



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

## **MINUTES**

*Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016*  
5pm, High Level Seniors Center

### **PRESENT:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| David Gillespie (Tolko)                         | Adam Marshall (Silvacom)                    |
| Cory Ferguson (Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement) | Keith Beaulieu (North Peace Tribal Council) |
| Trevor Lafreniere (Tolko)                       | Melanie Plantinga (Tolko)                   |
| Mike Morgan (Town of High Level)                | Omar Lazarowich (Member of the Public)      |
| Marissa Green (Norbord)                         | Anne Fleming (Member of the Public)         |
| Taylor Andersen (Norbord)                       | Paul Ebert (Agriculture & Forestry)         |
| Alexandra Sempie (Echo Pioneer)                 |   |
| Ron Pelensky (MacKenzie County)                 |   |
| John Thurston (Hungry Bend Sandhills Society)   | Boyd Langford (Town of Rainbow Lake)        |

### **INFORMATION SENT:**

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| Fort Vermilion Heritage Center                               | Walter Sarapuk (MacKenzie County)                    |
| 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)              |
| Barry Toker (Watt Mountain Wanderers)                        | Terry Jessiman (Agriculture & Forestry)              |
| Aaron Doepel (LaCrete Sawmills)                              | Dan Coombs (Agriculture & Forestry)                  |

## CALL TO ORDER 5:30 pm

### 1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- a. John Thurston has been asked to represent the Hungry Bend Sandhills Society on the committee.

### 2. ACTION ITEMS FROM APRIL MEETING

- a. **Norbord skilled labor hiring.** Taylor spoke to human resources at the mill. They are attempting to fill skilled labor positions locally. However they have had to go outside the community due to lack of qualified applicants. Dave supports Norbord in that Tolko is also having difficulty finding local tradespeople to work as sawfilers, millwrights etc. People hired become members of the community and not short term contractors flown in just for the jobs.
- b. **John Thurston** – people are still asking about the hog that Tolko is producing. Response - once it leaves the Tolko site it is no longer Tolko's property. However Tolko is perceived as being responsible for it so Dave has done some investigation in response to phone calls about it. In one instance Tolko has halted delivery until the person receiving the hog demonstrates improved management of the product. All people receiving the co-product receive the Tolko hog management plan which outlines methods of handling. The purchasers must meet provincial regulations and have road use permits.
  - i. What are some permitted uses for this co-product?  
Landscaping, some area ranchers are spreading it on marginal land, adding organic material planning to make it arable. One receiver has invested in technology to turn the bark into "hog pucks" which can be used much like pellets for heating.
  - ii. Will these piles spontaneously combust? This is highly unlikely. If the management plans are followed; no. To combust the internal pile temperature would have to reach 150degrees Celsius. Compaction and movement of the material release the heat and oxygen and keeps the temperature down. For example a reading taken on May 4<sup>th</sup> was 8 degrees Celsius.
  - iii. What is the price? Hog sales price is a range that can reach \$7/green tonne depending on market conditions.
- c. Update on Tolko operations
  - i. Oilfield downturn has had positive effect on mill employment. Except for some specific skills the mill has no job vacancies. There are some RAP students at the mill, 3 currently. It might be positive to have more but there are not enough journeymen to supervise additional RAP students. There have been some reassignment and shuffling of supervisors recently. All but 2 of the people were local.
  - ii. Questions

1. How many satellite yards does Tolko have? Six are held, 3 are being utilized this year.

### 3. ROUND TABLE

**What is the process of Consultation with the First Nations for the companies?** Trevor was going to touch on it as it part of the General Development Plan (GDP). LaCrete Sawmills, Norbord, and Tolko (the companies) are required to consult with first nations as part of the GDP and Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) processes. This requirement has been delegated by the government of Alberta. With the new government the process now includes Metis nations.

**How does the Letter of Understanding between Tolko and North Peace Tribal Council affect the consultation process?** We are unsure. The PAC could invite someone to speak to the HLFAC about the Letter and what it means.

**How do the companies hire people for their field work?** Tolko has designated John Somerville as the “go to person” for these questions.

**Are the tree planting contractor’s camp locations recorded in event of emergency?** Yes, each contractor must apply for a TFA (Temporary Field Access) with the government before they set up. These have been approved. One of the contractors is starting camped at the Zama Campground.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

#### 4.1 General Development Plan Overview – Trevor Lafreniere

Trevor is willing to forward some or all of the presentation to interested parties.

How many people does Tolko employ? There are 313 people working in the mill. When you include Woodlands there are approximately 350 people. With Tolko harvesting beetle killed pine from P19 (near Keg River) is there a risk of the fires similar to some which occurred in BC mills in past years? Because there is only a small percentage of pine being processed it is unlikely that the combustible particulate will be produced in a high enough volume to cause an issue.

Will the pine be blue? Yes, there will be some discoloration. This is no longer seen by customers as a defect and will not greatly effect grade.

Will LCSM be taking more fire salvage from P21? No, Trevor believes that they have taken all the salvageable timber that they intend to take from that area.

All approved plans are available on the website, [highlevelwoodlands.com](http://highlevelwoodlands.com), at the companies’ offices or at the governments Agriculture and Forestry office for public review.

#### 4.2 Detailed Forest Management Plan Update – Adam Marshall

All parts of the plan have been submitted. First Nations Consultation is not yet complete. There are a few more meetings to be held prior to final submission.

Have the companies gone to the nations with “Traditional Landuse Study Funds”? This is something that Indigenous Relations handles in the case of Oil and Gas companies and not forestry companies. Forestry companies in Alberta are designated as representatives of the government and are not

required to do these studies. A commitment of the companies in the unapproved plan is to support the formation of a “First Nations Forest Advisory Council” to continually dialogue with the nations. There is a plan to get proposed plans shown to Nations earlier during a “preplanning” stage to make them more easily adaptable.

Have “Long Term Impact Agreements” been done? These requirements are not made of forestry only oil and gas. This would mean a policy change and would be requested of the Government.

5. **NEXT MEETING – Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Silviculture Plans and Progress.**
6. **MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:30pm**