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## FFP Thunder Bay Workshop, 2008 03 20 - Results of Scenario Discussions

Forest Futures Project of the Sustainable Forest Management Network

Transcribed from flipchart notes and workshop recorder files by Peter Duinker, Project Manager

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### Scenario A - Goods from the Woods

#### 1. Inconsistencies

- trouble identifying inconsistencies
- increased consumption vs lower air pollution
- what institutions might be present that are able to keep ecological themes bright/intact when the Exrons are ramping up timber production?

#### 2. Main Messages

- optimistic (perhaps overly)
- looks like current Sweden
- additional privatization of public property
- institutionally looks like USA
- people don't seem to be aware/concerned about hinterland forests – this is a concern to group members (don't know if it's because we think it would be sad that people turn out that way, don't care about what's going on in the forest)

#### 3. Local/Regional Implications

- bigger road and rail network (and other industrial infrastructure)
- TBay a hopping regional centre
- well-functioning clusters in TBay (e.g. research, technology, production, marketing, Aboriginal component – all centred in series of clusters)
- with Exrons, local suppliers more vulnerable (detrimental, Walmart effect)
- high-tech, efficient forest-products economy

#### 4. Local Responses

- “Danny Williamsize” the economy – if TBay a large hub, want to make sure that we're not giving it away for free
- anticipatory transportation and infrastructure development (e.g., St. Paul-Minn rail, rail to Hudson's Bay)
- develop better energy infrastructure
- innovation/research hubs
- concerted efforts to resolve land claims (should help stem out-migration of Aboriginal youth) – if can be settled in advance of this scenario happening

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### Scenario A - Goods from the Woods

#### 1. Inconsistencies

- invasive species: gov't-run agency (CIASA) that's well funded and effective, but with amount of wood moving around globe and with climate change, could it actually be that effective?
- forest recreation being up, yet interest in participatory process down
- scenarios should be 2100 to give a chance to actually change forest (full rotation)

## 2. Important Messages

- market economy
- consumeristic
- high ecosystem sustainability
- increased protected areas (PAs)

## 3. Implications

- needed to have a lot more extension work – education of people in this area to make this work, otherwise it could just flop
- become industrial forest? Need more infrastructure. ...or just protected area in north?
- change in demographics of the populations, with Aboriginal pop'n growing and a younger cohort, they would be taking jobs and working in more-value-added smaller orgs if not taken over by big Exxon corps.

## 4. Responses

- business as usual
- how would we get there? Depends on people who are leaders in the communities and will make it happen or just "live with it"
- expect smaller entrepreneurs more interested in commodities, or even the larger corporate interest

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## **Scenario B - Peace in the Woods**

### 1. Inconsistencies

- increasing climate change, no invasive species?
- higher value products, no silviculture, more PAs is that sustainable?

### 2. Messages

- scenario is driven by big shift in societal values and value in forest
- less demand on the forest
- society cares and takes ownership – community-oriented
- industry smaller and high-tech
- inclination towards pessimistic voice: this won't happen!

### 3. Implications

- First Nations (FN) pop'n will increase in the area, so move back onto reserves or decrease in city
- regionalization of gov't, with additional responsibilities for local gov't
- regional costs more (maybe)

- lose competitiveness
- regional gov't will become more efficient
- TBay becomes more vibrant/modern
- surrounded by forests
- community more involved in production
- TBay is an important seat for shift in FN power
- decrease in industry but more diverse - better end use of harvested fibre
- lots of immigration here, shift in societal values
- TBay recast to larger urban centre
- improved tourism? (warmer)
- shift to agriculture
- no mega-corp
- fewer but more skilled workers
- balance in wage disparity

#### 4. Responses

- buy beachfront property
- hardships here as a result of drastic change (layoffs/restructuring)
- resistance from those in power
- reconciliation – mechanisms for change
- FN start going back to reserves
- investment in FN education and infrastructure
- skilled labour moving out of TBay to smaller communities

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### **Scenario B - Peace in the Woods**

#### 1. Inconsistencies

- increased economy in Asia vs. low demand
- interest in “natural” and “forest” would increase demand for “natural” materials
- modest increase in oil price questioned – supply control: price will always be up
- question global stability with rising Asia dominance
- puts everyone on same level - is full cooperation plausible?

#### 2. Implications

- increased co-mgmt
- increased seasonal industry non-timber forest products (NTFP), tourism
- focus on small industry
- need flexible working arrangement

#### 3. Responses

- support of emerging small business (succession planning – who will take over?)
- forest product/service tenure
- locally directed education and training
- large centre or small centre: ability to control demographics

- demographics will be a key issue
- role of technology in changing working environment – e.g. satellite inventory
- requires a large shift from present, and will involve large resistance to it

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## **Scenario C - Turbulence in the Woods**

### 1. Implications

- how can Asia reach global dominance with so much climate change?
- we are currently in turbulence

### 2. Main Messages

- this is status quo
- theme of “throwing money at problems”
- can't get any worse than it is now in Northwest Ont (now = 2008 I think)

### 3. Implications

- tourism down
- local people leaving because there are no jobs
- industry closes because of high energy prices
- transporting energy here is too costly but if bioenergy is available then ... may be possible to maintain jobs
- increase of salvage wood operations
- transportation is costly
- TBay won't grow as fast because bound by Lake Superior

### 4. Response

- provide training in areas of new technologies for new jobs
- shift in labour force - diversification
- people will move away
- changes in land-use laws

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## **Scenario C - Turbulence in the Woods**

### 1. Implications

- if there are more disasters etc., would social values change toward broader view and appreciation of hinterland – concern for env.
- balance between energy supply and population demand – will there really be a demand for bioenergy
- challenge re: increase in forest employment – where does this increase come from? Salvage logging?
- why invest in silviculture – risky investment

### 2. Messages

- water levels vs. port and impacts on TB (international water disagreements, bootlegging water)

- TBay vs. Northwest: NWO becomes more and more hinterland.
- depopulation of hinterland and accumulation in TBay, or flow right through to GTA, so whole region depopulates
- year-to-year change results in loss of workforce transiency, turnover ; resident workforce of low skill
- shift from forestry and mining toward water resources
- migration of most rural pop'n including Aboriginal to TBay as regional centre
- significant social upheaval and stress
- increase division and conflict across scales: local-prov-federal
- protect what you have, potential for violent conflict
- nobody is listening
- lawyers become irrelevant

### 3. Responses

- leave or work together to hold on
- public education (in urban centres) is important
- diversify economy away from forest sector
- are people this selfish? But what the hell happened?
- change may accelerate once people begin to get burned
- local govts assume previous provincial roles – eg. EI
- will trust Queen's Park even less, but the local will have the resources
- value in creating a crisis
- lots of illegal activity - bootleg water, 'hot' timber
- immigrant labour - cheap labour, social issues around that

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## **Scenario D - Restoration in the Woods**

### 1. Inconsistencies

- although cc impacts are huge, we still see significant changes in forest as a result of mgmt activities
- cc is ravaging/limiting water, and there is a lack of conflict over this? Hard to believe.

### 2. Important Messages

- resilience of the human race – adaptation
- evolutionary scenario - can't change events, industry didn't adapt well
- perception of forest changed – not for products, but rather a place to live, to fix
- more cultural preservation – connection with land for FNs
- change from confrontation over mitigation to cooperation over adaptation
- coming full circle in forest use – greater focus on cultural use of NTFPs

### 3. Implications

- forests close to TBay could be expected to have better access given increased recreation
- a more red pine-and-oak forest – especially if we are restoring our forests
- carnage has resulted in more environmental conscience

- TBay pop'n more than doubles due to quality of life concerns
- more developed infrastructure - recreation and tourism, energy, transportation (land)
- forest restoration consultants
- nuclear plants on Lake Superior?

#### 4. Response

- question of accommodate/adapt or try to prevent/stop
- education – enhance understanding
- enhance level of certainty in public
- understanding of coming changes
- panic? – bad news on environment, bad news for traditional industry
- TBay - major economic investment campaign

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### **Scenario D - Restoration in the Woods**

#### 1. Inconsistencies

- geopolitics peaceful in face of severe climate change? With sea-level rise, major reduction in arable land
- harvest of non-wood products: mushrooms, berries, etc... will these grow in this climate?
- with low harvest rate, how
- with rising sea levels and rising damage, demand for wood products should go up
- FN putting \$ into restoration when silviculture down?

#### 2. Messages

- we are in trouble!
- people are working together (think: wartime)
- huge uncertainty
- principles of conservation are challenged
- everything as we know it today will be very different

#### 3. Implications

- strong economic development for Aboriginal/northern communities limited to only certain ones, such as transportation: what is used today will change, with disruption re: shipping, winter access
- green energy – hydro will change
- different job base/economy
- water impacts, dry wells, accessibility to potable water down
- recreation opportunities changed
- Aboriginal traditional knowledge – pressures to change

#### 4. Responses

- panic
- emigrate to prairies, north...
- building social capacity for community/cooperation - education, innovation

- use bedrock/former agr land for development
- land- and water-use planning - changes needed, flexibility
- put \$ into roads, rail, alternative transportation
- many responses, many of which will fail
- money: will it solve all the problems? Will we really be able to spend all this money (on roads etc)? Where would it come from ?