

Minutes of Wildland Fire Operations Research Centre Advisory Group
Environmental Training Centre, Hinton

February 14, 2001

In attendance

Dennis Driscoll	Kelly O'Shea
Ray Ault	Pierre Giguere
Archie Jacobs	Greg Baxter
Con Dermott	Don Podlubny
Judi Beck	Warren Kehr
Marty Alexander	Alex Sinclair
Gary Dakin	

Meeting began at 10:00

1. Alex Sinclair introduced the members and made a brief introduction into the role of the advisory group and management committee.

The advisory group will meet twice each year to provide guidance and feedback to the researchers. The advisory group will set the priorities and decide the projects to be researched.

2. Dennis Driscoll gave an overview of how this program came to be and the benefits of applied wildland fire operations research.

Dennis discussed the project selection method for the initial six projects.

3. Ray Ault introduced the six projects and each researcher discussed their particular project plan.

The project plan proposals were discussed in detail. The following are additional points or perspectives supplied by advisory group members.

The **Top Piles** project initiated considerable discussion about the need for an over all slash or debris management strategy. Discussion centred on not only how Forest Industry Harvesting relates to the issue but how the linear developments of other industries impact the forest. This project will expand next year to include other aspects of debris disposal.

It was pointed out debris disposal is an issue in Forest Industry Certification Systems and Environmental Management Systems.

Personal Protective Equipment The advisory group accepted the development of a hazard and risk model to assess the need for appropriate footwear provided the model can be applied to other personal protective equipment.

2

Tank design / water delivery should include cost effectiveness in development of a minimum standard.

Information management – discussion centred around who the target audience is for the web site and who should have access. This issue will be addressed at a future date. For the first few years web site access will be open to encourage use.

Unanimous agreement on the continued presentation of information in the format used by FERIC for tech notes and abstracts.

Marty Alexander offered to provide Greg Baxter a list of the top 50 research projects for inclusion on the web site.

Effectiveness of Alberta's Pre Suppression Preparedness System (PPS) – considerable discussion around this issue and how Judi might approach the validation process. Judi was directed to do all she can with existing data. An outcome of this project may be to determine the information collection needs to conduct an ongoing analysis of the PPS in the future.

High level infrared scanning. This project is a high priority project of the advisory group with high potential returns to fire operations.

4. Alex asked for and received approval of the project plans by the advisory group. The approved project plans and budgets would be taken to the management committee.

5. Alex explained the process for selecting future projects is a role of the advisory group. Ray was instructed by Alex to collect project ideas from the advisory group members and for the high priority projects prepare plans with budgets in advance of the Fall meeting.

Each member of the advisory group was asked for future areas of interest that the wildland fire group might research.

Ideas for projects in 2002

Fire modelling and fire proofing

Establish the science to support interface projects like Centennial Park in Whitecourt.

Work on natural disturbance models.

Investigate the impact of camp location on fireline productivity.

Develop guidelines for species conversion to achieve hazard abatement – the public demand for forest cover insists trees are part of the scenery.

Fire fighter safety issues

Determine the fire fighter rates of travel in various terrain and fuels.

Determine the requirements for safety zones.

Conduct a formal nation-wide survey of fire equipment needs.

Develop a catalogue of fire fighter technology.

Determine the impact of thinning/ tree spacing on fire behaviour.

Weather station location optimisation and what are the weather station automation needs.

Fuel type validation

Role of Wildland / Urban interface

Provision for community protection

Linkages to current initiatives in Forest Based Communities

Prescribed fire applications

Determine the most effective methods of delivering training material to adult learners.

Identify the best heavy equipment for specific jobs using the knowledge of the forest industry.

Determine the adaptability of infrared scanning output to different mapping systems.

Provide an online information system to distribute testing data of forest fire equipment.

Rotary wing by type compared to skimmer aircraft, where is each tool most effective.

Fireline OHS and public health, identify specific requirements and methods of compliance for fire camps.

Added after the meeting – identify tools to improve the effectiveness of Lookout Tower Personnel.

6. Other issues discussed during the meeting:

Methods of involving fire equipment suppliers in the Advisory Group. Discussion around the benefits and potential conflicts of supplier involvement in the advisory group. Warren Kehr suggested industry could complete equipment testing with FERIC maintaining a record of the evaluations if there is a perceived conflict.

The future involvement of Pipeline and Utility Companies in the Advisory Group or other industrial users of the forest.

4

Warren Kehr recommend Ray Ault attend the next Alberta Forest Products Association Meeting April 6th.

Intellectual Property and the development of product advancements, Alberta Companies would have the first opportunity for the commercialization of products that might result from the Wildland Fire Operations Research product development or design activities.

7. Next Advisory Group Meeting – September 19, 2001 in Edmonton at the Inn on 7th from 1:00 to 4:00pm.

Meeting Finished at 4:00 PM