

The following excerpt is from the Council Governance Policy. The entire Policy is available on the council website at www.mfcouncil.ca

Members of the council are responsible for the administration of the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* and regulations. This includes four broad functions:

- 1) Strategic planning and reporting;
- 2) Setting forest practices standards for managed forest class land;
- 3) Audits of forest practices and enforcement of the standards;
- 4) Reviewing applications to enter managed forest assessment class.

The council as a whole remains accountable for ensuring that the purpose of the legislation is achieved. Individual members are responsible at all times for ensuring the consistency of their own actions with the legislation and provincial objectives.

1. Strategic Planning and Reporting

The council is responsible for strategic planning and for preparing an annual report and financial statement. The annual report and financial statement are available to the public and are submitted to the Minister.

2. Setting Forest Practices Standards

The council is responsible for adopting standards for forest practices, monitoring their effectiveness and making changes to the standards, subject to the Act and Regulations.

Forest practices standards or special standards are adopted as regulations of the council and require approval by a majority of members. The majority must include at least one of the managed forest owner members and one of the government members. Standards must be deposited as regulations with the Registrar of Regulations and published in the Gazette.

Prior to any changes to the regulation for the standards (other than minor changes of an administrative nature), the council must consult with managed forest landowners, relevant government agencies and other persons or entities that, in the opinion of the council, may be affected.

Council may authorize variances from the standards in accordance with the regulations and bylaws of the council.

3. Audits of Forest Practices and Enforcement of the Standards

The council is responsible for initiating forest practices audits as provided by the Act. The council selects and appoints auditors and is responsible for ensuring that auditors perform in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

The council is also responsible for enforcement of the standards in accordance with the requirements of the Act and regulations and for adhering to the principles of natural justice during enforcement and compliance activities.

In the case of landowner non-performance, the council may request that BC Assessment review the managed forest assessment eligibility only after pursuing other reasonable means of enforcement under the Act.

4. Reviewing Applications to Enter Managed Forest Land Property Class.

The council must review the prescribed information requirements for applications to enter managed forest land property class. The council and BC Assessment must both ensure that the requirements for entering managed forest land class have been met before forest properties are granted managed forest land class.