



Mistik Management Public Advisory Group (PAG) October 20, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location:

Virtual, Via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Notes kept/prepared by:

Ryan Spooner & April Lesko

Meeting Facilitator:

Niska Hodgson, Kevin Gillis

Meeting Attendees (name and affiliation):

Interested Party	Participant Name(s)
3rd Party Softwood Quota Holders	Participant did not attend
Beauval Co-management Board Inc.	Participant did not attend
Big Island Lake Cree Nation	Participant did not attend
Birch Narrows Dene Nation	Douglas Barks
Buffalo Narrows Co-Management Board	Participant did not attend
Buffalo Narrows Metis Local #62	Participant did not attend
Buffalo River Dene Nation	Participant did not attend
Canoe Lake Co-Management Board	Clem Durocher, Lillian McKay
City of Meadow Lake	Participant did not attend
Cold Lake First Nations	Kelsey Jacko, Fran Desjardin
CPAWS	Participant did not attend
Divide Forest Advisory Council Corporation	Participant did not attend
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Leanne Mingo
Flying Dust First Nation	Participant did not attend
Forestry Contractors	Participant did not attend
Ile a la Crosse ICS4 Group	Peter Durocher
Innovative Climate Strategies	Participant did not attend
Interested Party – Bill Pedersen	Participant did not attend
Interested Party – Bob Wilson	Bob Wilson
Interested Party – Dale Sutherland	Participant did not attend
Junior Forest Wardens	Participant did not attend
L&M Wood Products (2018) LP	Participant did not attend
Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation	Participant did not attend
Makwa/Loon Lake Metis Local #32	Participant did not attend
Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp	Taneal Brucks, Asad Javid
Meadow Lake Métis Local #31	Participant did not attend
Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC)	Participant did not attend

Interested Party	Participant Name(s)
Métis Nation SK - Environment Minister/NR 3	Participant did not attend
Métis Nation Saskatchewan (Provincial)	Participant did not attend
Ministry of Environment Forest Service ML	Kathleen Gazey, Jessica Randall
Ministry of Environment Forest Service PA	Mark Doyle, Nadine Penney, Sara Schmid
Ministry of Environment Wildlife Unit ML	Participant did not attend
Ministry of Government Relations	Participant did not attend
Mistik Board of Directors	Participant did not attend
Mistik Staff	Robert Follett, Steve Hankey, Niska Hodgson, April Lesko, Kevin Gillis
Moosomin First Nation	Participant did not attend
NorSask Forest Products - Management	Participant did not attend
NorSask - Union Employees	Participant did not attend
Northern Hamlet of Michel Village	Tim Laplante
Northern Hamlet of St. Georges Hill	Nicole Sylvestre
Northern Lights Snowmobile Association	Participant did not attend
Northern Village of Green Lake	Participant did not attend
Northern Village of Ile-a-la-Crosse	Participant did not attend
Rural Municipality of Loon Lake #561	Participant did not attend
Rural Municipality of Meadow Lake #588	Participant did not attend
Saskatchewan Environmental Society	Allyson Brady
Saskatchewan Outfitters Association	Participant did not attend
SK Public Safety Agency, Ops Div. (Wildfire)	Chris Dallyn
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency	Participant did not attend
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation	Richard Peterson
Saulteaux First Nation	Greg Moccasin
Silvacom	Ryan Spooner, Rhett Andruko
Thunderchild First Nation	Participant did not attend
Town of St. Walburg	Tony Leeson, Virginia Mowery
University of Saskatchewan	Participant did not attend
Village of Loon Lake	Participant did not attend
Waterhen Lake First Nation	Participant did not attend
West District Stakeholder's	Don Eckel

Proceedings of the October 20, 2021, Mistik Public Advisory Group Meeting:

Facilitator Niska Hodgson commenced the October 20, 2021, Public Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting at 9:05 AM with a welcome, round table introductions and adoption of the agenda. Peter Durocher motioned adoption of the agenda, Allyson Brady seconded – all in favor.

Facilitator Niska Hodgson initiated discussion of the notes from the June 3, 2021, Public Advisory Group (PAG) Field tour and update meeting. A motion by Chris Dallyn and seconded by Virginia Mowery to accept the minutes, all in favor.

Mistik and Mill Reports (Robert Follett, Mistik General Manager):

- Mistik is the Woodlands for MLMP, NorSask, and Northwind Forest Products (Previously L&M).
- One of the bigger challenges this past year has been wildfire
 - Nearly 40,000 ha have burned on the Mistik and L&M FMAs. This is 10 times the area they typically harvest in a year
- Challenges moving forward
 - SK Caribou Range Plan is still in draft but close to final. There are impacts to Canoe Lake, in particular significant Tier 1 areas.
 - Fuel price is high
 - If/when PA pulp mill fires up, there will be more pressure on fibre. We will have increased hardwood harvest on the Mistik FMA to supply chips to MLMP.
 - OneSky is planning to open a OSB mill
- Looking for summer students for next summer
 - Preference for folks enrolled in a post-secondary science program
 - Have had struggles with the tree plant this past year (can't find enough tree planters).
- Questions/Answers
 - Lillian McKay - is tourism part of the planning process?
 - Robert - Yes and no. Yes, in that tourism is part of the planning process, other values are taken into consideration. No, in that Mistik doesn't talk to tourists when planning areas. We can talk more at the community level to try to address any tourism-related concerns.
 - Kelsey Jacko - requested that they could be part of Mistik's caribou planning process
 - Robert - by all means, Mistik would be open to sharing our information and including Cold Lake First Nations in caribou planning.
 - Sara Schmid- How much Tier 1 caribou area burned?
 - Niska – We only have preliminary wildfire boundaries right now but once we have finalized ones, we will do that overlay and analysis
 - Chris Dallyn (SPSA) - fire boundary verification is happening right now and will be finalized shortly
 - Peter Durocher - just wanted to let everyone know they are working on an IPCA in Ile a-la-Crosse. If anyone would like to know more about this project you can contact Peter at peterdurocher62@hotmail.com.
 - Peter Durocher - When will we see the numbers on the increased hardwood harvest to feed MLMP?
 - Robert Follett - MLMP currently uses about 300,000 m3 in the form of chips from the Carrier mill. They may have to replace all of that with hardwood harvest or might be able to get some of it from other sources (e.g., other chip arrangements or purchase wood)
 - NorSask Update
 - Unprecedented highs for lumber followed by low prices and now bouncing back again
 - Sask Power is getting their ducks in a row to take the power from the \$75M power plant that the Meadow Lake Tribal Council invested in at NorSask

2019/20 Annual Reports (Niska Hodgson, Mistik Planning Manager)

- Always report about a year and a half behind operations
- Reporting is for both Mistik and L&M (still referred to as L&M in this report)
- 2 documents
 - Annual Report (reporting on indicators/targets in Forest Management Plan)
 - Annual Certification Report (reporting on Forest Certification indicators/targets)
 - Both documents available on the Mistik website
- Annual Report
 - Of 32 targets, 9 are required to assess this year, 7 are on target, and 2 partially on target, 0 off target

- 2 partially on-target
 - Indicator 23: Want to provide at least a couple opportunities per year for communication with designated Indigenous communities. All had at least 2 opportunities except Birch Narrows, which was only provided 1 opportunity. Going forward Mistik will ensure to have 2. These are not the only Indigenous groups that Mistik communicates with
 - Indicator 27: Stakeholder Engagement. At 99% but goal is to send letters to 100% of known stakeholders
- Examples of 7 indicators to monitor
 - Indicator 2a: Old and Very Old Forest - one forest type slightly below target but expected to be above target before assessment year
 - Indicator 9: Post Harvest Areas are sufficiently regenerated - Looking good
 - Indicator 16: Harvesting activities in compliance with all related requirements - 141 of 150 inspections were in compliance
 - Indicator 17: Watercourse Crossings
 - Corrective action plan completed every time a non-compliance is identified through an inspection
- Indicators on target or not reported on
 - Indicator #3: Size class distribution of harvest events. No completed harvest events yet. The idea is to aggregate harvest blocks to concentrate disturbance and minimize roads etc. Examples/requirements of how harvest events will be created through operational planning were given.
 - Indicator 19a - Utilization of harvest volume schedule - looking good
 - Indicator 19b - Harvest plans designed to lower wildfire risks to communities. There were no requests made in 2019
 - Indicator 24 - Spatial Identification and protection of culturally significant Heritage and Indigenous sites. Mistik hires Western Heritage out of Saskatoon. There were four new sites found in 2019 blocks. These were along Broad Creek in the Keeley Lake area. These sites are not always shared widely due to confidentiality but Mistik tracks them in the GIS system. Significant sites can be identified by communities also.
 - Impacts of Climate Change on the Mistik FMP Area
 - 1. Annual days frozen on 3 local lakes - 1 year of report so far and looking forward if there are trends over time
 - 2. Operational days lost due to abnormal weather. There were 10 days lost because it was too wet in the summer and 15 days due to too warm in winter
 - Indicator 26a - Contributions to Co-management Boards – Mistik pays based on terms of agreements.
 - Indicator 26b - % of total annual vendor/contractor payments made to local businesses
 - Indicator 26c - Percent within-FMA area communities represented in the workforce
- Allyson Brady - do these same indicators apply to harvesting off FMA
 - Niska - they only apply to the Mistik FMA. Any harvesting Mistik does on the PA FMA would be reported on in Sakaw's annual report. Mistik does use the same standard operating procedures on off-FMA harvest in most cases.
- Reviewed the FMP Approval Conditions
- Reviewed some Silviculture Effectiveness Indicators
- Annual Certification Report
 - Indicator C1 - Proportion of SGR Forest Type Area. Compared vs projection, looking good
 - Indicator C4 – In-block retention
 - Indicator C5 - Insular retention area associated with harvest blocks. A little bit low so requesting harvesting contractors to leave a bit more
 - Indicator C7 - Map of known Woodland Caribou sightings - 2 new sightings in 2019
- Peter Durocher asked where to report Caribou sightings
 - Niska – You can call her, Kevin, or e-mail Mistik
- Kelsey Jacko - Canada needs to do a better job of sharing information with Mistik as no sightings are shown in the Air Weapons Range

- Indicator C9 - Annual contributions to field monitoring of Woodland Caribou. Mistik did not undertake any projects in 2019
- Kelsey – The U of A is doing a study south of the Air Weapons range.
 - Indicator C10 - Level of downed woody debris. We want to limit or have no biomass harvesting in certain stand types. There were no biomass harvest operations in 2019
 - Indicator C11 - Net Carbon Uptake. There is a net uptake most years. Forest Fires cause major losses - expecting that in 2021 data. Measured in both upland and wetlands
 - Indicator C13 - Levels of employment. Mistik-related operations have high local employment
 - Indicator C14 - total person days from local communities. It important to Mistik that this stays high
- Questions/Answers
 - Peter Durocher - asked about when do we see the 2020 annual report
 - Draft to MOE in April then reviewed/revise
 - Have to wait for some of the required data – hence the time lag. (ex. satellite imagery for cutover updates doesn't come to following fall)
 - Peter raised concerned about caribou and not getting information for 2 years
 - Peter Durocher - Ile a-la-Crosse is going to stop hunting caribou. They believe that everyone has to work together to save the population
 - Peter Durocher - Wishes the other forestry companies worked with them like Mistik does (thanks for that).
 - Kelsey Jacko - how are inspection violations handled? Are they taken seriously?
 - Niska – Mistik takes them all very seriously. Corrective actions are initiated.
 - Kathleen Gazey - one of the forest service branch's roles is to ensure all of the rules are being followed. They have to ensure that enforcement is consistent across the province. When something is found, an investigation is carried out (gave an overview of the provincial enforcement framework).
 - Virginia Mowery
 - Presentation was very helpful to help digest the information on the website
 - Asked if she could get a PDF copy of the presentation. Niska - absolutely. She will send a copy to the group along with the minutes from this meeting.

At this time a 10-minute break was taken.

Certification Update (Kevin Gillis - Mistik Certification Coordinator)

- Spoke about project they worked on with Canoe Lake
- Spoke about protected areas project and the areas they've been evaluating
- Kelsey Jacko - What is Mistik is doing about species at risk?
 - Kevin - Mistik has a species at risk program that considers both provincial and federal requirements.
- Working on getting Northwind certified to the FSC standard. This will potentially open up new opportunities south of the border for sales. Groups may be contacted by the certification auditor (KPMG) as part of this process. Mistik would appreciate it if they are able to respond.
- Indigenous Guardians Program – May be of interest. It's a federally funded program.
- Questions
 - Kelsey Jacko - what safety measures around Covid and how it affected your operations
 - Kevin's response:
 - We wear masks around the office
 - Some folks are working remotely
 - Operationally - bunkhouse concept (singles) to keep folks distanced
 - Around the mill - typical covid safety measures
 - More online meetings like this one rather than in person
 - Allyson - does Mistik have a requirement for employees to be vaccinated
 - Kevin - ownership is reviewing that now

- Allyson - in terms of protected areas, about 14 years ago with bringing in FSC certification, there was some work on protected areas back then. Does this new work overlap with that or is it all new?
 - Kevin - yes this is our second round of protected area strategy. First was delivered in 2009. The new process wiped the slate clean but surprisingly enough those originally identified areas are strongly correlated with the newly identified areas.
 - Allyson - will there be maps shared at the next meeting?
 - Kevin - yes that is the plan. We will show the results out of the Marxan analysis.
- Clem - the log haul pounded the 965 Highway recently and then the snow came and the road is in rough shape now
 - Requests that Mistik coordinate graders after hauling, especially this time of year because it could freeze now with all of the ruts
 - Kevin - will pass that on to operations.
- Clem - Concerned that some of the cut blocks are not considering the creek buffers
 - Niska - we are still required to follow riparian buffer rules. If there is a particular area you'd like to review, please reach out and we'll go through it together.

Field Tour Suggestions for spring meeting (Niska Hodgson)

- Looking for suggestions for the field tour next spring (will depend on status of Covid)
 - Peter - Would be good to tour one of the mills
 - Taneal - Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp would be open to tours, depending on Covid of course. Would also be good to have a landscape tour.
 - Lillian - Interested in getting a tour of the biomass power plant
 - Lillian - also mentioned tourism before and Indigenous tourism is based heavily on wildlife on their sacred lands

Kelsey - suggested for future meetings that we could have an opening and closing prayer
 Niska thanked him for his suggestion and asked if he would like to give a closing prayer, which he accepted

Closing prayer - Kelsey Jacko

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Peter Durocher.
 Meeting concluded at 11:55.