



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018
5pm, High Level Seniors Center

PRESENT:

Barry Toker (Watt Mnt Wanderers)	Allen Plantinga (Tolko)
Terry Batt (Trappers Association)	Lee Rueb (DMI)
Mike Alsterlund (Member of the Public)	Tiffeny Olsen (Norbord)
John Thurston (Hungry Hills Sandbend)	Robin Cumine (Norbord)
Connie Martel (Dene Tha' First Nation)	Gary Ross (Tolko)
John Wiebe (Treetech Contracting)	Layne Herrin (Tolko)
George Peters (Exact Harvesting)	Ben Bellamy (Tolko)
Paul Ebert (Agriculture and Forestry)	Melanie Plantinga (Tolko)

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)
Claude Duval (Watt Mnt Wanderers)	Fort Vermilion Heritage Center
Chris Mitchell (Town of Rainbow Lake)	Kieran Broderick (Beaver First Nation)
Dan Coombs (Agriculture & Forestry)	Lindee Dumas (LRRCN)
Harvey Sewpagaham (LRRCN)	Terry Jessiman (Agriculture & Forestry)
Mike Cardinal (Tallcree First Nation)	Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement
Cory Ferguson (Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement)	Jon McQuinn (LRRF)
Clifford Starr (Peerless Trout First Nation)	Cheryl Ernst (High Level & District Chamber of Commerce)
Ken Graham (N'Deh Ltd. Partnership)	Marilee Cranna Toews (Hungry Bend Sandhills Society)
Brent Holick (LaCrete Polar Cats)	

1. WELCOME – INTRODUCTIONS –

4.1 Tolko hog disposal. Current and long -term plan implementation

Tolko has received a variance to run the beehive burner for the next two years. This past week there was a trial run of the equipment with checks on temperature to be sure the system could run hot enough. The temperature was well above the requirement of 200C but a few mechanical problems were identified. These will be addressed before the burner comes fully online.

When will the burner come on line? The team believes that it will take approximately 3 weeks to repair maintenance issues, find more people to help run it and train everyone. However, if the controls to mitigate fire risk can be implemented sooner, we will begin burning material. Tolko is committed to running the beehive burner safely and responsibly.

There are several requirements and more stringent air quality reporting required in this burner variance. There are more air monitoring stations than previously required. The monitors track particulate size and particulate totals to ensure that the particulate is within prescribed parameters. There are also several dust fall canisters located throughout area. These were maintained by Tolko, as were the initial air stations, during the time that the burner did not run and will help provide a baseline for future monitoring. There is also a weather station on the Tolko site to track wind speeds and directions. This assists Tolko when exceedances are registered.

With the burner running hot is there ash left in the bottom? Not as much as you might think. The last time the burner was recommissioned they found that cleanup every 10-14 days was required. When there is too much ash the fans in the bottom don't operate efficiently. Because more pollution is generated during the heating (start up) and cooling (shut down) times they will try to run long periods.

Will the burner fire in October? Possibly, Tolko is not sure at this time. They might wait until snow/rain as conditions are a little too dry. The plan is to burn as much during the winter as possible as the conditions lessen the risk of fire and fewer people are enjoying outdoor activities which could be hampered by burner residue. The hog consumption could be mostly caught up by March. During the tests the hog was burning faster and better than anticipated.

Next summer the Thermal Energy Plant be online which will lessen the amount of hog to be consumed by the burner.

Tolko has multiple projects on the go which will ensure that all by products can be consumed on site without burner use or taking chips and sawdust to other locations.

The ground has been broken on the Thermal Energy System. This system heats thermal oil. The heat from this will go to heating a new kiln which is being constructed. This is a continuous feed kiln which will lose less heat and provide a better product than the current kilns on the site. This kiln is expected to be operational during the summer of 2019.

There will also be a pellet plant constructed on site. The ground will be broken this fall with the sub-grade completed by the end of the year. This is going to be completed in 2020.

If you have questions or concerns please contact Layne Herrin through the main Tolko switchboard. 780-926-3781

2. ROUND TABLE

2.1. Nothing at this time.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1. Nothing.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.2 Certification Information

DMI's Forest Stewardship Council(FSC) Controlled Wood Certification – Lee Rueb, DMI (See Presentation)

Lee distributed a survey which he would members to fill out by the end of the meeting.

Does DMI do consultation with all First Nations on the map which showed the area DMI gets controlled wood from. Yes. Consultation is required as part of the General Development Plan (GDP) and FSC CW certification process.

Does DMI plan together with the other local forestry companies? Yes, there is a shared cut in P19 and P21 which Tolko, DMI and LaCrete Sawmills manage together. Other areas are included because DMI uses the incidental softwood chips which are generated as a by-product. DMI gets chips from Tolko, LaCrete Sawmills, and Evergreen sawmills.

Does the controlled wood certification cover wood purchased from land being cleared? Is wood from High Level area being purchased? Yes, the wood purchased from other sources is covered (the risk assessment covers the entire fibre supply area as depicted in the map in the presentation). No, DMI generally purchases private or salvage wood from sellers close to the mill in Peace River.

Is the wood controlled or certified? FSC Controlled Wood (CW) guidelines but it is not Forest Management certified. Private wood could be considered controlled.

How is the wood from Tolko and LaCrete sawmills deemed controlled? They are not FSC certified. This wood is covered under DMI's risk assessment (entire fibre supply area). As a result of robust legislation in Alberta, operations rarely fall into the "High Risk" category. Most operations meet the FSC CW standard. Tolko and LCSM hold

(Sustainable Forest Initiative) SFI certification which they are audited on and maintain. This helps satisfy FSC CW requirements. DMI also monitors the mills somewhat (obtain harvest and species information to feed into the risk assessment – verification of species and origin of the fibre). If the wood procured from other mills does not meet the requirements who is responsible? DMI will assist the supplier conform or as a last resort exclude the supplier if a “low risk” designation cannot be achieved.

How frequently is DMI audited? Annually. Does DMI share the audit results with the public? They are not widely provided but if a member of the public is interested they can contact DMI and get more information. Risk assessment information is available to the public.

Does certification open more markets to sell products in? Is it required? In some markets it is required. Depends on customer demand, most prefer CW and others require it to access certain markets.

Norbord SFI Audit and Certification

Norbord High Level recently underwent internal and external audits for their SFI Forest Management, Fibre sourcing and Chain of Custody certifications.

There was one finding around Fibre sourcing. There was a tank which while stationary and not being transported did not meet TDG standards. The other findings surrounded documentation.

Does Norbord do public consultation? Yes, they reach out to the public in several ways. As part of the GDP process they participate in open houses throughout the Mackenzie County in the spring. They consult with First Nations. They are on multiple PAC's. They provide a link to implementation website. They contact other stakeholders such as trappers which may be affected by forestry activities.

Does Norbord work with the other local forestry companies? Yes, the land base is shared, Norbord, Tolko and LaCrete Sawmills work together to manage and consult with the public.

Tolko High Level – SFI audits update.

(See Presentation)

Thank you to the PAC members for participating in the Committee. This was identified as a good practice in both audits.

Comment – PAC's are a legislated requirement as part of the Alberta DFMP (Detailed Forest Management Plan) approvals. Discussion as to the accuracy of the statement. They are not a SFI requirement and therefore were noted in the audit.

How many PAC are in the province? There used to be 26. Paul is unable to provide information about how many still exist. The planners in Edmonton may be able to provide this information. There used to be PAC conferences. There do not appear to be conferences any longer.

4.3 Bend and break

(See Presentation)

Bend and Break is a manual stand tending tool which allows the conifer understory to have room and light to grow more quickly. This helps the softwood companies to meet their regulated reforestation requirements. This type of stand tending removes the aspen and poplar which are growing within 1 meter of the conifer

tree. It lessens the chance of “suckering” which could be the result of other manual stand tending methods.

Are the companies going into the transition or mixed wood stands and converting them to conifer stands? What about the deciduous growth being restricted? This will not convert the land base from deciduous to conifer? It temporarily allows conifer to perform better for surveys. There are still areas where mainly deciduous and mixed wood stands are. The regulations require a return to the preharvest stand type.

Bend and break was done on a trial basis this year. There are plans to do this type of work again next year. This is another tool in the tool box, along with herbicide treatment to aid conifer growth. This method will be useful in areas where herbicide application is restricted or contentious.

Was the program successful this year? Yes, approximately 300ha were treated. There were several jobs created with people able to do approximately .5ha per day.

With the removal of competition will trees of a poorer quality grow? Is straight high quality timber being traded for quick growth? No, because the treatment area is small competition is not removed just reduced.

Is cost comparison information available? Herbicide cost per ha vs. Bend and Break. Not at this time.

How much is planned for next year? Not yet known, will depend on access, areas where herbicide is not an option. Many of this years sites were more easily accessible. Along highway, close to existing planting camps. At this time there is no plan for remote camps.

Are there accessible areas for viewing? Yes, some are near the highway. Ben is willing to provide maps.

5. Public Comment

5.1. One of the members encountered disrespectful behavior during the spring Caribou Protection meeting held by the Province this spring. This was from people working as contractors for the forestry companies and was a poor reflection on the companies. There were comments which showed disrespect for the process of determining course of action for Caribou protection as well as some meeting attendees. This caused many members of the public to be uncomfortable and upset. The companies should be making their contractors and their employees to act respectfully.

- George Peters – felt that Tolko did a good job communicating to the contractors that respect was required of them.
- There were people present who came out with their own agendas who took the opportunity presented to air their grievances.

6. NEXT MEETING – To Be Determined.

7. MEETING ADJORNED