



# ***HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

## **MINUTES**

*Thursday, September 24, 2015*  
5pm, High Level Seniors Center

### **PRESENT:**

Tim Gauthier (Tolko)	John Thurston (Member of Public)
Christine Malhmann (GoA)	Daniel Walton (NPTC)
Aaron Doepel (LCSM)	Michael Morgan (Town of High Level)
Sugu Thuraisamy (LRRF)	Melanie Plantinga (Tolko)
John MacLellan (Tolko)	Matt Marcone (The MacKenzie Report)
Adam Marshall (Silvacom)	Walter Sarapuk (MacKenzie County)

### **INFORMATION SENT:**

Fort Vermilion Heritage Center	Dan Coombs (GoA)
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)	Margaret Carroll (High Level & District Chamber of Commerce)
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 (Norbord)
Wayne Auger (Lubicon Lake Nation)	Timberbound Construction
Exact Harvesting	Treetech
Cheryl Ernst (High Level & District Chamber of Commerce)	Marilee Cranna Toews (Hungry Bend Sandhills Society)
Boyd Langford (Town of Rainbow Lake)	Beverly Noskiye (Peerless Trout First Nation)
David Driedger (FTC)	Jon McQuinn (LRRF)
Paul Ebert (GoA)	Dave Beck (Norbord)
Vil Driedger (Driedger Construction)	Allan Spellram (Northern Lights Forest Education Society)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**  
**5:35PM**

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

2.1. John Thurston asked that we add a concern from the Watt Mountain Wanderers to new business.

- Walter Sarapuk moves that the amended agenda be accepted.  
Aaron Doepel Seconds

**3. Approval of Minutes (June 16, 2015)**

- Aaron Doepel Moves.

3.1 “Blue Dot Program” – Aaron Doepel update

- The signs will be set up next week. The School Division wanted to confirm the bus stops first. The program will be advertised in the paper, the School Division will take care of this. Aaron suggests that the companies advertise the program shortly before the winter haul.
- There are some old signs posted still. Will they be removed? Yes, the plan is to reestablish program from scratch. The signs are a reminder to the buses to activate their flashers well before the bus stops to allow loaded trucks adequate time to brake.
- Safety on the haul roads is a concern to the Little Red River Cree Nation. Especially near their communities.
- Discuss program at next meeting. What about other truckers such as tanker trucks? How can they be informed? Radio advertising could help. The log haul truckers will be reminded at the winter haul start up meetings. Perhaps signs could be posted at the edges of MacKenzie County. Alberta Transportation would have to give their permission. This may take time. If it is stressed that this is to address a safety issue that may speed the process. Perhaps bill boards or signs closer to the communities where the “blue dots” are located? Or at road side turn outs?
- ACTION ITEM –Aaron & Melanie will follow up. They will find out the cost of bill boards and signs, discuss wording and start the process with Alberta Transportation.
- ACTION ITEM – The companies will discuss the “Blue Dot” program during their start up meetings. The companies will advertise the program shortly before the beginning of the winter haul.

3.2 Watt Mountain Trail Identification – John Thurston

- Mike Morgan and John Thurston have met and identified the approximate trail location. John Thurston has had the trail cleared. Mike Morgan will GPS the trail and have it added to the “landuse layer”. It will then show up while harvest planning and the companies can be mindful of it. John appreciates help from Tolko to identify and preserve this. Tim remembers that there was a rare plant species on the mountain. It may be useful to find out what that was. During operations Mike Morgan recalled that there was a species identified as being rare and the layout people were asked to GPS the plant locations. John MacLellan used the trail while it was being cleared and has some terrific photos if anyone is interested.

- ACTION ITEM - Mike will ask where Trevor got the information about the rare plant species.
  - ACTION ITEM – John Thurston will have barriers put in place to keep ATV's off the trail.
- 3.3 Woody Debris at Cardlock – John Thurston took photographs at the Coop Cardlock.
- ACTION ITEM - Wayne Noseworthy would like someone from Tolko to contact him.
  - ACTION ITEM – During trucker orientation – remind truckers to clean up in yard, before fueling. Might a sign at scalehouse be helpful?

#### **4. ROUND TABLE:**

**John Thurston** – CSA public consultation, VOIT review can be arduous at times. Could the process be made smoother by sending information packages for review before meetings? John T & Tim suggest that information be e-mailed to PAC members so that when they arrive at meetings they are better prepared to comment on or question the material. The members are also invited to respond to the information through e-mails & phone calls between meetings. Many of the VOITs are pretty obvious “best practices”. This will enable more time to be spent on items of concern. There are no objections to this suggestion. The High Level Forests Public Advisory Committee will consult using e-mail more.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **5.1. Silvacom DFMP 2016 Presentation**

- VOIT 4.1.3.2 – “Block retention patches”. This target was not achieved, approximately 1% off. What is the reason for in block retention? There will be a change in strategy to meet this target. Retention is being redefined to account for some current practices. Some stream buffers and proximal retention are going to be tracked more. Technology was not available to track proximal retention, or buffers on streams. Credit for larger buffers on stream. More informed decisions at block level will help the companies meet this target.
- VOIT 4.1.6.3 Joint FMA considerations. Different mills would access the same area at different time. This VOIT is not going to be carried forward. Now that Norbord is operating again, should this VOIT carry forward? Doesn't this VOIT ensure that the companies will work together? There is now a different strategy for mixed wood stands The plan outlined in this VOIT is only effective if all users take their full Annual Allowable Cut (AAC). Norbord has not/does not take their AAC.
- Silvacom & Tim will prepare a summary to send out to all PAC members along with the full VOITs. There are still some targets to be clarified but the package will give members an idea of the plan.

##### **5.2. CSA updates**

- Melanie shared a presentation summarizing the proposed changes to the CSA Z809 standard. This is open to public review until October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Melanie will e-mail the summary document and draft review web page address to all HLFAC members. If HLFAC

members prefer they are welcome to submit their questions or concerns to Melanie Plantinga or Hilary Wait.

### **5.3. Watt Mountain Wanderers**

- Watt Mountain Wanderers have many kilometers of trail. They are concerned because they were not notified prior to harvesting activity on Watt Mountain last winter. Their signs were knocked over during operations. They don't have a disposition, they don't have access agreements with the disposition holders. If someone is injured while using the trails the disposition holder could be liable. They have a legal obligation to have agreements with disposition holders giving them permission to use the dispositions. A land search prior to harvest is done to identify users. When this was done the Watt Mountain Wanderers didn't show up. The Tolko supervisor tried to contact the club anyway but the person he located was not the current president and he was unable to find the current president.
- John Thurston will meet with the Watt Mountain Wanderers and the LaCrete Polar Cats. Packages have been sent out to inform them where harvesting is planned this winter. They are welcome to contact the companies with questions.
- ACTION ITEM – The HLFAC will invite the Government of Alberta to send a representative to the next meeting. This person will be asked to speak about land use by recreational users. Christine Mahlmann has someone specific in mind and will invite them.

**6. CLIPPING SERVICE** – The HLFAC will no longer print articles for distribution at the meetings. We will now E-mail links to members of items of interest.

**7. NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 5PM

**8. ADJOURNMENT** - 7:30pm