



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 29th, 2016
5pm, High Level Seniors Center

PRESENT:

Adam Norris (Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance)	Alden Armstrong (Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance)
Allen Plantinga (Tolko)	Nicolene Lawson (Norbord)
Boyd Langford (Member of Public)	Melanie Plantinga (Tolko)
Chris Mitchell (Town of Rainbow Lake)	Phil Trapton (Member of Public)
John Thurston (Hungry Bend Sandhills Society)	Cheryl Ernst (High Level & District Chamber of Commerce)
Mike Alsterlund (Member of Public)	Walter Sarapuk (MacKenzie County)
Barry Toker (Watt Mountain Wanderers)	

INFORMATION SENT:

Adam Marshall (Silvacom)	Exact Harvesting
Baptiste Metchooyeah (Dene Tha')	Fort Vermilion Heritage Center
Marissa Green (Norbord)	Fred Radersma (Norbord)
Bernie Doerksen (LaCrete Polar Cats)	Harvey Sewpagaham (LRRCN)
Beverly Noskiye (Peerless Trout First Nation)	Christine Malhmann (Agriculture & Forestry)
Carol Gabriel (Mackenzie County)	Keith Badger (Netaskinan Development)
Jon McQuinn (LRRF)	Kieran Broderick (Beaver First Nation)
Claude Duval (Watt Mnt Wanderers)	Lindee Dumas (LRRCN)
Connie Martel (Dene Tha')	Terry Jessiman (Agriculture & Forestry)
Conroy Sewepagaham (Lubicon Lake Nation)	Marilee Cranna Toews (Hungry Bend Sandhills Society)
Cory Ferguson (Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement)	Evan Gardner (Peace River Constituency)
Crystal McAteer (Town of High Level)	Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement
Dan Coombs (Agriculture & Forestry)	Sugu Thuraismy (LRRF)
Dan Fletcher (Town of Rainbow Lake)	Treetech
Mike Cardinal (Tallcree First Nation)	Tristina Macek (N'Deh Ltd. Partnership)
Aaron Doepel (LaCrete Sawmills)	Matt Marcone (Echo Pioneer)
Paul Ebert (Agriculture & Forestry)	Terry Batt (Trapper's Association)
Mike Morgan (Town of High Level)	Brent Holick (LaCrete Polar Cats)

CALL TO ORDER 5:45pm

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Alden Armstrong – Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA) –** Shares his background with the (MPWA). Alden has been involved with water conservation since before the “Water for Life Strategy” was created. He is working with the MPWA in their efforts to engage the public in water issues. They are fortunate to have board representation from all stakeholders. He was pleased to see the turn out for the meeting and congratulates Adam’s initiative in coming to present at the High Level Forest Public Advisory Committee Meeting.

2. ROUND TABLE

- a. Walter Sarapuk – Mackenzie County –** It has been noted that there is some woody debris from logging being left at one of the cardlock gas stations again. Allen Plantinga will follow up with the contractors.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance – presentation – Adam Norris, Watershed Coordinator – See attached PDF

Question - What is the Alliance doing about farmers draining wetlands into creeks causing the runoff of pesticides into the watershed? The MPWA is a body which educates people about beneficial management practices and legislation. They also recommend policy to the government. They do not have an enforcement or reporting function.

Question - Why is the Town of High Level allowing Tolko to re-fire the burner, which emits carcinogenic particles? From his experience dealing with other groups balancing economic and environmental needs Alden appreciates that the loss of 200 jobs could have a big impact on a town the size of High Level. What happened to the co-generation facility that had been discussed in the past? Allen and Melanie were not privy to those discussions. From what David Gillespie presented last month the construction of such a facility is not financially viable at this time.

Question– is the Integrated Watershed Management Plan going to be reviewed or resubmitted periodically? The board is considering a 3year resubmission period. This would give time for public review and feedback. The targets could be measured and reported on.

Question– Are global warming and climate change being considered in the plan? Yes, they are incorporated into the models. Some of the targets and measurements relate to climate change.

3.2 Operational Harvesting Overview 2016 – 17 - Allen Plantinga (See attached)

Question – is the planned volume to harvest of 1.5million cubic meters from the presentation likely to change because of the softwood lumber discussion? Not likely. Although approximately 45% of Tolko High Level Lumber Division’s production goes to the USA, there has not been discussion about reducing deliveries. There is only the winter season to harvest the volume of timber that the mill needs to operate for the year.

Question – in the presentation FT (Full tree) hauling is mentioned, will full length trees be hauled into town? Possibly very few private wood purchases but Cut to Length (CTL) is preferred. The full length tree loads in the presentation are going to be delivered to the offsite processing yards for summer processing and mill delivery as cut to length (CTL) loads. The FT will be along bush and gravel roads and not the highways.

There will be some mountain pine beetle salvage near Keg River / Paddle Prairie for the next two years.

Question - How did the mountain pine beetle get to Alberta? Was it transported on machinery? No, it came across the Rocky Mountains on the jet stream despite efforts to create “pine beetle free zones”. How far north has it spread? It has spread in small pockets north to the Northwest Territories but not in large population.

Question – What will Tolko plant to reforest the cutblocks? Tolko is required to plant the harvested species, pine. Is there enough seed to replace the harvested pine? Yes, FMA holders in the province are required to have a minimum of 5 years supply of seed in storage in the Provincial seed storage facility.

Question – With the beetle killed pine, being harvested from near Keg River Cabins, is Tolko High Level prepared to deal with the dust which caused problems in BC mills a few years ago? Tolko is headquartered in Vernon BC and our facilities in the province that have been sawing beetle killed timber for the past number of years have been required to meet or exceed the dust control (housekeeping) standards that are have been implemented in that province. Locally we have the same standards as Tolko’s BC sawmills. The plan is to saw this beetle killed pine as soon as delivered to the mill.

Question – is mountain pine beetle established in Alberta? Are efforts to eradicate it continuing? Yes, the beetle has a pretty firm hold across the eastern slopes where there are more continuous pine forests. In the past a few cold (below -40c) days killed the bug but with the high population flight in at that time and the warmer winters it has gained a foothold.

Question – will the newly planted pine survive? Yes, we fully expect them to. Mountain pine beetle usually infest larger diameter mature trees not seedlings.

Question – did Tolko build a road to the offsite processing yard near the Blue Angel road? Yes, the road had been approved a couple years ago and the right of way was cleared but the road was finally constructed this summer. The road is approximately 3km long.

Question – what happens to the debris in the processing yards? If there is a market DMI comes and chips the tops and large branches. Anything left is pushed into piles and burned. Is there debris being burned now? Is this causing some of the smoke on the highway problems? There was some burning being done near the Hawk Hills Tower Road. The job is done so there should not be an issue there now, much of the local smoke issues near Paddle Prairie are a result of farmland being cleared and those brush piles being burnt with the end of fire season.

4. NEXT MEETING – Tuesday December 13, 2016

5. MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:40pm