



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

## **MINUTES**

*Tuesday, November 24, 2015*  
5pm, Town of High Level Office RM 110

### **PRESENT:**

Tim Gauthier (Tolko)	John Thurston (Member of Public)
Cheryl Ernst (High Level & District Chamber of Commerce)	Boyd Langford (Town of Rainbow Lake)
Aaron Doepel (LCSM)	Melanie Plantinga (Tolko)
Barry Toker (Watt Mountain Wanderers)	Matt Marcone (The MacKenzie Report)
Paul Ebert (E&P)	Allen Plantinga (Tolko)
Trevor Lafreniere (Tolko)	Walter Sarapuk (MacKenzie County)
Ian Whitby (Presenter)	

### **INFORMATION SENT:**

Fort Vermilion Heritage Center	Christine Malhmann (E&P)
Carol Gabriel (Mackenzie County)	Harvey Sewpagaham (LRRCN)
Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement	Lindee Dumas (LRRCN)
Conroy Sewpagaham (LRRCN)	Bernie Doerksen (LaCrete Polar Cats)
Keith Badger (Netaskinan Development)	Beverly Noskiye (Peerless Trout First Nation)
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
Margaret Carroll (High Level & District Chamber of Commerce)	Marilee Cranna Toews (Hungry Bend Sandhills Society)
Taylor Andersen (Norbord)	Jon McQuinn (LRRF)
Dave Beck (Norbord)	Sugu Thuraisamy (LRRF)
Claude Duval (Watt Mnt Wanderers)	Daniel Walton (NPTC)
Brent Holick (LaCrete Polar Cats)	Michael Morgan (Town of High Level)

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

5:34

**Tim Gauthier** – There will be a change to the PAC meeting structure. Allen Plantinga (Harvesting Superintendent, Tolko) will participate in all meetings.

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

### 2.1. Amendments to Agenda

- Co-op gas cardlock.

## 3. Approval of Minutes (September 21<sup>st</sup>, )

John Thurston Moves acceptance of Minutes, Walter Sarapuk seconds motion.

### 3.1 “Blue Dot Program” – Aaron Doepel update

- Alberta Transportation has shown a willingness to work with the companies on this project, so long as the signs can be made to fit their requirements. Aaron brings forward one of their suggestions for signage. It would mean another investment from the companies to produce the signs. Alberta Transportation might help with sign maintenance.
  - ACTION ITEM – Allen will contact Norbord and inform them of the change in plans.
  - ACTION ITEM – The companies will discuss internally & collectively and decide if they still want to go proceed with the program. They will try to have a response prepared for the December 15<sup>th</sup> HLFAC Meeting.
  - ACTION ITEM – When a decision is made we will invite Ken Peters to attend a PAC meeting to discuss how the school division wishes to proceed.

### 3.2 Hauling Concern Phone Line

- Cards have been produced and have begun to be distributed.
  - ACTION ITEM John Thurston volunteers to give them to people in the community, particularly at the schools he visits.
  - ACTION ITEM Aaron Doepel will be passing them out to businesses etc. in the LaCrete Area.
  - ACTION ITEM Melanie will spread them around High Level.
  - ACTION ITEM Melanie will also contact the County of Mackenzie and see if they are willing/able to have them available to the public at the County Office.
  - ACTION ITEM We will also prepare an advertisement for the Echo Pioneer.

Thank you for the suggestions of distribution locations!

### 3.3 Debris at Cardlock

- Tolko has reminded their contractors where and when it is appropriate to clean debris from their trucks.
  - ACTION ITEM – Allen Plantinga will meet with the concerned cardlock manager.

### 3.4 Watt Mountain Wanderers.

- Tolko and the Watt Mountain Wanderers have been meeting to discuss past activities and current plans. In future how and when

would the club prefer to be contacted? The Watt Mountain Wanders meet year round. Plans and maps sent to them in the summer time would be good. Trevor requests that Tolko receive a response (via e-mail or phone) when they receive the plans so that the Planners know that they have the plans. Barry says that this can be done.

#### 4 ROUND TABLE:

**John Thurston** – Why were all the documents printed when they were also e-mailed? Some of the printed documents were not e-mailed to the members before the meeting. The HLFAC will **NO LONGER** print copies of documents for the meetings. Members will print their own if they want a paper copy of something.

**Matt Marcone** - Are there any “Fire Smart” Programs ongoing in the area?

- ACTION ITEM Paul Ebert offers to discuss with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and locate what projects are underway.

**Tim Gauthier** – If enough notice is given would members of the group be interested in visiting active bush operations? Harvesting, Satellite Yard Processing and hauling or tree planting? Is there interest in inviting guest speakers? Yes. With legislative changes being proposed by the Provincial Government it would be useful to hear from an expert on Carbon Storage and Climate Change. There is also interest in learning more about Wetlands.

- ACTION ITEM – Paul Ebert will help Tim Gauthier locate and contact a speaker. Possibly for a presentation in February or March. This may not be possible as these experts may be in high demand right now.
- ACTION ITEM – Paul & Tim will locate an expert on Government Wetlands policies. This topic may be on hold until the expected changes to Government of Alberta policies are rolled out.

#### 5 NEW BUSINESS

##### 5.1 Ian Whitby–Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets (VOITs) and how they link to Operating Ground Rules (OGR)

- See documents
- Ian shared some examples of how the two documents relate and complement each other. The OGR help the supervisor in the field implement and evaluate if the VOITs are being met.
- OGR – What are they? Are they province wide? They are tailored for each area to meet the specific needs/concerns in that area. The companies are measured against the Upper Hay Regional Operating Ground Rules (UHROGR). They are based on a Provincial Template which is modified for the different regions. Does the Government monitor the company’s activities? 30% of all cutblocks have a Forestry Operations Monitoring Program (FOMP) inspection.
- ACTION ITEM – Melanie will forward a link to the online version of the UHROGR to the PAC members if they are interested.
- Many of the VOIT’s have been deemed acceptable by the planning group. The HLFAC and public are invited to review the VOITs. Comments and questions are welcome. If there are areas which require more focus please contact Tim Gauthier or

Adam Marshall. Melanie Plantinga is available to give you contact information or (upon request) forward the latest DRAFT version of the VOITs. VOITs can be added or amended.

**5.2 Trevor Lafreniere – 2016 – 17 Harvesting Plans**

- Trevor displayed a map showing where Tolko expects to be harvesting next year (2016-17 Timber Year). This would not begin until November/December 2016. He also brought a map indicating where lines will be opened for summer ground access. Those lines should be plowed open by March 2016.

**6 NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday, December 15, 2015 5PM High Level Seniors Center. Probable topic Silvacom Presentation Landuse Values on Landscape.

**7 ADJOURNMENT** - 7:50 pm