



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

## **MINUTES**

*Tuesday, November 27, 2018*  
5pm, High Level Seniors Center

### **PRESENT:**

Barry Toker (Watt Mnt Wanderers)	Stephanie Grocholski (Member of the Public)
Mike Alsterlund (Member of the Public)	Faron Dyck (Norbord)
John Thurston (Hungry Hills Sandbend / Careers the Next Generation)	Robin Cumine (Norbord)
Lisa Wardley (Mackenzie County)	Curtis Cole (Tolko)
Boyd Langford (Town of High Level)	Paul Hewitt (Tolko)
Bill Schnarr (Echo Pioneer)	Melanie Plantinga (Tolko)

### **INFORMATION SENT:**

Baptiste Metchooyeah (Dene Tha')	Exact Harvesting
Margaret Carrol (High Level & District Chamber of Commerce)	Tracey Laboucan (Lubicon Lake Nation)
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
Jessica Juneau (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)	Terry Batt (Trappers Association)
Connie Martel (Dene Tha' First Nation)	George Peters (Exact Harvesting)
John Wiebe (Treotech Contracting)	Paul Ebert (Agriculture and Forestry)

## 1. WELCOME – INTRODUCTIONS –

## 2. AROUND THE TABLE

John Thurston – is in area schools and the teachers have been asking what routes the logging trucks will be travelling this harvest season. He will share that information and has some Hauling Concern business cards to distribute to the public.

Now that the bee hive burner is operational again are the emissions being monitored? Air monitoring is ongoing. What do the monitors show? To the best of the Tolko representatives present the reading are under required specifications.

Can the public access the information from the monitoring program?

Suggestion, perhaps if the company were to share the information, in a bulletin or similar method it would address some of the concerns and questions that people have. Curtis will take these suggestions and questions to Tolko's OH&S supervisor who will be able to address the suggestions and concerns.

What method is used to determine the volume of timber being purchased from private land? Is the standing timber sampled? Are there measurements taken of the timber in the yards to remove but rot? Tolko pays for wood purchased from landowners by the ton.

Before entering into a contract the Tolko representative views aerial photos and determine areas that they need to visit. (Possible water courses). They walk through the stand taking samples to determine the approximate volume of the timber. The size of the stand determines how many plots are done to arrive at the volume estimate.

There are a few ways that the contracts are managed. A logging contractor may come to the mill offering to sell timber that they have purchased from a landowner. Or a landowner may enter into a contract with Tolko directly. If the contract is with the landowner they would hire a logger to fell and deliver the timber. Tolko will provide a list of loggers which may be able to do the work. These loggers are professionals and are required to abide by the same standards they meet on the crown land.

On the information provided at the last meeting about the internal audit there was an opportunity for improvement mentioned. It related to the process used to assess land private wood is being purchased from. The auditor suggested that the steps be documented to show that the company is

checking for water. The process has been updated and the wood purchaser is documenting the steps taken to ensure water course avoidance.

What are the pellets being produced by Tolko mill to be used for? What are they made of? They are like the pellets produced by LaCrete sawmills and are burned in pellet burning stoves. They are made up of bark and sawdust.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS - None**

### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

#### 4.1 High Level Forests Public Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (TOR)

Terms of Reference - Has everyone had a chance to review the TOR?

Curtis read the background and goals of to the Public Advisory Committee (PAC).

Suggestion – list the municipalities as distinct stakeholders in the Goals of the committee.

Question – Under “Information and Communication” heading 7 there is a mention of the possibility of holding an “Annual General Meeting” of the PAC. This has not been done in the past. What would be discussed at such a meeting? What would the purpose be? Melanie will do some investigation and find answers to this question.

At this evenings meeting there are going to be updates from the companies about upcoming harvest operations. Is this a standing agenda item? This information is usually provided annually, generally shortly before operations begin. Does this need to be spelled out in the Terms of Reference? It is touched on in the Goals section 1.

How are the municipalities to get information about plans? In the past this has been communicated at municipal Tri Council meetings. This is a practice that the companies would be open to starting again. This consultation would happen during the spring, early in the process to enable adjustments to the plans early in the planning process.

#### 4.2 Harvesting plans for upcoming season

LaCrete Sawmills (LCSM)- Curtis Cole on behalf of Aaron Doepel

LCSM will be hauling from the Buffalo Head hills to LaCrete Sawmills. This will be along the Buffalo Head tower road. They are planning to start hauling on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Norbord – Faron Dyck, Robin Cumine

Will be in Ponton(PN) 6 east of High Level. They have started hauling. They plan to be finished PN-6 mid-late February. Truck will be travelling from east of High Level on HWY 58 to High Level. 320,000 m<sup>3</sup> by the end of February – approximately 7000 loads. Timber Bound Construction will be working there.

Is the landbase aggregated? Largely aggregated. Cutblocks are smaller this year than in previous years but they are closer together. Percentage of retention is increased this year.

Will there be any fire salvage harvested? Not this year.

What is being done with the slash (branches left) – it will be piled and burned. There is now a one year deadline for burning. In some cases the debris is being spread in the block instead of burned.

Near Meander there are some 2 year old piles being burned. Tolko requested a variance to allow for additional drying of the material. This means a hotter, less smoky fire near highways.

Tolko only has pile burning left to be done in the processing yard west of town and near the Chateh turn off highway 58. Norbord has completed their pile burning for the year.

Private wood purchases by Norbord – almost wrapped up for the winter. They estimate that there may be timber from that source for 5 more years.

To meet the Caribou Protection zone guidelines the harvesting, after access is available, will start in the “back”, furthest into the zone and work back out.

Does Norbord have any processing or satellite yards? Not currently there might be some in the future.

Tolko Industries – Curtis Cole, Paul Hewitt

Will also be in PN6, the work is being contracted to Beaver First Nation. They will be logging, approximately 85,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

Will be harvesting in F23 through a purchase from Little Red River Forestry. The wood from this area is going to Tolko, LCSM, Crestview and Ridgeview mills. Does Tolko ship oversized wood to these small operators? Yes, there is currently discussion about having the oversized wood shipped directly from the cutblocks to the small mills and save the cost of hauling to Tolko mill and then back to the LaCrete area. Approximately 360,000 m<sup>3</sup> is being harvested. The hauling will begin around December 10<sup>th</sup>.

There will be harvesting near Meander River those trees are going to be hauled “full tree” into Hutch yard. Approximately 200,000 m<sup>3</sup>. Trucks will be crossing the highway. Norbord will be bringing some deciduous volume from there directly to High Level.

Netaskinan – will be harvesting approximately 100,000 m<sup>3</sup> west of High Level which will go to the Watt yard. Haul will begin Monday – some deciduous will be hauled to Norbord.

In several of the Bassett compartments there will be harvesting. Timber Bound and Forest Trotter will be harvesting there. The conifer for Tolko will be brought off highway into the Blue angel yard. Some deciduous will be hauled to Norbord.

There will also be operations near Chateh in F14 and the Zama compartments. Treotech will be harvesting there. The volume from there will be hauled south to highway 58 and be trucked into High Level.

In summary Tolko will be hauling “cut to length” wood along the length of highway 58.

The companies will be limiting access to the Caribou protection zones. If there are no active operations for a period of more than 48 hours there will be barriers placed at designated access points. Harvesting and Hauling will be shut down from December 22<sup>nd</sup> – January 2<sup>nd</sup> for Christmas. During that period access will be limited.

Do the companies do any wildlife monitoring? Are there wolf control programs? There is no formal process. The contractors usually report wolf sightings to the companies, but it is not a formal requirement.

Please share with the public that we want to hear from them if they have concerns related to the log haul. There are cards in the back for public distribution which have the number for reporting, 780-926-2989. If there is a concern about the driving of a truck call in and provide as much information as you can about the truck. Trucks hauling to Tolko have “Geo Tab” devices which can help determine which truck is being reported.

The log haul will be stopped from approximately noon on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and will resume January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Harvesting and hauling will start at approximately 12:00 am every Monday morning and end mid to late morning Saturdays.

Where do the smaller mills in the area get their wood from? Do they have the same consultation requirements as the larger ones? Mostly from F11. We are not sure about the consultation standards that they must meet. It would be laid out in their ground rules.

**Burning program.** How many piles? There are separate programs for Norbord and Tolko/LCSM and the number of piles are tracked differently. Is training provided to the contractors who burn the piles for the companies? Tolko requires that the contractor and employees take EMS training. Some additional training has also been provided.

**Bend and Break** – Who did the work on that program? Most of the work was done by First Nations people who were trained and supervised by an experienced contractor from BC. All work done was able to be accessed by ground.

Is there a requirement to contact stakeholders as part of that program? It would usually be part of the initial planning stage. The Watt MNT Wanderers have noticed that some of their trails were used to access the area. There is concern that there could have been fires ignited by quads which could have destroyed some cabins which they have set up there.

Do the companies hold trappers meetings to inform the trappers of activities? Not usually, experience has shown more meaningful contact one on one. The difficulty which the companies run into is that there are many junior partners using the traplines. Although the companies can contact the senior registered trapper, they do not have access to a list of JR trappers.

Forest Management question – are there efforts being made to leave portions of old growth forest throughout all cut blocks? Much important genetic material is

spread from such areas. This would be best discussed as part of the Forest Management Plan.

Speakers Suggestions –

Some information about global warming? Perhaps Darren Sleep from SFI could be persuaded to speak. Other suggestions are welcome.

**5. NEXT MEETING – To Be Determined.**

**6. MEETING ADJORNED**