



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016
5pm, High Level Seniors Center

PRESENT:

John MacLellan (Tolko)	Melanie Plantinga (Tolko)
Mike Morgan (Town of High Level)	Boyd Langford (Member of Public)
Marissa Green (Norbord)	Terry Batt (Trapper's Association)
Taylor Andersen (Norbord)	Dan Fletcher (Town of Rainbow Lake)
John Thurston (Hungry Bend Sandhills Society)	Dustin House (Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement)
Terry Jessiman (Agriculture & Forestry)	Walter Sarapuk (MacKenzie County)

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 Thuraisamy (LRRF)
Christine Malhmann Agriculture & Forestry	Tristina Macek (N'Deh Ltd. Partnership)
Barry Toker (Watt Mountain Wanderers)	Keith Beaulieu (North Peace Tribal Council)
Aaron Doepel (LaCrete Sawmills)	Adam Marshall (Silvacom)
Paul Ebert (Agriculture & Forestry)	Alexandra Sempie (Echo Pioneer)
Cory Ferguson (Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement)	

CALL TO ORDER 5:45 pm

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

2. ACTION ITEMS FROM MAY MEETING

Letter of Understanding between Tolko & North Peace Tribal Council – John will discuss as part of his Silviculture presentation.

3. ROUND TABLE

- a. Terry Jessiman – Wildfire has been having a quiet summer. With the heat over the last couple of days the fire hazard could quickly rise.
Walter Sarapuk
 - i. Was in Zama recently and noticed bark being discarded near the processing yard up there. Could a box be placed at the wrapper check for the truckers to use for bark southing off their loads?
 - ii. Some county residents have expressed concern about hog leaching chemicals into the soil? The tannic acid in the bark could leach into soil. John has never heard of an issue of pollutants from hog. The concerned citizen mentioned mercury, cadmium. They seem unlikely as there are no chemicals added to the hog. It is simply tree bark.
- b. John Thurston –
 - i. During the Norbord fire water was pumped from multiple sources to fight the fire. If there were a fire started at the Tolko mill site where would they get the water to fight it? There are multiple dugouts in the mill yard. Tolko owns water bladders which would be filled for quick water supply. There is a swamp beside property which would also be used to supply water to fight a fire.
 - ii. There have been trucks stopping at the corner where highway 88 and 58 meet. These trucks have been leaving debris there. These trucks are likely hauling private wood to Norbord. Is there a wrapper check there? Private purchase hauling don't have a mandated wrapper checks.
- c. Terry Batt – Had meetings with the companies planers and expressed concerns about work on and around his trapline. During those conversations they recommended that he join the HLFAC and help improve communications between trappers and the companies. The local trappers meet twice a year and will extend an invitation to the companies to attend that meeting. The hope is that with improved communication, plans can be made which may mitigate trapper concerns.
- d. Dan Fletcher will be attending the HLFAC on behalf of the Town of Rainbow Lake.
- e. John MacLellan – Summit Reforestation – has spent 4 weeks in Zama tree planting in that area. They stayed at the campground in Zama. They will now be moving to a new area.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

Letter Of Understanding (LOU) – has been signed by Tolko and the members of the North Peace Tribal Council. One of the main goals is to develop business relationships. To help facilitate First Nations forestry business opportunities the North Peace Tribal Council will hire a forester (with funding from Tolko). There was recently a meeting in High Level between the LOU signatories, the government of Alberta and several Environmental Non-government Organizations (ENGO). The ENGO heard local concerns about business development and landuse constraints.

Silviculture Plan and Progress

To maintain the company's Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) and meet legal obligations, Tolko and LaCrete Sawmills are required to plant trees. This year there will be approximately 13 million trees planted by Tolko and LaCrete Sawmills. During the next three years they will be planting 20 million trees each year. This will make up for the trees burned during the Chinchaga Fire Complex(2015) and keep up with the annual cut.

The area of operations(Harvesting) in Alberta is dictated by the Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS). This helps the companies meet the multiple goals laid out in the Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP). In the next few years the SHS dictates operations down near Wadlin Lake. This should be the last year using the current SHS. Next year if DFMP is approved will be using a new SHS.

Site preparation or scarification is a Silviculture tool which many trappers and First Nations don't like. It can make access through cutblocks more difficult. Herbicide is a stand tending tool which is very controversial with First Nations. Herbicide helps Tolko and LaCrete Sawmills(LCSM) maintain AAC at current limits. Tolko and LaCrete have made a commitment to work with trappers and first nations groups for the next 5 years to try to resolve issues around site prep & herbicide.

John shared aerial imagery – showing some different types of site prep. Blocks of different ages and how well they are regenerating.

We (Tolko and LCSM) must meet the Alberta Government survey requirements to maintain AAC. Alberta has the most demanding regeneration standard in Canada.

What about climate change? BC is going to a system which takes climate change into account. Alberta has narrow seed zones, and currently is not adjusting seed zones for climate change. Alberta has little, genetically improved seed compared to other parts of Canada. Most seedlings planted here are grown from seed collected in the wild.

The new caribou plan which was recently released – how does it affect the companies? It expands some protected area boundaries, it does not impact Tolko directly yet. We have to review it further.

Herbicide program – herbicide application for stand tending is a valuable forestry tool. The companies are working with First Nations on compromises to current practices. Not ready to discuss right now. May consider manual stand tending near water courses. Some blocks have been removed from the herbicide plan which are at confluence of Mikkwa and Peace Rivers in rich forage areas. What does a sprayed block look like? John shares an aerial photograph. The companies do not spray the

edge of blocks. If an area, narrower 5m is missed it is not retreated. Spray must at least 50m from water. Pilot surveys each block before spraying. How long is the spray active? A few hours. What about wildlife? If there is wildlife visible, the block is left until a later day or not treated at all. When will the herbicide program start? When it is approved. No earlier than July 15. We are waiting for approval from the Agriculture and Forestry Department. Notification will go in paper one week before spraying begins. What about insecticides, is there a spraying program for spruce budworm for example? Tolko has no plans for such a program. The Agriculture and Forestry Department is planning to conduct surveys later this year to see how much spruce budworm damage is present and what steps, if any need to be taken.

5. **NEXT MEETING – Tuesday September 20th, 2016 – Silviculture Field tour out toward Rainbow Lake.**
6. **MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:00pm**