



**Resource Management Burning RWG Subcommittee  
DRAFT Minutes**

**Date: August 19, 2004**

**Location: WLAP boardroom, Smithers**

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

Y	Dave Stevens – CHOKED, Bulkley CWG	Y	Ben Weinstein - WLAP
Y	Paul Schwarz – BCWG/ PIR	Y	Ian Sharpe - WLAP
Y	Brian Atherton – MOF (left at 2:15)	Y	Laurie Gallant - Footprint
R	Stuart Abels - MOF	Y	Dave Duncan - BCWG
R	James Brady - MOF	Y	Doug Bysouth – LCWG/BFP
A	Andrew Leffers - Canfor	Y	Garth Ehalt- LCWG/HFP

**Agenda**

1. Introductions and Review of Meeting Objectives
2. Review of Actions from last meeting
3. Custom Venting Index Forecasting – Ben Weinstein
4. Education and Compliance
5. Continued operation of RMBSC
6. Recommendations to Forest Districts re: Smoke Management Plans (covered under 4)
7. PIR Trials – Paul Schwarz
8. Exploration of Alternatives to Reduce Amount of Debris Burnt
9. Action Items, Next meeting

**Chair:** Laurie Gallant, BVLDAMP Process Facilitator (Footprint Environmental Strategies)

**Handouts:** Ch.6, Agenda, Clean Air Connections newsletter

**1. Opening remarks**

- This is the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting dedicated to Resource Management Burning and our last meeting was Oct.16, 2003; emissions from this source are the most significant of all 6 sources identified in the Plan and this group is by far the most proactive.
- Everyone introduced themselves and indicated they had read Ch.6 of the Planning Committee
- Purpose of this meeting is to review and evaluate progress on new procedures and to provide feedback for the Regional Working Group meeting in September
- Regrets noted from Sally Bardossi (has relocated to Williams Lake), Christine Rigby (on holidays), James Brady, Bob Murray. Stuart Abels-supervisor for enforcement and compliance, indicated he would be attending

## 2. Review of Actions from last meeting and new recommendations

- New information regarding correspondence with DMs on permit variances? Decision to send out new letter with recommendations for new Burn Plans under Resource Management Burning Committee banner; Ian, Dave Duncan and Paul to follow up – pass letter through facilitator for letterhead - need this ASAP to finalize Appendix G for Plan (must be out in one week); intent is to create opportunity to do a joint review of Burn Plans (MofF, RMBSC, WLAP); **Recommended that we create a “Cheat Sheet of Best Management Practises” for burn pile operators based on App.G – Ian to create first draft.**
- Noted that Paul has developed and presented debris pile burning slideshow – went over well with other members; **folks are keen on tours but up to us to set date and issue specific invitation.**
- **Noted that facilitator issued invitation to all recipients of Custom Venting Index Forecasting service and notified them of Plan finalization and Sept.13 meeting. Please forward contact information for anyone else not on our distribution list.**
- Request made to post Burn Plans on website
- Burning will start Sept.13 – unlikely amendments to Burn Plans will be done by them, however, our group is committed to identifying and implementing best practises – regulations can catch up to us while still operating within existing regulations;
- Idea of web application for mapping out location of piles discussed; likely too expensive to pursue green/red light map through UBC as our area is not within their current grid (ends at Williams Lake)
- **Suggested that we look into updating and republishing newspaper articles given our success first time around.**

## 3. Custom Venting Index forecasting service

- Ben provided an update on the service that WLAP is providing for licensees;
- 175 forecasts were issued
- 17 regular recipients plus some special requests from private landowners doing landclearing
- Evaluation of service: was it worth it?
- Noted we had 8 air quality episodes during the burning season – hard to say what contribution of pile burning was but we do know that we had northern regional episodes.
- Did forecasting service make a difference in your operations?
- gave more flexibility – made it easier to schedule crews and did help with bottom line
- are there ways to streamline the service by doing some preplanning ie. Map out “burn zones” ahead of time and issue forecasts for zones.
- **Want to promote service to increase usefulness – suggest sending out CVI information and cheat sheet to:**
  - **Timber sales document (will be ready for 2005 season)**
  - **Log buyers (2005 season)**
  - **Timber mark contacts (2005)**
  - **Burn Reference # staff in Victoria (2004 season)\*\*this is the only mechanism for increasing awareness for this year’s burning season.**

Ben’s workplan to be reviewed – can he do this outreach? We need more funding to keep Ben’s position going until Christmas

Current level of detail Ben is giving out is good – like having weather forecasts too instead of a Yes or No; Is level of detail from licensees needing adjusting – too much, too little? Currently getting number of piles, elevation, latitude/longitude and location description, sometimes even tree species breakdown. Good as is.

Break 2:05 to 2:15

#### 4. Education and Compliance

- suggestions re: giving out Ben's phone number, tours, and reprint of articles are good; **revamp website to make it an "info centre" for burn pile operators and post Burn Plans in easy to find location.**
- no need to include these details in the Plan – can put in appendices if desired; best to keep Plan general
- confirming that we will **send out letter under RMBSC name to DMs re: reviewing Burn Plan to consider our recommendations as per Appendix G – may want to include a picture of burn pile sizes – final agreement: 10 by 10 piles, add in your own factor to get your count. (Paul to finalize letter and send to Ian and Laurie)**
- goal is to **send out letter and minutes in time for invitation to Sept 13 meeting – recipients to include cattlemen, dairymen, woodlot owners, timber sales, small businesses in Lakes District.**
- How to make Ben's service with expanded outreach activities sustainable? We need \$20,000/year – if licensees contribute \$2000 each between 7 of them (or can prorate based on cut volumes) we are in the ballpark; WLAP will contribute their share. Can we extend this service beyond our boundaries to get more funding?

Post-meeting note: District of Vanderhoof is requesting information on the burning of large slash and brush piles within wooded area subdivisions where the clearing of land has taken place. They want to know about bylaws or policies to control such burning – they may possibly be interested in forecasting services. **Follow up action with the District of Vanderhoof will be taken.**

#### 5. Continued operation of RMBSC/BVLAMP

- Reduced time commitment is helpful – annual meeting of RMBSC, plus RWG and other meetings as needed is good.
- Autonomy question for communications and fundraising issue raised – current structure is too confining with WLAP at the helm, and not empowering enough without them.
- Need to look at CRB model and others – can we draft a constitution that addresses corporate sensitivities
- Paul S. will ask around, Ian will follow up with Min. of Municipal Affairs
- Note distinction between being a member and being a director, as far as adopting a non-profit structure.

#### 6. PIR Trials – Paul Schwarz/ Exploration of Alternatives to Reduce Amount of Debris Burnt

conclusion from PIR trials is that mounding does not work – wildfire risk is too high; noted that attitude has changed after last summer's wildfires – our area has lived with low risk for so long but we need to be careful.

Until we develop one or more new strategies for reducing amount burnt, there is no point in developing a template for reporting and asking licensees to complete this annual report.

***Recommended that we scratch this item from the Plan.*** Laurie noted that we have to follow process at this point since Plan has been released, and the rationale behind the change needs to be provided - will have to go to RWG on Sept. 13.

Also noted leaving behind 2 or 3 piles is almost routine because some piles won't burn – variances are granted for this; ***lan to follow up with Environmental Stewardship side to see about wildlife piles.***

## **7. Action Items, Next meeting**

- See bolded, italicized items for Actions.
- Report to RWG: success with CVIF, PIR Trial results, and outreach strategies – lots of progress on implementation.
- Also noted that Carl Szydlick is chipping on the block (rancher out by Walcott) – may want to profile for future education purposes.
- Representation from RMBSC to be confirmed, possibly: Paul Schwarz, Doug Bysouth, Dave Stevens, Dave Duncan?
- Next meeting of RMBSC will be in 2005 pre –burning season, keep in touch by e-mail, meet if needed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.