



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 31, 2015
5pm, Town of High Level office, Room 110

PRESENT:

Tim Gauthier (CSA Coordinator)	Walter Sarapuk (MacKenzie County)
Margaret Carroll (High Level & District Chamber of Commerce)	Boyd Langford (Town of Rainbow Lake)
Dan Coombs (ESRD)	George Friesen (Member of Public)
Aaron Doepel (LCSM)	Matt Marcone (The Echo)
Vil Driedger (Driedger Construction)	John Thurston (Member of Public)
David Driedger (Forest Trotter)	John MacLellan (Tolko HLLD)
Gail Tucker (ESRD)	Melanie Plantinga (Tolko HLLD)

Tim Heemskerk (Northern Lights Forest Education Society) (by Phone)

INFORMATION SENT:

Fort Vermilion Heritage Center	Mark Andrews (Cenovus)
Carol Gabriel (Mackenzie County)	Harvey Sewpagaham (LRRCN)
Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement	Lindee Dumas (LRRCN)
Conroy Sewepagaham (LRRCN)	Pat Cabezas (N'Deh Ltd. Partnership)
Keith Badger (Netaskinan Development)	Mike Morgan (Town of High Level)
Crystal McAteer (Town of High Level)	Kieran Broderick (Beaver First Nation)
Baptiste Metchooyeah (Dene Tha')	Mike Cardinal (Tallcree First Nation)
Connie Martel (Dene Tha')	Fred Radersma (Ainsworth)
Wayne Auger (Lubicon Lake Nation)	Timberbound Construction
Exact Harvesting	Treetech

INFORMATION SENT, REGRETS:

Dave Beck (Ainsworth)	Marilee Cranna Toews (Hungry Bend Sandhills Society)
Cheryl Ernst (High Level & District Chamber of Commerce)	

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PRESENTATION TO GAIL TUCKER

2.1. John Thurston shared his appreciation for Gail Tucker's involvement in the PAC and PAG groups. Gail was an excellent resource for John when he first became involved with the PAC. Thank you Gail for your many contributions to conservation during your time in High Level.

- John presented Gail with an engraved picture from Bear Necessities on behalf of the High Level Forests Public Advisory Group. Gail expressed her appreciation for the gift. Gail shared how much she has enjoyed the people from the High Level Region. Best of luck Gail in all your future endeavors.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 "Blue Dot Program"

Tim Gauthier provided some background information about the program and the previous discussion. Aaron Doepel shared his recent discussions about the blue dot program. The program has not been maintained in recent years. Many signs have been knocked down or destroyed; they may not be where they are needed any longer. Aaron has spoken with Ken Peters from the School Division. Ken has retrieved as many signs as possible and wishes to restart the program. The school division asks that the logging companies provide the materials for the program. There is currently a need for 60 "dots" and 115 sign posts. Aaron will find a company to produce the materials and the costs will be shared. Someone may contact the mills other than LaCrete Sawmills, Tolko and Ainsworth and see if they wish to commit to this project.

Walter Sarapuk comments that the signs can be a nuisance for the people who mow the ditches. Tim remarks that at one time the signs were removed after the log haul and replaced each fall. They were also "GPSed" to track locations. John Thurston remembers that when the program was first implemented there was some publicity to educate the public about the purpose of the signs. This will be considered.

Action Item – Aaron Doepel will get the needed materials

Action Item – The harvesting supervisors will be informed so that the truckers can be educated about the blue dot program.

3.2 Watt Mountain Trail Identification

The trail is not currently entered into the landbase as "do not harvest". John Thurston offers to ensure that the trail is brush cut. John will then meet with the Tolko Woodlands Planning Department and possibly

AESRD. The location of the trail will be recorded so that operations can avoid it in the future.

3.3 High Level Woodlands Website Update

Melanie Plantinga has begun bringing the webpage up to date. Contact information and meeting dates have been edited. Tim Heemskerk mentions that the GDP tab doesn't include Plans after 2012. Also the latest annual performance report is from the 2011/2012 operating year. Melanie will check on those items and will report back at the next regular meeting on May 26th.

5. ROUND TABLE:

Tim Heemskerk – Tim Gauthier provided copies of an e-mail sent by Tim Heemskerk to Tim Gauthier regarding Tim H's concerns about the Terms of Reference and suggestions for possible future agenda items.

Tim H confirms that he is willing to table the future agenda items for the May 26th PAG meeting. Tim G mentions that many of these items will be an important part of the regular DFMP development and approval process.

Tim G asks if the Term of Reference (TOR) that Tim H mentioned those of the PAG or those of the DFMP process. Tim H was referring to the TOR for the PAG.

Tim G explains that he wishes to assign the TOR as "homework" to the PAG members. Each person shall receive a copy of the TOR which now includes some changes Tolko wishes to make. Everyone is asked to review the document and comment on these changes. Tim G also asks the members if the TOR should be guided by the CSA standard or aligned with DFMP needs. Boyd Langford asks how frequently TOR are usually reviewed, remembering that it can be a lengthy process. Tim G responds that he intends to keep this review as quick as possible.

Dan Coombs – has there been or will there be discussion about the new Operating Ground Rules (OGR)? Tim G replies that there has not yet been discussion with the PAG, but that it sounds like a good suggestion. Dan explains a little about what the OGR are. Tim G adds that there are several reasons to renegotiate the OGR. One of biggest is to ensure that the OGR and DFMP complement and do not contradict each other. Tim G suggests that the OGR be discussed by the PAG near the end of the negotiation process. He suggests possibly January 2016.

John Thurston

- Will the guest speaker (Tom Nudds) be someone accessible to the general public or will it be a very technical speech? Tim G expects that it will be easily understood. Tom will discuss Caribou, landbase and the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement. John T asks if the meeting could be opened to the general public. He is part of the Mackenzie Regional Tourist Association and they may be able to help secure a venue and plan this event. David suggests that some of the Forest Trotter employees may be very interested in this topic. Tim G suggests that Melanie plan the event, with a limit of 50 participants. Melanie will set a firm deadline for responding to the invitation and may contact the Tourism association about possible venues. Dan asks if there is any recommended "prereading". Tim G will discuss with Tom.

- John T has received comments/concerns from people travelling near the junction of Highways 58 and 88 near Jean D'or. There has been a great deal of log truck traffic at the corner near the truck pull out there. Could this pull out be relocated? The hauling season is nearly done and Tolko doesn't have plans to operate in that area next season. The traffic should return to normal and stay quieter for the next year or more. Tim G will report back in May.
- John T has heard concerns from the public about the "hog" pile near the Tolko sawmill. They are noticing that the pile is growing and are concerned that as the weather warms up the pile may become a fire hazard. Tim G will check with the mill and will report back to the PAG in May.
- John T shares the results of the 2015 Forest Expos which were held in Manning, LaCrete and Tolko. The Forest Expos were planned to introduce regional youth to the job opportunities in the Forest Industry. There have been mill tours organized in the Tolko and LaCrete Sawmills plants. There may be another at Ainsworth for students interested in Power Engineering. There is a Woodlands Trip being planned with Mike Morgan at Tolko for students interested in a Forestry job. AESRD may open the fire base for a tour in May or June for youth interested in firefighting. AESRD has also started running the Junior Forest Wardens program. This program promotes many positive values as well as forest industry employment. Dan Coombs is involved and states that there is space available for more young people who want to participate. Melanie will e-mail the handout John provided about the "Grow Our Own" project to the PAG members.

Margaret Carrol – High Level and District Chamber of Commerce Trade Show, May 8th&9th.

John MacLellan – There was a large collection of Pine Cones in northern Alberta this winter.

Walter Sarapuk

- Thank you Gail.
- There has been an issue brought to Walter's attention regarding debris being left where it doesn't belong. First some of the fuel distributors are having trouble with chip/shaving/hog trucks brushing lumber by-products off near their pumps. Are there places where the truckers can safely remove this debris at the lumber yard? Also when cleaning ditches there are often a lot of branches fallen which have fallen off trucks. Can more effort please be made to remove them from trucks before they go onto the highways? Someone will investigate and report back to the PAG in May.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Review Internal Audit Findings & Corrective Actions

- Hilary Wait is Tolko Alberta Woodlands Certification Coordinator. She prepared a slide show outlining the recent internal CSA audit findings, recommendations and action plans. See HLFPAAG CSA Audit Report.

Audit Recommendation – post parts of EMS training in camp so that operators have more exposure to key information. (For example pictures of the species at risk.) Since so many people

(young people) have smart phones and use them to search for thing on the internet it may be helpful to have PDF copies of the slides available online. Can some information be available on the camp computers for review? Tim G thanks the members for their suggestions. These will be considered prior to the next logging season.

6.2. Update on Annual Report

- Hilary Wait is working on the preparation of the 2013 and 2014 annual reports. Those will be presented to the HLFAG as soon as possible. They will also be posted to the website.

6.3. Terms of Reference Review (DFMP/CSA?)

- Review for discussion at May 26th HLFAG meeting.

7. CLIPPING SERVICE

8. NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, April 28th, 2015 – Guest Speaker Tom Nudds

9. ADJOURNMENT - 7:15pm