



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 3, 2007
5:00 p.m. – NAIT College Campus

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston
Mike Alsterlund
Scott McNeil
Meaghan Allen
Marilee Toews
Lacey Reid

Aaron Lambie
Scott Miller
Caleen Warren
Glen Greening
Jeremy Beal

1. CALL TO ORDER:

John Thurston, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

MOTION

MOVED by Scott McNeil

That the agenda be accepted with the following additions:

- 5.3 New PAC Member – Glen Greening – Dene Tha
- 5.4 Administration Items

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: March 6, 2007

MOTION

MOVED by Marilee Toews

That the HLPAC meeting minutes of March 6, 2007 be accepted with the following addition:

Marilee Toews requested that the meaning of ENGO be added to the minutes. The word ENGO is found under section 5.1 David Andison’s presentation.

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

No issues and concerns at this time.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Meeting Facilitator

John Thurston asked that the HLFAC members discuss the option of hiring a Meeting Facilitator to conduct the HLFAC meetings. John expressed that he would like to participate more in the discussions, and as the Chair he finds that difficult to do. Members discussed the idea and had some concerns. Marilee Toews asked if there would still be a chairperson, and if the facilitator would simply run the meetings. John said he would be willing to continue in the role of chairperson if the PAC did hire a facilitator. He also mentioned that in the past he has asked if anyone else is interested in taking over the chairperson position but so far no one has expressed interest. Jeremy Beal mentioned that the PAC for DMI does have a facilitator but was not sure if there is a chairperson position in addition to the facilitator. Mike Alsterlund said that there would probably be a financial cost to this option and would the companies be willing to explore this.

MOTION

MOVED by Marilee Toews

That Tolko and Footner pursue the idea of a paid facilitator to conduct the flow of the HLFAC meetings. Things to explore are the cost of a facilitator, the duration of the term, and the scope of the position.

CARRIED

ACTION: Tolko and Footner will report back to the HLFAC at the May meeting on what they find out.

5.2 VOIT Roundtable

Jeremy Beal referred to a question that Marilee Toews had at a previous meetings about other certification standards. The HLFAC members were provided with two documents: FSC Principles and Criteria and FSC Canada, Accredited Standard Principle #3: Indigenous Peoples' Rights. Tolko and Footner decided to go with CSA certification. Jeremy said that the FSC standard provides a different angle and idea on measuring Aboriginal Involvement in our SFM plan. Jeremy requested that the HLFAC look at some of the criteria in the FSC standard and whether there are items that could be included within the VOIT development for the new Forest Management Plan.

There was a discussion on one of the FSC criteria for compensation to First Nations for the application of aboriginals traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations.

There was also a discussion on current First Nations involvement in the HLFAC process, and what consultation with First Nations occurs during the year. Glen Greening mentioned that one way to increase attendance of consultation meetings is the time of day the meeting is held. He said that lunch meetings tend to be attended more than evening meetings. He also mentioned that when the Dene Tha have their area developed they will share their information with Tolko and Footner. Little Red River Forestry also finds that attendance at their consultation meetings is low. They have more productive meetings when they meet with one or two individuals who have specific concerns.

Aaron Lambie referred to section 3.3 of the FSC principle 3 and said that he was working on developing software to identify sites of special significance to First Nations (i.e. burial grounds). Glen Greening mentioned that Beaver First Nations has just recently established their area of concern as being from the BC Border to the Provincial Park on which they would like to be consulted on.

Jeremy said that Tolko and Footner currently have VOITs that are close to some of the FSC criteria for Aboriginal Involvement. He will be attending a Plan Development Team meeting on April 4, 2007 with SRD (Sustainable Resource Development) regarding the companies' VOITs and will report on that at the next meeting. Also the date for the submission of the VOIT framework to the government has been changed from September 11, 2007 to October 31, 2008.

Marilee Toews asked about the Boreal standard and Jeremy said that Marcel LeCoure has had Silvacom conduct an analysis on high conservation value forest. Jeremy will ensure someone from CPAWS (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society) will be at the HLFAC meeting when this is discussed.

5.3 New PAC Member – Glen Greening – Dene Tha

John Thurston welcomed Glen Greening to the HLFAC. Glen works for Zama Mills and Che K'li Enterprises on two quotas in F14 as a facilitator. He emphasized that he is not speaking for the Dene Tha unless they specifically request him to. The Dene Tha are doing the DFMP for the crown and to help in the process they will utilize the HLFAC. They have hired Silvacom to create the landbase, which will be presented to the Chief and Council and then to the crown. They will also use the same VOITs as Tolko and Footner and they will be presenting these to the different First Nations communities for input. John asked how they will ensure that the standards are being met. Glen answered that they would be reviewing the standards annually and even though their area is not an FMA it will be treated as an FMA. Jeremy Beal asked Glen that if he will be attending the HLFAC to gather information that he reciprocate and provide the HLFAC with information. Glen said that their traditional use data will be

provided and that he could also help the HLFAC in setting up consultation meetings with contacts he has in the First Nations communities.

Lacey Reid asked if the HLFAC has ever alternated meeting locations to encourage First Nations involvement. John said that the idea has been discussed in the past but has never been done.

5.4 Administration Items

Rachel Kidder asked that the members remember to RSVP for the HLFAC meetings to ensure the correct amount of food is ordered, and also to aid in minimizing wasting of paper when photocopying. Some members requested that they be placed on a standing RSVP list and will contact Rachel only when they will not be attending.

Rachel also asked the members to communicate to her how they wished to be contacted. The attendance sheet was passed around and the members' preferred method of contact was noted for each person.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

6.1 Clipping Service

Rachel Kidder distributed the latest clipping service information to the group.

6.2 Issues and Concerns Document

John Thurston asked if the group would like to continue the Issues and Concerns document. Many members felt that it was important so this will be continued. Mike Alsterlund requested that the document be included in the work binders. Marilee Toews suggested formatting the document so that all items are listed and the ones that are not accomplished yet are highlighted. This would be a good tracking tool and could be used to promote the HLFAC to communities.

ACTION: John Thurston and Rachel Kidder will meet to update the current issues and concerns document.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS:

John Thurston mentioned an information package he received regarding the 2006 Annual Alberta Forest Genetic Council.

8. AROUND THE TABLE:

Marilee Toews mentioned a presentation by Fiona Schmiegelow to the Federation of Alberta Naturalists a few years ago on boreal forest management. She gave a copy of the presentation to Rachel Kidder. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of this presentation should contact Rachel. Marilee also mentioned two newspaper articles.

One article was regarding the discovery of 13 new species of tree dwelling lichens, and the other one was related to proposed legislation in the US regarding global warming.

Mike Alsterlund appreciated that articles were included in the newspaper clippings regarding the economic state of the industry. He asked if the companies were looking at slowing down production. Jeremy Beal mentioned an email based communication called "Woodwire" that people can subscribe to if they want to be updated on the situation frequently. Scott will email the address to "Woodwire" to Rachel for distribution among PAC members.

Jeremy Beal gave a brief summary of the past log haul season for Tolko.

Jeremy also mentioned an incident in Steen that occurred on February 26 in which a log truck accidentally hit a caribou on an ice haul road. Fish and Wildlife were involved, and truck driver and contractor followed appropriate procedures.

Jeremy addressed a question that had been asked in a previous meeting regarding the Tolko beehive burner which includes air quality reports and compliance with the Burning Permit. Mike asked about related health hazards and the implications for Tolko if the burner is continually run below limits. Meahgan Allen, who is with Northern Lights Health Region, said that reports go to the Director for Environmental Protection on the burner and that the decision is at his discretion. She also said that companies can be fined but that this is not enforced.

9. NEXT MEETING: May 1, 2007 @ 5:00 pm at the NAIT College Campus.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm