



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 27th, 2015
5pm, Town of High Level office, Room 110

PRESENT:

Tim Gauthier (CSA Coordinator)
Cheryl Ernst (High Level & District
Chamber of Commerce)
Christine Mahlmann (ESRD)
Jennifer Lealand (The Echo)
Tim Heemskerk (Northern Lights
Forest Education Society)
Dave Beck (Ainsworth)
Dean Lambertson (Tolko HLLD)
Melanie Plantinga (Tolko HLLD)

Mike Morgan (Town of High Level)
Boyd Langford (Town of Rainbow
Lake)
Allen Plantinga (Tolko HLLD)
Matt Marcone (The Echo)
John Thurston (Member of Public)

John MacLellan (Tolko HLLD)
Adam Marshall (Silvacom)

INFORMATION SENT:

Fort Vermilion Heritage Center
Aaron Dupel (LCSM)
Carol Gabriel (Mackenzie County)
Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement
Conroy Sewepagaham (LRRCN)
Keith Badger (Netaskinan
Development)
Crystal McAteer (Town of High Level)
Baptiste Metchooyeah (Dene Tha')
Connie Martel (Dene Tha')
Noel Roberts (Ainsworth)

Mark Andrews (Cenovus)
Wayne Auger (Lubicon Lake Nation)
Harvey Sewpagaham (LRRCN)
Lindee Dumas (LRRCN)
Pat Cabezas (N'Deh Ltd. Partnership)

Kieran Broderick (Beaver First Nation)
Mike Cardinal (Tallcree First Nation)
Fred Radersma (Ainsworth)

INFORMATION SENT, REGRETS:

Walter Sarapuk (MacKenzie County)
Margaret Carroll (High Level & District
Chamber of Commerce)
Paul Ebert (ESRD)

George Friesen (Member of Public)
Marilee Cranna Toews (Hungry Bend
Sandhills Society)

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1. Meeting called to order 5:39pm
- 1.2. Introductions

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Tim Heemskerk
Seconded by Christine Mahlmann

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Boyd Langford
Seconded by John Thurston

3.1 Hauling Hotline cards

Melanie forgot to bring the few that are still available. She will mail them to interested members. John Thurston brought some of his old cards. He gave each member a card to see. They are not greatly changed from the current card. Melanie is going to order more upon receipt of the Ainsworth logo.

General Trucking Discussion:

John Thurston asks if the companies use Tach cards or Truck based GPS? Tolko uses Tach cards to record speed. There currently are no trucks giving the companies access to GPS information about their locations.

John Thurston has received several phone calls from motorists driving cautiously due to icy conditions. They have experienced trucks coming up behind them, flashing their lights trying to encourage the drivers to speed up or move aside. John has suggested they call Tolko to report concerns. The companies ask that he continue to encourage motorists to call the hotline number. Mike comments that with information about time and location of incident the companies can often find and reprimand the driver in question.

Boyd Langford comments that the number of logs he sees on the side of the road between Rainbow Lake and High Level has greatly decreased since the switch to cut to length by Tolko. In fact he does not recall seeing any this winter.

John Thurston asks how long trucks will be hauling from east of High Level. Allen responds that Tolko will haul until the end of March 2015. There is no summer hauling from that direction to Tolko planned. There are Tolko Satellite yards located north and west of High Level. There will likely be hauling from there starting mid-June 2015.

Allen states that there are approximately 100 loads travelling from west of High Level each day. John Thurston asks if the old "Footner" Haul road which ran parallel to highway 58 west could or would be reopened. The companies currently have no plans to do this.

4. Round Table:

John MacLellan – Tolko High Level Lumber Division is planning to plant 19 million trees in the Forest Management Agreement Area this year.

Dave Beck – Has been informed that there is or was a blue dot program in the area. There may be in LaCrete. The program is inactive north and east of High

Level. The “blue dot program” saw the placement of blue dots along the highway before school bus stops. The companies initiated this because of the increase in truck traffic during the short hauling season. The companies will discuss restarting this program with the Fort Vermilion School Division and other interested parties.

Boyd Langford – Rainbow Lake is experiencing less oil field activity. There has been an increase in logging traffic. Boyd has not heard any complaints about the logging traffic in Rainbow Lake.

REDI – there is going to be a census of the “shadow population” in the region. This would count the people who stay in camps or live long term in hotels.

Tim Heemskerck – Is there a VOITs summary package available? At the September meeting the VOITs still had items to be filled in - X & Ys which need to be replaced by values. Adam states that it is coming. There are still items to be discussed amongst the companies and with the government.

Matt Marccone – In the minutes from the previous meeting it states that 3 trees are planted for each tree harvested. Is that a company mandate? Or is it a government regulation? John explains that it is practice meant to insure that enough survive to be surveyed at the proper time.

The minutes also mention a longer season. Allen replies that the hauling season is longer than it used to be. The harvest season is still from freeze in until spring. There are about 500 loads of trees leaving cutblocks each day. Around 250 go to Tolko, and 250 go to the satellite yards.

Cheryl Ernst – The High Level and District Spirit of the North Trade Show is scheduled for May 8th & 9th. Please register if interested.

Allen Plantinga – Harvesting is well under way. He expects a mid-march wrap up.

Christine Malhmann – The minutes say that the VOITs were discussed last time. Is the discussion finished? Tim Gauthier responds that they are not done. There needs to be a comparison between the 2003 DFMP and the new VOITs.

Mike Morgan – The Town of High Level Council is reassessing the speed limits on the outskirts of town. The size of the 70 km/hr speed zones may be increased and the 50km/hr decreased. Boyd asks if Alberta Transportation has made any progress deciding on the highway 58 reroute. Mike replies not yet.

John Thurston – Heard a rumor that Tolko is logging on Watt Mountain, on the south side of the main road. During 1990’s there was a High Level Outing Club formed. They took over the maintenance of the Hiking/Ski trail over Watt Mountain. At that time there were some unique eco systems and plant species identified. The club has a document from 1996 – it is an agreement with the Land and Forest Service that the area around the trail would not be developed. The trail head is near the microwave tower. Allen responds that there is logging on Watt Mountain this year. John Thurston will show Mike and Allen where the trail is using an aerial photograph he has. They will discuss this after the meeting. Tolko may not have a record of this because they were not FMA holders in 1996. If it is not noted the trail could be recorded as an area of interest and added to the digital maps.

- Forestry Industry Expo – Careers Next Generation is planning an expo similar to one held in Whitecourt recently. This will have a format similar to “speed dating”. Students will take turns speaking one on one with people from different trades for approximately 8 minutes before the bell rings and they move to speak with a different professional. The program has a FRIAA grant

called “growing our own”. This grant is to be used to increase the number of local skilled people in the forest industry. Very few students are aware of the opportunities the forest industry offers. After the Expo interested students will be able to tour mills and possibly do some job shadowing. If interested they may apply for apprenticeships through the RAPP program. The Expo has the support of Manning Diversified Forest Products, and all the small mills in LaCrete. It will be in LaCrete on February 19th. Tolko has also been supportive. There are lots of kids interested. There are some good door prizes being offered which may also help attract people.

5. New Business

5.1. Burner Decommissioning – Dean Lamberton – Tolko High Level Lumber division acting plant manager shared some slides and explained the project. An opportunity to deliver Hog Fuel to DMI came up which helped Tolko HLLD to build the infrastructure needed to convert waste into hog fuel. The chipper is the largest ever built, this will allow Tolko to chip large waste logs which cannot be sawed into lumber. As of December 1st burner has been decommissioned. The burner will be left standing to be used for storage. The Tolko produces more hog than DMI can use. The extra will go to Mustus in LaCrete when they are in operation. Until then Ainsworth is utilizing it. LCSM is also interested in the white wood waste which could be used in their plant. No more burning as of Dec 1st 2014. The burner maybe used for storage.

- Questions?
- Cheryl Ernst commented that she had never toured the Tolko Mill. Dean extended the invitation to visit the site to her and the High Level Chamber. Cheryl will contact Melanie and a visit will be arranged.

5.2. High Level Woodlands Website – the website is very dated and out of date. Should it be revived or should it be discarded? Tim Heemskerck comments that it may be an ESRD requirement as many plans state that the details are available on the website. It is a means for the companies to present plans to the public for comment. Cheryl Ernst comments that almost all organizations have websites to engage the public. Although there has been little traffic lately that may change if it were refreshed and made relevant. Melanie will work with the companies to update the site.

5.3. Terms of Reference – it is essential to review and update the Terms of Reference periodically. The current Terms were approved by the PAG December 2012. Tim Gauthier proposes that each member take copy and review it. Next PAG meeting the Terms of Reference will be discussed. Melanie will try to ensure that members who are not present have a copy. She will mail and e-mail copies to all members who are not present. The Terms of Reference will also be posted to the Website.

5.4. DFMP Presentation – Adam shared a presentation prepared by Sllvacom and presented to ESRD and FMA Holders.

- Inventory – is taken using digital imagery and assessing what can be seen on the ground.

- Merchantability Criteria – John Thurston asks if Tolko harvests Black Spruce. Tolko does but try to avoid stands which appear too wet or sparse. We estimate that 18% of the 2015/16 harvest will be black spruce. Christine asks if the black spruce is separated from the white. No it is not, scale data is used to determine how much of the wood is from black spruce.
- Forest Management Plan Timelines – John Thurston asks if these VOITs are required for CSA/ISO certification or government regulations. A little of both. Current planning standard require VOITs. The standards are based on CSA certification standards. Why is certification important? Certification is important for marketing as a “social license”. It gives the companies access to markets which are closed to uncertified forest products. It does not increase the value of the products, and is not required for all markets. The marks are put on the boards for lumber and on the packaging for OSB. John Thurston comments that reviewing and accepting VOITs can be a daunting task.

6. CLIPPING SERVICE

7. NEXT MEETING – March 31st, 2015

8. ADJOURNMENT 7:30pm