



Farmington Community Working Group Summary Notes

Date: July 9, 2019

In Attendance:

Director Len Hiebert, Area D, Peace River Regional District
Steve Dowling, District Operations Manager, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Patrick Smook, Acting Vice President Operations, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Maria Reschke, Manager Stakeholder Relations, Public Working Groups, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Laura-Lea Gibson, Community Relations Assistant, Public Working Groups, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Rod Strasky, Community Member
Pat and Jim Strasky, Community Members
Barry Critcher, Community Member

Summary of Discussion:

Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Director Hiebert opened the meeting and welcomed Steve Dowling, District Operations Manager, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI). Director Hiebert provided an update to the Farmington Community Working Group (FCWG) regarding the current status of the Farmers Advocacy Office (FAO) closure, noting the Request for Proposal is still out and the Terms of Reference still require a decision. It is unknown when the FAO will reopen as the decision is with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Director Hiebert gave a summary of the workshop and tour hosted by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and attended by the PRRD on June 20, 2019. He felt it was an informative and positive event. Director Hiebert has received questions from FCWG members regarding the differences between restrictions on the amount of aggregate allowed by a land owner under the Ministry of Agriculture and the amount of aggregate allowed on site for oil and gas activities. He brought these questions to the ALC and it was confirmed they have heard these concerns before from other locations within B.C. The PRRD made a suggestion to have these workshops and tours at least once a year to keep discussions open and for the ALC to see what is happening in the Peace Region.

Members of the FCWG reiterated their concerns regarding the ineffectiveness of the Schedule B process and the inadequacy of the 80 percent soil restoration standard. The FCWG questioned the orphan site restoration process, noting concern about the quality of the restoration since the projects are being done so quickly and that the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) does not have sufficient funding in place to restore all sites.

Maria Reschke reported the next webinar will take place July 18, 2019 to provide an overview of compliance and enforcement processes for oil and gas activities in B.C. She also looked to the FCWG for volunteers to help test the new website design for the Commission. She noted Commissioner Paul Jeakins and Deputy Minister Dave Nikolejsin will be attending the PRRD meeting on Aug. 8, 2019 to discuss the next steps for the FCWG.

Items regarding roads and traffic discussed during the March meeting were reviewed and the discussion was turned over to Steve. He briefly explained the structure of the various working groups within MoTI including the Operations Group and how it relates to the Development Approvals Group as well as Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE). The chart below reflects some additional concerns and adjustments to jurisdiction considerations as reflected in the March meeting summary and excludes items to be carried forward to the Producers Group.

Roads and Traffic	
MoTI	
Timing of rig moves during poor weather conditions	Community members recommended a requirement for industry to notify MoTI prior to rig moves. This would: • inform MoTI of potential maintenance issues • provide opportunity for MoTI to recommend rig move during better conditions
Use of secondary unmaintained roads after rain	Signage noting “Unmaintained Road” may minimize traffic, however, it remains a public road.
Bonding agreements to address upkeep of roads	Discussion on bonding agreements provided in notes below.
Construction standards on MoTI road allowances for oil and gas activity	Alignment of standards between MoTI and industry.
Calcium effect on vehicles	Other options for dust control to be reviewed.
COMMISSION	
Dust management, crop quality impacts and financial loss from reaction to herbicide	Potential topic for a study through a publicly or government funded research society.
CVSE / RCMP	
Noise due to truck traffic: no mufflers, straight pipes, Jake brakes and use of horns	Direct calls to CVSE
Obeying traffic laws: speed, stop signs	Directs calls to CVSE or RCMP

The conversation turned to what is required to bond a road and the responsibilities. Steve reported they were funded temporarily to have a contractor whose sole duty is to inspect bonded roads and report any road deficiencies for which the companies are responsible. Over the last year 270 kms of road in the North and 255 kms in the South have been bonded.

Steve told the group companies are required to submit monthly work reports but these roads might not get inspected and MoTI might not know the condition of a road until it is reported. Going forward Steve will be asking MoTI to have the administrative and contractor staff added to his department to help with bonded roads and inspections to ensure all roads are being maintained as per the bonding agreement. The FCWG again pointed out the roads seem to be the worst during drilling and completions. Some companies will wait until these operations are complete before doing road repairs which makes it difficult for the public who use them.

Patrick Smook proposed Commission Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) staff travelling these roads on a daily basis could also be reporting back to MoTI on road conditions. Patrick and Steve will consider ways to create a

streamlined reporting process between the Commission and MoTI. Steve recognizes there is room for improvement and will include this information when submitting the application to keep both administrative and contractor staff hired to help with roads.

The FCWG discussed the use of calcium to manage dust and how difficult it is to remove calcium from vehicles and houses. They noted it may cut down on the dust but wonder what the effects are on the crops and if there is something else that can be used. The group talked about multiple companies using the same roads and how the roads are not designed to take heavy traffic. There is also a lack of communication regarding the condition of the roads from the time the permit is issued to the time the project begins. They suggested there be more communication not only between the companies using the road but better communication with the road users and MoTI.

The FCWG made a few of suggestions for the concerns on secondary roads and company use during poor weather conditions and not maintaining them afterwards. They suggested: hiring of local contractors who know the area and which roads are the best during multiple weather conditions; employees could be bused into sites to help limit the amount of traffic on the roads and MoTI could provide proper signage for these roads.

Next Steps: The FCWG discussed future meetings and agreed to meet in August but not in September due to possible harvest and schedules; they will meet again in October. Tony Wakelin, Air Emissions Specialist from the Commission will be attending the August meeting.

Next Meeting: Aug. 13, 2019