

# Community Forest Talks

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A REPORT ON FOUR PUBLIC MEETINGS

HELD BY

THE WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND MODEL FOREST

Prepared by

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For

The Public Awareness and Involvement Working Group

of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest

January 1996

Project No: 0-404-005

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During November and December, 1995, the Western Newfoundland Model Forest (MF) held four public meetings to provide a greater understanding of the MF and to get input into the process. Meetings were organized based on a strategy proposed by the Meeting Facilitator/Community Animator and implemented with the help of MF staff members. The strategy aimed for specific outcomes related to public involvement.

Public meetings had already been held to deal with domestic wood cutting issues. However, meetings that were not focused on a particular issue were expected to attract a more broadly representative audience and deal with a number of values. This allowed there to be more of a focus on the MF's role.

Staff went to considerable effort to advertise the meetings and to report back to the public after they had been held. Paid advertisements in newspapers, flyers, media releases, public service announcements and posters in communities all helped in promoting the meetings and reporting back. One on one personal contacts also helped spread the word. The co-operation of two development associations was sought and received while running meetings in their areas.

Meetings were held in Bonne Bay, Pasadena, Corner Brook and Deer Lake. All meetings followed basically the same agenda: open, outline agenda, presentation on the Model Forest, presentation on the IRM Plan, discussion from the floor, review of key points, agree on follow-up, evaluation and adjourn. In Deer Lake an opportunity was provided to the Humber Environment Action Group to present a report on the Community Values Mapping Project being done there with financial assistance from the MF.

Discussions focused mainly on wood harvesting and management methods. There was concern that wood was being wasted, the environment was being damaged and the habitat for animals and birds was being removed or changed. People expressed concern about the power of the paper companies and their own lack of power to do anything about it. There was evidence of little knowledge about the MF's approach and some distrust, but this seem to diminish once the case for the MF was presented. There were indications of support for the MF and invitations for it to have more meetings in the communities.

Follow-up actions coming from the meeting will include: second meetings in Bonne Bay, Deer Lake and Pasadena. There is interest in pursuing community stewardship of the forest in Pasadena. Resulting from the public meeting in Corner Brook follow up will be made with domestic wood cutters to include them in the MF Process.

This was a valuable experience that showed that: people are concerned about the forest; there is support for the MF when its role is understood; there is a feeling of powerlessness among people that can be helped by the MF process; there is a need to attract a broad sample of community people if we hope to find out what support there is for different values.

There are a number of recommendations for future action. (See page 8)

## INTRODUCTION

During the months of November and December 1995, the Western Newfoundland Model Forest held four public meetings. The meetings, Community Forest Talks, were organized by the Public Awareness and Involvement Working Group. While the original decision was to hold three meetings, a fourth was added following a request from the Deer Lake Town Council for a meeting in that community.

Meetings were held November 15, 22, and 29, and December 14.

The purpose of these meetings was to give the public a greater understanding of the Model Forest, how it works, and to encourage public input into the process.

The meetings were organized in line with a strategy developed by the Meeting Facilitator/Community Animator for the Model Forest and approved by the Working Group. Four staff members acted as a team in refining the strategy and conducting the meetings: Bob Mercer, Joanne Smith, Marilyn Young and Tom O'Keefe.

## RATIONALE

The Community Forest Talks were not the first public meetings held by the Model Forest. However, previous public meetings focused on a specific issue, for example domestic wood cutting. It was felt there was a need to have a more open agenda to be sure of finding out all of the needs and ideas from the public. Public meetings which do not focus on a particular problem would also give a better opportunity to explain just what a Model Forest is and how it operates. Such meetings would provide an opportunity to make sure the issues discussed were of real concern to the participants. They should also attract a broader cross section of the community.

The objectives for these meetings as outlined in the **Strategy for Public Meetings** were:

- ▶ discuss forest issues
- ▶ increase awareness of the Integrated Resource Plan
- ▶ heighten the profile of the Model Forest and the public's understanding of how it works
- ▶ emphasize the value of public input into the Model Forest Process
- ▶ illustrate ways that people can be involved
- ▶ help provide directions for the Working Group
- ▶ lay the foundation for a conference on the forest

## **PROMOTION**

Promotion for these meetings was done in a number of ways. There were meetings with development associations, individual contacts in the communities, advertising and press releases in the media, posters displayed around the communities and flyers sent to householders.

In preparation for the public meetings in their areas, the Meeting Facilitator/Community Animator met with the two development associations. One was the Bonne Bay Development Association and the other was the Humber Valley Development Association. Both associations indicated interest in the Model Forest and what it is trying to accomplish. Both associations agreed to co-sponsor, with the Model Forest, meetings in their regions. The two co-ordinators for these associations, Bonnie Paul and Bob Taylor, then assisted with the organization and promotion of the public meetings.

As a lead-in to the meetings, advertisements and press releases were used. Before anything got started, a paid ad was placed in the Humber Log and the Western Star telling the proposed locations and dates for the first three meetings. There was no

charge for similar information displayed on the Community Cable-TV and issued in press releases and public service announcements.

Distributing flyers to households supported the individual meetings. These flyers posed questions, such as: how do you use the forest?, do you want to have a say in how it will be managed? They also gave locations and times for the meetings. The Meeting Facilitator/Community Animator also visited the communities making contacts with schools, municipal council offices, businesses and local residents.

## **COMMUNITY FOREST TALKS**

The four meetings were held with basically the same format or agenda. The meetings were called to order by the Meeting Facilitator or by a representative of a development association. The Meeting Facilitator than gave an overview of the agenda, which was as follows:

Open meeting

Outline agenda

Presentation on Model Forest by Bob Mercer, General Manager

Presentation on t he IRM Plan by IRM Planner Joanne Smyth

Issues and Ideas -discussion from the floor

Review of key points

Agree on any follow-up to meetings

Evaluation of meeting

Adjourn

(At the Deer Lake meeting, a presentation on the Community Values Mapping Project by Raelene Young was included. At other meetings the agenda was adjusted slightly to suit the interests of the participants.) Besides the opportunity for discussion, questionnaires were available for people to fill out in order to express their views.

**November 15.** The first meeting in the series was in Bonne Bay and was held at the Birchy Head Recreation Centre. It was organized in consultation with the development co-ordinator for the region, Bob Taylor. As a prelude to this meeting, visits were made to two high schools in the area, the municipal council offices, several business establishments and a sawmill. These visits were to inform people about the meeting and to try and attract a cross section of the communities.

The meeting was held on the evening of November 15. Thirty-two people were in attendance. They were all men, except for a female news reporter. Based on the discussion the men may be all traditional wood harvesters, probably domestic woodcutters.

The meeting opened with an expression of some distrust about the goals of the Model Forest, suggesting it may be just a way to expand the nearby national park boundaries. Much of the other discussion involved cutting, silviculture practice and general management or mismanagement of wood harvesting. At least one person was troubled by any involvement of SPAWN, in the Model Forest, because of its support for cutting out the commercial salmon fishery. Although not specified, there was also concern expressed about the way things are handled by the Model Forest. A number of issues were brought up relating to domestic wood cutting, including a question of why there is a block where the crown is cutting on Kruger land and the domestic woodcutters are not allowed to go in and cut what birch is left. Other issues included: a decline in bird populations after insect spraying, how much of the forest will be taken for the pine marten, the amount to be cut for house building and whether people would get a chance to review the plan. Four key points were raised during a review of the meeting:

1. Put it in writing that people's rights will not be taken away
2. When thinning, don't leave crooked trees and cut the straight ones.
3. Preserve domestic cutting
4. Provide a progress report and hold a second meeting.

(See report attached)

**November 22.** The first meeting for the Humber Valley was held in the Lions Club in Pasadena. In preparation for this meeting, there was the usual publicity, including circulars distributed to all households. Development Co-ordinator Bonnie Paul assisted with contacts around the community. Forty-five people turned out for this event. The group consisted of a mixture of men, women and young people as well as a number of environmental students from NorPen Technical College.

The discussion centred around poor wood harvesting and management methods. There was a concern for small game that seems to be disappearing because of the way the forest is managed. It was suggested that black spruce will be preserved but that balsam fir and hardwood will be allowed to disappear. The Model Forest was accused of only representing business and special interest groups and was questioned about whether it had enough clout to be effective. The issue of municipal stewardship came up with the suggestion that towns take a lead role in the management of forests around their communities. There appeared to be support for what the model Forest is trying to do and a request for a follow-up meeting to look at the question of stewardship ( See attached report).

**November 29.** The meeting in Corner Brook was held at the Holiday Inn. In preparation for it, news releases were issued to the media and a flyer was distributed through the newspaper to householders. Contact was made with local learning institutions that offer environmental or forest related studies to make sure they were aware of the meetings. Thirty people were attracted to this meeting with approximately one quarter of them being already associated with the Model Forest.

The discussions in Corner Brook centred largely around sawmills and domestic wood cutting as well as the general issue of management and poor harvesting practices. There was a point raised that people are obtaining permits for sawmills so they can do commercial cutting for other purposes. There was a complaint that there is too much use of regulations and there is poor utilization of the wood supply. Domestic cutters would

like to be able to clean up after commercial cutters. There was concern about problems caused to water supplies and there was a question as to the accuracy of information available about the pine marten. A request was made for domestic wood cutters to be represented in the Model Forest process. It was stated that Tom O'Keefe, Community Animator would meet with representatives of the domestic wood cutters and follow up on issues raised by this group. At the end of this meeting a few people stayed behind to talk and indicated their support for the Model Forest.

**December 14.** The final meeting in the first series of Community Forest Talks was held in the RC Parish hall in Deer Lake. The meeting was prepared for through press releases and by the distribution of flyers in household mail. Posters were put up in the community and individual contacts were made by Community Animator Tom O'Keefe and Development Co-ordinator Bonnie Paul. Twenty people, who appeared to be traditional wood harvesters and some retired from that profession, attended. There was a change in the agenda that allowed for a presentation from Raelene Young, Humber Environment Action Group, about the Community Values Mapping Project that she is conducting in Deer Lake.

As at the other meetings, there was a major concern about management and harvesting practices in the forest. Concern regarding mechanical harvesting and its damage to the environment and its effect on employment was discussed. It was stated that people do not feel they have much influence to control these matters and if they did have influence there would be more people in attendance at the meeting. It was also suggested that the Model Forest is putting too much attention on the pine marten, which could cause areas to be closed to trapping and snaring. There was some talk on the Model Forest and how it functions. Support was indicated for the Community Values Mapping Project which the Model Forest is helping to finance. A request was made for a follow-up meeting with resource people present, including the Newfoundland Forest Service and CBPP.

The four meetings outlined above had a number of common elements. With the exception of Pasadena there was not a broad representation of people. Most of those in attendance were or are traditional wood harvesters. The focus of the discussion was on wood harvesting and management methods. There was concern that wood was being wasted, the environment was being damaged and the habitat for animals and birds was being removed. People expressed concern about the power of the paper companies to do as they wish and the lack of enforcement against them and other wood harvesters by the Newfoundland Forest Service. Generally during the early stages of the meetings it was evident that people had either little knowledge and some mistrust of the Model Forest. However, towards the end of all meetings there were indications of appreciation and support for the objectives of the Model Forest. All meetings ended with a request for a second meeting or other follow-up.

#### **FOLLOW-UP**

The actions to be taken as a result of requests at the meeting are;

1. Hold a follow-up public meeting in Bonne Bay with representatives of NFS, the National Park and CBPP present.
2. Hold a follow-up meeting in Deer Lake with NFS and CBPP representatives present.
3. Consult with Steve Hooper and others in Pasadena who may have an interest in community stewardship of the forest.
4. Make contact with domestic wood cutters who attended the Corner Brook meeting to discuss representation on the Model Forest.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The holding of the four meetings in the Community Forest Talks series was a valuable experience. All of the objectives laid out in the **Strategy for Public Meetings** were accomplished reasonably well. There are a number of conclusions that can be drawn from this experience.

While it might be well known that the organization exists, the Model Forest is not well understood in the region and there is some mistrust of its intent and actions. However, this seems to lessen once the role of the Model Forest is explained, as was done at the Community Forest Talks. There is still widespread dissatisfaction with the management of the forest and there is a feeling that the public does not have much influence on developments. There is concern about mechanical harvesting because of the destruction of the environment and the loss of jobs. There is a fear that the habitat that is essential to the preservation of animals and birds will be lost and that we will damage our water systems, by wood harvesting.

So far, mostly traditional wood harvesters have been attracted to the public meetings. There is need to broaden participation if the Model Forest is to represent all values. There is also need to find a way to signal to people that they can have real impact if they get involved. Efforts must be continued to develop awareness of the Model Forest's role. Only when people understand an organization are they are likely to get involved.

**Some recommendations arising from the Community Forest Talks:**

- Continue meeting with the public to develop a relationship of trust and understanding of the Model Forest.
- Highlight any examples of how the Model Forest or individuals have had influence on how the forest is treated to give hope that others can do the same.
- Continue to emphasize values in addition to wood supply so that the public will understand that the Model Forest is interested in a broad range of values.
- See that awareness programs not only inform the public that the Model Forest exists but also explains its role in a simplified manner.

**APPENDICES**

- A. Reports on public meetings
- B. Samples of publicity used
- C. Questionnaire handed out at public meetings
- D. Samples of press coverage

## Appendix A

### Reports on Public Meetings

Bonne Bay, November 15

Pasadena, November 22

Corner Brook, November 29

Deer Lake, December 14



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## Summary Notes

### Public Meeting - Bonne Bay, November 15, 1995

A Public meeting was held at the Birchy Head Recreation Centre on Wednesday November 15, 1995. The purpose of the meeting was to communicate with the public and give the public an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns about forest related issues. The meeting was attended by 32 people from the community and four Model Forest employees. Mr. Tom O'Keefe facilitated the meeting. The General Manager, Mr. Bob Mercer gave a presentation on the Model Forest concept and Ms. Joanne Smyth, the Integrated Resource Management Planner informed the public on how they could become part of the IRM process through the various groups within the Model Forest structure.

The presentations by the Model Forest employees brought about much discussion from the public. **Comments included:**

- **Some felt that the Model Forest boundary represents the area that Gros Morne Park wants to expand and include in the park boundary.**
- The present silviculture methods are unsatisfactory and need to be improved.
- The forests are not coming back, the mills should have been planting from the beginning.
- Their families have been thinning this area for generations, that is why there is wood today.
- The mills are going to take everything we have.
- Distrust with SPAWN was expressed in relation to the closing of the commercial fishery.
- Concerned with the catch and release of salmon for sport fishing.
- Concern that walking trails will accompany another buffer regulation which prohibits domestic woodcutting.
- A IRM plan will not be completed in their day because the companies are going to continue to cut all the wood until there is nothing left.
- Why don't you put the Pine Marten in Gros Morne Park?
- Dissatisfaction was expressed with the way things were handled by the National Park. The local people would like to see a better relationship between the public and the Model Forest.

## Public Awareness and Involvement Working Group

Public Meeting #2- Pasadena, Nov. 22, 1995

### Summary Notes:

- ▶ Worried, scared about the mess forest left behind when loggers move out (loss of topsoil, pollution of streams).
- ▶ Representatives on groups (WNMF) are business/special interest groups - ordinary, common person is not represented and these are the ones to have more say in what is taking place. Get other people involved is a solution. In your final report (IRM), the interest of the people should be given a consideration.
- ▶ Clear cutting concern - buzzwords today are ecosystem/forest talk. Planting taking place that is mostly black spruce. The aim is to do away with species of balsam fir. With the thinning, clearcutting we will wind up with tree farms not forests. All the hardwoods will disappear. Wildlife need hardwoods for food/shelter.

**Response:** that the balsam fir will stay as it regenerates the best of all the species. Only the areas (species) that do not regenerate are planted with spruce.

- ▶ Worried about small game (rabbits, squirrels, woodpeckers) disappearing - the reason is the way that the forest is being managed.

**Response** that reason for small game disappearing are numerous. Overharvesting, predators, and people responsible. Yet timber harvest benefits rabbits.

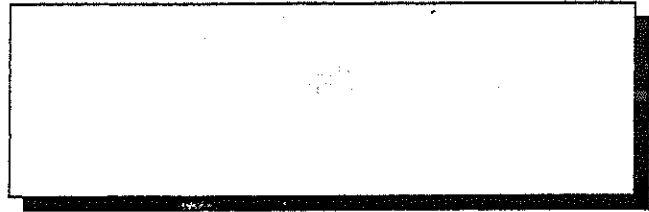
- ▶ People come from everywhere to copy the methods of how we protect our big game but not the consideration given for small game.
- ▶ We do no need to harvest domestic wood, there is lots around on clearcut land and there are no buffers near streams.

- ▶ Question: If WNMF as being an independent group, how much clout does the MF have?

**Response** that the MF has no legislative authority but will bring concerns back to the various departments and/or groups to lobby for things changes. Press releases develop powers of persuasion and raising an issue to public level is a highpersuasive tool. Th group were reminded of the power of profile of environmental concerns today and fear of loss of customers, etc.

- ▶ There is a concern that heavy equipment is taking over the forest and driving down the employment levels. Cutting by machinery reaps more benefits than we (workers) do.

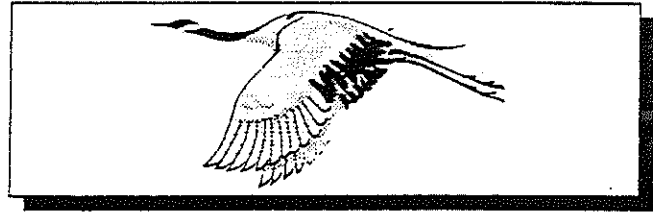
**Response** that more mechanization means less manpower cost. It has to be looked at. From the companies perspective, it is mechanizations vs high labor costs.



- ▶ Key points that came out of this meeting:
  - Cleaning up (clear cutting site)      - clear cutting on grand scale is bad
  - Buffers for streams                      - Spraying to kill hardwoods
  - Loss of topsoil                            - replacement of balsam firs with black spruce
  - More awareness of forest management/conservation issues.
  
- ▶ Are they doing the same on the east coast? It seem like a good idea and we need one there. Do we correspond with other model forests across Canada.  
**Response:** that this is the only MF in NF and that there is communications between Model Forests and if an approach is used elsewhere that works, this is reviewed and applied if it was felt that it would work here.
  
- ▶ How far along on the scale is the MF in getting every value cooperating with each other? How close to achieving goals. It is a shame to let it go when it seems to have begun momentum. What decides if it carries on and is there anything we can do to see that it does?  
**Response** that there is an evaluation taking place and this would be a place to start by getting in touch with the chair as well as writing letters to the MP and MHAs. The MF concept has been adopted in other areas of the world. Involvement and being concerned could take place in backyards and through groups like the Boy Scouts, a meeting or by starting own projects. Then it (MF) would be seen as working and eventually if it (MF) folds, it (activities, awareness) will continue on. The Model Forst would welcome groups getting together and talking about the forest uses and then bringing information back to the MF.
  
- ▶ What about municipal stewardship, that is town taking the lead role in promoting management of the forest around communities. We are off to a beautiful start and should keep doing it, people are quiet but must be interested or would not be here. Community stewardship - value mapping, look at the community and what uses of the land there are and develop plans for land use. There is enough expertise in the community to determine management plans and all you have to do is get people together and land management plan would be developed.
  
- ▶ Use community television and/or radio to get the message of MF across.

This meeting was worthwhile was agreed by the group.

**Public Awareness and Involvement  
Working Group  
Public Meeting #3-Corner Bk, Nov. 29/95**



**MEETING Notes:**

- ▶ Small Sawmills (75% are permits to cut pulpwood on Crown Land). Need meeting place to get people in the woods and company together
- ▶ Want to get the true picture on it (1700 sawmills). Same thing with domestic cutting, they are giving false impression that there is too much wood being cut.
- ▶ Closing railbed to vehicular traffic - MF do not have it in their mandate (authority) to do anything about this.
- ▶ Monies spent on Cook's Brook taking the plugs out even more monies could not clean up Cook's Brook.
- ▶ Will there be any restrictions to cutting firewood, cutting wood, hunting, etc. because of what the MF is doing?

**Response:** Cannot say there would or would not be. They would not be brought in by the MF. Could be changed by the partners. We will, with the public's help, make recommendations.

- ▶ There seems to be a leaning by the MF to do different things. Other people are influencing you, ie ski people. MF will be heard, people like skidder drivers, like me, will not be.
- ▶ Been making a living in the same area for 40 years - could still make a living today as the moose, rabbits are still there. MF will not change that.

**Response:** We are not monitoring what activities that are taking place in the forest. We are working with our partners: company/wildlife, etc. We bring them your concerns.

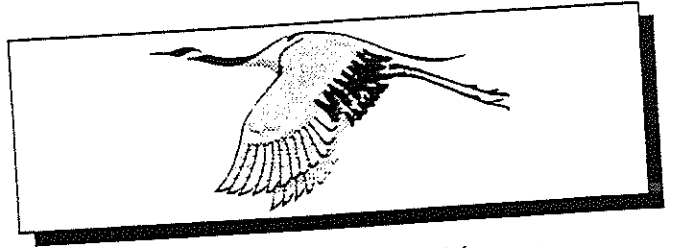
- ▶ There are too many regulations in place now. If something is brought up then you get regulations to control it.

**Response:** Do you wish to have a voice in deciding if there should be regulations and what kind of regulations there should be? We are providing a forum to do that.

- ▶ Do you (MF) have links with the other MFs in the Network. Can we get information on people who are opposing them?

**Response:** We do attend meetings and deal with people from the other MF. Do not know if there are people who are opposed. Our role is to look at all sides of a conflict and try to bring a solution to that conflict.

- ▶ As far as getting up and saying something, it is difficult. I just don't want the domestic woodcutters to only be allowed to cut 2 cords of wood. I would not want them to cut 15 but they should not be that restricted.
- ▶ Do not want to see wood falling down (age) and yet not be able to cut any.
- ▶ You should take somebody interested in domestic woodcutting and include them in a meeting.



- ▶ There is a lot of garbage and damage in the woods, where was the planner when this was happening. It (damage, destruction) will not be stopped this is the facts. Kruger will continue, as always, to do what they want. **Suggestion:** Keep the harvesters out of the woods.

**Response:** How do MF get you and the company at a table to discuss your concerns. Realize your concern MF will put restrictions in place. Will anything change. Hopefully, we can help get the messages back and find solutions.

- ▶ It makes no sense. The MF and what they are going to do. It's MF and domestic woodcutters. There are so many regulations, it is hard to swallow. Can live with changes but it is a double standard - that is we are told to do one thing while the companies can do another.
- ▶ Environment is the thing - if not allowed to run a trike on a bog why should it be that you are allowed to drive a skidder to do a right of way for the company.
- ▶ Can take change. Realize that things are changing every day. Leery of MF as it has the ear of those in power. What can we do that will make a difference? Paper companies and the contractors are not going to change, if expectations are there for us they should be there for them as well.

**Response:** We can get together and work towards solutions. Talk about concerns and work to have those concerns addressed. "Let's do it. let's do it. let's do it!" declared Leo Quilty.

- ▶ Sustainable development - truth in rumour that Codroy has only two years left and then it will be 20 before they can cut again? Is that what we are heading towards?

**Response:** Province wide, there are indications that some areas will see shortages of wood supply but here in the MF area, there is enough wood to sustain us.

Observations from participant Art Aiken:

1. Slide on garbage - indication that it was a casual visitor but feel it was industrial
2. All woodcutting slides show birch wood. In firewood. separate softwood from hardwood.
3. Round table gathering saw Atlantic Salmon Federation. This is NB. What are they doing at the table. Slightly upset that outsider doing our work. There could be representative such as SPAWN/Salmonoid Council, are they taking away NF representation.
4. Why are you people (MF) superimposed on top of Wildlife/Forestry. Do you do the job better?

**Response:** That is a good question. The program came out of government. Wildlife/Forestry do not talk. >But \$4-5 million to get you to act as mediator? Is this necessary< The MF is attempting to work ourselves out of a job. If the people who get involved continue to work together to deal with the conflicts, the MF has done its job. We are not here for the longterm.

WESTERN  
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## Summary Notes

Public Meeting - Deer Lake, December 14, 1995

This public meeting was held at the request of the Deer Lake Town council following a public meeting held in Pasadena for the Humber Valley area. It was attended by 20 people with representation from both within the town and from other areas, including Cormack, Reidville, etc. A presentation included in this meeting along with those given by Bob Mercer, GM, and Joanne, IRM, was a third by Raelene Young. Young's presentation focused on a community values mapping project that is being undertaken by Humber Environment Action Group, a MF partner. This was the first such meeting held in Deer Lake. Significant points which came out of that meeting were:

- ▶ Should offer trips to Taylor's Brook to demonstrate what is going wrong with forestry practices. Can do any worse damage than what has been done there.
- ▶ Question raised if there was much input or liaison with forestry in relation to having input into development of their 5-year cutting plans

**Response:** Proposal on the table for the MF to act as an agency to oversee development of cutting plans. Indicates major change in the way forestry was managed and approached.

- ▶ Does NFLD have same adherence to cutting regulations as other provinces? Rights given company absolute ownership of land. Something got to be done with the companies - they supply jobs but at what price. Need controls.

**Response:** Under law they own timber so they can harvest their way. There are some restrictions through legislation, that is indirect control. MF trying to work with companies. Public pressure will force them to change; government cannot.

- ▶ Too much emphasis on the pine marten - afraid pine marten will be used to close whole area to trapping & snaring which puts majority of rabbit snarers at a defensive. Feel current Trappers Assoc. proposal will go nowhere

**Response:** Pine Marten was one of major reasons for location of MF on the west coast.

**Research indicates concerns with regards to habitat and food supply. Major project by Kruger in modified timber harvesting being proposed for the spring.**

- ▶ Danger there of attempting to develop a planning process on a local level and then expect to have that process be implemented provincially. Too many people left out/too many areas for contention issues/diverse opinions. If you could get people involved, this would be advantageous.

**Response: MF process not about coming out with regulations. It is a process that will get people together (wildlife, trappers, MF) with a willingness to look at issues. Approach in new way with involvement of the public. Example: NF Forest Service is now going back with changes in domestic woodcutting regulations as a result of meetings held on the South Shore.**

- ▶ There is an advisory committee set up to have input into 5-year harvesting plans. One objective is to have influence in how the forest is being used. After 3 years of MF, not much influence is evident.
- ▶ Values mapping project seems worthwhile and interesting. Seen it working elsewhere. Make sure that the whole general public is fully aware of it, just select few.
- ▶ More response to meetings like this if people really felt they could influence how timber is being harvested and what is going on in the woods. Seen what is going on. Companies doing what they want, no political will to get them to change. People came tonight because of concern of what is happening - mess in the woods/streams, etc.
- ▶ A way to effect change is to kill markets. Local people could be instrumental in doing this but it should be a last resort.
- ▶ Had the impression that you had the teeth to enforce regulations. Company getting off with things when local return for wood is going outside.
- ▶ MF needs to ask people if they have ideas on how they can get the paper companies to change their cutting practices. There is a place for different types of harvesting - no thought given to the kind of machinery in the woods, soil depletion, and no reforestation done.
- ▶ Get people to talk - people will listen after a time. get it working here, it will be different issues elsewhere but talking is important.
- ▶ If input was there from the beginning on the type of cutting going on, then some problems could be solved.
- ▶ Companies are not the only ones who are doing damage, some is done by woodcutters and sawmillers getting wood.

### **Key Points:**

1. It was a more information session about the MF than others have been
2. Sincere concern was expressed about the company's harvesting practices
3. While only 20 people showed, more would have come out if they thought they could do something to change things.
4. Emphasis on Pine Martn will put an end to people being able to snare/trap.
5. Taylor's Brook is an example of destruction
6. After hearing about MF and it's limits with regards to control, they were still willing to help
7. Obvious people with long-time woods experience still had concerns
8. Plans for harvesting should be based on type of ground (site) sensitively and season
9. Damage no only being done by paper companies but by other forest users ie domestic woodcutters, sawmillers, etc.
10. Management plan being developed may not be applicable across the province but getting people to talk is a start.

### **FOLLOWUP**

Those present would like to see a followup meeting with specific topics for discussion and resource people there. Late January/early February suggested date.

## Appendix B

Samples of publicity used to promote meetings

# **PUBLIC MEETING for Deer Lake & Area**

## ***Community Forest Talk***

How do YOU use the Forest?  
(canoeing, skiing, snowmobiling,  
hiking, trapping, woodcutting, etc.)

**Do YOU have concerns about  
how the forest is now being treated?**

**Do YOU want to have a say in how  
the forest will be managed  
in the future?**

**What do YOU want to know about  
the Model Forest?**

Come to a PUBLIC MEETING and  
have your say and listen to others  
from the area speak about  
their ideas for the forest.

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**PLACE: PARISH HALL, Popular Road, DEER LAKE**

**DATE: THURSDAY, Dec. 14th. Time: 7:30 pm**

This meeting is sponsored by:  
Western Newfoundland Model Forest







*Note: This letter was sent out on MF letterhead  
to groups in the area.*

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is an invitation to participate in a public meeting to discuss forest use and management.

Known as "Community Forest Talks" these meetings will give the public an opportunity to learn about the Western Newfoundland Model Forest and its activities. Probably more important though, it is an opportunity for individuals and organizations to have input into future plans that affect our forest.

The meeting will have a slide show about the model forest, and an outline of how we do planning and how you might be involved in that process. Much of the meeting will be an open discussion and question period where participants can express their concerns and ideas about the forest.

We invite you to send any members from your organization that are interested.

Community Forest Talks will be held as follows:

Bonne Bay: Birchy Head Recreation Building, 7:30. Tuesday, November 14.

Humber Valley: Pasadena Recreation Centre, 7:30 Wednesday, November 22.

City of Corner Brook: Holiday Inn, 8:00, Wednesday, November 29

We also ask your help in spreading the word about these meetings. Encourage your members to tell their families and friends to come so that all elements of the community can be represented.

For further information contact: Marilyn Young or Tom O'Keefe at 634-6383

I look forward to seeing your group well represented at what should be an interesting meeting.

Sincerely,

Tom O'Keefe  
Meeting Facilitator/Community Animator

# Appendix C

## Questionnaire used at CFT meeting

# Questions about the forest?

1. What problems in our forest concern you the most?

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2. Do you feel the forest can accommodate all the demands made on it?

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3. What uses of the forest do you value the most? (paper making, firewood, hunting, trapping, hiking, canoeing, fishing, bird watching, photography, mining, etc.)

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4. Do you see yourself or the public as having a role in making sure our forests are properly managed? How should this be done?

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5. How would you like your ideas or concerns to be dealt with?

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6. What actions should come out of these meetings?

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(If you have other comments please make them on back of this sheet.)

(If you wish) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix D**

**Samples of Press Coverage for CFT Meetings**

# Model Forest seeking public input on forestry development

The Western Newfound-land Model Forest is taking another step in involving the public in its efforts toward good forestry development.

Three public meetings will give the public a chance to say what is wrong with present forest activities and what ways improvements can be made.

The first *Community Forest Talk* will be held in the Birchley Head Recreation building on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m. The second will be at the Pasadena Recreation Centre Wednesday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. and the third will be held at the Holiday Inn in Corner Brook Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 8 p.m.

The input from the public will be considered by the Model Forest in deciding actions it might take to improve present conditions and in putting together a plan for forestry development in the future.

The meetings are being co-ordinated by the public awareness and involvement working group. The sessions will be held in succession in Bonne Bay, the Humber Valley and in Corner Brook. During each meeting there will be an overview of the Model Forest, how it is organized, and what it is trying to accomplish. There will be an open discussion to give everyone present a chance to have their say about problems they see and the ideas they have for effective development.

approach is to partner with the Model Forest on a development actively, become an advocate for sustainable development, or support what the Model Forest is

The public awareness and involvement working group feels public involvement is vital to what the Model Forest is trying to do.

"These meetings are only on stage where people can voice their concerns and perhaps offer solutions," said group chair Colleen Humphries. "It will be up to us to address these concerns and bring resolution to them. If a resolution cannot be found, the public should also know why."

Ms. Humphries said the working group is preparing a guide to public involvement that will be distributed to the public to show how they can become involved.

And there are other ways to get involved in the Model Forest, according to Tom O'Keefe, meeting facilitator/community animator with the Model Forest.

Mr. O'Keefe said people are involved on working groups, value groups, and conflict resolution groups that are part of the Model Forest process. Another

trying to do. Information on ways to become involved will be discussed at the public meetings.

it could lead us to sponsoring a two-day conference in the spring to look at possible resolutions to concerns that are raised at the meetings," he said.

"Depending on what comes out of these meetings,

## Taylor's Brook used as example of wrong forestry practices

DEER LAKE - Using Taylor's Brook as an example of enlightening information on wrong forestry and that planning was essential before harvesting takes place was the gist of a public meeting held here by the Western Newfoundland Model Forest Thursday.

Sincere concern over harvesting practices ranging from the type of equipment the paper companies are using, soil depletion, to a lack of reforestation were all expressed in the meeting which was the fourth in a series of community forest talks sponsored by the Model Forest. Plans for harvesting should be based on the type of ground and season, organizers were told.

"There would be more response to meetings like this if people here really felt they could influence how timber is being harvested and what is going on in the woods," said one man.

Bob Mercer, general manager of the Model Forest, noted several examples of changes that paper companies have made due to efforts of the Model Forest working with the general public.

"An example is the clean-up that took place at Cook's Brook and a proposal to introduce a modified timber harvesting project in the spring," said Mr. Mercer.

Mr. Mercer said in his opening presentation that the focus of the Model Forest is to develop a planning process so that all forest uses can be realized and where, at the end, an integrated resource management plan could be developed.

"The Model Forest is not about coming out with regulations. It is a process that will get people together, such as wildlife, trappers, and the public, with a willingness to look at issues. We are approaching

it in a new way with the involvement of the public," he said citing as an example the result of several meetings that took place on the South Shore of the Bay of Islands earlier this year where now the Newfoundland Forest Service is going back to that area with plans for changes in regulations on domestic wood-cutting.

Another concern raised was that too much emphasis is being put on the Pine Marten, an endangered species that is now in a protected area in the Model Forest. The emphasis, the Model Forest was told, is putting the majority of rabbit snarers on the defensive as they fear that the Pine Marten will be used to close a whole area to trapping and snaring.

While the paper companies were recognized by participants for some of the damage taking place in the forest, it was also cited that others include domestic woodcutters and saw millers.

Getting people to talk was the first step the Model Forest people were told.

"You need to ask people if they have ideas on how they can get the paper companies to change their cutting practices. There is a place for different types of harvesting," noted on participant.

Following Mr. Mercer's presentation about the Model Forest, the audience heard about four ways they could become involved in the Model Forest through a presentation by Joanne Smyth. The four ways ranged from attending public meetings and voicing concerns, becoming a member of a value group such as timber, sitting in on working group meetings, to organizing own group and reporting back to the Model Forest.

As well, the group heard

about a new project being initiated by the Humber Environment Action Group, a partner of the Model Forest. Raelene Young spoke of a community values mapping project that will see Deer Lake used as a pilot project site.

"Community values mapping is an opportunity for residents to discuss what they value in their community and document the link between these and a healthy community," she said in her remarks.

The values Ms. Young referred to included those of historical, cultural, spiritual, recreational and others which are considered to contribute

to people's sense of well-being, identity and place. The audience was receptive to the project noting that it sounded interesting and worthwhile but Ms. Young was cautioned to ensure that all the general public be included, not just a few.

While this was the final in the series of *Community Forest Talk* meetings, future plans are to hold subsequent meetings as requested by the public. In the new year, the Model Forest will be holding meetings on the North and South Shores of the Bay of Islands in relation to domestic wood-cutting.

# Stewardship an option for community involvement

PASADENA - Community stewardship was one of several options for community involvement in forest management discussed at a forest talk here last Wednesday.

"Towns could take a leadership role in promoting management of the forest around communities," said Steve Hooper, a resident of Pasadena. "There is enough expertise in the community to determine a forest management plan and what is needed to get people together to develop that plan."

Mr. Hooper was one of 45 people who attended that Community Forest Talk in Pasadena. It is the second in a series being held by the Western Newfoundland Model Forest to garner public input into an integrated resource management plan being designed by the Model Forest. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Humber Valley Development Association.

More public education on topics such as spraying and consequences of activities like snowmobile damage and abandoned rabbit snares were also ways those in attendance felt the public could get involved in ensuring the forest is looked after by everyone.

On the topic of spraying, one man noted there is not a lot of public notice to indicate that an area has been or is about to be sprayed.

"What about the kind of spray they are using? Can it be toxic?" he asked.

"We need to have more talk about what we are doing in the forest and how we can take care of our forests - that is forest con-

servation topics. Could we do that in our own groups and then come to the Model Forest with any concerns that we have?" asked one woman attending.

Meeting facilitator Tom O'Keefe said he would welcome groups getting together, talking about forest uses and concerns and then bringing that information to the Model Forest.

Several concerns were vented at the meeting. Those include worries about the mess left behind and the loss of topsoil after timber harvesting is completed in a particular area, grand-scale clear-cutting which was felt to contribute to the decrease in small game, a trend to reforest with only softwood trees, and the introduction of mechanization harvesting techniques which has contributed to job loss.

Joanne Smyth, integrated resource management planner with the Model Forest also attended the meeting and gave a definition of integrated resource management (IRM).

"IRM is arranging the way that our people and companies use our resources so that we do not ruin our water, forest or wildlife," Ms. Smyth told the group detailing the way the Model Forest is structured with working groups and IRM value groups.

As she outlined how planning is done, Ms. Smyth gave three ways how the public could work with the Model Forest.

"You can come to meetings such as these and tell us what you think; join one or more of the value groups meetings; join a working group, or form your own working group dealing with

a specific issue of interest that could be then passed on to the Model Forest."

More meetings in communities talking about specific issues with resource people there to answer questions was offered as a route to take in the future.

During the open discussion, the Model Forest program was praised as very progressive and positive in relation to forest issues and it was felt that the program could and should be continued.

Yet, questions did arise on how much authority the Model Forest has and what were the wood companies response to concerns.

Bob Mercer, Model Forest general manager, said there are changes taking place.

"The Model Forest has no legislative authority but we will

bring your concerns back to government departments and groups and will lobby to get things changed - that is, using the power of persuasion.

"Raising an issue to a public level can be a high persuasive tool. Logging contractors and the paper companies can be convinced to change their logging practice and implement logger training programs and contribute money to do this," Mr. Mercer said. "When you see this happening, you know that things are changing. What you have to remember is that there are short-term solutions to a long-term process. Change is happening, it is slow, but it is happening."

The third meeting in this series is scheduled for tonight, Wednesday, 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Corner Brook.

# Model Forest

# concept outlined

The Western Star, Wednesday, November 22, 1995

Thirdly, Smythe expects to develop four major working groups to work on specific issues. Issues being worked on are domestic wood cutting, public awareness and involvement, education and integrated management. Smythe encouraged people attending the meeting to become involved in the Model Forest, joining one or more value meetings or group meetings.

By following this process, it is hoped that a plan for use of the forest will be developed whereby it can regenerate itself and be available for future generations.

Mercer said "the best thing that could happen for the Model Forest is for it to disappear because it will mean that its job has been done since the agencies that are responsible for the management are doing as they should be doing, those who should be talking are talking." The meeting also addressed a number of concerns of the people in attendance.

Nelson Gilliam, a resident of Woody Point, was concerned that the Model Forest would take away some of the benefits now enjoyed by the people of the area, such as hunting and cutting firewood and timber. Fred Parsons, a resident of Glenburnie, was worried that silviculture methods were not working as they should be.

Mercer explained that the balsam fir is a forest that naturally regenerates itself. In fact, it regenerates so well that it is too thick. Thinning generally must be done on the new growth. Parsons was also concerned that thinning was not done in the proper way.

Mercer assured the meeting these concerns would be addressed and would be followed up.

Some people questioned why regulations were in place on specific issues. O'Keefe emphasized that the Model Forest had no authority to make regulations but the issues would be looked into.

said Mercer. "How can we make use to get the most enjoyment out of the forest?"

The pine marten is a major concern of the Model Forest Network. The number of martens in the area is down because of a loss of habitat and is often caught in rabbit snares. The plan is to increase the population of the marten in western Newfoundland.

Mercer said about 55 per cent of the budget for the project is spent on wildlife research.

O'Keefe emphasized that the meeting was called not to inform of any management changes, but to gather input from the public. The Model Forest Network has no regulatory power, it's not affiliated with any government department and it has no power to enforce wildlife or forestry regulations. Officials, he said, are trying to get groups talking to help ensure sustainability of the forest.

Smythe presented her plan on how the network will go about gathering information and developing a system of using the forest to promote sustainability and continued use.

The expected outcome of this process is to "arrange the way that people and companies use our resources so that we don't ruin the water, forest and wildlife we have," said Smythe.

Smythe expects to gather information and develop a working model in three ways.

First, as many people as possible are to be included. Smythe said that business, councils, schools, development association, the public, etc. must be involved.

Secondly, a list of things that the forest is used for will be developed. Smythe has developed a tentative list of current uses, including water, timber, species and spaces, ecosystem health, intangible values — enjoying the beauty of the forest, mines, agriculture and recreation.

The forest was a mixture of partners involved in the process. They included Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd., Newfoundland Forest Service, the Wildlife Division of the Department of Culture and Tourism, city of Corner Brook, the forest committee of the Humber Environment Action group, Abitibi Price Inc., Grand Falls Division and the Centre for Forestry and Environmental Studies of Westviking College.

The area covered by the Model Forest was chosen because of its ecological diversity and because of the number of problems faced by the area. The area is rich in balsam fir and is logged to provide pulpwood for two of the three paper mills in the province. Fifty per cent of the area is productive forest land. Timber management activities and wood using industries are the major source of employment and income in western Newfoundland. It is also heavily used to supply domestic firewood for homes in the area.

Mercer said logging for firewood and lumber to build homes is a traditional right of the people of the province. The only other place in North America where people enjoy the same privilege, according to Mercer, is Alaska.

He estimates that about 1,000,000 cubic meters of firewood are cut in the province each year.

Mercer also discussed the other for the forest besides logging. "We also use the forests for water supply, recreation, salmon rivers, annual hunt of animals such as moose, sites for cabins, hiking, etc.," he said.

The point Mercer made was the forest is used for much more than logging. It is used by all people of the province and has many, many values for them.

"The main goal is to learn how to manage all of these values within the forest without unduly interfering with someone else's use."

BLAIR ANDERSON  
Star Correspondent  
BONNE BAY SOUTH — Officials from the Western Newfoundland Model Forest met with the people of Bonne Bay recently to introduce the concept and its objectives.

The meeting was the first in a series of public meetings to be held in the Model Forest area during the next couple of months.

The meeting was sponsored jointly by the Bonne Bay Development Association and the Model Forest. Representing the Model Forest were Tom O'Keefe, meeting facilitator and community animator; Joanne Smythe, Integrated Resource Management planner (IRM), Paula O'Keefe, IRM assistant and Bob Mercer, general manager.

The purpose of the meeting, according to O'Keefe, was to receive input from the general public on the use of the forest and how to maintain it while still making use of it in a manner that is acceptable to all users.

The Model Forest is an area of 707,060 hectares bounded on the north by Gros Morne National Park, the east by the Buchans Plateau and the Lloyds River, the south by the Burgeo highway and the west by the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is one of a network of 10 large scale working models across Canada and part of the Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests.

It is a federally financed project with the following goals:

- to develop an integrated resource management program for the province.
- to integrate wildlife and timber management
- to integrate water quality and timber management
- to instill in the public increased awareness of management objectives
- to operate the Model Forest as a working forest.