



FIMBC December 2007 Newsletter

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FIM Workshop Activities

Since our successful workshop last May, several of the FIMW Project Teams have been making progress on a number of fronts.

Internal government inconsistent business practices

At the May workshop the team led by Chris Fleming and Brian Quinn, outlined a proposed "Business Alignment Process System" (BAPS). Your feedback on the session was most appreciated.

The Ministry of Forest & Range, in conjunction with the CIO Forum and the Forest Information Management group is hosting a new web site for industry and government staff. This site allows the submission and tracking of comments and suggestions when encountering inconsistent business practices.

The intent of this site is to have the ministry better understand and informed of the day to day issues and inconsistent business practices that exist.

The site is easy use and provides a simple form to share your comments and concerns. The form offers an optional e-mail field which would allow the ministry to contact the originator if more information or discussion is required.

The site is at

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pscripts/pab/fordisc/view_discussion.asp?TopicID=78 and the ministry encourages you to participate to help us serve you better.

The team will continue their involvement through monitoring and following up on feedback received through the BAPS system.

Forest Roads – requirements and standards

On behalf of the roads team, Al Bennett (West Fraser) provided a good overview along with some specific examples. The presentation is posted in the FIMBC.ca website found at <http://fimbc.ca/SiteCM/U/D/3B634997FFD41CE9.pdf>

At the workshop Doug Kelly, Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch announced that ABR was going to be put on hold while the Resource Roads Act Initiative reviewed requirements and standards for road information. The intention is that Forest Roads will fall under the new Act. Doug Kelly is Chair of the project steering committee. A project description and Terms of Reference can be found on the MoFR Website

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/engineering/legislation_regulations.htm

Dona Stapley, Engineering Section, is Chair of the Resource Roads Act Business Design Working Group. The CIO Forum is participating in the working group through representation by Al Bennett (West Fraser). The working group will review requirements, standards as well as implementation issues regarding the proposed act.

Forest road information standards and requirements are also included in a pilot project being run by Base Mapping and Geomatic Services (BMGS) called the North East BC Pilot. This pilot is focused on issues which impact the updating of TRIM. CIO Forum representation on the project steering committee is via Mark Todd (Canfor).



Industry and government business drivers

Recognizing that industry and government will naturally have different drivers in regards to information management, there will be an ongoing need to work together on many issues where new initiatives or needs will have an impact on the other party. It was felt that the CIO Forum should continue to be the primary point where industry and government work together on these issues so that negative impacts are minimized or ideally both parties benefit through efficient management of business information.

The Business Drivers team, led by Dan Battistella (Weyerhaeuser) revised the Terms of Reference for the CIO Forum. The new TOR have been adopted by the CIO Forum. The ToR document is available on the CIO Forum page of the FIMBC website. <http://fimbc.ca/>

Data Exchange Agreements

Data Exchange Agreements have long been criticized by many licensees. Further to comments from the May Workshop the CIO Forum did some work to document the many issues and has worked with the Chief Resource Information Office (ILMB) and BMGS to highlight the issues.

ILMB has now indicated that DEA's will be replaced by another mechanism which will level the playing field among licensees and recognize that industry contributes data which is used in base map updating. The new mechanism will also be significantly easier to administer.

We are expecting an official announcement of this significant step forward very soon.

Data sharing

The need to develop a strategic vision for data sharing and the more specific issue of access, updating and sharing of base map data were identified as two themes requiring investigation at the FIMW 2006 workshop. Mark Todd (Canfor) and Evert Kenk (Chief Resource Information Office) led the two teams.

A "challenge dialogue" was initiated to start discussion on the two themes. A Challenge Paper (discussion paper) was distributed to 140 folks representing industry, government and the consulting community for review and feedback. It focused on first defining the challenge, its scope, capturing relevant background, capturing assumptions, identifying key outcomes and providing a framework for capturing the discussion. Then a number of key questions were raised.

We received 34 responses to the "challenge dialogue" (11 industry, 16 government and 7 from consulting firms. All feedback is now compiled and is available for review. Although a workshop was not held to finalize the dialogue a number of key issues and challenges were confirmed with a strategy for moving forward.

The key issues, challenges or barriers that were identified were: scope, cost/benefit, data quality and standards, custodianship, access and governance or coordination.

It was recognized that a great deal of work was initiated and has taken place between the FIMW 2006 workshop and the FIMW 2007 workshop that focused on addressing the issues raised in themes 5 and 6 resulting in the following approach to strategy being recommended:

- Build on existing pilot projects – real world, tangible action, focus on learning and extrapolation to province (e.g. TRIM NE Pilot Project)
- Build on existing local/regional data sharing efforts (e.g., KSDP, NWDN)



- Leverage existing strategies and governance structures heavily - no redundancy (VIAC, PBMAC, NRSIC, CIO Forum)
- Develop specific initiatives to address other gaps
- With work on-going to address Issues 5 and 6 occurring on many fronts the Joint Forests/Industry CIO Forum endorses this strategy and supports the on-going work.

CIO Forum Update

People

Nelson Lah, Chair of the Joint Forests / Industry CIO Forum and former Chief Information Officer, and Director, Information Management Group, Ministry of Forests & Range has recently moved to the Ministry of Labour and Citizen Services.

Nelson provided the inspiration and energy to work with several key people in industry to establish the CIO Forum and oversee our first two years. Nelson is known for his refreshing enthusiasm and straight-forward manner.

We wish Nelson all the best in his new position.

Gloria Wills, formerly, Manager, Operations Solutions, MoFR has been appointed Acting Chief Information Officer and Director and has moved to the Chair of the CIO Forum. Gloria has been very actively involved with the CIO Forum as well as the FIM Workshops. Welcome Gloria.

For further information on the Joint Forests / Industry CIO Forum our website and list of contacts can be found at <http://fimbc.ca/>

BMGS North-east BC Pilot Project

Early last summer Base Mapping and Geomatic Services (part of ILMB) initiated a pilot project to look at needs and issues re the updating of the Provincial TRIM map base.

The Pilot Project objectives are to examine the feasibility, cost and value of capturing, representing and maintaining energy and forestry sector development activities and associated infrastructure in the TRIM Base Mapping and Vegetation Resources Inventory (VRI); and to address backlog disturbances from the energy sector through evaluation and implementation of automated methods. The project deliverables include the development of a strategy that incorporates recommendations concerning the automation of update processes and required infrastructure to enable optimal utility of information from these inventories for the benefit of all resource and data users.

A primary goal will be to develop and sustain a functional relationship for data sharing, access and exchange amongst the organizations represented on the Steering Committee.

Both forest industry and Oil & Gas have been invited to participate at both the Steering Committee and Working Group levels. Mark Todd (Canfor) is representing the CIO Forum on the Steering Committee.