



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

## **MINUTES**

*Tuesday, April 01, 2008*  
5:00 p.m. – Four Winds Banquet Room  
High Level

### **ATTENDANCE:**

John Thurston (Chair)  
Lacey Reid (ECHO)  
Marilee Toews (HBSWS)  
Ed Anderson (Tolko)  
Caleen Warren (ASRD)

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)  
Mike Alsterlund (PAC Member)  
Walter Sarapuk (Mackenzie Council)  
Jayson Kofluk (FFP)

**Recording Secretary:** Brenda St. Arnault

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

John Thurston, Chair, called meeting to order at 5:40 pm

### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Adopt Agenda with the following additions to Old Business:

- 6.2 "Situation Critical" letter from Mike Alsterlund
- 6.3 Concerns brought forward by Mike Alsterlund from the last two meetings.

**MOVED by: Walter Sarapuk**

***CARRIED***

### **3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – March 04, 2008**

Accept Minutes as presented

**MOVED by: Lacey Reid**

***CARRIED***

### 3.1 Review of action items – tabled from February 5, 2008

#### *Report on Salvage:*

Caleen Warren, on behalf of Ted Edwards who could not attend the meeting, reported on the number of Conifer Salvage waivers issued for the 2007-2008 harvest season by the 7 Forest Officers in the district.

# of officers	Waivers issued and approx. m <sup>3</sup>
4	0
1	1 (20m3)
1	4 (50m3)
1	2 (60m3)

Mike A. mentioned that he was advised of an incident where salvage was disposed of improperly however he did not know the specifics required by SRD to identify where or who was involved. Once Mike gets the appropriate information Caleen will look into incident.

#### *Dues Relief at FFP:*

Question was asked at the last PAC meeting whether FFP received a reduced dues amount for the initial start-up for the mill. Caleen Warren reported that FFP was provided dues at \$0.56/m<sup>3</sup> until 2016 to assist with the establishment phase of the mill and due to the northern location. In September 2016 dues will be applied at the same rate as any deciduous operator in Northern Alberta.

Mike A. asked if FFP has approached any government for financial assistance to overcome their current situation, and if financial assistance is provided would this contravene the NAFTA agreement?

Jayson mentioned that FFP has looked into any possible programs for financial assistance which might be offered by any government however none have been identified. FFP has not formally approached any government for financial assistance.

Jeremy B. explained that Governments are not providing financial assistance to any forest company as this would contravene the NAFTA agreement, however governments have provided financial assistance for displaced employees at other forest companies (across Canada) in the form of career counseling, education and re-training.

## 4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Jeremy B. handed out the Issues and Concerns Tracking summary document to PAC members. The document was updated to the February meeting. Regular updates to this document will occur and will be provided in hardcopy, or members can download from [www.highlevelwoodlands.com](http://www.highlevelwoodlands.com)

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### *5.1 Annual Indicator and Target Review (Part 2) (Jeremy)*

Part 1 of Annual Review was completed at the February meeting where 15 commitments were reviewed. During this presentation 17 commitments, plus a few additional items were reviewed with both presentations to be available on [www.highlevelwoodlands.com](http://www.highlevelwoodlands.com)

Commitments reviewed:

- #1: Adherence to Spatial Harvest Sequence
- #2: Covertypes
- #4: Age Class Distribution
- #5: Habitat Availability
- #6: Vertical and Horizontal Retention
- #7: Coarse Woody Debris
- #10: Compliance with Seed Zones
- #13: Volume from Budworm Areas
- #14: Salvage from natural disturbance
- #15: Road Disturbance
- #18: Water Resources – Adherence to SHS
- #20: Watercourse Crossings
- #21: Reforestation Activities
- #22: Area identified as being Sufficiently Stocked
- #23: Forested area on Defined Forest Area
- \*Other Commitments as outlined in the 2003 Detailed Forest Management Plan

### *5.2 Annual Review of PAC Terms of Reference Operating Guidelines*

John Thurston lead the review of the Terms of Reference. Intent of the annual review is to ensure members are aware of the ToR and to highlight areas that may need updating.

Specific reference was made to the primary Goals of the committee on page 1 regarding Issues and Concerns and VOITs.

Discussion of the industrial and non-industrial interest groups listed on page 2. A few interest groups were identified as not existing anymore and others that should be included. For example, Lubicon Lake Indian Nation (part of NPTC which has decided not to attend PAC meeting), Boreal Naturalists Club, Fish and Game Association and District Agriculture Office should be removed. The Northern Lights Forests Education Society and “Public at Large” should be added. Final listing of interest groups will be on the updated document.

Discussion of how to involve organizations in our area which would benefit from this process, or be able to provide valuable information to this process. Comment from a member that organizations may exist in the area which the committee currently is not aware of.

**ACTION:** Companies to assemble possible contact list of groups that could be contacted for the participation on the PAC. Also, companies to provide draft letter to invite groups to participate on the PAC and explain the benefits. Letter is not invite to upcoming AGM.

John made reference on page 2 to the statement regarding “rights will not be prejudiced” if First Nations decide on their own accord to participate on this committee. This is a very important statement as First Nations have decided in the past not to participate as they may have felt participation on the committee may show support from their Nation for this “public” process, with the contrary being true.

Discussion began on the issue of PAC discussions at the table on economic decisions (business related) which the companies make for their forest operations. Committee believes that economic items should be allowed to be discussed as the companies decisions affect the sustainability of the communities.

Jeremy distributed a portion of the CSA Standard requirements that provide a list of Operating Rules for a public participation process which the current PAC Terms of Reference and Public Involvement Plan follows. Also the focus is primarily on plans, DFA VOIT development, addressing DFA specific issues related to VOITs, etc., which does not speak to economic decisions within the companies forest operations that do not impact achievement of VOITs. Jeremy did mention the PAC committee was formed to meet the standards of CSA and not to address the economics issues of Tolko Industries and Footner Forest Products at this table. Jeremy stated that questions involving economic decisions by the companies can be recorded at the meeting and he could go back to the companies and inquire, and report back to committee. However such questions should be inquired by members outside of committee meetings, directly to managers at the mills, with the understanding that the companies do not need to report their financial situations to the committee.

Marilee commented that the socio-economic issues that have been or are being discussed at out PAC meetings are still related to the economic decisions of the Companies. She stated the reason she is a member of the PAC, why she attends meetings on a regular basis, and why she was involved in the formation of the PAC is because she is concerned about the people of the area and the various communities that rely on the forest resource. She stated it is pointless for us to be here if we cannot discuss economic issues because they are related to the issues.

Jeremy retracted his earlier statement concerning the formation of the PAC, with clarification that the initial CSA Forestry Standard and formation of the PAC occurred in sequence, and the process for public involvement followed the CSA standard with no intention at the time for use of the PAC for certification.

Marilee also mentioned that she has heard that other committees have imploded due to various issues that could not be resolved. We need to be careful that we as a committee do not let issues come to the point of not being resolved.

Jeremy mentioned that socio-economic issues can be discussed that the committee in the context of the indicators related to our sustainable management plans. Purpose of the VOITs is to ensure the companies are meeting commitments which were formed with assistance from this committee. Jeremy stated that several of the indicators which were reviewed at tonight's meeting and during the February meeting are related to the socio-economic performance of the companies. In this context, the companies encourage the committee to participate in development of new economic indicators which the committee feels are important on the DFA.

John suggested tabling 5.2 for further discussion until next meeting.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### *6.1 Clipping Service (J. Beal)*

Jeremy B. distributed the latest news clippings to the PAC members.

### *6.2 Concerns brought forward by Mike Alsterlund from the last two meetings.*

In addition to meeting notes Mike Alsterlund handed out written statement from concerns brought forward in the February 2008 meeting. (Accompanying the minutes). Portions of the letter were omitted as agreed to during the meeting.

### *6.3 "Situation Critical" letter from Mike Alsterlund*

Written statement "Situation Critical: Alberta's Forest Industry Crisis" handed out by Mike Alsterlund (accompanying the minutes). Mike had questions concerning the document prepared by the Alberta Forest Products Association.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS**

No correspondence/reports.

## **8. AROUND THE TABLE**

John asked whether the Tolko sign at the end of Main Street could have the current wording changed as it currently does not make sense. He suggested wording to thank the public for another successful log haul program. Jeremy mentioned the sign is damaged from deterioration of the tracks that hold the letters, and very limited space is currently available. Jeremy to inquire what can be done.

Walter mentioned a group is discussing an Ethanol Plant for the area and one of the options that are being looked at is using wood waste.

Marilee mentioned that she attended a workshop in Peace River on March 12th, "Forest Futures Project", with discussions focused on various futures that may occur by 2050 in the Forest industry. Participants were encouraged to provide reasoning on what they felt was possible to occur and what needs to occur to prevent some futures from occurring. Marilee thought it was very interesting and she handed out brochures she picked up.

Jayson K. mentioned to the committee that he is the contact person at Footner Forest Products from now on, if any one has any issues, please give him a call.

Jeremy mentioned that PAC meetings will be suspended for the months of July and August and may be extended to September depending on items to be discussed. This will be confirmed at the June meeting.

Mike commented that the article handed out at the March meeting was another example of the forest industry placing blame for their misfortunes on the government, and that the government needs to assist. Mike stated that a government bail out or the Companies financial status is not the Governments responsibility.

## **9. NEXT MEETING – May 6, 2008, 5 pm, Four Winds Banquet Room**

## **10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:30 pm**