



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes

Tuesday, April 1st, 2014
5pm, Town of High Level office, Room 110

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)
Michael Morgan (Town of High Level)
Tim Heemskerk (Northern Lights
Forest Education Society)
Melanie Plantinga (Tolko High Level)

Ryan Spooner (Silvacom)
Joe Dolling (Tolko High Level)
Cheryl Ernst (High Level Chamber of
Commerce)
Teresa Griffiths (Flow North Paddling
Co.)

INFORMATION SENT:

Mark Andrews (Cenovus)
Darren Carnell (LRRF)
Wayne Auger (Lubicon Lake Nation)
Harvey Sewpagaham (LRRF)
Lindee Dumas (LRRCN)
Pat Cabezas (N'Deh Ltd. Partnership)
Baptiste Metchooyeah (Dene Tha')

Crystal McAteer (Town of High Level)
Troy Connolly (Tolko HLLD)

Fort Vermilion Heritage Center
Aaron Doepel (LCSM)
Carol Gabriel (Mackenzie County)
Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement
Conroy Sewepagaham (LRRCN)
Paul Catt (Watt Mnt Wanderers)
Keith Badger (Nataskinan
Development)
Kieran Broderick (Beaver First Nation)
Dave Beck (Ainsworth)

INFORMATION SENT, Regrets:

John Thurston (Next Generation)
Boyd Langford (Town of Rainbow
Lake)
George Friesen (Friesen Industries)
Margaret Carroll (High Level Chamber
of Commerce)

Walter Sarapuk (MacKenzie County)
Marilee Cranna Toews (Hungry Bend
Sandhills Society)
Matt Munson (Dene Tha')

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Tim Heemskerk
Seconded by Mike Morgan
Carried

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March 4, 2014)

Moved by Joe Dolling
Seconded by Tim Heemskerk
Carried

- Action Items from March 4, 2014

Jeremy discussed burner decommissioning with Troy Connolly – Mustus Energy has an agreement with Tolko to take our green waste to create energy. They will be building a facility near LaCrete, and the waste would be trucked there. The burner is scheduled to be decommissioned June 2015. Would the Town of High Level use the waste for their bioenergy facility? Mike is a member of the committee, but nothing has been decided. They may take some. Currently there is a great deal of bark which is not being utilized. More than the proposed Town facility would be able to handle.

Facilitator – Jeremy did not contact Carrie Demkiw about returning as PAG facilitator. Jeremy will continue to facilitate the group for now.

Haul hot line – Melanie sent number to John Thurston. The winter haul is nearly complete. Melanie will talk to the Woodlands about reprinting hauling hotline cards for the public.

Tom Hoffman met with the Mackenzie County, and Town of High Level on behalf of Tolko. Jeremy did not follow up with Mackenzie County. It is expected that Tom would have been able to answer any questions that the County had for Tolko.

Tim and Allen have not yet discussed student involvement in the 200 million tree celebration. (Student tree plant).

Reminder – 200 millionth seedling Ceremony will be held June 6th, 2:00 pm at Tolko, ALL PAG members are welcome to attend.

4. AROUND THE TABLE

Mike Morgan – Town of High Level's New CAO – will tour Tolko and meet Bob Evans (new Plant Manager) this week. They are trying to arrange an Ainsworth facility tour as well.

Teresa Griffiths – is particularly interested in Tolko's plans for its green waste. She recently participated in a compost facility work shop. She is qualified to set up and run a composting facility. She would like to know what are the Town of High Level's plans for bioenergy plant and composting? There are many possibilities that could include collecting leaves, grass clippings and other organics from within the Town. Sell compost back to the Town is a possibility. Some green waste from Mill could be utilized.

As a member of the Mackenzie Frontier Tourist Association, Teresa is sensitive to the how we present our region. There is a cutblock very near the highway north of High Level which may be negatively viewed by some area visitors. Perhaps a sign at the site might help people unfamiliar with logging operations better understand what they are seeing. It might list size of cutblock, number of trees harvested, number of trees planted; dates of Harvest and reforestation would be very informative.

Action: Jeremy and Joe will discuss.

Tim Heemskerck – Northern Lights Forest Education Society – is preparing spring science camps. They are planning and fundraising for the Footner Lake walking trail system. On-going trail development, signs and benches are all items. There are approximately 1.2km new trails and 1.2km old trail to repair and maintain.

Joe Dolling – The log haul is almost done. Trucks will haul to satellite yards for approximately ten more days.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. CSA, changes to Standard for Public Involvement

- Review document sent by CSA Working Group (companies certified to the Standard) . Companies wish to make some changes to the CSA Forestry Standard. In recent years the trend has been for companies to move away from the CSA standard towards SFI or FSC.. Companies still using CSA would like to see it become more competitive. Why the shift? Are these other schemes less strict? SFI is less onerous when it comes to documentation. Also there is less mandatory public involvement that is especially appealing in some communities where there is limited interest in participating in a forestry public process . The CSA Standard on the other hand requires greater documentation and there is currently a mandatory public component.. FSC has historically been backed by environmental groups and it is a more stringent standard. Companies choose the FSC standard depending on what market pressures they are experiencing..
- PAG needs to be aware the CSA Working Group is suggesting the removal of the hard requirement to retain a PAG. Although companies with the CSA standard will maintain a PAG the suggested change will remove a mandatory component the proponent does not fully control.
- Suggested changes can be sent to CSA for input. (see last page).
- The PAG requirement can be difficult to demonstrate to an Auditor. An "effective" PAG is difficult to measure. How many meetings? How many attendees? Has the public had the chance to comment on the company's

activities? Much of the material reviewed is quite academic and it can be difficult to keep people engaged.

5.2. Indicators and Targets for Detailed Forest Management Plan (Silvacom)

The Government Planning standard based on the CSA standard requires review of indicators and targets for the Forest Management Plan. Ryan continues to lead the presentation of the VOIT's (Values, Objective, Indicators, Targets) for the 2016 FMP. See attached Summary Table and VOIT's document. Silvacom and Jeremy have added pictures, maps and charts to the VOIT Description. Thank you again Margaret Carroll for the suggestion.

- 1.1.2.3a Retain Stand Level Structure – leaving structure in cutblocks after logging operations. This could be clumps of trees or individual stems. Teresa asks what is “residual material”? Piles? It could mean buffer, it could be area that does not contain merchantable timber. Do machines operated in these areas which are being retained? No, the areas are not disturbed.
- 1.1.2.3b Downed woody debris – Some is left as habitat, allowed to decompose. Type of debris varies based on type of harvesting operation, type of stand.
- 1.1.2.2 Maintain integrity of sensitive sites – Eg. Mineral licks, game trails, breeding site – will be tracked, maintained as per OGR.
- 1.1.2.3 Maintain Aquatic Biodiversity by minimizing impact of water crossings. Most are frozen crossings – properly installed and removed.
- 1.2.1.1. Maintain habitat for identified high value species. Key species are identified as representative for each FMA. Which species are critical/key to High Level forest will be determined during the planning process.
- 1.3.1.1 Genetic Diversity – Retain wild forest populations on site. More discussion with SRD to determine target. Cones/seeds are collected during exceptional cone years. All required species, SW, SB, PJ.
- 1.3.1 2. Off- site conservation – seed stored in banks or special plantations. After you harvest seed from an area can the seedlings be planted anywhere? No, they must be planted in the seed zone they came from. Unless you request permission to move the seedlings to an adjacent zone.
- 1.4.1.1 Protected Areas – Ongoing consultation with relevant protected areas agencies will determine target for this objective.
- 2.1.1.1a Meet reforestation targets on all harvested areas. Teresa asks when are blocks planted? Within 2 years of harvest they are required to be planted. They are usually planted within one year of harvest. Number of trees planted annually is increasing, because the area harvested is increasing. There is a back log of approximately 7 million trees from last year. Of the areas currently being cut is there any which was been reforested? No it is all the area being logged in the FMA is natural growth.
- 2.1.1.1b Reforestation targets – cumulative % of reforested areas that meet reforestation target.
- 2.1.2.1 Limit conversion of productive forest landbase to other uses. - working on VOIT.
- 2.1.2.2 Recognize lands affected by insects, disease or natural calamities – Report area impacted by natural calamities. Eg. Spruce Budworm Management Plan.
- 2.1.3.1 Control non-native plant species (weeds) Noxious Weed program will be reviewed and a plan created. Contractors are responsible for cleaning equipment to prevent spread of weeds. Care is taken and warnings are given if operating in areas known to have weeds.

- 3.1.1.1 Minimize impact of roading and bared areas in forest operations. Limit roading in cutblocks to limit rutting. Teresa asks about roads to the cutblocks? The companies use existing cutlines/seismic lines to access the operating areas. Trees are planted as they leave the area.
- 3.1.1 Minimize soil erosion – seed disturbed soils with native grasses.

5.3. Update on progress with DFMP

Silvacom are working on updating Landbase information, Landscape assessment, and Growth and Yield curves. Jeremy and Silvacom will continue to meet with and discuss progress with Government. ESRD is having staffing shortages however this is not slowing down progress with plan.

5.4. Annual GDP/Herbicide Plan open house (May)

As part of the Public Involvement progress Tolko and the companies will have an open house in High Level to showcase the GDP (General Development Plan) and the Herbicide Plan. The GDP is a basic, 5 year overview plan. To help achieve desired reforestation Tolko employs an aerial herbicide spraying program. Both require public and First Nations Consultation. The open house will be held during the first two weeks of May likely at the Town of High Level office. Cheryl Ernst suggests that the High Level and District Chamber of Commerce will host it's annual Trade Show on May 9th and 10th. There would be considerably more exposure there. Jeremy will consider if he wants to have a booth there instead or explore both options.

6. CLIPPING SERVICE

Service will be available next meeting.

7. NEXT MEETING – May 6, 2014

8. ADJOURNMENT - 7:29pm