



**Resource Management Burning RWG Subcommittee
DRAFT Minutes**

Date: October 16, 2003

Location: WLAP boardroom, Smithers

Attendance: Present (Y) Regrets (R) Guest (G) Alternate (A):

Y	Biz Bastian, MD/CHOKED	Y	Ben Weinstein - WLAP
Y	Paul Schwartz – BCWG/ PIR	Y	Ian Sharpe - WLAP
Y	Eugene Witwer – BCWG/BVCA	Y	Laurie Gallant - Footprint
G	Charlie Northrup – BCWG/Realtor	G	Dave Duncan - BCWG
Y	James Brady - MoF	Y	Doug Bysouth – LCWG/BFP
A	Andrew Leffers - Canfor	N	Garth Ehalt

Agenda

1. Introductions and Review of Meeting Objectives
2. Purpose of Subcommittee and summary of progress to date
3. Follow up to Letter to DMs
4. Follow up to Custom VI forecasting
5. Next Steps

1. Introductions and Meeting Objectives

- noted that Dr. Bastian, (MD), Dave Duncan (Min. of Forests), and Charlie Northrup are here for the first time; Andrew is representing Canfor (Leroy Reistma has attended previously)
- objective of this meeting is to finalize action items and provide input on this emission source to Plan (goals, indicators, strategies)

2. Purpose of Subcommittee and Progress to date

- To review current and best practises in resource management burning and incorporate innovations in order to reduce the number of episode days resulting from this activity.
- Noted that this is the third meeting and significant discussions and agreements have taken place; worthwhile to read minutes from previous meetings (see www.bvldamp.ca)

3. Status of Letter to DMs

- Letter sent to DMs earlier this week after numerous reviews regarding number of piles that can be left in bush
- Response received by Barry Smith to Paul Schwartz noting that MoF does not have a policy of 100% elimination by burning requirement but must abate fire hazard.
- Noted that Paul was hoping DMs would be present at meeting
- Paul distributed information package containing:
 - Letters to Barry Smith and Bob Murray
 - MoF Fire Hazard Assessment guide
 - Schedule 7 of Forest Practises Code
 - PIR 1996 Post-Harvest fire hazard assessment (this is a required assessment)
 - Fire Hazard Assessment Guide (includes Reduction Methods)
 - Value at Risk Assessment
- Discussion over opportunities to move forward with letter; is there value to using the older, more detailed Risk Assessment card – would this be more expensive than current system? Mixed reviews on this idea from licensees – do not pursue for now.
- Noted that smoke-sensitive zones tend to be in high access areas; cutblocks closer to populated areas are unacceptable to the public
- James, Paul and Ian to move discussion forward with DMs
- Medical perspective should be incorporated into best strategies for debris management discussion; consider correlation with health insurance rates and correlation with strokes.

The question of waste reduction vs better burning

- Discussion over opportunities to find alternatives to burning and reduce amount of waste that requires burning – Biz told story about Chinese delegation that was shocked at amount of waste wood left in the bush compared to their own country (ask Brian Edmison for details); question posed regarding full cost accounting that considers health costs and how the economics of logging practises would change
- Noted that waste assessment for utilisation specs in forestry went up everywhere – and that waste volume ranges from 2 to 15 cubic metres per hectare; PIR and BFP reported their waste volume is closer to 2.3 – this is low – harder to be much more efficient.
- Agriculture sector is maximizing use of wood, but some wood is just not reuseable
- Cogen will be able to help add value to wood that cannot be reused in place or in current condition
- Noted that pulp mill strike affects how much dry wood is hauled out of the bush (i.e. much less than when a market exists)
- Is there another forum or avenue for exploring this issue in detail? Stumpage is an issue; option of decking dry wood until prices increase; Noted that provincial incentives are good right now – hence the low waste volumes; 3 cubic metres represents 1% waste factor.
- Agreed this is an important discussion and offers a fresh perspective for looking at roadside piles and think of more options – let's explore educational opportunities for the general public to generate more ideas.

4. Status of custom forecasting service

Ian and Ben provided an update on the service that WLAP can provide for licensees; highlights include:

- New system will be “one stop shopping” 3 day custom forecasting and works proactively with licensees so that majority of needed burning gets done under good conditions
- Custom forecasting maps out all burning locations and overlays meteorological factors like wind and elevation
- Service is available starting today, Oct.16
- no extra cost to licensees; Ben’s time is paid for under existing contribution formula of 50% licensees, 50% WLAP for micro-emissions inventory
- if service is beneficial, new funding formula can be derived for next fiscal year
- agriculture sector can also benefit from service using legal descriptions of land parcel

Logistics of custom forecasting service:

- call Ben at 847-7224 with burn pile locations with as much notice as possible (day before would be great - takes about 0.5 hr to prepare forecast)
- there are maximum 20 woodlot owners and agriculture contacts that can take advantage of this new service

3. Plan Input – Goals and Indicators for Resource Management Burning

Ben Weinstein presented an outline of a sample set of goals, indicators and strategies to reduce emissions from resource management burning – see presentation notes. Summary below:

Goal	Indicator	Strategies
Reduce number of piles burned	# of regulation sized piles burned per hectare Quantifiable trend towards fewer piles and lower emissions	1. Burn less piles via alternatives to burning and methods for reducing volume of material to manage (long-term) 2. Coordination between all resource management burns via custom forecasting, flight services, and integration of best practises.

The following comments were made:

- include health reference level in the goal
- include reduction of baseline emission level in the goal noting that even if PM readings are consistently below 25 there is still room for improvement.
- Ensure that indicators are designed to isolate sources
- Opacity can be correlated to PM using webcams

Summary of Agreements and Actions

Agreement	Task leader	Due date
Move letter and comments forward; James to brief Murray on results of meeting, Paul to have follow up conversation with Barry, Ian to bring all comments to Murray. Idea is to engage DMs in discussion around creating a performance-based tool and leave it to licensees to develop internal system.	James/Paul/Ian	Oct 31
Arrange more education around logging waste stream, hosted by local mills – this could involve a presentation and/or field trips to freshly logged blocks; Bring this idea forward to CWGs to assess interest levels.	Laurie	Next round of meetings (Nov)
Request opportunity to review Nadina Smoke Management Plan	Ian S.	Oct.31
A green light/red light system for showing acceptable burning locations on a map would be very useful.	Ben W.	ongoing
Ben will send out an announcement about the availability of the new custom forecasting service with instructions on how to use the service.	Ben W.	ASAP
Explore alternatives to burning and methods for reducing volume of material to manage (long-term)	RMBSC/RWG Biz Bastian and Dave Duncan	Ongoing
Develop a better suite of measurable indicators.	RMBSC	Nov 15
Emission Source article for area newspapers will include preview of goals, indicators and strategies for each; a Resource Management Burning article will also be written with input from this subcommittee.	Facilitator with input from RMBSC	Nov 15
Contact Biz Bastian regarding progress made at meeting after her departure. Facilitator note: All members of this group will receive follow up e-mail with meeting summary and prompt to keep agreement; summary will be posted on website; each CWG meeting includes a report from all Working Groups.	Facilitator	Oct 24
Respond to Garth's comments as follows: yes to all questions re: WLAP's role in protecting human health and economic interests of tour operators and charter flight operators. Also, note that measurability limit is 50 km for Nadina, but not Bulkley.	Facilitator	Oct 31
Small business participation in Lakes District is important – their contribution to PM is significant (unlike the Bulkley district) Facilitator note: Can we generate a list of these businesses and include them on the information distribution list regarding new WLAP services and Plan input?	Doug Bysouth/Ben Weinstein	Oct 31

Next meeting:

A meeting of this sub-committee will be called at the end of the burning season to review and evaluate progress on new procedures.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm