



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 19, 2016
5pm, High Level Seniors Center

PRESENT:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Tim Gauthier (Tolko) | Adam Marshall (Silvacom) |
| Matt Marcone (The MacKenzie Report) | Boyd Langford (Town of Rainbow Lake) |
| Michael Morgan (Town of High Level) | Walter Sarapuk (MacKenzie County) |
| Dan Coombs (Agriculture & Forestry) | John Thurston (Member of Public) |
| David Driedger (Forest Trotter/Exact Harvest) | Barry Toker (Watt Mountain Wanderers) |
| Melanie Plantinga (Tolko) | Taylor Andersen (Norbord) |
| Allen Plantinga (Tolko) | |

INFORMATION SENT:

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| Fort Vermilion Heritage Center | Paul Ebert (Agriculture & Forestry) |
| 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) |
| Dave Beck (Norbord) | Jon McQuinn (LRRF) |
| Claude Duval (Watt Mnt Wanderers) | Sugu Thuraisamy (LRRF) |
| Christine Malhmann Agriculture & Forestry | Tristina Macek (N'Deh Ltd. Partnership) |
| Cheryl Ernst (High Level & District Chamber of Commerce) | Terry Jessiman (Agriculture & Forestry) |

CALL TO ORDER 5:40

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

2. ACTION ITEMS FROM DECEMBER MEETING

“Blue Dot Program” – Allen Plantinga update

- School Division (Ken Peters) has secured an approval from Alberta Transportation to go ahead with the installation of the Blue Stripe Delineator posts. The companies will have to discuss next steps, if any.

Hauling Concern Phone Line

- Cards have been produced and have been distributed. There has been an advertisement in the newspaper.

“Fire Smart” program

- Dan reports that there has been some discussion with Kevin Quick about putting on a “Fire Smart” presentation for the PAC. They are currently discussing timing and will get back to us.
- Fox Lake has received some Federal Funding for a program in their community. This is a trial project. During the DFMP First Nation consultation process Tim has heard some concerns about the potential for fire in First Nation communities. The companies and some first nations are discussing possible joint projects to alleviate the risk. They would like to also discuss with the government.

Information about other PAC/PAG has not been researched as yet.

Operations Field Trip

- Melanie has sent a request to the Tolko Managers asking for support for the suggestion from John Thurston that the companies set up a field trip for community youth who are interested in a forestry career. Tim gives his support. Melanie and John will meet to discuss this proposal after the PAC meeting.

3 Round Table

3.1 Chinchaga Bridge Cut Block

There has been a great deal of conversation about a cutblock on the Chinchaga river bank which is visible from the Chinchaga River bridge, west of High Level. People appear to be concerned that it is too close to the river bank allowing erosion to result.

The government reviewed the plan and approved a variance requested by Tolko to buffer according to the “top of break” and not strictly by the conventional buffer. Allen has walked the edge and the buffer does vary. Dan states that the Government does not feel that there will be a problem with erosion.

John Thurston also walked through the block and it looked good when compared with other blocks he has seen.

Tim has been discussing this block with the Dene Tha’ and will be arranging a visit to the block with nation members after the snow has melted to check on it. Erosion control will be considered if needed.

Some concerns may have arisen because it is in a high use/highly visible location and a feeling that more consultation should have been required.

3.2 Forest Management Plan

Dan asks if the companies will be presenting the Forest Management Plan to the wider public or will the HLFPAC be the only opportunity for review by the general public? Tim expects that there will be multiple

presentations made after submission of the plan. He plans to meet with interested municipal councils. There will also be open houses and advertising in the newspaper.

3.3 Harvesting Operations Update

Dan asks for an update of harvesting operations by Tolko. Tolko is nearly finished felling trees in P19 (near Twin Lakes). That contractor is moving to the Ponton compartment (at the north end of 13mile road). Operations are continuing there with deliveries to Norbord & Tolko. Harvesting west of High Level with full length trees being delivered to a processing yard is continuing. Trees harvested near Zama are also being hauled to an offsite yard. Little Red River Forestry, LaCrete area small mills (Crestview/ Evergreen) & Tolko have also reached a wood purchase agreement. Trees are being harvested west of the Norbord plant for delivery to Tolko & Norbord. And trees harvested in LRRF's quota area are going to LaCrete area smaller sawmills. This collaboration helps all companies reduce trucking times.

In addition to the previous items Norbord is also accepting private wood deliveries.

3.4 Economic outlook for Forestry

John Thurston with the drop in oil & gas revenue and employment; what is the current & future outlook for forestry. Tim outlines some of the current and possible future factors which affect the industry. The low dollar, housing starts in the USA are current factors. Future factors include a new soft wood lumber agreement which will be negotiated in the coming years. Economics are currently stable, though not particularly rosy for both lumber and OSB. Tim suggests that it might be advisable to invite a more knowledgeable speaker to address this question.

4 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 2016 Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP)

Adam gives the final DFMP presentation prior to the January 31st submission date.

With multiple FMA users accessing the resources are the different needs being considered? Yes, the companies provide direction to the planers at Silvacom. Tim Gauthier (Tolko) & Fred Radersma (Norbord) have both been heavily involved.

5 NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, February 23rd, 2016 5pm

5.1 The plan to have Dave West speak about the landscape assessment process has been delayed. We will have him speak to us at a later date. Tim gives a brief update to the Lower Peace landscape assessment process. There may be an attempt to designate some area in the lower peace region as caribou habitat following a push back from the little smoky region to minimize their conservation area. These moves could have an economic impact to the region. Boyd also mentions that some wet land preservation initiatives could adversely affect the economic growth/stability of the region.

6 MEETING ADJOURNED - 7:40