



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

*Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017*  
5pm, High Level Seniors Centre

## **PRESENT:**

Clifford Starr (Peerless Trout First Nation)	Marissa Green (Norbord)
Allen Plantinga (Tolko)	Dave Gillespie (Tolko)
Boyd Langford (Member of Public)	Layne Herrin (Tolko)
Peter Chomiak (Member of Public)	Melanie Plantinga (Tolko)
Chantel Cardinal (Blue Collar Silviculture)	Mike Kelland (Member of the Public)
John Thurston (Hungry Bend Sandhills Society)	Bob Grocholski (North Peace Tribal Council)
Evan Gardner (Peace River Constituency)	Mike Morgan (Town of High Level)
Jenna Gardner (Member of the Public)	

## **INFORMATION SENT:**

Baptiste Metchooyeah (Dene Tha')	Exact Harvesting
Margaret Carrol (High Level & District Chamber of Commerce)	Tracey Laboucan (Lubicon Lake Nation)
Matt Marcone (Echo Pioneer)	Crystal McAteer (Town of High Level)
Aaron Doepel (LaCrete Sawmills)	Fred Didzena (Dene Tha)
Bernie Doerksen (LaCrete Polar Cats)	Fred Radersma (Norbord)
Carol Gabriel (Mackenzie County)	Keith Badger (Netaskinan Development)
Barry Toker (Watt Mountain Wanderers)	Fort Vermilion Heritage Center
Jon McQuinn (Norbord)	Kieran Broderick (Beaver First Nation)
Claude Duval (Watt Mnt Wanderers)	Lindee Dumas (LRRCN)
Connie Martel (Dene Tha')	Terry Jessiman (Agriculture & Forestry)
Chris Mitchell (Town of Rainbow Lake)	Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement
Dan Coombs (Agriculture & Forestry)	Sugu Thuraisamy (LRRF)
Harvey Sewpagaham (LRRCN)	Tristina Macek (N'Deh Ltd. Partnership)
Terry Batt (Trapper's Association)	Treetech
Mike Cardinal (Tallcree First Nation)	Brent Holick (LaCrete Polar Cats)
Christine Malhmann (Agriculture & Forestry)	Cheryl Ernst (High Level & District Chamber of Commerce)
Cory Ferguson (Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement)	Marilee Cranna Toews (Hungry Bend Sandhills Society)

## 1. WELCOME – INTRODUCTIONS

## 2. AROUND THE TABLE

### Allen Plantinga –

- Tolko is currently feeding their mill by processing in satellite yards around the Chinchaga and by Hutch Lake. Half of the volume was delivered to these yards in the winter.

## 3. OLD BUSINESS

Burner will be decommissioned and used for storage this fall. Variance for burner operation expires September 20, 2017. Tolko will meet this deadline.

## 4. NEW BUSINESS

### 3.1 Presentation

#### - Silviculture Presentation – Tolko – John MacLellan

John presented current statistics of the 2017 planting season, Tolko's stand tending plans and other silviculture operations.

#### **Planting**

- Tolko has purchased 36 million seedlings, 8.9 million of which have been planted this year so far. There are currently 4 planting contractors, making up the 236 people employed this planting season including 68 First Nations people.
- Tolko has a "Right to harvest, obligation to plant"
- Obligation to balance what was harvested. This affects the Allowable Cut (A company cannot harvest more than they replant)
- Tolko plans to be finished planting by the end of July, allowing the seedlings to root before the first frost.

#### **Stand Tending**

- Can be manual or aerial herbicide applied
- Manual stand tending can be difficult in this region due to access, making aerial application more efficient.
- Aerial application also has more coverage
- Aerial stand tending will commence July 25th.
- Stand tending is need to ensure spruce and pine forests regenerate
- Only blocks that are classified as C or C/D (conifer leading), blocks dominated by aspen are not sprayed
- Aerial stand tending has certain requirements that need to be met before application occurs. There are opportunity "windows" or optimal times to spray due to environmental factors that are monitored by trained individuals. Wind speed needs to be less than 10km/h to ensure no off-target spray, temperature needs to be below 28C so the plants can absorb the Vision Max (glyphosate) before being evaporated, and relative humidity needs to be between 40-80%

- Potable water is required so Vision Max does not react with Organic Matter
- “Dri-Loc” equipment is used for mixing to ensure there is no spillage in the process

Question: How are ungulates and insects affected by the spray?

- Research shows no effect.
- “Sticker” petroleum would affect insects. Tolko does not use this in their application. The spray used is specifically used for the forest industry, much different from agricultural herbicides.
- Applications are performed after fledging season.
- Recon is done on each of the blocks beforehand by pilot, project managers, monitors, and a Tolko employee to take note of watercourses, wildlife etc.
- Buffers are also in place for standing water, streams, wildlife etc.

Question: Does aspen and grass come back after being sprayed?

- Yes. Grass will regenerate next growing season, and aspen will come back after 5-6 years. This allows the spruce and pine seedlings to root and establish themselves with little competition.

Question: How far is the spray applied from watercourses?

- Depends on the type of watercourse. Larger watercourses require larger buffers. Buffer requirements are outlined in the Operating Ground Rules. Alberta has extensive guidelines compared to other provinces for aerial application.

Question: How many hectares are planned to be sprayed this year?

- 5000 budgeted ha, about 3000-3400 ha will actually be sprayed

Question: Is there much old growth left in river valleys?

- Maintain status of current land base
- Serial stages are managed and accounted for

Question: Are there many blocks subject to ground/manual tending?

- There are some roadsides blocks
- Tolko is looking into more manual tending and researching girdling projects (removing a strip of cambium) for less impact.

Tolko will start planning a tour in September or October around Rainbow Lake to look at past stand tending practices.

## **5. NEXT MEETING – September 19th, 2017 LiDAR Optimized Forest Assessment for Landscape Management – Dr. Kevin Lim**

## **6. MEETING ADJORNED**