



**HIGH LEVEL FORESTS
PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010
5:00 p.m. – Four Winds Banquet Room
High Level, Alberta

ATTENDANCE:

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)	John Thurston (Chairman)
Marilee Toews (HBSWS)	Mike Alsterlund
Al Toews (Guest)	George Friesen (Friesen Industries Ltd.)
Ted Edwards (ASRD)	Mike Maximchuk (ASRD)
Barry Gladders (Tolko)	Carrie Demkiw (Town of High Level)
Tim Heemskerk (Tolko)	Aaron Doepel (LaCrete Sawmills)
Walter Sarapuk (Mackenzie County)	

Recording Secretary: Brenda St. Arnault

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:43 pm

Introductions made from everyone attending meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adopt Agenda as presented.

MOVED BY: Carrie Demkiw

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – December 8, 2009

Adopt Minutes as presented.

MOVED BY: Walter Sarapuk

CARRIED

3.1 *Review of action items (old action items in italics)*

There are no action items for review.

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

4.1 *Decked Aspen Logs*

Mike A. asked question regarding Decked Aspen logs – is it still Footner Forest Products, have they received any grants from the Government.

Ted E. – Aspen deck logs still belong to FFP, no they did not receive any grants.

John T. – The log truck accident south of High Level – was it a truck that was hauling for Tolko.

Jeremy B. – no it was not a truck driving for Tolko.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 *Request for continued operation of Beehive Burner – Barry Gladders*

Barry Gladders provided Update on the Beehive Burner and explained the situation Tolko is in right now.

- Financial situation
- Partner has been chosen for project
- Environmental Process

John T. – question asked by a citizen, would there still be a smoke stack?

Barry G. – not sure, I am not familiar enough with plans for energy project.

Mike A. – Will it be built close to the sawmill?

Barry G. – I believe a location was selected by the sawmill.

Walter S. – What about waste burning, will it burn all mill waste (bark and shavings)?

Barry G. – As far as I know, yes it will burn everything.

Barry G. – Explained the process of decommissioning of the Beehive Burner.

Barry G. – Quick note for everyone; mill has been closed since January 8th and it will remain closed until we are confident we have enough wood in the yard.

Aaron D. – Any more news with FFP, rumors still flying around about the Plant reopening.

Barry G. – No.

Al T. – Question regarding the Burner, why it was not decommissioned sooner, is it not expensive to run burner?

Barry G. – I can get back to you with answers, however DMI decommissioned one burner by the Planer as it was not required anymore.

George F. – Planer Mills are more precise now, does not waste as much now.

5.2 Upper Hay – Forest Health Update – Mike Maximchuk, ASRD

Presentation outlining situation regarding Mountain Pine Beetle in the Peace Area.

Aaron D. – Looking at the big picture, how does situation with Mountain pine beetle look like province wide?

Are there natural predators?

Mike M. - Yes there are natural predators, Woodpeckers, diseases, beetles

Aaron D. – Can trees become immune to the effects of MPB?

Mike M. - No, but there are trees that are stronger and can withstand Mountain Pine beetle.

5.3 Results – CSA Re-registration Audit @ Tolko (Jan. 11 – 14, 2010)

Jeremy Beal provided an overview of CSA Audit that took place on Jan 11 – 14, 2010.

- Handout of letter
- QMI – SAI Global
- Nathan Ryant, RPF
- Audit Structure - Office interviews
 - SFM Plan & indicator reporting
 - Public participation information, EMS system, past audit results etc.
 - Field day – visit operations, interview contractors, evidence gathering, field indicators

Audit scope – What was audited.

- Positive aspect of the management system
- Continued revisions made to the SFM Plan to improve system.
- Reforestation of seismic lines originally listed as non-forested over the DFA.

- New Woodlands handbook with controls for SFM & DFA such as retention information.
- Continued improvements made considering resources have been limited due to the poor economic situation in the industry.

ASRD Interview summary:

- Log quality issues are the biggest concern
- Watercourse crossing issues
- Other concerns are around planning quality of the submissions although improvements are notes.

Aaron D. – requested that because LaCrete Sawmills is harvesting in a separate area, they are not kept in the loop with issues with the Government. Aaron suggested that it may be a good idea if there could be a meeting or notice to let them know of any issues Tolko may be having with ASRD and vice versa.

PAC Interview summary:

- Continued excellent relationship with the company and transparency in the public process.
- May need to bring in new members to ensure public portion of committee is revitalized.
- Beneficial to have the company provide more interpretation of technical stats being presented.

First Nations Interview Summary

- Opportunities to participate in the public process have been provided.
- Have decided not to participate in the process, as the Tribal Council would prefer to have direct consultation with the company.
- First Nations VOITS have been developed and would like the government to recognize these in the present planning processes. These VOITS are beyond current forestry legislation, e.g. 300-meter buffer on major streams as opposed to the 60 meter legislated requirement.
- The Tribal council would like the FN VOIT discussion to be bilateral and not in the public process. Would like to see the company to incorporate the FN VOITS into the forestry planning processes.
- Government funding is currently inadequate to address FN capacity to deal with general consultation with the company.

Recommendations by the Auditor;

1. 7.4.7 Emergency Preparedness & Response: consider checking the spill kits to ensure the spill pads provided include spill pads appropriate to handle antifreeze spill.
2. 7.5.1 Monitoring & Measurements: consider random checks being made on inspections forms to ensure the checklist part of the forms are completed.

- Forms are being used as intended; however, check boxes that indicate items being reviewed are left blank.
3. 7.3.6 Performance Requirements: Indicator 2 consider revising the targets for proportion of cover types represented on the DFA until Footner starts up to allow the Deciduous types proportions to be accurately represented; also consider stating this indicator will be reported as a 5 year roll up of data.

Mike A. – question regarding Indicator 2, Ecological & Growth sites, could they not be used for this purpose.

Aaron D. – How do we verify that, what was growing there before compared to now, if everything is growing back now, as it should be.

4. 7.3.6 Indicator 5 consider updating the Silvacom layer on unique species to include the sightings reported by the public and company regarding SARA spp.
5. 7.3.6 Indicator 11 consider adding a check of the SARA site for plants and ecological communities to the indicator monitoring program for sites of biological significance.

Marilee T. – Flashback several years ago when we were looking at doing a project to research plants and ecological communities.

Jeremy B. – If someone was interested in doing project/proposal, Tolko does have funding available through FRIAA program.

Mike A. – Plots have been setup in the area by Government; maybe can access information on internet.

6. 7.3.6 Indicator 23 consider utilizing the same variance utilized for the satisfactory reforestation indicator to account for the reforestation of the seismic lines in harvest areas.

Areas of Concern:

- Noted deficiencies in the current EMS and SFM programs.
 - Potential to develop into non-conformance
 - Company must act upon prior to the next audit (action plans completed)
 - Auditor will review progress
1. 7.3.4 Rights and Regulations: ensure the Friesen camp sewage system meets the legal requirements stated in the camp permits such as the Public Health Act.
2. 7.5.2 Nonconformity Corrective and Preventative Actions: Ensure all government inspections that note variances from the ground rules are entered into the EMS process Improvement as per the requirements of the system.

3. 7.5.4 Internal Audit: Ensure the audit records can verify that all elements as stated that are to be audited have audit notes that can substantiate conformity to the audit plans.
4. Indicator 20: Ensure the monitoring program which states the creek crossing installation and removal inspections are to be recorded in the database are entered as described,
I.e. Creek Crossing database.

The results of the Re-assessment including the review of the performance of the Tolko Industries Ltd. Management System over the past 3 years and the Re-assessment Audit, indicate that Tolko Industries Ltd.'s Management System meets the following criteria for maintenance of registration of CAN/CSA – Z809-2002.

The next CSA 12 month Surveillance Audit of Tolko Industries Ltd. (HLLD) Sustainable Forest Management Plan will be the week of January 10 – 14, 2011.

Marilee T. – A separate process for First Nations may not be beneficial for any party as the public could benefit from First Nation participation and First Nation could hear what the public is mentioning. Having a separate process may be less effective.

6. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS

7.1 *Clipping Service (10)*

8. AROUND THE TABLE

Marilee T. – Would like to follow up with Proposal with FRIAA in the near future.

Jeremy B. – Annual General Meeting is coming up, if anyone would like a notice sent to him or her.

Mike A. – ASRD should support the Growth & Yield Program (PSP's) with Tolko – to continue while Footner Forest Products is curtailed.

Tolko is not continuing program due to financial constraints.

Ted E. – Will find out what implications there may be if the program does not continue. Ted will find out for Mike by the next meeting.

Jeremy B. – Discussed with John T. last week on not having PAC meeting or not as many for the year 2010.

9. NEXT MEETING – TBD

10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:15 pm