss the integration and coordination of information/data among groups; and,
- develop detailed time lines.

Members of the PPG are invited to attend (a representative, several members or the entire group) and will be notified of the exact date, time, location and agenda when those details are finalized.

**Next Meeting: October 19, 2004 3pm to 8pm; dinner included, location T.B.A**



## **Minutes of Public Participation Group Meeting**

2006-2016 Detailed Forest Management Plan

Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.

October 19, 2004

Travel Lodge, Whitecourt, Alberta

Attendees: Alex Manweiler, Dale Holub, Ken Porter, Don Price, Colin Burg, Carmelle Seabrook, Deb Edney, Leann Caron, Derek Schlosser, Jonathan Russell, Deb Choma, Ray Hilts, Jerry Bauer, Gunnilla Nilsson

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### **1. Introduction and Welcome**

#### **Membership:**

Current PPG members were invited to include a cross-section of interests. The intent of Section 7.1 of the Basic Operating Rules (BORs) is that members (whether they are representatives of official groups or members of groups with looser affiliations) are encouraged to discuss the PPG process with people in their affiliated groups. Members are also encouraged to discuss the process with other people from the public at large (e.g. neighbors, friends, etc.).

- *DECISION The PPG understands the intent of this wording in the BORs and their role as representatives of their affiliated groups.*
- *DECISION Names and affiliations can be public information. Contact information cannot be made public.*

Clarification that Don Price represents Burlington Resources, not the oil and gas industry.

### **2. Approval of September 20 Meeting Notes**

There were no changes made to the minutes.

### **3. BORs Document**

The group reviewed and made minor edits to the BORs document. These were incorporated into the October 19, 2004 version.

- *ACTION Gunnilla will send hard copies of the final (Oct. 19) BORs to members of the PPG.*





#### 4. VOITs

Each Value, Objective, Indicator and Target was reviewed one-by-one, with the opportunity to suggest additional ones at any time during the review. All comments made regarding the VOITs will be included in the report on the PPG process. It was noted that the mandate of the PPG is to review the suitability of the VOITs for Millar Western’s purposes. Millar Western can only set Targets for their own activities and not the activities of other resources users.

Note: Only those VOITs that received comment or discussion are included in the minutes. Millar Western will be proposing specific targets in the near future and the PPG may review and comment on these too.

#### **Criterion 1. Biological Diversity**

##### **Element 1.1 Ecosystem Diversity:**

1.1.1.1 and 1.1.1.2 Clarification was made that analyses are of Millar Western’s activities on the landscape and they do not include activities from other resource users such as oil and gas.

- *COMMENT Fragmentation would be better addressed if the VOITs also accounted for the cumulative effects from other resource users such as the energy sector.*

1.1.1.3 All-weather road density – The type of target cannot be changed, only the ‘X’ can be changed. Millar Western will examine past road density numbers to develop a target for new road densities.

- *COMMENT A more meaningful target would incorporate optimum rather than maximum densities; a rationalization of the road network, long-term access plans, incorporation of other users.*

1.1.1.3 Road surface areas - does not include right-of-ways, does include all Millar Western, Mostowich, Weyerhaeuser roads.

- *ACTION Gunnilla will correct the wording of the target. Should read “...road surface area will not exceed 4% of the total harvested area” (not ‘... of the total FMA area’).*

1.1.1.4 Rare plants - The only way to fully protect a rare plant once it is identified in the field is to ask the government to put a protective notation on it. Otherwise, if Millar Western locates one and protects it from harvesting there is nothing to say that someone else can’t remove or destroy it. The more uncommon a plant community is, the higher the target for protection will be.

1.1.1.5 Unsalvaged blowdown – In the event that there is a catastrophic blowdown event, the Target as it is currently presented may no longer be appropriate.

- *CHANGE Perhaps more appropriate to use the Targets for maintaining unsalvaged burned forest for blowdown events larger than 100 ha.*

1.1.1.7 Maintain biodiversity by staying within natural variation as defined by BAP – This item will likely be changed to be an indicator for 1.1.1.1. (Maintain biodiversity).

1.1.2.2 Sensitive sites – There are existing strategies in the Operating Ground Rules.



1.1.2.3 Strategy to minimize water crossings – Target may be strategic verbiage, not a number.

1.1.2.4 Temporary roads and decking areas – Perhaps an appropriate target could be worded “Less than X% of temporary roads and decking areas will have loss of productivity” or “X% of temporary roads and decking areas will be regenerated according to current standards”. Simply monitoring these areas as part of the greater harvest block area does not necessarily ensure they are regenerated. For instance, depending on where regen survey plots fall and the regeneration success in the rest of the block, a decking area could have 0% regen and the block could still pass as successfully regenerated. The remaining monitoring and measuring requirements under 1.1.2.4 do not have to be, and may not be, included in the VOITs, per se. They may instead fall under the first item.

### **Element 1.2 Species Diversity:**

➤ ***ACTION** Gunnilla will correct the description of Criterion to read as it is printed in the CSA document.*

1.2.1.1 Maintain habitat for high value species – The VOIT is clear, important, and all encompassing.

1.2.1.2 Achieve desired future forest state – This VOIT will be addressed somewhere else; i.e. could be rolled into 1.1.1.1. (maintain biodiversity). Also, achieving a desired “natural range of variability” rather than “future forest state” would be more suitable.

## **Criterion 2. Ecosystem Productivity**

### **Element 2.1 Ecosystem Resilience:**

2.1.1.1 Meet reforestation targets – Target is likely supposed to read “Set target based on historical and projected performance” not ‘...projected harvest volumes’.

2.1.1.1 Model II and Growth and Yield Program – These will probably only be reported on and not included in the VOITs. They are tools to arrive at a VOIT rather than a VOIT per se.

2.1.2.1 Limit conversion of forest landbase – Discussion as to whether or not targets can actually be set for this, as activities by other users are beyond Millar Western’s control. May be possible to set targets to return more land to the landbase, or reduce the impact of land removals by coordinating activities with other users.

### **Element 2.2 Ecosystem Productivity**

2.2.1.2 Minimize pollutant deposition – This refers to single source pollutants from machinery.

## **5. Determine Level of PPG Involvement; Timelines**

As stated in the BORs, the PPG reserves the option to expand their level of involvement beyond the VOITs review, as per section 5.4 of the CSA document.

➤ ***DECISION** PPG will decided upon level of continued involvement in the DFMP development process upon completion of the VOITs review.*



## 6. Feedback

The revised format of the VOITs is helpful. Continue to conduct meetings at the Travel Lodge with 3pm starts.

- ACTION Ray will look into booking the next meeting room in the basement where it may be cooler.

Continue the review of the VOITs at the next meeting. Millar Western may have Targets proposed sometime in the new year, at which time the PPG could discuss the results of the VOITs review and also begin spending time on other levels of involvement in the development of the DFMP.

## 7. Next Meetings

**November 4, 2004** 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Travel Lodge in Whitecourt

**December 2, 2004** 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Travel Lodge in Whitecourt

- ACTION Millar Western will send out the per diem forms for the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting immediately.



## **Minutes of Public Participation Group Meeting**

2006-2016 Detailed Forest Management Plan  
Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.

November 4, 2004  
Travel Lodge, Whitecourt, Alberta

Attendees: Colin Burg, Leann Caron, Deb Edney, Ron Hellekson, Dale Holub, Alex Manweiler, Ken Porter, Don Price, Trevor Thain, Jonathan Russell, Deb Choma, Ray Hilts, Jerry Bauer, Gunnilla Nilsson

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### **1. Introduction and Welcome**

Reminder that the Public Open House is November 24<sup>th</sup> 3-9pm at the Whitecourt Travel Lodge and the PPG is invited to attend.

### **2. Agenda**

No changes were made to the agenda.

### **3. October 19 minutes**

The October 19, 2004 minutes were approved.

### **4. BOR Document**

The final BORs incorporates all changes made during October 19 meeting. The only change made after the meeting was to change/reformat the FMA number to read “FMA9700034”.

### **5. Review of VOITs**

#### **Criterion 3. Soil and Water**

#### **Element 3.1 Soil quality and quantity**

##### **3.1.1 Soil Productivity**

“Less than 5%” likely refers to soil exposure including all terrain types, non-LOC roads, landings.

- *ACTION Ray will check the Soil Conservation Strategy document for more information on this standard.*
- *ACTION Jonathan will check with the government for clarification on this standard.*



Soil productivity is an important value. However, soil compaction is not addressed by rutting alone; it is possible to have extensive compaction without any rutting. Tree and vegetation regrowth is not necessarily a good measure of compaction. Bulk density before and after harvest is a good measure of soil compaction. British Columbia has a comprehensive field guide for soils.

Millar Western has Standard Operating Procedures for assessing soil compactability and will operate in blocks only when the soil compactability is low. The Company is also developing a soil compaction and rutting index, and a soils map of the entire FMA.

➤ ADDITION *Add an Indicator for soil compaction.*

3.1.2 Soil erosion - Slumping (mass movement of soil downslope; slope failure) does occur naturally and is not necessarily due to logging therefore it may be difficult to set targets. Millar Western tries to not exaggerate the problem. Proper road location and water management is important to minimizing slumping. This standard is still vague (recall the Planning Manual and therefore this standard is only a draft).

➤ ADDITION *Add as means to achieve the target: Proper silvicultural systems.*

3.2.1.1 The FORWARD (Forest Watershed and Riparian Disturbance) research project will have progressed enough by late next summer to enable setting water quantity targets for the VOITs. This will have a direct impact on and constrain the spatial planning.

Jonathan explained the “15% rule”, which is the government’s maximum allowable change in water flow. Limitations with it: the WRENNS model used for this calculation uses yearly averages not daily time steps so it misses flood events, it does not incorporate non-tree vegetation, and it needs 5000-6000 ha watersheds for analysis. Millar Western does not want to increase the severity or frequency of mass wasting or flooding. Therefore, the FORWARD project involved in the DFMP looks at daily time steps, both tree and non-tree vegetation, smaller areas for analysis, as well as soils, litter, terrain. Project involves detailed water quality and quantity sampling, weather stations, water control devices, different levels of watershed disturbance (no harvesting, some of watershed harvested, all of watershed harvested, burned watershed). Through ongoing long-term modeling and calibration, the FORWARD project will estimate a value for “Q” to use for predicting effects of harvesting on watersheds. Issue number 2 of the DMFP Newsletter has an article on the FORWARD project.

Soil water temperature dictates creek temperatures more so than anything else including presence or abundance of trees and vegetation along a creek.

➤ ACTION *Gunnilla to send back issues of DMFP Newsletter to Trevor.*

### 3.2.2.1 Riparian habitats

Currently buffers comprise about 5% of the landbase. The provincial objective for buffering is unclear, Millar Western believes current buffer legislation will have negative impacts on riparian areas in the future, therefore the Company is looking at alternative ways to address buffers - for instance maintain the same buffers area/volume but redistribute it across the landbase so they have more ecological value; e.g. riparian interconnectivity.

Volumes and areas harvested – Millar has removed only 50% of the approved volume from 50% of the approved areas, all under the auspices of the FORWARD project.



Water quantity is covered in the VOITs but not water quality.

- ADDITION *Add an objective for maintaining water quality – phosphorus, nitrogen, suspended sediments within a natural range.*

Water crossing inventory – This is just a commitment not a VOIT.

- CHANGE *Change water crossing inventory to be a Means to Achieve Targets for 3.2.2.1 (Maintain effective riparian habitats).*

4.1.1 Carbon assessments are done in part to address Kyoto, full utility is largely still not clarified/known. Millar Western will conduct carbon assessments on TSA scenarios and compare those to assessments done on scenarios without any harvesting (natural succession only).

5.1.1 Establish appropriate AACs – Millar Western incorporates Allowable Cut Effect (ACE) into AAC calculations. ACE is an increase in AAC due to enhanced management practices to increase future yields. Company has received a 10% increase in AAC which impacts 50% of the Company's harvest areas for the next 50 years. Primarily achieved through stand density management – thinning. The actual numbers for the ACE come from projections and work done in BC and Lakehead University (on pine).

Discussion around AACs and rotation ages. Rotation ages should be adequate to ensure a variety of tree species and ages and non-tree vegetation and wildlife. Millar Western's timber supply model has a minimum harvest age versus a rotation age. Incorporates a 2-tiered approach where part of an identified strata is managed and the rest is maintained for old growth, but these will move around on the landbase while keeping the same proportions. Millar Western can model to optimize for other plants (e.g. medicinal) if provided input on what to optimize for, such as stand ages that support certain plants.

- CHANGE *The growing stock maintenance and all Indicators under the Objective to Maintain harvest strategies should all become Means To Identify Target for the preceding AAC Objective. The associated reporting items should be kept.*
- REMOVE *Athabasca Flats will not be considered separately in the new DFMP; delete this item.*

Millar Western needs a better process for developing the operational landbase. This is so that the timber supply analysis model is built on an operable landbase, whereas currently much of the landbase it is built on is actually found to be non-operable when encountered in the field - there are many deletions for non-operability after the TSA is completed, which means the AAC can be higher than it should be.

- ADD *Process for developing an operable landbase as a Monitoring and Measuring item.*

Maintain or improve supply of timber products – This is redundant now.

Monitoring programs – PSPs (permanent sample plots) are monitoring and measuring, not indicators. PHA's are not addressed in the new Planning Manual, there is no PHA requirement, per se. PHA's do not belong under AAC objective anyway.

- REMOVE *the above two items as indicators. PSPs become Monitoring and Measuring items for the AAC objective.*



### 5.1.2 Non-timber supplies

Change the first indicator to address, separately, commercial and non-commercial non-timber uses in the forest.

- CHANGE “*Respect non-timber commercial rights (e.g. trapping, guiding, outfitting, grazing)*”.
- CHANGE *Maintain opportunities for public, non-commercial use of non-timber forest values (e.g. berry and mushroom collection, hunting, fishing).*

Heritage values – keep this item but add historical trails to the target.

- ADDITION *Add to target: e.g. historical trails.*

The remaining items under this Value fall outside the scope of the DFMP (local economic indicators) or don't fit into the VOITs (enhanced knowledge; technical competency).

- REMOVE *Remove the remaining items under this Value from the VOITs.*

There is no item 5.1.3. This was a numbering error.

### 5.1.4 Legal and certification requirements are not VOITs items.

- REMOVE *Remove Value 5.1.4.*

### 5.2.1 Risk from wildfire

- CHANGE *The second objective can actually be a Means to Achieve the Target for the first objective. Add as another means: Millar Western's Tree Free policy (trees/snags away from power lines).*

### 5.2.2 “Integrate other uses and timber management activities”... Not sure what this means.

- ACTION *Jonathan will check with the government on what this VOIT means.*

### 6.1.1 The Objective listed here does not related to the Value listed. FEDA is a means to achieve a target.

- ACTION *Jonathan will check with the government on what this VOIT means.*

### 6.2.1 Public involvement

- CHANGE *The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Objectives should be Means to Achieve Target for the 1<sup>st</sup> objective.*

The 5<sup>th</sup> Objective to develop regional planning processes was an attempt to get other forest companies to plan together in the last DFMP but it didn't go anywhere.

- REMOVE *the 5<sup>th</sup> Objective listed, it is no longer relevant.*
- REMOVE *the remaining Objectives and Indicators; remaining indicators should be monitoring and measuring items instead.*



## **6. Feedback on meeting and process**

Meeting and process are working well, the group is working together well.

Ken said he will attend the first day of the DFMP workshop.

## **7. Next meeting**

Next meeting December 2, 3-8 pm in the basement of the Whitecourt Travel Lodge.

Gunnilla will revise the VOITs and take it back to the PPG. This will then be reviewed by the other groups developing the DFMP and by the government.

- *ACTION Gunnilla will re-write the VOITs as per comments and input from the PPG, mail and ensure received by PPG by November 25<sup>th</sup>.*

Agenda items for next meeting to include:

- go over items in VOITs that needed clarification
  - discuss additional Values PPG members feel are currently not represented in the VOITs – the PPG still has the opportunity to add items they feel are important but are currently missing
  - sign off on what we can of the VOITs document
  - review management strategies from Millar’s previous DFMP; this will get the ball rolling for...
  - ... a discussion on additional management strategies the PPG would like to see; such alternative strategies would lead to additional Targets
  - review PPG’s level of involvement as per CSA document section 5.4 (see section pasted onto last page of minutes)
  - formulate how, where, when to proceed with this process
- *ACTION Ted Gooding to the next PPG meeting.*
  - *ACTION Gunnilla will send required PPG information to Trevor (FTP site, documentation) and add him to the newsletter list.*

**Next meeting December 2 from 3-8pm at the Whitecourt Travel Lodge.**





## Minutes of Public Participation Group Meeting

2006-2016 Detailed Forest Management Plan  
Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.

December 2, 2004  
Travel Lodge, Whitecourt, Alberta

Attendees: Colin Berg, Leann Caron, Deb Edney, Ron Hellekson, Dale Holub, Maurice Mahe, Alex Manweiler, Ken Porter, Don Price, Carmelle Seabrook, Trevor Thain, Jonathan Russell, Deb Choma, Ray Hiltz, Jerry Bauer, Ted Gooding, Gunnilla Nilsson

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### **1. Review November 4 meeting notes**

Question was raised as to why there was not a DMFP open house held in Swan Hills. Millar Western holds annual AOP open houses in each community. Low turnout is frequently an issue with open houses.

- *DECISION: Millar Western is willing to host a DMFP open house in Swan Hills; Carmelle will notify Ray if the Swan Hills community would like one.*

### **2. Review of VOITs**

The VOITs document was briefly reviewed with consideration towards the changes (indicated in red font) the government made in their recent draft of the Planning Manual.

#### **Clarification of VOITs review process:**

The current version of the VOITs as reviewed and amended by the PPG will now be distributed for detailed review among the DMFP planning team. They will then go to Sustainable Resource Development for review/approval. At this stage, any changes suggested to Targets or the wording of Targets (or other items) that are from the Planning Manual will be addressed in one of the following ways:

- changes will be incorporated to the existing Target;
- a new Target will be added, or;
- the change will be rejected with an explanation as to why.

Then the VOITs will go back to the PPG for final review and approval in spring 2005. The PPG may still raise questions, concerns, additions regarding the VOITs at any time; it is not a closed process.

#### **Herbicide use:**

- *Comment: Concern expressed regarding the use of herbicides after logging and their impact on biodiversity and on non-commercial forest users. Also concern regarding the uncertainty of long-term impacts of glyphosate (Roundup) use, and concern that herbicide use will increase in the future.*



Millar Western sprays most of their conifer blocks, around 5000-7000 ha/yr (log 3000-3500 ha/yr conifer). At a block level yes, there are dramatic shifts in biodiversity. But at a landscape level there are not. Blocks do come back with similar or same vegetation after herbicide use. There is legislation that directs and regulates the use of herbicides.

The government often dictates more herbicide use than companies would otherwise choose to do – in order for companies to meet the regeneration standards the government sets companies must resort to herbicide use. 80% of what Millar sprays at Performance stage (8-14 years after harvest) is done to meet government requirements; Millar Western and other companies in Alberta are disputing this with the government.

There are numerous studies available on herbicide use and impacts that could be brought in and discussed with the PPG.

➤ **ACTION:** *Jonathan will bring a fact sheet on herbicides to a PPG meeting in the new year.*

**1.1.1.1 Maintain Biodiversity:** “Maintain biodiversity by staying within the bounds of natural variation as defined by BAP. Achieve desired natural range of variability with respect to BAP habitat types and coarse filter landscape metrics.” This was presented as an Indicator under Objective 1.1.1.1.

➤ **CHANGE:** *Changed so that first sentence is an Objective (now numbered 1.1.1.7.) and the second sentence is the Target. Indicators have to be developed.*

**2.1.2.2 Insects, disease or natural calamities:** May only need to report on hectares disturbed and not set targets as currently stated here (‘Area (ha) affected by significant outbreaks, infestations, natural calamities’). Millar Western will look into this with SRD when they review the VOITs.

**2.1.3.1 Control non-native plant species:** May not maintain Target as currently stated here (‘Noxious weed program in place and implemented’); Millar Western will look into this with SRD when they review the VOITs.

### **3.1.1 Maintain soil productivity:**

➤ **ACTION:** *Jonathan will check Soil Conservation Strategy for more information on standard 3.1.1 Maintain Soil Productivity (re: less than 5% soil exposure).*

### **3.2.1.2 Water quality:**

➤ **CHANGE:** *Make “Maintain water quality” the Objective. Numbers for nitrogen, phosphorus and suspended sediments will be the Target.*

➤ **COMMENT:** *Water quantity needs to be addressed in the VOITs.*

**6.1 Aboriginal treaty rights and aboriginal forest values** should be expressed as two separate Elements. The Objective suggested by the government does not address treaty rights. Millar Western will bring this to the government for further clarification when they review the VOITs.

**Aesthetics:** PPG noted that aesthetics in high recreation areas should be addressed in the VOITs under Criterion 5: Multiple Benefits to Society.



- *CHANGE: This objective was added to the VOITs: 5.1.2.4 Maintain aesthetics around high recreation areas. Indicators and Targets have yet to be developed.*

**Update VOITs document:** The VOITs document will be updated with the above information and posted on the FTP site, emailed to the PPG, and mailed to Ron Hellekson. Items that need more work are flagged as such.

### **3. Management Strategies**

Ted Gooding provided handout: Review of 1997 DFMP Management Strategies. Reviewed with PPG. It lists some of the key management assumptions but there are more than those listed here. PPG can view the other strategies if they are interested. PPG comment and input is invited.

- Page 2, item 4. Buffers – The new (government) definition of small permanent streams uses channel width (50cm or greater). Many streams previously classified as intermittent will now be classified as small permanent, resulting in more areas buffered and this may negatively impact the Annual Allowable Cut in the next (2016) DFMP; don't know if it will impact this (2006) DMFP. Current regulations do not allow forest management within buffered areas. Millar Western could bring a Fish and Wildlife expert in to discuss buffers with the PPG.
- Page 4, Salvage Thinning Yield Curves – Salvage thinning is done to capture volume before the trees die. There is no gain in volume within a stand that is salvage thinned before harvest.
- Page 4, Commercial Thinning Yield Curves – Commercial thinning numbers (35%, 95%) come from work done on Crop Plans. Crop Plans represent enhanced forest management treatments on regenerated (not natural) stands. Includes up to two thinning before harvest. Crop Plans are applied to a limited area – this constraint was driven by the Biodiversity Assessment Project in the last DFMP. (Crop Plan yield curves not included in handout.)

### **4. Next Meeting**

Bring Patchworks timber supply model and demonstrate modeling process, also demonstrate the impacts of changing management targets. This will show how the process works and how targets tie together rather than to actually set targets. Begin meeting by talking about some definitions of values – e.g. what is old growth. At subsequent meetings discuss other values such as wildlife, water, and how they are impacted.

**Next Meeting: Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 from 3-8 pm at the Travel Lodge in Whitecourt.**



## Summary of Public Participation Group Meeting

2006-2016 Detailed Forest Management Plan  
Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.

January 31, 2005  
Travel Lodge, Whitecourt, Alberta

Attendees: Colin Berg, Leann Caron, Deb Edney, Ron Hellekson, Dale Holub, Alex Manweiler, Ken Porter, Don Price, Carmelle Seabrook, Trevor Thain, Jerry Bauer, Deb Choma, Ted Gooding, Ray Hilt, Brooke Martens, Gunnilla Nilsson, Jonathan Russell

Regrets: Derek Schlosser

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### **1. Announcements, updates etc.**

- *COMMENT: Suggestion from PPG to make more efficient use of meeting time by moving the process more quickly – group agreed to do this where possible.*

### **2. Review December 2 meeting action items**

- Jonathan was going to bring a fact sheet on herbicides – this has not been prepared yet.
- *ACTION: Jonathan will bring a fact sheet on herbicides to the next PPG meeting.*
- Jonathan was to check Soil Conservation Strategy to clarify VOIT 3.1.1 Maintain soil productivity (target to minimize impact of roading and bared areas is “less than 5%”). Ray provided two handouts on this topic:
  1. 2002 MWFP Ground Rules, Section D. Harvesting and Silviculture Operations, pp. 73-74.
    - Note Ground Rule 3.0: *Temporary roads, bared landing areas, displaced soil and ruts* shall not exceed 5% of the *cutblock* area. In small blocks, the 5% limit may be increased due to limited space with prior approval.
    - Note also Ground Rule 4.0 (pertains to the Millar Western VOIT to keep rutting to 2% or less): Of the total cutblock area, not more than 2% shall be disturbed by *ruts*. If rutting exceeds 2%, a remedial plan that outlines methods and procedures to reclaim the affected areas shall be submitted for approval.
  2. Forest Soils Conservation (Alberta Forest Products Association/Land & Forest Service)
    - Note Section IV on 4<sup>th</sup> page, Reclamation and Management of Temporary Roads: More information on the 5% rule.
    - Note Section III on 5<sup>th</sup> page, Assessment System: More information on the 2% rule.
- Millar Western, Blue Ridge Lumber, ANC and Mostowich are re-negotiating FMA-specific ground rules – doing so collectively to shorten the process for all the companies – under BRL’s deadline to have theirs complete by April 2005. Millar Western’s ground rules will not change very much from their existing ones; still a strong emphasis on detailed planning and field work, but the planning process is changing.



- ACTION: PPG may review these documents and bring comments to the next meeting.

### **3. December 7-8 DFMP workshop outcomes - Jonathan**

- The workshop began with presentations from each Impact Assessment and Landscape Projection Group; followed by interactive discussions
- Workshop successful in establishing linkages and timelines for the IAGs and LPGs

### **4. Timber Supply Model demonstration - Brooke**

**Handout provided:** Indicators in Timber Supply Modelling (Demonstration of Patchworks to the PPG).  
Notes on this handout:

- Patchworks timber supply model selected because can handle many different forest management objectives
- This TSA (Timber Supply Analysis) will be valid 10 years until next DMFP when everything will be re-evaluated. Company will propose a Preferred Forest Management strategy but the government ultimately decides the Annual Allowable Cut.
- Controls in the TSA include treatments and responses (e.g. a treatment is a clearcut and the response is what happens after a block is clearcut). ‘Targets’ in TSA are same as ‘Indicators’ in VOIT’s document.
- The Net Landbase includes areas for timber supply plus areas that will never be harvested (e.g. buffers along creeks) but still contribute to other values (e.g. biodiversity, old forest).
- TSA does not include oil and gas development, wildfire. Millar Western developed the Landscape Projection Groups to look at these factors in the long term, and their impact on the forest.
- Areas burned recently by wildfire are removed from the area available for timber supply. If these areas are salvage logged they are brought back into the operational landbase along with responsibility of reforestation. Millar Western salvage logged approx. 10% of Virginia Hills Burn area, also is surveying non-salvaged burned area to assess the regeneration and see if these areas can be brought back into operational landbase too.
- Buffer widths are from the ground rules: small streams – no buffer; large lakes, rivers – 100m buffer; Trumpeter Swan (and Heron) lakes – 200m buffer.
- Subjective Deletions are areas difficult to regenerate and/or not profitable to harvest; e.g. larch and birch. Also areas of low productivity.
- Seral stage is a categorization of stand age (young, immature, etc.) – see VOIT 1.1.1.1.

**Patchworks demo:** Demonstrate how tradeoffs occur when different targets (which reflect different Values) are incorporated into the timber supply process.

- First showed how Patchworks ‘grows’ the forest in absence of harvest or any activities over 200 years – the entire forest got very old.
- Then added minimum harvest volume target – showed how this affected amount of old growth forest (reduced it!)
- Then added target to maintain old growth forest interior patch sizes - harvest block sizes increased in response.
- The actual timber supply process will incorporate many more targets (~30 or more) - many tradeoffs to evaluate.



- Targets and indicators that cannot be incorporated into the timber supply will be analyzed with other models (e.g. Free to Maneuver Flying Space will be analyzed with BAP models) – these other models will use the output from Patchworks at 10-year time steps for their analyses.

## **5. Next Meeting**

- Agenda items for next two meetings:
    - Values - Review a list of Values, the rationale for them, range of associated Target numbers – review with PPG to provide comments, additions
    - Hugh Wollis from Fish and Wildlife to discuss buffers management, also discussion on block definition, patterns; Stephen Yamasaki to discuss BAP (biodiversity), climate change, also oil and gas modelling, carbon, wildfire.
  - Depending on Hugh and Stephen's availability, they will be at either the next meeting or the meeting after that.
  - Tentative date for next meeting March 20<sup>th</sup> (back-up date April 7<sup>th</sup>)
- *ACTION: Gunnilla to confirm next meeting date and agenda.*



## Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.

### Summary of Public Participation Group Meeting

2006-2016 Detailed Forest Management Plan  
Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.

March 30, 2005

Travelodge, Whitecourt, Alberta

Attendees: Leann Caron, Dale Holub, Ashley L. (guest with Ron), Ken Porter, Don Price, Carmelle Seabrook, Trevor Thain, Jerry Bauer, Deb Choma, ~~Ted Gooding~~, Ray Hilts, ~~Brooke Martens~~, Gunnilla Nilsson, Jonathan Russell, Hugh Wollis, Stephen Yamasaki.

Regrets: Colin Berg, Deb Edney, Ron Hellekson, Alex Manweiler, Derek Schlosser

**Next Meeting: May 5<sup>th</sup>, 3-8pm (or sooner) with dinner at the Whitecourt Travelodge.**

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#### **1. Review ~~January 31~~ March 30 meeting summary, old action items:**

The following information on herbicides was distributed:

- list of Millar Western's annual area planted and area sprayed with herbicide
- Environmental Update – Millar Western document on company herbicide use
- Forestry Aerial Application Monitoring Standard Operating Procedure – Millar Western document
- ChemicalWatch Factsheet on Glyphosate; Herbicide Factsheet on Glyphosate; Environmental Effects of Glyphosate - documents from environmental organizations and journals
- Questions & Answers about Vision Silviculture Herbicide – Monsanto document
- a list of additional available herbicide information – these booklets were passed around and can be borrowed or photocopied for anyone interested

There were no comments from the PPG on the documents distributed at the last meeting on maintaining soil productivity (Forest Soils Conservation and Millar Western Ground Rules).

#### **2. Values**

Between late summer and Christmas a range of associated target numbers for the VOITs will be available for the PPG to review and provide comments, additions.

#### **3. Buffers Presentation *Hugh Wollis, Fish and Wildlife, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development***

There has been growing recognition over time of the need to manage for wildlife, not just timber.



“Riparian” areas are the parts of the forest that are impacted by the water (e.g. by flood, stream channels, etc.). Riparian areas have different site characteristics than non-riparian areas; e.g. moisture, vegetation.

Why buffer waterbodies?

1. to trap and store sediment (as runoff flows to a waterbody)
2. reduce and dissipate energy (less erosion when trees and vegetation slow down runoff)
3. build and maintain shorelines
4. minimize changes in water chemistry (trees filter the runoff, remove pollutants; store runoff with chemicals thus allowing breakdown)
5. reduce water temperature (shade from trees, overhanging banks)
6. aquatic organisms (overhanging banks, logs create places for fish and other organisms to live; leaf litter contributes to food supply for organisms)
7. terrestrial organisms (use riparian areas for habitat; e.g. large nesting trees, water source, travel corridor)
8. vegetation and unique plants

Current buffer requirements:

- lakes > 4ha - 100m; lakes < 4ha - 30m
- large streams, rivers - 60m; small permanent streams - 30m
- intermittent and ephemeral streams – no treed buffer is required
- water source areas (e.g. spring) – 20m

Are buffers wide enough?

- There is limited forest management area to meet mill capacities - under provincial regulations mills are built for a higher timber capacity than is actually provided by their forest management area, and wider buffers would make it even harder to meet capacity.
- There are efficiencies with having regulated buffer widths as above (e.g. easier to lay out buffers in the field, and later audit the buffer widths).
- But ecologically there would be benefits to more site-specific buffer guidelines (e.g. a 60m buffer on a river with a 60m floodplain – under current guidelines there would be no mature trees in the buffer).

A double-standard? – There are no buffer requirements for agricultural operations.

Solutions?

- close the mill (!) or
- provide additional wood to mills to compensate for non-fibre needs such as riparian habitat
- strategically use structure retention to assist with the shortfall
- rearrange the wood in buffers to a better advantage
- increased buffer widths could have harvest constraints in the widened buffer area – a special management zone, a possible site-specific solution.

➤ COMMENTS (from PPG):

- Our knowledge has not kept pace with development; cumulative impacts are severe
- How do we get the government to pay attention to this? to cumulative impacts?





- There is no political will to drive processes to address cumulative impacts
- There may not be enough resources to address such issues, or a misuse/misallocation of resources
- How do we know if we are we doing the right thing? Long time lag between applying a management technique and learning from it.

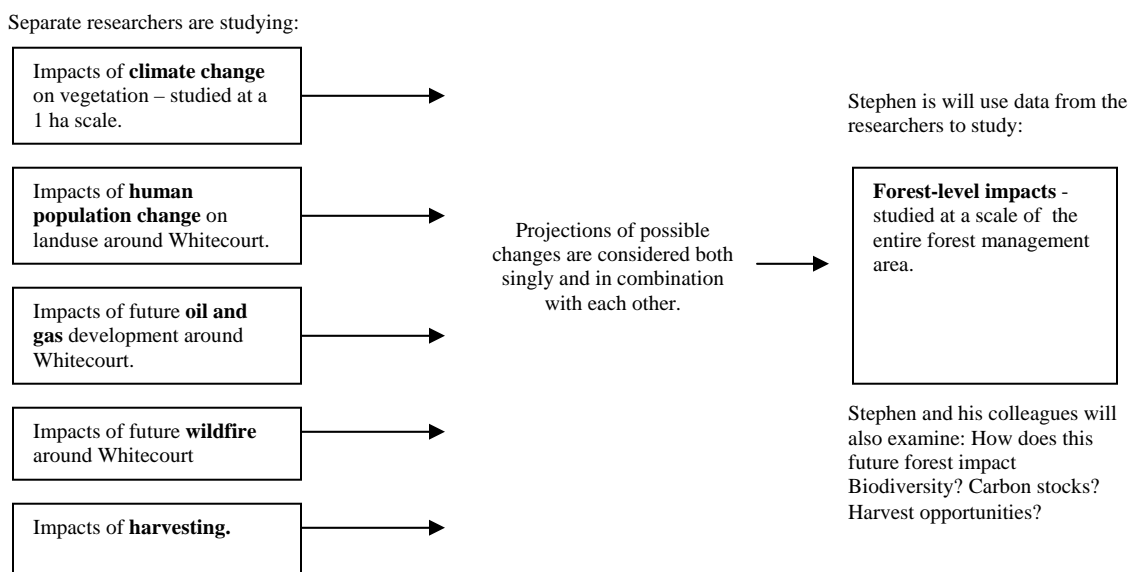
**How the PPG can influence change:** Changes can start at the grass routes level. The PPG can comment critically on Millar Western’s DFMP during this public process, but can also comment on provincial policies and hold the government to task on such issues.

**4. Modelling cumulative impacts of climate change, oil and gas, human population, wildfire, and forestry for the DFMP** *Stephen Yamasaki, Institut Québécois d'Aménagement de la Forêt Feuillue*

Stephen and his colleagues are looking at different drivers of change in forest ecosystems, and at the impacts of those changes on the forest. What are the long term implications of such changes on forest productivity, biodiversity, and carbon stocks. They will input a combination of Data + Knowledge + Assumptions into computer simulation models to attempt to answer these questions.

How is climate changing? – Global temperature anomalies are increasing, mean and minimum temperatures are increasing, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is increasing.

Computer modelling process:



By looking at several possible combinations of the above scenarios, can look for how sensitive ecosystems are, and find thresholds for forest change.

Natural range of variation –

- Will look at a scenario where the impacts of wildfire are considered alone. This scenario will show how the forest might change over time if there is no climate change, population change, oil and gas development or harvesting. Then use this scenario as a baseline for other scenarios that



include one or a combination of climate change, population, oil and gas and harvesting, and be able to thus measure the impacts of those changes. (e.g. how much old forest would there be around Whitecourt in the absence of all these future changes; compare to how much old forest there would be with Climate Change, or with Climate Change plus Oil and Gas development, etc.)

➤ COMMENTS:

- Public does not get general information on why resources are managed as they are. Lack of public interest? Communication problem?
- Government does not facilitate different resource interest groups working together (e.g. forestry and O&G)

## 5. Next Steps

➤ ACTION: PPG will review herbicide handouts, decide if would like a guest speaker to come to a meeting to discuss herbicides.

➤ ACTION: Working meeting:

- Working meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup> to develop ideas on how to get action around PPG comments and ideas. How to incorporate these into the PPG final report. How else can these ideas be put into action? Jerry, Gunnilla and Deb to attend. Jonathan and Ray will not attend. PPG can discuss, critique, generate ideas on:
  - geographic extent of Millar Western's forest management plan
  - Millar Western's approach to addressing items not normally addressed in management plans (e.g. climate change etc.)
  - plan details and structure
  - government policies and regulations
  - VOITs
- Present these ideas to Millar Western at subsequent meeting.



## Summary of Public Participation Group Meeting – *working meeting*

2006-2016 Detailed Forest Management Plan  
Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.

May 5, 2005  
Travelodge, Whitecourt, Alberta

Attendees: Leann Caron, Ron Hellekson, Dale Holub, Ken Porter, Don Price, Carmelle Seabrook, Jerry Bauer, Gunnilla Nilsson

Regrets: Colin Berg, Deb Edney, Alex Manweiler, Derek Schlosser, Trevor Thain

**Next Meeting: May 31<sup>st</sup>, 3 - 8pm at the Whitecourt Travelodge (MWFP to attend only from 6 - 8pm)**

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### **1. General announcements**

DFMP timelines have been extended by one year. The final DFMP will be submitted to the government in May 2007 (draft submission November 2006). Will discuss how this affects PPG timelines at the next meeting with Ray, Jonathan and Deb.

Gunnilla is leaving The Forestry Corp. and will therefore not be attending future PPG meetings. Deb will assume the role of generating and distributing meeting summaries and other associated tasks.

Colin Berg has a new job that takes him out of town frequently and will likely not be able to attend very many PPG meetings from now on. He is interested in maintaining his membership, keeping current with the meeting summaries, and attending meetings if and when he is able to.

➤ DECISION: The PPG agreed that Colin can maintain his PPG membership.

### **2. Review March 30 meeting summary, old action items**

Don brought a handout of crude oil prices in year-2000 \$/barrel from 1947 to 2003, as per discussions in previous meetings about oil prices.

PPG discussed whether or not to have a guest speaker on herbicides come to a meeting.

➤ DECISION: The PPG agreed to not invite a speaker to discuss herbicides right now. The handouts at the last meeting provided enough information on both the pros and cons of herbicide use. If they decide to invite someone in the future they would prefer to have two speakers who represent different views on herbicide use.

### **3. Feedback on Millar Western's approach to their DFMP; Issues, values and concerns related to forest management and sustainability, and; Issues or concerns with provincial policy or regulations.**

Refer to the Issues List (included).

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#### **4. PPG Final report**

Reviewed a draft outline for the PPG final report. Jerry will write the report (likely late summer/early fall) and the PPG will review the draft and provide input and comment.

- **ACTION:** Add to item #4 in the draft outline: PPG development and review of Basic Operating Rules.

#### **5. Remaining work of PPG / Next meetings**

The next meeting:

- first half will be a working meeting without Millar Western (except Deb) from 3pm – 6pm, and the second half with Millar Western from 6pm – 8pm.
- possible dates May 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>
- during the first half of the meeting the PPG will go over the list of issues from today and develop it some more; then go over this with Millar Western during the second half of the meeting.

At the following meeting:

- the PPG would like both Millar Western and two government representatives: someone from SRD in Edmonton (influential e.g. the A.D.M.) and a local forester (George Robertson).
- possible dates June 27<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>, or the week of June 20<sup>th</sup>
- PPG will go over the list of issues/concerns (as developed at the previous meeting) with both Millar Western and SRD.

PPG discussed the possibility of inviting the two area MLA's to a meeting sometime down the road, i.e. if/when have a more specific list of issues or anything outstanding they would like to address.

Suggestion to bring someone from the EUB (St. Albert manager) to a future PPG meeting.

The Basic Operating Rules may have to be updated to reflect changes in the PPG process and new timelines.

The PPG will not meet during July and August – will resume meetings in September.

#### **Items to be addressed at the next (May) meeting:**

- June meeting with SRD
- Field trip and/or visual forest modelling software
- Issues list
- EUB speaker at a future meeting; Government representative to discuss sustainability at a future meeting
- Where does the name “Headless Valley” come from?
- PPG timelines (how affected by revised DMFP timelines)
- Revision of Basic Operating Rules

- **ACTION:** Gunnilla will write up the issues identified in this meeting and send out to PPG.



- *ACTION:* Dale and a Swan Hills group recently developed an issue list similar to this one. He will email it to Deb Choma to distribute to the PPG members before the next meeting – could be a good reference for this group.
  
- *ACTION:* Gunnilla will talk to the other PPG members and Jonathan, Ray and Deb to select the best date from above to hold the May PPG meeting. Notify all of the meeting date early next week.  
>>> **This will be May 31<sup>st</sup>.**
  
- *ACTION:* Millar Western will set up the June meeting with SRD and select the best date from above.



**Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.**

**2007 – 2017 Detailed Forest Management Plan**

**Public Participation Group**

Meeting Summary – May 31, 2005

Whitecourt Travelodge

3 – 8 pm

**In attendance:**

Carmelle Seabrook, Dale Holub, Ron Hellekson, Ken Porter, Don Price, Leann Caron, Jerry Bauer, Deb Choma (Ray Hilts and Ted Gooding joined at 5:30 pm)

**Missing:**

Deb Edney, Colin Berg, Alex Manweiler, Derek Schlosser, Trevor Thain

Notes:

1. Approval of Agenda

Shift discussion of PPG Report under Timelines discussion

2. Approval of May 5, 2005 meeting notes

Actions:

- Issues list distributed to PPG members
- June meeting with SRD – George Robertson on board, Craig Quintillio agrees to meeting and will confirm attendance of either himself or Doug Sklar.
- **Issues list to be provided to SRD representatives in advance for preparation.**
- **Dale Holub to forward Swan Hills Communication Group issues list to PPG via Deb**

3. Issues list review – PPG reviewed issues developed at May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to further flesh out concerns, potential outcomes/solutions and responsibility for response (SRD, Millar Western or both).

**Revised Issues list will be distributed to group as a separate document.**



4. Presentation of issues to Millar Western representatives – Ray Hilts and Ted Gooding joined meeting for discussion of PPG issues list.

**Summary of MW response to issues to be distributed as separate document.**

5. Description of revised DFMP timelines – Ted Gooding reviewed revised timelines, outlining key milestones and opportunities for PPG input. The greatest opportunities for input are after TSA datasets are submitted and prior to finalization of Preferred Management Scenario. Under Planning Manual, PPG required to review DRAFT DFMP submission – scheduled for November 2006

6. Next meetings

PPG will meet in June and again in September to review draft PPG Report (author – Jerry Bauer). Ongoing input to be determined at September meeting. June 29<sup>th</sup> determined to be best date for next meeting. Potential for PPG field trip in September.

**Jerry to confirm with SRD reps for June 29, 2005.**

7. Meeting adjourned



**Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.**

**2007 – 2017 Detailed Forest Management Plan**

**Public Participation Group**

Meeting Summary – June 20, 2005

Whitecourt Travelodge

3 – 8 pm

**In attendance:**

Carmelle Seabrook, Dale Holub, Ron Hellekson, Ken Porter, Don Price, Deb Edney, Trevor Thain, Alex Manweiler, Jerry Bauer, Deb Choma, Ray Hilts, Ted Gooding (Doug Sklar and George Robertson joined at 4 pm)

**Missing:**

Colin Berg, Derek Schlosser

Notes:

1. Introduction and welcome

- Government representatives to join meeting at 4pm and stay until after dinner
- Thanks to returning members who had been missed on several rounds of group communications. E-mail contact list has been updated and all should receive updates from now on.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Discussion of September field trip to be handled under Next Meeting (moved up before dinner session)

3. Approval of May 31, 2005 meeting notes

Actions:

- Revised Issues list distributed to PPG members
- Swan Hills Communication Group issues list distributed
- Issues list was provided to SRD representatives in advance for preparation.

4. Discussion of issues list





- Jerry to introduce each issue to government reps with specific questions directed by member most interested in issue.
- Landuse issue – with specific reference to integrated land management requires further detail – to be addressed under Issue #8 – Sustainability.
- Update on Pine Beetle – Ted Gooding

Alberta and B.C. governments are talking about strategies to manage for the Pine Beetle infestation, but the insect is not following normal patterns. Outbreaks are in clusters that are now each becoming epidemic and new evidence that colder Octobers are needed to stem outbreaks. Industry will likely see an immediate glut in the lumber markets with drought to follow. Impact on communities could be devastating. Adding to the problem is the prevalence of older timber in fire managed forests that are more vulnerable to infestation.

#### 5. September Field Trip

- Ray Hilts will develop a program for September 8<sup>th</sup>, 8 am to 5 pm that will address the following identified interests:
  - Older areas pre harvest with blow down compared against cut blocks in similar areas with debris left in block
  - Effects on watersheds and riparian areas – FORWARD installations
  - Stream Crossings
  - Examples of impacts of other industries activity on the landscape
  - Older regenerated areas (30 year old stands)
  - Thinned areas showing impacts to biodiversity
  - Herbicide treated areas
  - Active logging

6. Presentation of issues to government representatives – Doug Sklar and George Robertson joined meeting for discussion of PPG issues list.

**Revised issues list incorporating government responses to be distributed as separate document.**

7. Dinner – government representatives depart

8. Review of issues discussion – next steps

- Grazing to be pulled out as separate issue item
- PPG will keep issues list to review against Millar Western management scenarios when developed.



- PPG will work within DFMP mandate. The group's report will include all discussion of issues with specific recommendations to Millar Western identified separately from comments on provincial management policy directed at government.

**Jerry to work on draft PPG report over the summer months for review at the October meeting**

9. Next meetings

- September 8<sup>th</sup> Field Trip, 8 am to 5 pm – group to meet at Millar Western Woodlands office.

- October 20<sup>th</sup> 3pm to 8 pm -- PPG meeting to review draft report

10. Meeting adjourned



**Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.**

**2007 – 2016 Detailed Forest Management Plan**

**Public Participation Group**

Meeting Summary – October 20, 2005

Whitecourt Travelodge

3 – 8 pm

**In attendance:**

Dale Holub, Ron Hellekson, Ken Porter, Don Price, Trevor Thain, Alex Manweiler, Leann Caron, Jerry Bauer, Deb Choma, Ray Hilts, Ted Gooding, Jonathan Russell

**Missing:**

Colin Berg, Deb Edney, Carmelle Seabrook

Notes:

1. Introduction and welcome

2. Approval of Agenda

- Agenda approved as drafted

3. Approval of June 20, 2005 meeting notes

Actions:

- Revised Issues list distributed to PPG members

- Draft PPG Report developed and distributed to PPG members.

- September 8<sup>th</sup> field trip organized and held

4. General Update on progress of DFMP – Jonathan Russell

- Millar Western's DFMP is due May 14, 2007

- Company will submit DFMP to government November 2006, expecting approval within 90 day window.

- 10 Year Timber Supply Analysis will be up and running by end of November 2005



- Landbase Net Down process will be complete by end of November 2005
- Company will start to run management scenarios by end of November 2005
- In addition to TSA, scenarios will be run encompassing inputs from climate change, oil and gas impacts, human population dynamics, and wildfire.
- Population Dynamics draft report in, but needs some work – Jonathan working with authors to refine
- Biodiversity (BAP) work is complete and will be embedded by November
- Vegetation model complete
- Wildfire model will be complete in two months time
- Oil and Gas model will be complete in two months time – incorporating Coal Bed Methane considerations. Coal Bed Methane will have huge impact on our area over next years. Could be enough to trigger the 2.5% impact requirement to adjust AAC calculations
- FORWARD will meet deadline of end of November for inclusion in TSA projections
- Initial AAC/Spatial Harvest Sequence will be out by April 2006 for review
- DFMP will be under draft as of April/May 2006
- Interim DFMP will be submitted to PPG sometime in June for review
- VOITs with Indicators and Targets as identified by MW will be available for review prior to the Spatial Harvest Sequence in the first quarter of 2006
- PPG opportunities for input – January/February 2006
  - VOITs
  - Spatial Harvest Sequence
  - Preferred Management Strategies for Review
  - Draft/Interim DFMP – June 2006
- Questions
  - Don Price – what kind of pressure is increased focus on ILM putting on plans?
  - Jonathan – Government is all over the map on ILM. Several departments have draft plans, with one department designated specifically to address ILM and



develop strategy for the province. No real input sought from industry as of yet. The AFPA and ACR have ILM committees looking at impacts, plans, and strategies. Millar Western's DFMP is based on underlying concepts of ILM. We should see strategy for ILM from Government by Spring 2007.

## 5. Issues List

- No further input received to date from PPG group on list
- Issues list will be included in its entirety in the PPG Report
- Issues list requires formal response from PPG on SRD and MW responses to issues

## **PPG to provide comment by December 1st to Jerry Bauer**

## **Jerry to reformat Issues List for inclusion in PPG Report**

## 6. September 8<sup>th</sup> Field Trip

- General Comments
  - Comments received from Colin Berg via e-mail were tabled for future discussion when Colin present. Some issues highlighted were discussed by group.
  - Trevor Thain – good trip with opportunity to view different types of stands, with treatment and without treatment. Treatment options showed dramatically different results – with healthier forest visible after treatment.
  - Leann Caron – road design/stream crossing issues – is this a regular occurrence?
    - Ray Hilts – the road in question was under construction at the time and looks much different today. The drainage should now be ok even though location may not have been ideal. There were issues with this construction – and, no, this is not the norm. Supervisors are not always on-site, but the contractor in charge should have been overseeing to ensure operating rules followed. All operators are fully trained on acceptable practices and OGRs.
  - Discussion on herbicide use – any biodiversity concerns?
    - Trevor Thain – spraying seems to develop a better/healthier forest and landscape. The biodiversity impact may be unclear, but habitat looked good and human values (aesthetics) were improved.
  - Jonathan – discussion on Vegetation Management Strategy Group established as part of DFMP process. Group looking at water quality and impacts of harvest on



biomass as an influence on water quality. BAP assessment of vegetation types and amounts, Yield curves, Silviculture Standards all need to be balanced to create a Vegetation Management Yield Curve through the first 10 years of operation. All models are based on professional opinion at this time, but will be field validated eventually.

- Discussion on treatment of harvest blocks and impacts to wildlife habitat and presence of wildlife

- Don Price – what impacts are there on presence of ungulates in harvested cut blocks after treatment? Do they disappear due to lack of grasses/forage?

- Jonathan – We don't measure wildlife at a block level, but instead look at a balance of wildlife habitat over the landscape. Studies indicate there are more ungulates on the landscape now than there were 50 years ago.

- Don – do harvested areas present an attraction to hunters?

- Ray – we can model for habitat availability, but we can't model for human impacts like hunting and recreation.

- Jonathan – reference to Stenhouse research showing Grizzly habitat improved in harvest areas, with animals attracted to young forests for forage. Negative impacts come from human access to these areas – hunting, road kill.

**Question for Hugh Wollis – re: harvest patterns impacting wildlife presence. Would Fish and Wildlife ever want to direct harvest patterns to attract wildlife or to dissuade wildlife presence for safety issues (roadside blocks)?**

#### 7. Viewsheds Review – Ray Hilts

- Ray provided map of operating area for PPG review and identification of areas of aesthetic interest. PPG should review map and circle areas for consideration in harvest sequence modification. Company will still operate in areas, but harvest patterns can be adjusted to better mimic natural landscape patterns and mitigate impacts on aesthetic values.

#### 8. PPG Report

- Review of draft PPG Report

- Draft based on outline developed with group at May 5 2005 meeting.



- Key points

- more fully describe overall Public Participation Strategy and how the PPG fits into process
- add names of all those invited to participate on PPG and note when participation began and ended for some members
- Section 3 – PPG Process – add dates and continue to add items as group activity moves forward
- Section 4 – BORs – BORs will be submitted as appendix of PPG Report as approved October 19, 2004. A revised timeline will be drafted for PPG approval at next meeting for inclusion as appendix and the change in timeline will be noted in section 4 of the PPG Report.
- Section 4 – VOITs – VOITs will be reformatted to indicate source of VOIT, identify input from PPG, response from MW and Status. Each comment from PPG will be linked back to specific value for clarity.
- Section 4 – review of DFMP process – add MW response to issues list, May 31, 2005
- Section 4 – Development and Review of Issues List – Jerry to reformat in table to identify Issue, MW response, Gov response, PPG final response, and status.
- Section 5 – limit to process review with general comments moved to Conclusion
- PPG Report remains a living document with much input still to come from PPG as well as MW on areas such as the VOITs.

**PPG to provide comments to Jerry Bauer by December 1 on current draft format, issues list, VOITs.. Jerry will incorporate all changes/comments and redistribute before Christmas for review and discussion at January PPG meeting.**

**Deb to resend corrected PPG contact list to group**

**Deb/Louise to create organizational binders with all PPG documentation for each PPG member – to be available at January meeting**

9. Next meeting

- January 19, 2006

10. Meeting adjourned



## **Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.**

### **2007-2017 Detailed Forest Management Plan**

#### **Public Participation Group**

Meeting Summary – January 19, 2006

Whitecourt Travel Lodge

3:00 to 7:30 pm

In attendance:

Ken Porter, Alex Manweiler, Colin Berg, Trevor Thain, Deb Edney, Leann Caron, Jonathan Russell, Ray Hilts, Ted Gooding, Brooke Martens, Louise Riopel, Jerry Bauer.

Absent:

Dale Holub, Carmelle Seabrook, Don Price

#### 1. Introduction and Welcome

- Louise Riopel was introduced as the new Communications representative on the committee, replacing Deb Choma who is on maternity leave.
- Louise handed out open house plan and provided an overview, indicating that the theme would be “An opportunity like this only comes once every 10 years.” She said PPG representation would be welcome at each of the three scheduled open houses taking place in the following dates and locations:
  - March 14, Swan Hills, Council Chambers, 6:00 - 9:00 pm
  - March 15, Ft. Assiniboine, Museum, 6:00 - 9:00 pm
  - March 16, Whitecourt, Travelodge, 6:00 - 9:00 pm
- ACTION - Ken Porter indicated he will attend Ft. Assiniboine and Swan Hills open houses, while Trevor Thain will attend in Whitecourt.
- Ray said Millar Western will provide structured presentation for attendees, with spatial harvesting sequence as the centerpiece.
- Alex Manweiler asked about sending mailing out invitations. Jonathan read out proposed invitation list.





- ACTION - Louise will send proposed invitation list and open house topics to PPG by January 27.
- Jonathan provided general update on progress of DFMP:
  - Plan still due in November 2006.
  - 10-year timber analysis will be ready by November.
  - Currently on Land-base Net Down version #8, with still one version to come. Close to complete
  - Haven't started running management scenarios yet, but have started timber analysis.
  - Scenarios encompassing climate change, oil and gas, etc. ongoing.
  - Population dynamics report should be coming soon.
  - Biodiversity (BAP) still being worked on. No official update. Putting pressure on them to complete.
  - Vegetation model complete and is up and running.
  - Wildfire model – in Stephen's package.
  - Oil and gas model complete. Coal and oil-based methane will be incorporated.
  - FORWARD has completed its work. Will look at water quantity, which Forestry Corp. will incorporate.
  - Spatial harvest sequence – on target.
  - Still committed to DFMP dates. DFMP will be submitted to PPG in June. Timelines have started to tighten up.
  - VOITs will be available for review and analysis at the open houses. Would like to convene PPG meeting afterwards to get feedback.
  - Wildfire threat assessment now complete. Yet to be discussed with government.
  - Final product due May 2007, but still aiming for completion six months prior to due date.
- Colin Berg shared impressions with group from Sept. 8 field trip. Colin observed that, on 2 sites, pine had been planted on what appears to be a spruce site and exhibited poor performance; this raised questions about the process of site selection for planting stock.



- Colin asked about coarse woody debris management. Jonathan said 4 piles per hectare are the standard, the rationale being habitat protection. Jonathan said that when slash layer is high, will pile debris. Colin doesn't believe in making it easier for tree planters, adding that decisions are better made on ecological basis rather than for ease of planting. Jonathan said slash was reduced to meet government standards and for reforestation purposes. Colin thought too much being removed. Ray said Colin is right and that they are investigating strategies for managing coarse woody debris. Government does have policy regarding removal around communities to prevent wildfires. If slash loads heavy, have to reduce them, said Ray. Standing snags are a WCB issues, said Jonathan. Need to bring these things into plan. Jonathan says he likes idea of removing large woody debris. Fredrick is looking at leave patches.
- ACTION - Jerry suggested that Millar Western will develop strategies around this and present it at open house.
- ACTION - Regarding reforestation, Jonathan said he can't speak to reasoning and suggested having Doug Scatcherd come to next meeting and open houses to discuss decisions around where species go.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

- No changes

## 3. Approval of October 20 Meeting Notes

- Jerry said only one person provided feedback on issues list. Still opportunity to provide input.
- Re.: Question for Hugh Wollis. Hugh said to his knowledge no plan (block layout design) has ever addressed animal – highway safety issues.
- PPG report – Jerry will continue working on draft based on today's meeting.
- Binders and updated contact list distributed at meeting.

## 4. Presentation on basic spatial harvest sequence and management strategy

- Brooke explained there were three components to strategy: land base, yield projections, and management assumptions, or targets of what we're trying to achieve.



- These variables are mixed into TSA models to produce outputs.

### Land base

- Brooke handed out area summary of land-base classification and walked PPG through it, explaining all deletions for land base.
- Ted said take-away is that 49% of W11 and 69% of W13 will be harvested over 200 years.
- Jon said lost area is the equivalent of 4 townships, due to fire, roads, subjective deletions, oil and gas.

### Yield Projections

- Brooke explained that once the managed land base is determined, it is divided into strata. Natural stand yield curves for each unit were handed out.
- Jerry asked why do use 30 cm stump? Brooke explained in W13 it's 20 cm, except for white spruce, which is 30 because of stump flare. Jerry said most cutting at ground level.
- Brooke explained that once harvested, stands are put on managed yield curve, which is a different formula. Use CD density to determine yield curves for reforested stands. Reforested forests can grow denser. Also different curves for genetically modified stands, where you expect more yield per hectare.
- Colin asked if you base AAC on maximum volume, once done old growth liquidation? Ted explained that the model picks the timing, once you define windows. Window is min. 60 years. Jon said we sample stands, but all are assumptions. Mixed stand could turn into something we hadn't anticipated. Don't have history to understand stand dynamics, but we're building that history. A lot of this is based on professional opinion, not hard science. Ted said given these conditions and if they hold steady for 200 years, this is what you would get. No magic number to AAC. Jonathan said that the interesting thing in Canada is that we plan for sustainability. Lots of places liquidate. The Canadian model is not the only model, but if you want to maintain forests on land base, Canada is doing it right. There is a public value in maintaining forests, getting product from it and sustaining employment. U.S. strategies based on market demand.
- Alex asked if population increases are being considered? Jonathan said we should be at same place in terms of sustainability 100 years from now, based on what government tells us is important. In reality, land base will decrease due to oil & gas and other pressures. We have already lost 18% of productive land base in last 10 years, due in part to how we look at land base and to the fact that land base is eroding. Jerry clarified that we can assume that land base will be there in 200 years based on current assumptions, but in reality we know there is a squeeze. That is why we update every 10 years. If land base does go down, it's not



because forest company didn't do job. Land base may be allocated to other uses. Jon says land base been hardest part of plan. Don't know our FMA boundary, still.

### **Management Assumptions.**

- Brooke explained that we can set assumptions as absolutes or give the model options.
- Trevor asked if Millar Western is looking at changing the model to take pine beetle threat into account. Brooke said that scenario will be run.
- Jonathan said company is looking at eliminating all pine over 80 years old.
- Colin said that switching all to spruce could provide different threats.
- Trevor asked if we are growing trees at faster rate, are we decreasing volumes in the process? Is the quality of the fibre diminished? Jonathan said it might have an impact, but it won't be major. Jerry said issue has been raised. Second growth normally faster but not as dense. Some quality issues overcome with technology.
- Colin said some concerns from instrument makers, not housing industry, re quality over second growth.
- Brooke said also have to make assumptions about stands if they don't get harvested – e.g. when they will die. Average age is 150 for deciduous and 200 for black spruce.
- 3 criteria – preliminary plan, focus on compartments with mature timber, BAP.
- Jerry asked what Brooke meant by biodiversity concerns. Brooke said criteria included amount of old forest and species diversity index. Jerry asked if areas not touched now would be opened later? Ray said that was the intent. Ray said Millar Western has small FMA. Company has opened 80% of compartments in last ten years but has changed approach. Strategy going forward is to go into fewer compartments and log more. Jonathan said biodiversity measures introduced by Fredrick are interim measures until he completes his work. Jerry said that the point is that old growth will move around.
- Colin asked about each opening size. Are they getting bigger? Ray said no. Built three patch sizes based on past fires. Lots of small fires; seldom large fires. Have patch targets, to answer question, that are representative of fire history.
- Ken said comments valid, but when you concentrate on one area, you get complaints. Public doesn't look at bigger picture. Need to be prepared to answer this at open houses. "Nothing left; all cut", is common public response. Need to explain to public that they are driving into area of heavy operations. Ray said this



will be a concern in Swan Hills. Average patch size 20 hectares. But emulating natural disturbances is the way the industry is going. May want to get someone in to talk about this.

- Ray said that's why we're having open house in Swan Hills.
- Brooke said once inputs in, hit go, and generate 200-year models. Look at individual 5-year periods over 200 years. Government requiring in-depth look at first 20 years.
- Ken Porter asked how we're dealing with area north of 661 with dwarf mistletoe? Jonathan asked Ken to circle area. Jonathan said it travels slowly. Can create barrier to stop it.
- Brooke handed out harvest sequence for W13, saying the graphs represent a small set of all graphs looked at. Give scenario numbers according to different sets of assumptions, yield curves and land bases.
- Colin asked what is driving thinning? Brooke said it's commercial thinning. Jerry asked if that was considered additional volume? Jonathan said it's chargeable wood.
- Jerry asked what are the regulations on mixed wood? Can you bring it back all aspen? Ray said you can if you have to.
- Brooke explained conifer percentage increasing over aspen. Colin asked if it was because of longer rotations? Brooke said it has everything to do with converting aspen to white spruce.
- Jonathan asked what assumptions were? To hit 320,000 meters? Brooke said yes.
- Ted asked if that amount of pure deciduous is what we want? A VOIT addresses this – 1.1117 – within part of natural range of variation. What level should we put in? How VOITS link into these outputs.
- Jerry asked if by growing more mixed wood, we would have less total volume? Ted says we don't know that yet. Adding another value means you have to compromise on something. Jonathan said mixed wood ran at about 24% last DFMP; now down to about 20%. Way to know would be to put in and see impact.
- Chart 9 relates to VOIT 11111.
- Colin asked what the historical pre-human disturbance would look like? Brooke said looking at seral stages in 1950 and 1920. Jonathan said a few things will be



done: will look just at fire and at old data, driving it back as far as we can, to see how the forest looked originally. On the cusp of getting that info. Colin said this is important to know; will dictate how much old growth you need. Jonathan said models showing almost zero old growth.

- Brooke handed out natural variation from last plan. Covers last 200 years. About 20% in old seral stage. Figure 8 of W13 handout also at about 20%. Ted asked whether we need same distribution on managed as you do on gross? Jonathan said government starting to direct us to have proportional values on managed land base. Will use info from last DFMP to start setting targets for old growth over time.
- Figure 11 shows little white spruce at end of planning horizon. Something we will be looking at.
- Colin asked when you start harvesting plantations? Brooke said it is something we track. Colin says he assumes it will be 30 or 40 years? Brooke said at least. Crop plans have a shorter rotation and could explain why you're getting to a managed stand sooner.
- Brooke handed out two other indicators that are being tracked:
  - **Percentage of old forest that is in a patch greater than 120 ha in size** - Don't have a problem getting interior forest through time. However, old goes down on managed, but not on total. Jerry asked if anyone surprised that this patch size can be maintained? Jerry thought it would have come down. Jonathan says stands in unmanaged forest cycling through and asked group to keep in mind that nothing is happening around the interior forests. Also have a long span during which a stand is old.
  - **Area in regeneration patches by size classes** - Showing few areas in seral stages that are that small. Not a lot of young forests created by fire. Colin asked if this matches up with fire opening sizes discussed earlier? Brooke said yes.
- Brooke handed out subsets for W11, saying trends are quite similar.
- Jerry summed up by saying that these are some of materials Millar Western will be producing for comparison to the VOITs.
- **ACTION** - Brooke also handed out TSA issues/scenarios. Jonathan asked everyone to look at proposed scenarios carefully. Group will see them in condensed form later.

## 5. Next Meetings



- DECISION - Next meeting March 16. 3:00 to 6:00 pm, prior to open house. (Deb’s birthday!)
- DECISION - Convene meeting for April 13. Purpose is for PPG to present their feedback on open house.
- ACTION - Jerry asked for feedback on draft report by e-mail/phone over next couple of weeks. Will provide new draft at next meeting.
- ACTION - Louise will send expense claim form to everyone electronically.

6. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

**Meeting Handouts:**

- Open House Communications Plan
- Area Summary of Land-Base Classification
- Natural Stand Yield Curves
- Harvest Sequence for W13
- Harvest Sequence for W11
- VOIT Targets Based on Outputs of Landis of BAP DFMP 1998-2005
- Area 120 ha+ “old” seral stage patches from W11\_P8001
- TSA Issues/Scenarios.

**ACTION/DECISION SUMMARY**

<b>ACTION/DECISION</b>	<b>ASSIGNED TO</b>	<b>DATE DUE</b>
Represent PPG at open houses	Ken Porter - Ft. Assiniboine and Swan Hills; Trevor Thain - Whitecourt	March 14, 15, 16
Send proposed invitation list and open house topics to	Louise Riopel	January 27



PPG		
Develop strategies around coarse woody debris management for presentation at open houses.	Jonathan Russell/Ray Hiltz	March 1
Invite Doug Scatcherd to next PPG/open houses to discuss species placement	Jonathan Russell	March 1
Review TSA Issues/Scenarios	PPG Members	March 16
Next meeting: <b>March 16.</b> 3:00 to 6:00 pm, prior to Whitecourt open house	PPG Members	
Meet <b>April 13</b> to obtain PPG feedback on open house	PPG Members	
Provide feedback on draft report to Jerry by e-mail/phone	PPG Members	February 3
Distribute new expense claim form	Louise Riopel	January 27





**Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.**  
**2007-2017 Detailed Forest Management Plan**  
**Public Participation Group**

Meeting Summary – March 16, 2006

Whitecourt Travel Lodge

3:00 to 6:00 pm

In attendance:

Ken Porter, Alex Manweiler, Dale Holub, Don Price, Leann Caron, Trevor Thain, Jonathan Russell, Ray Hilts, Ted Gooding, Louise Riopel, Jerry Bauer.

Absent:

Carmelle Seabrook, Colin Berg

**Guest Speaker: Doug Scatcherd, Millar Western**

1. Introduction and Welcome

- Jerry indicated there was no formal agenda. Main purpose was to hear from Doug Scatcherd re. site selection for growing stock, as a follow-up to last meeting, and to tour Open House displays.
- Minutes from last meeting were accepted.

2. Presentation on Reforestation

- Jerry introduced Doug Scatcherd, Silviculturist with Millar Western, who took the group through a PowerPoint presentation.
- To Jerry's question, Doug explained that Millar Western doesn't do pre-harvest assessment anymore because it had limited utility, given the expense. More useful to do assessment post harvest. Doing pre-harvest doesn't negate necessity for post harvest. Most pre-harvest work is around planning – looking at roads, bridges, slope issues, etc. At this stage, planners can alert silviculturists to potential issues.



- To answer Colin's question from last meeting, Jonathan said site selection for seedlings based on professional opinion developed over the years.
- Alex asked how you can tell if cones on ground sufficient for regeneration. Doug says that plots are sectioned off and assessed for cone quantity and growing conditions. Experience has shown that natural regeneration for conifer, especially pine, not that successful.
- Jerry asked when shearing done. Doug said in winter. Hoeing very effective but costly for regeneration. Intent is to come back and do commercial thin in about 20 years.
- Ray asked what percentage of land base is plowed. Doug said he'd have to check target for crop plans to answer the question. Bedding plow and mechanical moulder main site preparation tools. Ray says amazing how fast seedlings planted on mounds grow.
- Dale asked about slash and whether it needed to be burned. Doug said it settles down. SRD does not require burning of slash resulting from plowing/mounding.
- Doug says lots of site prep equipment out there. Site dictates the choice.
- Cone collection – two week window in the fall. Use cone shear dropped from helicopter to harvest cones.
- Major program in terms of cost is tree planting.
- Leann asked how long before we can harvest. Doug said it takes about 80 years to produce merchantable conifer; about 60 years for deciduous.
- Grow different container sizes of seedlings according to species/site. Costs about \$0.21/tree. Tree-planting costs – about \$0.35/tree. Good tree planter can make \$200-\$400/day. Budget includes 600 hrs. helicopter time.
- Stand tending important program. Make sure investment of \$1200-\$1900/hectare pays off. Primary tending is herbicide treatment. Goal is to give seedlings 1 to 1.5 years of competition-free growth. Fairly methodical in terms of determining which blocks are sprayed – involves measuring grass vs. seedling height.
- Also use brush saws. Expensive technique - \$800/hectare. Used to reduce density in about 12-year-old class stands.
- Monitor each block two years after planting. Assessments important to determine which stands need replanting. Expecting significant mortality this year due to mild winter/lack of snow.



- Final step is regeneration surveys. Legislated by government. Goal is 100% success rate, but 2 to 3 blocks usually fail and are replanted. Try to meet objectives set out in DFMP in terms of what forest will look like. Will have to recalculate AAC if land base not performing. Every block has to pass establishment survey. If block does not meet performance standard by year 14, AAC affected.
- Jerry asked if blocks broken in subunits. Doug says it's normally a pine or a spruce block. Not a lot of diversity around here, like you would find in B.C. We're a continental climate. General direction is that if the block was dominated by pine, it will be put back into pine; if dominated by spruce, put spruce back.
- Dale asked if moisture changes affect planting decisions. Doug says snow loading important for seedlings. Ask planters to plant next to slash, to provide protection to seedling. What climate change will do has some fairly huge implications for us. Jonathan says climate change always here.
- Trevor asked cost per hectare from seedling to maturity. Doug says depends on what we have to do on site. Typically, \$1200 to \$1900 per hectare. On a per cubic metre basis, \$6 to \$7.
- Costs of reforestation accrued. Recognized as outstanding liability. This year, due to market conditions, have reduced reforestation budget and deferred some costs to next year.
- Don asked if deferrals in anticipation of costs going down in future? Doug says it's more a function of higher costs and to preserve cash flow. Hope next year will be a more positive operating environment.

### 3. Update from Jonathan

- Jonathan said gov't starting to talk about surge cuts in response to mountain pine beetle (MPB).
- DFMP looking at deciduous/conifer balance, but will probably go for pine preference, possibly pine surge run, given mounting threat.
- Weldwood looking at 400% AAC to address potential. We're not in that situation.
- Would have to start SHS from scratch and try to get something out by June.
- Jerry asked what happens to VOITS? Ted says you need a new one. Jonathan says we would still need to work around existing VOITS. Primarily looking at sequence alteration.



- Biodiversity wanted us to concentrate on pine. Pattern we're looking at more in keeping with parameters biodiversity group is advocating.
- Climate change ready to go. Population being tweaked. Ted says change in operational focus, to pine stands, a big change.
- Don asked if mild winter having impact. Jonathan said yes. MPB not following traditional patterns. Has been found in Grande Cache. We think it's in ANC's FMA. Ray says this time next year, we will be implementing an MPB strategy.
- Jonathan says we should go ahead with surge cuts in all FMAs, to stay ahead. Wait-and-see strategy is what they did in B.C., and now they are just cutting. Dale asked what a surge cut would be. Jonathan said 20% to 30%. AAC would spike. Ted says if we had -40 for a month, wouldn't be a problem. Worst prediction is that we lose all pine on Eastern slopes in 10 years. Jonathan's recommendation is to gear up manufacturing capacity; reassess after 5 years. Gov't just considering a 10% increase in AAC.
- Don asked about affect on long-term sustainability. Jonathan said in B.C. about 10% of forest affected, on provincial basis. But on an FMA basis, could be company ending event.
- Trevor asked if global warming happens, won't trees grow faster? Jonathan says they'll burn. Could see forest disappear. Ray said more fires, more insects. See natural sub regions change relative to climate. Not likely to happen in our lifetime. Talking about timeframes of 40 to 60 years.
- Dale asked if MPB comes along, will you take smaller wood? Jonathan said the company would focus on larger wood first, then smaller.
- Alex asked how quickly you have to harvest MPB affected trees? Jonathan says within 2 to 3 years, but up to 5, depending on moisture. Going to focus on the still healthy pine rather than the infested wood. ANC want to get 40 km ahead of it.
- Only thing that will be late is SHS and impact of cumulative impact assessment groups.
- Don asked when we'll start to know if they're here. Jonathan said by August. MPB has already been found by Grande Prairie.
- Rays said not all is lost. Need to see what weather will do.
- Jonathan said you have to burn on landscape level to stop it. Ted said boreal forest is only place where you see huge monocultures. Stays this way because of cold temperatures.



- Jonathan says we need to start thinking about PPG report.
- **Next meetings: May 4** (landscape and impact assessment, VOITS, landscape projection outcomes, land base net down, FireSmart) and **June 15** (land base assessment and SHS).
- Jonathan asked group if they wanted to recommend radical redirection, they needed to express it now.
- Ground rules haven't been discussed but likely won't change from last time. Haven't presented operations.
- Jerry said after that, group's work mostly done. In about one month, will start sending chapters out to group for review.
- Ray said would like group's input on public communication requirements over 10 years.
- **Final meeting in September.** Chief Forester will provide overview of preferred forest management strategy.
- Jonathan said would also like to hear from group about what other research we should be doing.
- Alex asked about abandoned well sites. Do they get reforested and if not, why not? Legal requirement is green – clover or grass will suffice. Some companies are taking initiative to reforest it. Ray says that reclamation standards are changing. Everyone recognizes trees are better. Millar Western is being compensated to regenerate those areas. Doug says other things need to happen like decompaction. Having conversations with the oil and gas industry on this issue.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:15 for supper, then tour of open house.

**ACTION/DECISION SUMMARY**

ACTION/DECISION	ASSIGNED TO	DATE DUE
No action items		



**Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.**  
**2007-2017 Detailed Forest Management Plan**  
**Public Participation Group**

Meeting Summary – June 29, 2006

Whitecourt Travel Lodge

3:00 to 6:00 pm

In attendance:

Dale Holub, Don Price, Colin Berg, Deb Edney, Jonathan Russell, Ted Gooding, Louise Riopel, Jerry Bauer.

Absent:

Carmelle Seabrook, Ken Porter, Alex Manweiler, Trevor Thain, Ray Hilts,

**1. Introduction and Welcome**

- Jerry indicated that the meeting would be dedicated to an overview of the mountain pine beetle strategy and preferred forest management scenario.
- Jerry indicated he will follow up with all committee members, to gather feedback, hear concerns about the plan. Jerry will forward comments to Grant at the Forestry Corp., to be incorporated into the draft plan.
- Next meeting will be in September, to review the PPG report. Will have a final meeting/celebration in November, when the draft is submitted to government. Another meeting would only be necessary if the government suggests major revisions to the plan.

**2. Presentation on Preferred Management Strategy**

- Ted said he would be presenting the plan, as close as it is to the preferred plan.
- Biggest change has been the mountain pine beetle (MPB). Last several months have been spent attempting to understand government's interpretation of MPB and build a hazard reduction strategy on that basis. Gov't now using summer heat temperatures to predict MPB infestation, which is opposite of what we've been held to believe.



- Ted provided three handouts: 1. MPB Susceptibility Reduction Management Strategy; 2. DFMP VOITS; 3. Draft MPB Management Strategy.
- First handout – compares former plan with new draft plan. Results only relate to W13. Conifer cut drops after 20 years. Deciduous stays the same.
- Area goes down, because of reduction in black spruce and huge increase in “protective notations” – inoperable areas designated by government for roads, sample plots, etc.
- To Dale’s question about sustainability, Jonathan said that bottom line is that even if we aggressively go after MPB, would still have AAC of 355,000 m<sup>3</sup> for 180 years. Sustainable level would be higher still, were it not for the surge cut. Reasons AAC is better: more accurate yield curves; managed land yield curves have gone up; and less black spruce on the land.
- Ted said that last DFMP had no control on species. This time, won’t accept more than 50% pine, because of MPB threat.
- Regeneration – really hasn’t changed.
- Landscape indicators: a lot are biodiversity driven. As list shows, many more indicators have been imposed on plan compared to last time: old growth, downed woody debris, shrubs and herbs, etc.
- Dale said, basically adding indicators you haven’t added before. Asked what downed woody debris was. Jonathan said standing snags, piles, etc., all of which are now being managed. Ted said want to leave big stuff, which insects like. Under intensive management, would normally see fewer big logs, but reasons to leave larger stuff behind. Why this will be managed within the plan.
- Ted said trap lines will be included in strategy, but not as a constraint. Instead, it will be reported. If any dramatic impact, will need to look at mitigating it on individual lines.
- Next, looked at MPB strategy document (#3).
- Jerry asked what defines “highly susceptible” to MPB. Ted explained that BC has developed indicator scale of 1 – 100, with 100 being most susceptible. Alta numbers lower than in B.C. Gov’t named anything above 30 as highly susceptible. Things like percentage of pine; diameter; climate all factor into determination. MPB likes young vigorous trees. Dale asked if that had changed? He thought MPB liked old stands. Jonathan said not old, but mature is what MPB likes. MPB doesn’t go after old growth.
- Ted turned to handout 2 – VOITS. Top right hand box defines seral stages, including old growth and young opening stage. Last time, we had nothing over



500 ha; now have a few over 1,000. 78% will be between 4 & 100 ha. Also, a control on converting mixed wood.

- Government is saying that if you do a surge cut that reduces forest sustainability by more than 10%, you've cut too much. We'll be at 4%, which is well within government tolerances.
- Colin asked if without surge cut, we would be 4% higher? Ted said yes.
- Dale asked if there was a gov't MPB strategy was available. Jonathan referred members to the SRD website. (Louise will send a link to PPG members.) Dale wants to see link between what government is asking forest companies to do re. MPB, and what companies are doing. Government has a policy, but interpretation varies. What we're doing will be very acceptable, said Jonathan.
- Jonathan some in gov't don't want to see any surge cut.
- Don asked if the government is requiring areas farther west to cut more? Jonathan said we presented a regional approach to the AFPA, but it was rejected by all the members. Gov't, politically, didn't want to force that issue. Don't want to radically change gov't policy in response to perceived problem.
- Page 4 – bottom graph, shows number of hectares susceptible to MPB. Most sits in Windfall burn in about 60 years. Potentially, might need to look at another surge cut at that time, when that volume comes on line. If MPB stays, will always have parts of the forest susceptible. Will have to deal with it over time. Surge cut reduces susceptibility; doesn't eliminate it.
- Page 10 talks about old growth. Gov't has 2 different old growth numbers. MW says old growth should have a function – certain trees, of certain form, of certain distribution. Frederick has done field studies and found when structures present. He expects these structures to be minor, even rare, at about 3% of the forest. Easier to manage for larger characteristics. Instead of age cut off, has come up with set of yield curves that shows when the features of an old growth forest starts to appear- “old-growthness”. Can even find some of these features in a young forest. This approach allows for more big coarse woody debris to occur. Page 10 – 3% old, and continuously climbs. Mature grows, drops, then increases again. Bottom graph shows that old doesn't disappear, and a relatively large amount of mature is retained. These are new constraints, not addressed in previous plan. Virtually all species see increase of old growth over time (page 11).
- Colin asked why so much old growth aspen now? Jonathan said it's a historically artifact. No one's gone into pure deciduous stands. Don asked why no old white spruce. Never logged? Ted said yes, but also this species doesn't enter old category in 180. Not many stands that old, due to fire. Forest needs not to have been disturbed for over 200 years in order to have old-growth white spruce.





- P. 12 - opening patches- relatively consistent. Ones over 250 ha – the big patches – really disappear. Most patches now under 250 ha. Trend is toward smaller patches.
- While clearcuts getting smaller (top graph), old growth patches getting bigger.
- P. 13 – when we started had 20% of old-growthness; will have 10% - what we wanted. Without constraint, number would have continued to diminish.
- P. 15 – Colin said graph seems to be going wrong way. Ted said debris lowest in stands 40 to 50 years of age. Old and young will have downed woody debris. Areas that burned in Virginia Hills fire that were not salvage logged will have high volume of woody debris for next 40 years. Jonathan says still seems high. Colin asked what gov't is looking for. Ted didn't have gov't standards on hand. Frederick hasn't had time to comment on this yet, but current levels are well beyond planning standard. We're breaking it down over time.
- Colin asked why we have sapling indicators. Frederick uses them in BAP models. Predictors, used as indicators in models. Provides habitat for some species. Can put minimums and maximums on any of these indicators, as needed.
- P. 18 – free to maneuver flying space, for Frederick's raptor model. Colin asked about definition of axes. Ted didn't know much about them; they are presented as some of the indicators Frederick is using for BAP. Last time, shrub cover was a problem in regenerated stands because of spray. Why it shows up this time (p. 19). Difference this time is about of effort gone into developing more indicators. Had more people involved this time around.
- Ted showed where harvesting will happen on maps in FMA. Pattern fundamentally different than pattern put forward last fall, because of MPB. When Frederick had looked, he had identified areas not to harvest. That has changed, because of MPB susceptibility. Fundamental shift in short term.
- 10 years later, pattern moves. Little flexibility in plan.
- Most sustainability indicators didn't get pushed tight. Other values beside timber on the land base.
- Ted asked for questions, comments. At end of July, pattern, or one close to it, will go to Frederick, and he will run it through BAP tools. Other half of management plan – the water components – still to come. Currently, gov't is saying that you can't have more than 15% increase in run off. FORWARD will allow us to predict changes in water yields. A lot of watersheds for FORWARD to deal with. Components being built into timber supply now.
- Climate change, two fire models already in the landscape model. Three weeks before all that is punched out. By end of August, will have how landscape



changes just with fire, oil & gas, fire and different combinations. While we have sustainability, we have not incorporated other changes. In Steven’s model, all factors change. His results will be ready by August. After that, Frederick can then run the BAP analysis. Colin asked if those numbers would be of value. Jonathan said will show how faulty process is. Jonathan said will spend months to move a yield curve 2 or 3%, when other factors like industrial activity, population, will have bigger impact.

- Ted said a lot of documentation will exist at end of August.
- Jonathan said gov’t wants public input in VOITs but it’s difficult to do this without putting VOITs in context of plan, which is what we’ve tried to do.
- Colin asked if there had been a benefit to MW. Jonathan said yes. He can now point to several community members who have reviewed the plan, understand it, and have found no big holes. Trapping was raised as an issue. Won’t add it as a constraint, but will do a report on it. Deb said you are addressing a lot of Swan Hills issues. Education portion has helped a lot. Ted said a lot gets dealt with at operation level. Says value in trying to simplify it for the public. Deb said public gets to see why cutblocks exist. Very helpful to have public participate. Ted said committee has raised VOITS that are not part of gov’t VOITs, which has been useful – herbicide, etc. Those are new and additional; wouldn’t have been addressed without the PPG.
- Deb asked about open houses. Jonathan said because of Ft. Assiniboine open house, started Pine Marten study for nesting sites. Trucker situation came out of it as well – stump to dump. Safety concerns raised, which brought together trucking committee to address safety issues.
- Next meeting: Thursday, Oct. 5
- Colin announced he has been accepted to Calgary Fire Department, and this will be his last meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

**ACTION/DECISION SUMMARY**

<b>ACTION/DECISION</b>	<b>ASSIGNED TO</b>	<b>DATE DUE</b>
Send SRD link to PPG	Louise	July 7
Contact all members individually for feedback to presentation	Jerry	July 31



**Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.**  
**2007-2017 Detailed Forest Management Plan**  
**Public Participation Group**

Meeting Summary – November 9, 2006

Whitecourt Travel Lodge

3:00 to 7:00 pm

In attendance:

Dale Holub, Deb Edney, Trevor Thain, Ken Porter, Alex Manweiller, Jonathan Russell, Ted Gooding, Grant Burkell, Louise Riopel, Shelley MacLean, Jerry Bauer.

Absent:

Carmelle Seabrook, Don Price

**1. Introduction and Welcome**

- Jonathan said DFMP pretty much ready to be submitted. Announced that he had been appointed Whitecourt Woodlands Manager since last meeting and was now working out of Whitecourt. Jonathan mentioned that gov't had requested revisions to aspects of the plan already.
- Trevor asked if MPB part of why gov't wants MW to change plan? Jonathan said plan will be approved or rejected as a package, so we don't know. Been told it looks good so far. ANC submitted in May and haven't received approval yet. Trevor said he had heard that approval was apparently coming soon.
- Jerry said priority at this meeting is to get through VOITs that PPG has commented on. He said that he did not call members this summer, as indicated at last meeting; instead, prepared survey, which was handed out to all PPG members. PPG report will be finalized with input received.
- No comments on last meeting's notes.

**2. CSA**



- Presentation slides were distributed. Shelley introduced CSA process. Millar Western has chosen to get certified to CSA standard. While it is voluntary, there are costs associated with the process. CSA will provide Millar Western with 3<sup>rd</sup> party outlook that we are sustainable.
- Currently certified to ISO 14001. CSA next logical step in process.
- Alberta Forest Management Planning manual based on CSA.
- Shelley walked PPG through slides.
- Have to have public input – PPG providing that input.
- Need to show continual improvement; VOIT performance released publicly on annual basis.
- Looking to have the DFMP/public participation process wrapped soon, since audit taking place week before Christmas.
- CSA auditors may want to talk to PPG members about process.
- Ken asked what was purpose of certification – for markets? Shelley said yes, very important for marketing. Customers want to know product made from timber that was harvested from sustainably managed forests. One customer – Kimberly Clark – making it a requirement for continued business relationship.

### **3. VOITs**

- Jonathan said have had some difficulties with some data from some groups. Some being pushed to extreme end of process. Were going to submit in March 2007, but CSA certification needed to be expedited for market reasons, so working to wrap things up before end of year.
- A lot of targets sound; range needs to be finalized.
- Once CSA achieved, will be communicated to customers, allowing us to finalize plans.
- New VOIT table distributed and reviewed with PPG.
- Louise asked if VOITs reflected MPB. Ray said it yes. Were going to do parallel analysis but decided to submit only one.
- Dale asked how surge cuts affect sustainability. Jonathan says as it stands today, AAC -- with surge and post surge -- will decline about 2%.
- Ken asked about MPB impact on young pine. Jonathan said we're talking all stands, regardless of age. All bets are off. Ray said that sequencing focused on mature pine. Have confirmed MPB in Silver Creek. These are younger trees - 70 years. MPB has now been confirmed on 3 different sites in Millar Western's FMA area, along river. Jerry said Grande Prairie has been heavily hit. Size of tree bigger factor than age.
- Herbicide issue, raised by PPG, addressed in tables. Will need silviculture treatment to meet targets. Intensive treatments drive big increase in number.
- Dale said surge cut changes everything and asked if company can maintain commitments in VOITs in light of them? Shelley said things have changed, but that company still obligated to keep up with VOITs.
- Dale said ANC and Blue Ridge have said they can't handle 50% surge cut. Jonathan said Millar Western can handle it; have already geared up for it. Took a risk in doing so.
- Dale asked if VOITs will be followed despite surge cut. Jonathan said you have to temper surge cut with other VOITs. Some VOITs dramatically impacted but within range of acceptability.



- Dale concerned that MPB will result in a different set of standards. Jonathan said that nothing changes here – these VOITs built around surge cut. Ray said Millar Western has to come within variance range, to ensure it is doing what it said it would do.
- Ken said impact will be visually and for animals that need that age of pine stand. Have other VOITs been adjusted to accommodate MPB surge cut? Jonathan answered that if you took surge cut out, would not be a big difference – everything still fits within range of acceptability. Natural forest can move within the range.
- About aesthetics, Ray said that hasn't been addressed in the plan but they are going to identify aesthetically pleasing areas and, operationally, try to protect them. Can't really be addressed in a plan – too subjective.
- Alex said if you harvest, at least you can replant. If you leave the infested trees to die, will take longer for forest and animals to come back.
- Ray presented 1.1.1.2 – avoiding fragmentation. Difficult one to manage. Big step forward to design openings based on history. Have 10% range. Ted said large openings in W13 result of Virginia Hills fire. Jerry said one of issues with this VOIT was other users. Jonathan said patches can be riddled with well sites.
- Ray introduced oldgrowthness. Area modeled to have sufficient interior old growth forest as measure of biodiversity. Gov't said patches need to be of certain size and dimension – not just a few large patches.
- 1.1.1.3 – access. Lot of year-round access in W13. More winter access in W11. Target represents all forest company roads. Ken asked if oil & gas roads included? Ray said they aren't; integration does happen, but not as often as it should.
- 1.1.1.4 – uncommon plants. Grant said list being compiled. Reality is that plants not identified on a map. Way to address this issue is through developing SOP.
- 1.1.1.5 – blow-down events. Adopted PPG recommendation about accepting same target used for unsalvaged burned forest.
- 1.1.1.6 – strong legislation tie. Goal is to comply.
- 1.1.1.7 – a MWFP VOIT. Think we have strong case to harvest in areas adjacent to streams. 25% of time want to harvest in buffer when we are harvesting in block adjacent to buffer. Decision to do so would be dealt with on case by case basis, said Shelley. Jonathan said giving us opportunity to go into buffer. Puts issue in gov't court. Has been an issue in previous harvesting plans.
- 1.1.2.1 – retain stand level structure. Gov't wants to see live and dead trees.
- 1.1.2.2 - maintain integrity of sensitive sites. No questions.
- 1.1.2.3 - maintain aquatic biodiversity. Revisit before night out to create VOIT.
- 1.2.1.1 - maintain habitat for identified high value habitats. Ted distributed table. Numbers assessed by IQAFF. Preliminary numbers at this stage. Based on observation of animal and where you find it – determining kind of habitat good for particular animal. Ken asked about deer. Ted said biologists say deer can live anywhere and are a bad indicator of forest health.
- 1.3.1.1 - retain wild forest populations Target 0. No questions.
- 1.3.1.2 - retain wild forests genetic resources. No questions.
- 1.4.1.1 - integrate trans-boundary values and objectives. No questions.
- 2.1.1.1 - meet reforestation targets. Reality is that plantations fail by about 1%. We want to meet 100%. Shelley said that if we don't meet target annually, will explain why.
- 2.1.2.1 - limit conversion for forest land base to other uses - grazing leases, etc. Will be measuring all these other uses and indicating they are all out of our control. Grant suggested



making target 0, saying that if Millar Western had its way, it would be 0, but conversion out of the company's control. Ken suggests leaving the target as is. Realistically, we know there will be other uses. Trevor said abandoned well sites only have to be put back to grass. Huge footprint that take 50 years to recover. Dale asked if conversions now monitored. Ray says gov't monitors land base allocated to another uses. Fraction of percentage now, but will spike with other activity like coal-bed methane.

- 2.1.2.2 - recognize lands affected by insects disease or natural calamities. A reporting VOIT.
- 2.1.2.3 – have to rank our compartments re. susceptibility to MPB. Want to harvest 50% of pine stands. Forest health officer has ranked our compartments. Rank 1 has to be a mature pine stand with a conducive climate and proximity to known pine beetle infestation. Rank 2 not good either. Rankings move depending on where beetle is. This VOIT a preventative strategy.
- 2.1.2.4 – alter pine age structure. No questions on MPB VOITs.
- 2.1.3.1 – noxious weeds. No questions.
- 2.2.1.1 - maintain forest health. Jonathan explained that Millar Western undertaking study to better understand amphibians. Indiana State University involved.
- **Meeting broke for supper break.**
- Shelley took over VOIT presentation after supper.
- 3.1.1.1- minimize roading and bared areas. Standard target throughout the province.
- 3.1.1.2 - minimize erosion and slumping. Recognize PPG comment. Jerry said silviculture treatments were also mentioned in relation to this VOIT.
- 3.1.1.3 - ruts defined. Organics/swamplands can go a little deeper than 4 cm standard. Ken said that this kind of winter will be difficult to meet that challenge. Shelley said have a stop-work notice with our contractors in areas where rutting serious.
- 3.2.1.1 - limit impact of harvesting on water yield. Had input from FORWARD team. Gave Millar Western good indicators and will be operating within them.
- 3.2.1.2 - maintain water quality. Links to FORWARD project. Not a lot of good information out there. Will report on progress in stewardship report.
- 3.2.2.1 - minimize impact on riparian areas. Won't cut buffers unless we come up with plan with gov't approval. Zero incidences of cutting infractions the target. Trevor asked if you increase cut by 25%, will other indicators fall by the wayside? Everything based on MPB, said Shelley. What we're proposing has already incorporated the surge cut. Ray said some things will be compromised; that's where tradeoff analysis comes in. Trevor asked if you concentrate on old growth forest, which houses lots of water, won't it be less capable of retaining water? Jonathan said we're still within parameters for 1<sup>st</sup> order watersheds. Dale said are there consequences – water, visual, rutting, erosion, etc. Jonathan said we have to maintain AAC over 200 years –huge limiting factor. When we say we will increase cut by 30%, it's not that significant. Sounds like it, but in the scope of what we look at, it's a very small number. Shelley says we've done all the analysis in the VOITs based on a surge cut. If we do a bigger surge cut, will need to do more analysis, and obtain new approval from gov't. Alex said either we cut it now or after the beetles ruin the timber. Jonathan said B.C. found that you have 2 years to salvage – same as fire.
- 4.1 carbon uptake - gov't required.
- 5.1.1.1 - sustainable supplies.
- 5.1.2.1 - maintain communication plan.
- 5.1.2.3 - heritage values.



- 5.1.2.3 - minimize visual impact.
- 5.2.1.1 - reduce wildfire threat. FireSmart. Trevor asked about community zone. Ray said it was a 10 km zone.
- 5.2.2.1 - integrate other uses and timber management
- Shelley asked if members would be interested in sitting on permanent PPG. Having had a hand in developing VOITs, could now see how company is meeting its objectives.
- Regarding hotline, Ray said should try to get other forestry companies on board.
- Shelley asked if new VOIT necessary for water crossing. Now, by default, try to minimize them. VOITs have to be measurable, which may make this one difficult. Committee agreed that new VOIT for water crossings was not necessary.
- Shelley committed to contacting PPG committee if there are any substantive changes to VOITs, in place of holding another meeting. Everyone agreed.
- Dale asked about elements within management plan that have been rejected, alluded to earlier. Ray said won't affect VOITs.
- Jerry asked if all PPG concerns around VOITs sufficiently addressed. Everyone said yes.
- Jerry asked Trevor about mandate of MPB committee. He responded that it was to provide advice to Minister.
- Regarding other users, Ray said there will be a section in plan addressing this, but ultimately outside of our realm to manage these impacts, but will be monitoring them

#### **4. Issues List**

- Issues list was handed out. Shelley went through issues list.
- Spiritual issues being addressed through consultation. Can't protect it if we don't know where it is.
- Ray said overlapping land use issues; sometimes poses challenges in protecting.
- Shelley said as relationships improve, can build trust with First Nations.
- Ray said gov't developing new regional plan on grazing. Ray on committee. Good step forward. Still have issues with regard to compatibility of two activities. Want to deal with thousands of land dispositions currently on books.
- Shelley said she has had discussions with a party re. biofuel potential. Economics not there yet. Will work with any interested parties. Trevor said something will likely happen in next 6 months.
- Shelley said have to address wildlife management by closing roads. Gov't advises us of wildlife areas.
- No other concerns were raised.
- Jerry asked about overlapping tenure and earlier suggestion that a central map be created. Also raised issue of cutblock signage. Ray said that if Millar Western promotes its contact information, Millar Western would receive all the calls. At Jerry's suggestion, Ray said he would raise at RFAC. Needs to be a regional thing.
- Louise handed out draft DFMP implementation communication plan and asked PPG to send comments to her directly.
- Jerry said next meeting will be final meeting. Jonathan said that if gov't says no to yield curves, PPG will have to go through whole process again. Hopefully, next meeting will be to review final plan.
- Meeting adjourned at 7 pm.



**ACTION/DECISION SUMMARY**

<b>ACTION/DECISION</b>	<b>ASSIGNED TO</b>	<b>DATE DUE</b>
Completion of PPG survey	PPG members	November 17
Completion/distribution of new draft of PPG report	Louise/Jerry	November 30
Comment to Louise on draft DFMP implementation communication plan	PPG members	November 24
Raise cut-block signage issues at Whitecourt RFAC	Ray	ASAP





**Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.**  
**2007-2016 Detailed Forest Management Plan**  
**Public Participation Group**

Meeting Summary – April 4, 2007

Whitecourt Mountain Steak and Pizza

3:00 to 7:00 pm

In attendance:

Dale Holub, Deb Edney, Trevor Thain, , Don Price, Ted Gooding, Louise Riopel, Ray Hilts, Shelley MacLean, Jerry Bauer.

Absent:

Ken Porter, Alex Manweiller, Jonathan Russell, Carmelle Seabrook

**1. Introduction and Welcome**

**2. Approval of Agenda**

- Ray asked that one item be added – annual update procedure for oil and gas activity.

**3. Approval of Nov. 9 Minutes**

- Minutes were approved with no changes.

**4. CSA Audit Results**

- Shelley indicated MWFP had been successful in CSA certification quest.
- Shelley reviewed audit action plan, in preparation for the fall surveillance audit (see handout).
- Shelley said auditors indicated that company hadn't clearly distinguished between SFM plan and DFMP for PPG. She explained that SFM is a living document more focused on VOITs,



whereas the DFMP is a more static plan that includes VOITs but also more detail. Jerry asked if SFM and DFMP processes could be the same. Shelley said that was MWFP's intention, but that time constraints prevented the two from being carried out at the same time. MWFP will try to blend them for the next DFMP.

- Shelley reviewed all the auditor's suggestions, saying they are achievable.
- Trevor asked if all incidents of nonconformance are written down. Shelley said they will be reported to the PPG, adding that, legally, some must be reported to government. Trevor asked if certification could be taken away. Shelley said depended on severity of nonconformance. Company needs to show that it is working to rectify issues.
- Trevor asked about self-monitoring and how PPG will know of nonconformance if it isn't reported. Ray said all nonconformance will now be presented to PPG, who can provide feedback into loop. Nice thing about certification is that it instills rigor. Shelley added that auditors had commended MWFP for its self reporting.
- Shelley said all auditor recommendations are for our consideration; however, they will be brought up at the surveillance audit, so MWFP will try to address them all.
- Shelley reviewed positive aspects of audit: communication, soliciting input from First Nations, good connection between plan and field activities.
- To Jerry's question about who selects auditor, Shelley said company selects registrar, and registrar selects individual auditor.

## 5. VOITS

- Ray indicated that CSA requires we advise PPG of changes to VOITs. Need PPG's acknowledgement that they understand changes.
- Some targets have changed marginally since VOITs last presented. Target booklet was distributed.
- Trevor asked specifically about significant changes. Ray said location of harvesting had not really been determined at last review. Ted indicated that none of the long-term 200-year strategy numbers had changed, but one target that is really different is 2.1.1.1.c. Regeneration target has changed from 24,258 to 24,724 in first 10 years. Change in polygon results in change to all numbers.
- Dale said surge cut not a lot more. Ted explained that even flow would be 330,000 m<sup>3</sup>, but surge would be 450,000 m<sup>3</sup>. Ray said MWFP would be implementing an aggressive reforestation strategy but that company not getting credit for it. He explained that, at the eleventh hour, the government changed its position 180 degrees, rejecting MWFP's methodology for calculating crop plans. For the last DFMP, MWFP was allowed to model timber supply in a certain way, but government has changed its stance, despite having accepted the DFMP terms of reference, which clearly set out MWFP's intentions, forcing MWFP to adopt more conservative regeneration targets.
- Trevor indicated he had seen charts that show that, after 10 years, harvest volumes are down and that, depending on how forest regeneration goes, some companies won't be viable.
- Ray indicated that without surge, AAC would be 330,000 m<sup>3</sup>; with surge, will be at 300,000 m<sup>3</sup> after 10 years. He said based on experience, MWFP knows its sites grow better trees. With right treatments, yields can be influenced in a positive way.



- Trevor asked if MWFP had 10 years to prove government wrong. Shelley said that the hope is that the drops government anticipates are wrong. She said Canada doesn't have some of the long-term information that Europeans have, hence the government's caution.
- Trevor moved that VOITs be accepted, indicating that over course of last 2 years, PPG had considered them thoroughly. No disagreement was registered from other PPG members.
- Trevor was concerned about using conservative regeneration assumptions in the TSA and the impact that would have on future cut levels, adding that he believes that companies can do better on the ground than the conservative assumptions he has seen. He said he was disappointed at SRD's approach on regeneration and indicated that government needs to be open to new approaches, given mountain pine beetle. He said he was concerned that numbers that will be given to public will show that local mills won't be viable over long term.
- Dale asked if PPG can convey their concerns about conservation regeneration targets to government, to influence their thoughts. Trevor added that MWFP should look at getting 3 harvests over 200 years, not 2, and that this assumption should be forwarded to government. Ray said PPG is within its rights to convey these views to government.
- Don asked if pine was speeding up rotation. Ray said company is getting away from pine-spruce mix. Trying to get that approved by government as well. Currently, government policy requires that companies regenerate pine stands to pine.

## **6. Management Plan Overview**

- Ted indicated hope is to have draft DFMP ready at end of next month. Presentation was handed out.
- Ted explained that DFMP will refer to several other implementation plans, ensuring plan is carried out and doesn't just sit on a shelf.
- Ted reviewed the PFMS, explaining the balances the company tried to achieve.
- W11 surge cut not changed; W13 surge cut bigger, to go after pine stands.
- Ted reviewed maps that showed areas where harvesting would occur over next 10 years.
- Said W13 reflects surge to address MPB. Current harvest level is 353,000 m<sup>3</sup>. Surge also affects deciduous – can't cue up surge in conifer without increasing aspen, because of incidental. Strategy is to not leave behind isolated aspen stands, except where it makes sense to do so. Right now, deciduous at 197,000 m<sup>3</sup>.
- W11 compartment sequencing influenced by commitment to provide Ft. Assiniboine contractor group with early access to aspen.
- W13 sequencing determined by government's MPB ranking. Incorporated areas from Virginia Hills as a result.
- For the last 10 to 15 years, been operating around lakes and reserves but, due to public input, giving those areas a rest for this DFMP.
- Ray said MWFP meeting with SRD tomorrow, to review SHS.
- Ted indicated that regeneration strategy not changed.

## **7. Annual Update Procedure for Oil and Gas Activity**

- Ray handed out a presentation that explained the current method of reporting land withdrawals due to oil and gas activities, which is now done every 10 years as part of the DFMP process.



- Responding to concerns raised by the PPG and others, Ray is suggesting moving to an annual reporting timeframe and modeling annually, to better reflect impact on timber supply.
- Before bringing the proposal to SRD, Ray is asking the PPG if they would be agreeable to this proposition.
- Deb conveyed kudos to MWFP for bringing suggestion forward.

## **8. Consultation Process Going Forward**

- Since this was last meeting of PPG, Shelley wanted to introduce MWFP's new public consultation process going forward.
- She said new group would combine PPG and mill site EAC into one consultation group. MWFP would, however, withdraw from other consultation groups like the RFAC and SHFCG to focus efforts on new committee and to meet requirements of CSA-Z809. Said one of objectives of new group would be to try to broaden membership, and that all existing PPG members would be invited to participate as well.
- Trevor asked about structure of the new group, saying he was concerned it would become a free-for-all. Shelley said basic operating rules would be developed, and process would be managed with help of a facilitator.
- Don asked if RFAC would disintegrate. Ray said he didn't think so, that other companies were still committed. MWFP would still attend RFAC meetings on occasion, if required.
- Trevor asked if other area companies had similar certification requirements. Shelley said if ANC and Blueridge go down same path, could then talk about combining public consultation efforts, but right now, RFAC would not meet CSA requirements.
- Dale said he is at point of shutting down SHFCG and forming another group to coordinate concerns with three companies operating in the Swan Hills area. Shelley said Swan Hills would be welcome to send delegates to new MWFP group. Dale said Swan Hills unique in having multiple companies to deal with. If they appoint members to new group, group will deal only with MWFP-related issues. Shelley said wouldn't close the door to any requests that come from the area but that MWFP would be concentrating its efforts on the new public consultation group.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned and supper served. Millar Western thanked PPG members for their input, and presented them with letters and gifts of thanks.



## Appendix IV PPG Member Attendance Record

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2007-2016 DFMP – Public Participation Group Report

Name	2004				2005						2006				2007
	Sept. 20	Oct. 19	Nov. 4	Dec. 2	Jan. 31	Mar. 30	May 5	May 31	Jun 20	Oct. 20	Jan. 19	Mar. 16	Jun 29	Nov. 9	April 4
Colin Berg	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		✓		
Leanne Caron	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Deb Edney	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Ron Hellekson	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Dale Holub	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Alex Manweiler	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Ken Porter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Don Price		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Carmelle Seabrook	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Derek Schlosser	✓	✓													
Trevor Thain			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓



## Appendix V PPG Comments on VOITs

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1. Biological Diversity	1.1. Ecosystem Diversity Conserve ecosystem diversity at the landscape level by maintaining the variety of communities and ecosystems that occur naturally in the DFA.	1.1.1. Landscape scale biodiversity.	1.1.1.1. Maintain biodiversity by retaining the full range of cover types and seral stages <sup>3</sup> .	Area of each cell by FMU's W11 and W13 Gross and Managed landbase.  <table border="1" data-bbox="988 485 1370 717"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Millar Western</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Species Stratum</th> <th>Young forest</th> <th>Mature</th> <th>Old</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>AW</td> <td>&lt;21</td> <td>51-100</td> <td>&gt;100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AP</td> <td>&lt;21</td> <td>51-115</td> <td>&gt;115</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AS</td> <td>&lt;26</td> <td>66-120</td> <td>&gt;120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PA</td> <td>&lt;21</td> <td>61-115</td> <td>&gt;115</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SA</td> <td>&lt;31</td> <td>71-140</td> <td>&gt;140</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LT</td> <td>&lt;26</td> <td>51-150</td> <td>&gt;150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PL</td> <td>&lt;21</td> <td>61-120</td> <td>&gt;120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SB</td> <td>&lt;31</td> <td>91-160</td> <td>&gt;160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SW</td> <td>&lt;31</td> <td>81-150</td> <td>&gt;150</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Millar Western				Species Stratum	Young forest	Mature	Old	AW	<21	51-100	>100	AP	<21	51-115	>115	AS	<26	66-120	>120	PA	<21	61-115	>115	SA	<31	71-140	>140	LT	<26	51-150	>150	PL	<21	61-120	>120	SB	<31	91-160	>160	SW	<31	81-150	>150	Over the 200-year planning horizon; a) Gross landbase: greater than X% old forest, greater than Y% mature plus old forest, less than Z% Young forest; and b) Managed landbase: greater than X% old forest, greater than Y% mature plus old forest, less than Z% Young forest Note: Old forest retention must include the full natural range of ages.		Concerns over the use of herbicides and their impact on plant and animal communities and effect on non-commercial users of the forest. Will the use of herbicides decrease biodiversity? (note: do we need a clear recommendation from the PPG?)	Need a response from the PDT.
Millar Western																																																				
Species Stratum	Young forest	Mature	Old																																																	
AW	<21	51-100	>100																																																	
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PL	<21	61-120	>120																																																	
SB	<31	91-160	>160																																																	
SW	<31	81-150	>150																																																	
			1.1.1.2. Maintain biodiversity by avoiding landscape fragmentation	a) Range of Regen Patch <sup>6</sup> sizes by subunit (W11 and W13) and entire DFA	a) A distribution of harvest area sizes that will result in a regen patch size pattern over the 200 year planning horizon approximating patterns created by natural disturbances.		Fragmentation would be better addressed if this objective also accounted for the cumulative effects from other sources such as the energy sector.	Need a response from the PDT.																																												
				b) Area of old interior forest <sup>7</sup> of each cover class by subunit and entire DFA.	b) Area of old interior forest will not be less than X% of each cover class over the next 200 years.																																															
			1.1.1.3. Maintain biodiversity by minimizing access	Open all-weather forestry road density by subunit	Less than X km/km2		A more meaningful target would incorporate optimum rather than maximum densities; this would lead to a rationalization of the road network, long-term access plans and the incorporation of the needs of other users.	Need a response from the PDT.																																												
				Open seasonal/temporary forestry road length by DFA	Less than X km by subunit		Suggested an appropriate target could be worded "less than x% if temporary roads and decking areas will have loss of productivity" or "x% of temporary roads and decking areas will be regenerated	Need a response from the PDT.																																												





							according to current standards".	
				Road surface area.	Millar Western's, and all embedded operators' road surface area will not exceed 4% of the total harvested area (DFMP ch2). This only includes AOP roads and does not include right-of-ways (MWFP clarification at Oct.19/04 PPG meeting).		Suggest the target for the indicator of road surface area "will not exceed 4% of the total harvested area". (note: need to check %; was it changed to 5%?)	Agreed
			1.1.1.4. Maintain plant communities uncommon in DFA or province	Area or occurrence of each uncommon plant community within DFA	X% of identified community will be maintained (separate target for each identified community)			
			1.1.1.5. Maintain unique habitats provided by wildfire and blowdown events.	Area of unsalvaged burned forest	<p>Live trees: Retain all unburned trees recognizing timber condition, access, non timber needs.</p> <p>Burned trees - Compartment Scale: Retain greater than 10% of merchantable black trees in patches greater than 100ha</p> <p>Burned trees - Harvest area scale: Retain greater than 10% of merchantable black trees in patches 10-100 ha; and Retain greater than 5% of merchantable black</p>			



					trees in small patches, single trees according to loggers choice			
				Area of unsalvaged blowdown	In areas of significant blowdown greater than X% will be left unsalvaged. For blowdown events 100 ha and greater: retain greater than 10% of merchantable blowdown in patches 10-100ha, and; retain greater than 5% of merchantable blowdown in small patches, single trees according to logger's choice. For blowdown events smaller than 100 ha: retain greater than X% of merchantable blowdown. (PPG)		Suggest that targets for a catastrophic blowdown event as presented may not no longer be appropriate. Therefore, recommend that the target for blowdown events of 100 ha and greater be the same as for unsalvaged burned forest, that is, retain 10% of the merchantable blowdown in patches of 10 - 100 ha. (note: not clear if we are suppose to remove the first sentence regarding "significant blowdown"?)	Agreed
			1.1.1.6. Retain ecological values and functions associated with riparian zones	Compliance with Provincial OGR	Consistent with Provincial OGR			
			1.1.1.7 Maintain biodiversity	Indicator(s) in progress.	Achieve desired natural range of variability with respect to BAP		Suggest that the Objective and Target for this associated value be changed.	Agreed



			by staying within the bounds of natural variation as defined by BAP.		habitat types and coarse filter landscape metrics.		Remove reference to "future forest state" and replace with "natural range of variability or similar statement".	
		1.1.2. Local/stand scale biodiversity.	1.1.2.1. Retain stand level structure	a) % area/ volume/ stems residual structure (both living and dead), within a harvest area, representative of the status (live/dead), sizes, and species of the overstory trees by subunit and entire DFA.	a) A combination of single stems, clumps, and islands comprising X% of the harvested area/ volume/ stems within a subunit. Note: A wide range in variability in harvest area-level retention within a subunit is desired as long as the target level is achieved.			
				b) Percentage of harvested area by subunit with downed woody debris <sup>8</sup> equivalent to preharvest conditions	X% of harvest areas having downed woody debris retained on site.			
			1.1.2.2. Maintain integrity of sensitive sites	Sensitive sites (e.g. mineral licks, major game trails) by subunit and entire DFA.	Strategies to maintain consistent with provincial guidelines/OGR			
			1.1.2.3. Maintain aquatic biodiversity by minimizing impacts of water crossings	Forestry water crossings in compliance with Code of Practice for Water Course Crossings within each subunit	b) Designs meet standards of the Code of Practice for Water Course Crossings		Need a strategy to minimize water crossings as a means of achieving this objective and target; however, the associated target may not be hard number.	Need a response from the PDT.
	1.2. Species Diversity Conserve species diversity by ensuring that habitats for the native species found in the DFA	1.2.1. Viable populations of identified plant and animal species	1.2.1.1. Maintain habitat for identified high value species (i.e., economically valuable, socially valuable,	Area of suitable habitat within the DFA or subunit  or  Specific population parameter(s) (e.g. trends, distribution, absolute size, recruitment) for the DFA or subunit.	Maintain above X ha  or  Maintained or increased		The objective is clear, important and all encompassing.	



	are maintained throughout time.		species at risk, species of management concern)					
	1.3. Genetic Diversity Conserve genetic diversity by maintaining the variation of genes within species.	1.3.1. Genetic integrity of natural tree populations	1.3.1.1. Retain "wild forest populations" <sup>9</sup> for each tree species in each seed zone through establishment of in-situ reserves by the organization or in cooperation with Alberta	Number and area of in situ genetic conservation areas	Number (X) of genetic conservation areas for each seed zone conforming with Section 3 of the Green Area section of Standards for Tree Improvement in Alberta.			
			1.3.1.2 Retain wild forest genetic resources through ex-situ conservation	Number of provenances and genetic lines in ex-situ gene banks and trials	Active conservation program for all Controlled Parentage Program plan species and other species in cooperation with Alberta			
	1.4. Protected Areas - Respect protected areas identified through government	1.4.1. Areas with minimal human disturbances within managed landscapes.	1.4.1.1. Integrate transboundary values and objectives into forest management.	Stakeholder consultation	Ongoing consultation with relevant protected areas agencies			



	processes.							
2.) Ecosystem Productivity	2.1 Ecosystem resilience	2.1.1 Reforested harvest areas.	2.1.1.1 Meet reforestation targets on all harvested areas	Annual % of SR regeneration surveys	Set target based on timber supply analysis			
				Cumulative % of reforested areas that meet reforestation target	As above			
			Meet strata-level regeneration targets.		Percentage distribution of treatment types required to maintain timber supply assumptions			
			Silviculture Intensity	Percent of area regenerated to crop plans	X % of total regenerated DFA area on crop plans			
		2.1.2 Maintenance of forest landbase	2.1.2.1 Limit conversion of forest landbase to other uses	Amount of change in forest landbase	Maintain or increase forest landbase		Is this a target that can be set by Millar Western since many land base deletions are due to other activity and are beyond the control of the Company? Might be better to set targets to return land to the forest land base or to reduce the impact of land withdrawals by coordinating the activity of other users.	Need a response from the PDT.
			2.1.2.2 Recognize lands affected by insects, disease or natural calamities. (MWFP Note: Account for fire and other non-planned losses (Stewardship Report pg.	Amount of area affected.	Area (ha) affected by significant outbreaks, infestations, natural calamities		Suggest only to report on area disturbed and not set targets.	Need a response from the PDT.



			118; DFMP ch.6 pg. 309))					
			Reforest burned-over cut blocks and fire salvage blocks.					
		2.1.3 Control invasive species	2.1.3.1 Control non-native plant species (weeds)	Noxious weed program	Noxious weed program in place and implemented		May not maintain target as stated?	
	2.2 Ecosystem Productivity	2.2.1 Forest health	2.2.1.1 Maintain forest health	Identify selected amphibians, invertebrates, and soil micro-organisms over the next ten years as candidate indicators of forest health for future monitoring programs.	Target may be to have a research program in place (for wood frogs) by 2006.			
			2.2.1.2 Minimize single-source pollutant deposition from machinery.	Progress towards developing an Environmental Management System (EMS).	Report on progress			
3. Soil and water	3.1 Soil quantity and quality	3.1.1 Soil productivity	Minimize impact of roading and bared areas in forest operations	Compliance with Provincial OGR	Less than 5% soil exposure; refers to all terrain types within cutblocks, non-LOC roads, and landings (confirmed by gov't) (LOC's are required for			



					roads in use for over 2 years).			
			Minimize incidence of soil erosion and slumping.	Incidence of soil erosion and slumping	Complete compliance.		Suggest to add "proper silviculture systems" as a means to achieving the objective and target.	Need a response from the PDT.
			Reduce soil compaction of forested sites.	Extent of rutting	Rutting should be minimized to 2% or less of each cutblock		Soil productivity is an important value; however, this is not addressed by rutting alone. Therefore, this objective needs a good indicator of soil compaction.	Agreed
				Indicator required - possibly soil bulk density (PPG).				
	3.2 Water Quantity and Quality	3.2.1 Water quality	3.2.1.1 Limit impact of timber harvesting on water yield.	Forecast impact of timber harvesting on water yield.	Zero Water Act penalties. Complete compliance with DFMP. - A target for water impact is not actually required only the modeling is required.			
			3.2.1.2 Maintain water quality (PPG).	Nitrogen, phosphorus and suspended sediments within a natural range of variation (PPG).	to be determined. # for P, N and suspended sediments.		Suggest add an objective for maintaining water quality (nitrogen, phosphorous and suspended sediments) within a natural range.	Agreed
		3.2.2 Effective riparian habitats	3.2.2.1 Minimize impact of operations on riparian areas	Riparian buffers maintained as outlined in ground rules	Complete compliance		Suggest that the inventory of water crossings is a means to achieve the objective and target of minimizing the impact of operations on riparian areas	Need a response from the PDT.
				Volumes and areas harvested in riparian areas.	MWFP is looking at alternative ways to address buffers; i.e. maintain same area/volume but redistribute across landbase for increased ecological value (e.g. riparian connectivity).			



4. Global Ecological Cycles	4.1 Carbon uptake and storage	To be determined	To be determined	Results of carbon budget modeling	To be determined			
	4.2 Forest land conversion	See 2.1.2 above						
5. Multiple Benefits to Society	5.1 Timber and non-timber benefits	Sustainable timber supplies	Establish appropriate AACs	Process and standards described in Annex 1&2 (of the Planning Manual) are followed	Complete compliance		Suggest the indicators for the objective to maintain harvest strategies should all become means to identify targets for the AAC objective.	
							Suggest the process for determining the operable land base needs to improve and be included as a monitoring and measuring item.	
							Suggest PSPs should become the monitoring and measuring item for this objective.	
		Maintain non-timber supplies	5.1.2.1 Respect non-timber commercial rights (e.g. trapping, grazing, guiding, outfitting) (PPG).	Complaints, grazing use, trapping yield and success.	Develop and implement communications protocols.		Suggest change the objectives for the value to "maintain non-timber supplies" to address separately the commercial and non-commercial uses in the forest.	
			5.1.2.2 Maintain opportunities for public use of non-commercial, non-timber forest values (e.g. hunting, fishing, berry and	Bioindicators as proxies for non-timber products.				





			mushroom collection) (PPG).				
			5.1.2.3 Protect heritage values		Comply with Heritage Resources Act; minimize disturbance/destruction of heritage resources; e.g. historical trails (PPG). (DFMP ch.2 pg.10 and pg. 34)		Suggest add historical trails as a target for heritage values.
			5.1.2.4. Maintain aesthetics around high recreation areas (PPG).	To be developed.	To be developed.		Suggest add an objective to "maintain aesthetics around high recreation areas".
	5.2 Communities and Sustainability	5.2.1 Risk to communities from wildfire is low	5.2.1.1. To reduce wildfire threat potential by reducing fire behaviour, fire occurrence, threats to values at risk and enhancing fire suppression capability	1) Percentage hectare reduction by category of wildfire threat within 10 kilometres of a community.  2) Percentage change in hectares by wildfire threat category across the forest planning area over the planning horizon.	1) Reduce number of Ha in the extreme and high wildfire threat rating categories by X% within 10 km of communities  2) Reduce number of Ha in the extreme and high wildfire threat rating categories by X% across the forest planning area.		Suggest adding enhancing fire suppression capacity and Millar Western's "tree free" policy as means of achieving this objective and target.



		5.2.2 Provide opportunities to derive benefits and participate in use and management	5.2.2.1. Integrate other uses and timber management activities. Gov't clarification: e.g. grazing, snowmobiles, trappers, guides, integrate uses; integrated use from consultations around harvest sequencing.	Extent of various uses	To be determined in the planning process			
		5.2.3. Forest Productivity	5.2.3.1. Maintain Long Run Sustained Yield Average Timber Supply	Natural to natural transition timber supply analysis.	No decrease from the natural to natural transition timber supply analysis.			
6. Accepting society's responsibility for sustainable development	6.1 Aboriginal and treaty rights and aboriginal forest values.	6.1.1. Compliance with government regulations and policies.	6.1.1.1. Implement public involvement program	Meet Alberta's current expectations for aboriginal consultation	Consult at the community level with designated representatives of affected aboriginal communities.			
	6.2 Public participation and information for decision - making	6.2.1. Meaningful public involvement achieved	6.2.1.1. Implement public involvement program	Meet expectations of Section 5 of CSA Z809-02	To be determined in the planning process		Suggest only need one objective for public participation (the others that were listed in previous drafts are means to achieve the objective and targets).	



## Appendix VI PPG Issues List

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Issue	Millar Western Response	Government Response	PPG Recommendation	Status
<p>1 Overlapping Tenure. Confusing to the public on who is responsible for operations in areas of overlapping tenure; FMA with embedded Quotas; responsibility for contractors.</p>	<p>Operating Ground Rules are set by the FMA holder; embedded quota operators normally agree to abide by the FMA rules; the Government is responsible for monitoring all tenure holders; contractors are under direct control of the companies who employ them.</p>	<p>Overlapping tenure are common and should not lead to increased operating errors; FMA holder not responsible for monitoring embedded quota holders or other operators; the public should contact the local forest officer if there are concerns.</p>	<p>1. A map should be provided and made easily accessible to the public that would identify the area of operations for all companies</p> <p>2. Signage for all cut blocks to identify the operator or tenure holder</p>	<p>1. Millar Western will pursue through RFAC</p> <p>2. Gov't does not mandate signage; however, Millar Western does place signage in active operating areas.</p>
<p>2 Operating rules outside of FMAs. When FMA holders operate outside of their FMA, what operating rules apply?</p>	<p>Millar Western generally approaches all of their operations in the same way, but under the specific ground rules of the FMA they are operating in; there is no confusion for Millar Western as to what operating rules apply.</p>	<p>Operating ground rules are FMA specific; provincial ground rules apply to areas outside of FMAs. There is no evidence of increased errors or rule breaking in quota areas.</p>		<p>No further action required.</p>
<p>3 Monitoring or enforcing rules. This includes auditing, reporting procedures, self monitoring, monitoring process, effectiveness; how are changes made to plans if ground conditions change after approval?</p>	<p>Millar Western conducts self assessments and third party audits (certification) to help ensure compliance; this is also part of a continual improvement process. Operating conditions are monitored constantly and operating plans are changed when necessary to reflect local or current conditions; these changes must be approved by SRD.</p>	<p>Decreased active role by SRD in monitoring over the past 10 years; there is now more self reporting based on expected behaviours and results; Five year stewardship plans are submitted by companies to monitor commitments in DFMPs; Forest Officers still approve Operating Plans and carry out spot checks; third party audits and certification also a mechanism for ensuring compliance.</p>		<p>No further action required.</p>
<p>4 Contact process for the public.</p>			<p>see recommendations for #1 above.</p>	<p>Combined and addressed with Issue #1.</p>

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5	Land base updates. How do DFMPs and AAC calculations get updated due to changes in land base from other industrial and non-industrial activity?	AACs calculations are made at 10 year intervals unless the net land base withdrawals exceed 2.5%. Adjustments are made for withdrawals on a yearly basis, with the volume being adjusted at the 10 year recalculation.	Any catastrophic event or if withdrawals exceed 2.5%, there is an immediate recalculation of the AAC; otherwise, AACs are recalculated every 10 years.		No further action required.
6	Climate change, human population, oil & gas activities and wildfire. How can we get others to incorporate these factors into their DFMPs?	Millar Western is assessing these factors but they will not affect the timber supply analysis or AAC of this DFMP. They can be used to drive land management issues.	All of these issues are being discussed as part of Integrated Land Management and cumulative impacts, but the impacts as assessed may not be manageable. Still in the research stage, but until there are agreed upon directions, must use best available information. Recognize there may be changes in the future that will have to be addressed.	Other companies should consider these factors in their management plans.	No further action required.
7	Insect outbreaks. Can these outbreaks be addressed in planning/modeling; do companies have contingency plans; what are the impacts on AACs? And what plans does the Government have to address the Mountain Pine Beetle?	Millar Western is conducting sensitivity analysis on pine beetle and looking at mitigating impacts. This will probably be incorporated into the DFMP.	The Government does have a Pine Beetle Management Plan under draft. Risk modeling is currently being conducted to identify hot spots. We can look at age class to manage for the Pine Beetle with possible increased harvest of pine stands. No endemics are present now. (note: remember this was as of May 2005)	Mountain Pine Beetle and other major insect attacks (the potential of) should be considered when selecting management strategies and calculating the AAC.	MPB strategy has since been developed and is reflected in VOITs, approved by PPG on Nov. 9, 2006, and the company's management strategies.
8	Sustainability. Is the present cut or AAC sustainable on the existing land base? What are the impacts of other forest users on sustainability? Can we be both sustainable and economically viable in the long term?	Millar Western believes its operations, in and of themselves, to be sustainable. However, when combined with other activity on the landscape, this comes into question. The Government has deemed the Green Zone as an industrial forest; the public must decide what it wants from the forests (that is, what values) and this will probably require trade offs.	Pressures on the landscape are ever increasing. This issue is coming to the forefront as we look further into Integrated Land Management.		No further action required.



9	Old growth. What is old growth (definitions) and is it sustainable?	Millar Western is currently using the Biodiversity Assessment Project to determine characteristics of old growth and is committed to including old growth on the landscape. This will require that we determine the values of old growth, the levels desired and to set targets. Old growth will always be maintained at the landscape level, but individual stands will change and evolve over time.	No hard definitions of old growth; generally, conifer over 120 years and deciduous over 100 years fall into the old growth category. Most management plans have some requirement to maintain a mix of age class on the land base.		No further action required.
10	Spiritual values. Need to be addressed in the DFMPs.	Millar Western is working closely with Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation on the identification and management of traditional spiritual values. Any other spiritual values would need to be identified in order to consider in management planning.	It is the responsibility of the public to identify values and bring them forward to the Government and industry for consideration in management plans. In most cases where spiritual or traditional values are identified, the industry has deferred logging.	The DFMP should recognize this as a value.	No further action required.
11	Grazing leases. How much pressure is the increased in applications for grazing leases putting on the landscape and is there a coordinated strategy to address impacts of land withdrawal?	Millar Western feels the Government needs a long term strategy for granting grazing leases as opposed to current ad hoc approach. The forest industry wishes to be part of the development of a strategy that balances the requirements for grazing lands with the rights of the tenure (forest) holder.	There are opportunities for grazing within timber areas, but not during regeneration period. Effective management requires cooperation between all operators (grazing and timber). The current system of submitting applications may not be adequate.		At Nov. 9, 2006, meeting, Millar Western indicated it would participate in gov't committee to develop new regional grazing plan.
12	Stand types and biodiversity. Impact on other forest values with current cut levels; the public has less confidence in the ability to manage these other values; concerns over aesthetics and biodiversity with current methods of logging debris disposal. Are current management practices going to lead to tree farms and monocultures?	Millar Western manages for varying stand types and age classes. Biodiversity is a key consideration in all of our management efforts. Harvest and regeneration operations are specifically determined by individual blocks or areas. This approach is not akin to a seed orchard or monoculture plantation. Debris disposal by burning is based on fire regulations in the province.	Timber supply is easy to manage, but other values are more difficult. Most management plans are addressing habitat issues and ensuring habitat is maintained. We must take into account that priorities change over time. The public must be aware of the impacts of managing for specific values (or species) since this could be detrimental to other habitats or species.	The PPG need to see examples of future forest conditions by viewing various stand types and treatments through modeling and/or a field trip.	In response to request, Millar Western conducted a field trip for the PPG on September 17, 2005. No further action required.



13	Post harvest buffer management. What legislation is in place to manage buffers after harvest?		There is no legislation in place with regard to post-harvest buffer management. Many in government see riparian areas as sacred ground, therefore, it will be hard to move off of this position.	The management of buffers should be a value.	Millar Western added VOIT 1.1.1.7 - improve health and vigor of forest stands adjacent to riparian areas.
14	Waste management. Is there a better way of utilizing waste as opposed to disposal via burning? Is there any research underway on the utilization of waste? Can we reduce health and environmental issues by burning less? And the aesthetics of debris left on the ground is a concern.	Debris disposal by burning is based on fire regulations in the province. Millar Western is not conducting any research into alternate uses at this time.	Debris piles are burned for hazard reduction and forest protection. There has been some research by FERIC and others on alternatives (biofuel, cogen, fuel pellets), but most have economic drawbacks. Environmental impacts associated with burning are assessed and strategies are in place for the management of burn permits.	The Government needs to lead research in marketing waste material.	No further action required.
15	Scarification. Does it result in increased erosion or result in injury to wildlife or barriers to wildlife movement? What techniques are used today? Are access trails protected (maintained or kept open) as they are in harvest operations?	Millar Western employs mounding, blade scarifying and disc plowing to prepare areas for planting. Current practices are less severe than they have been in the past. Sites are prepared on linear disturbance pattern to allow for proper accounting of plantation requirements. Current regeneration regulations require maintenance of trails and trap lines.	Today's scarification techniques are much more reasonable than practices of the past. Most operators use mounding and trenching. We do have some problem with trail damage. It is up to individual companies to meet commitments to maintain trails.		No further action required.
16	Access management. The right of public access versus the need to maintain wildlife habitat, biodiversity and other forest values. Does the public have the right to demand access to areas once companies have completed their activities?		Access management will be a central issues for the new Integrated Land Management ADM. The Government is under consistent pressure from conservationists to restrict access. There is equal pressure form the public to manage access for recre-ational trails, etc. To date, Albertans have had unfretted access to the land; however, this is likely to change with the implementation of ILM and single species management. This could lead to bigger or other problems. As pressure on the land increases, so will the severity of this issue.		No further action required.







## Appendix VII PPG Questionnaire

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**MILLAR WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS LTD.**

**2007-2016 DFMP DEVELOPMENT**

**PPG Questionnaire**

The purpose of this questionnaire is to solicit your final comments on Millar Western's 2007-2016 DFMP and the public participation process in which you have been involved. Your responses will be included in the PPG Report, which will form part of our DFMP submission to the Alberta Government, and help us to improve our future public involvement activities.

**I. DFMP Input**

1. Did you have sufficient opportunity to review and provide input into the VOITs? Y   
N
2. Did you have sufficient opportunity to review and provide input to the company's management strategies and scenarios? Y  N
3. Did you have sufficient opportunity to review and provide input into the company's timber supply analysis? Y  N
4. Was the issues list adequately dealt with? or Y  N  If you answered no, list any outstanding issues below.
5. Are there any additional comments you would like to make with respect to the VOITs, management strategies or timber supply analysis?

**II. PPG Process**

6. Were the basic operating rules complied with? Y  N
7. Were the meetings efficiently run? Y  N
8. Were the meeting facilities comfortable and accessible? Y  N
9. Were there too many, too few or just enough meetings to get the job done?  
Too many  Too few  Enough
10. Did Millar Western staff answer your questions to your satisfaction? Y  N



11. Did the company provide you with enough background information to help you perform your role? Y  N

Were guest presentations useful and informative? Y  N

12. Do you have any other comments about the PPG process?

III. Overall Comments:

13. Do you believe the PPG process met the overall goal of public participation, that is, “to actively engage public representatives in the strategic direction for development of the DFMP”?

Y  N

Additional comments:

Do you feel that Millar Western adequately addressed your concerns and issues?

Y  N

Additional comments:

14. Was this component of the public participation process successful and a good use of your time?

Y  N

Additional comments:

15. Do you have any recommendations to Millar Western for future public participation?

Additional comments:

16. Do you have any recommendations to the Government (ASRD) regarding the public participation process?

Additional comments:

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL OR MAIL RESPONSE TO JERRY BAUER: [jerrybauer@explornet.com](mailto:jerrybauer@explornet.com), or Jerry Bauer at Box 544, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 3A7.





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