



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015
5pm, High Level Seniors Center

PRESENT:

Christine Malhmann Agriculture & Forestry	Terry Jessiman Agriculture & Forestry
Cheryl Ernst (High Level & District Chamber of Commerce)	John Thurston (Member of Public)
Allen Plantinga (Tolko)	Boyd Langford (Town of Rainbow Lake)
Walter Sarapuk (MacKenzie County)	Melanie Plantinga (Tolko)
	Matt Marcone (The MacKenzie Report)
Taylor Andersen (Norbord)	Michael Morgan (Town of High Level)

INFORMATION SENT:

Fort Vermilion Heritage Center	Dan Coombs (Agriculture & Forestry)
Carol Gabriel (Mackenzie County)	Harvey Sewpagaham (LRRCN)
Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement	Lindee Dumas (LRRCN)
Conroy Sewepagaham (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)
Dave Beck (Norbord)	Jon McQuinn (LRRF)
Claude Duval (Watt Mnt Wanderers)	Sugu Thuraismy (LRRF)
Brent Holick (LaCrete Polar Cats)	Tim Gauthier (Tolko)
Aaron Doepel (LCSM)	Paul Ebert (Agriculture & Forestry)
Barry Toker (Watt Mountain Wanderers)	Tristina Macek (N'Deh Ltd. Partnership)

1. CALL TO ORDER 5:43

Welcome & Introductions

Agenda – Species at Risk have been removed until the list can be double checked.

2. Action Items from November 24th Meeting

“Blue Dot Program” – Allen Plantinga update

Time has not allowed for discussion about the “Blue Dot” program amongst the companies. The below will be carried forward.

- 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.
- 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.

Hauling Concern Phone Line

- Cards have been produced and have begun to be distributed.
- ACTION ITEM Melanie will spread them around High Level. Some places have not yet been visited.
- ACTION ITEM We will also prepare an advertisement for the Echo Pioneer.
- ACTION ITEM: Melanie will bring cards to upcoming meetings to replenish the supply that John Thurston depletes. Terry Jessiman also took some cards for distribution.

The cards have sparked some conversation about trucking. One of the biggest concerns for people has been drivers talking on their phones while driving. Please call with concerns. Instead of Facebook posts. Have trucks been pulled for poor driving? There is a potential with the technology which has been/is being installed in the trucks. There is real time information and tracking which allow some assurance that you are warning the correct person. The speed zones have been entered and a message is triggered to the contractors if speed limits are being exceeded.

Debris at Cardlock

- Allen has met with the concerned business manager.

“Fire Smart” program

- A program has recently been completed in Zama. Rainbow Lake will be doing some work. Rainbow Lake applied for and received some FRIAA funds for their project.
- Fox Lake has received some Federal Funding for a program in their community.
- Forest Education Society has had a “Fire Smart” demonstration area set up at the Footner Lake Trails. Signs will be created explaining the program.
- MacKenzie County has 3 projects.
- Christine Mahlmann & Terry Jessiman will help to locate some one able and willing to give a presentation about the “Fire Smart” program.

3 ROUND TABLE:

Walter Sarapuk – Please remind the truckers to be courteous. He witnessed an instance where a truck was following, too closely, a small vehicle which was driving cautiously. The traffic was too heavy to allow the truck to pass. And conditions didn't allow the small vehicle to speed up.

John Thurston – Has heard that the burner has been converted for storage. Has there been a news article or announcement about that? Allen responds that to the best of his knowledge this is a recent development. The “hog” fuel is being sieved to remove sawdust which is then saved in the burner and sent to LCSM for the pellet plant. Other outlets for “Hog” fuel are being sought as more hog is being produced than was budgeted for.

Terry Jessiman – what is happening with the trucks going north of High Level. “Hog” fuel is being stored on a private piece of land. As far as Allen knows the plan is to dispose of it more permanently. Not just store it on the land.

Mike Morgan – A concern has been brought from the Town of High Level. Some trucks are parking along 97th Street and plugging into the planters that are located there. This will be forwarded to the contractors.

Boyd Langford – What happened to the harvested deciduous trees which were located on land that was sold by the crown. It is likely that they were burned as they could not be utilized for OSB by Norbord.

4 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Public Consultation Research

- John Thurston has completed a survey for a researcher who is interested in studying how the public consultation process works for Forestry Activities. Are members of the HLFAC willing to release their information to this researcher? Melanie sends a sign up sheet to be filled in. Melanie will contact the researcher and send the e-mail addresses collected. Will we be able to see the results of the research? Perhaps, sometimes it has been shared with John, but some researchers don't.
- At one time there was a number of PAG/PAC groups who occasionally shared information. Are there other groups meeting in the province? Could we contact them? Melanie will investigate.

4.2 Allen Plantinga 2015 -16 Harvesting & Hauling

- Tolko started hauling timber on Monday, December 14th. Things have started slowly due to mild weather. It is expected that approximately 300 trucks will be hauling from 13 mile road each day this winter. There may be some wood brought from Little Red River Forestry's Quota area east of High Level.
- The satellite yards are currently empty. Some tops which DMI may utilize are still there. Approximately 480,000 cubic meters should be stored in the Zama yard. The yard west of the Chinchaga River bridge will also be used this winter.
- Are the logs protected from fire? The company insures them. The Government is primarily responsible for protecting them. However the conditions this fire season were so dry that the government was less involved with yard protection than usual. Protection of people is a higher priority. The companies had people in the yards observing and protecting from fire.

- With the lower than usual water table are the companies able to produce snow for road construction? They are blowing and hauling snow. For the past few years the companies have been obligated to request permission to use water from creeks, ponds etc. Some of these requests were denied this year and plans changed to compensate. There is usually little trouble as the snow and ice will melt and run back into the watershed in the spring time.
- How much volume will be harvested this year? Tolko estimates that 1.5million cubic meters of conifer will be harvested for the sawmill. Norbord will take some incidental. What happens to the deciduous Norbord does not use? Some of the incidental volume is left standing, some is piled and some is spread over the cutblock.
- Is there interest in a field trip to view the harvesting activities? Most people have seen harvesting operations. Perhaps an invitation could be extended to High School students who are interested in Forestry Occupations.

5 **NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday, January 19th, 2016 (2016 DFMP)

6 **ADJOURNMENT** - 7:00 pm