



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 04, 2006
5:00 p.m. @ NAIT College

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Marilee Toews
Lorraine Donovan
Barry Gladders

Marcel Lecoure
Scott McNeil
Robert Popowich
Corny Krahn

Mary Klassen - Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Scott McNeil

That the agenda be accepted as presented

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – March 07, 2005

MOTION

Moved By Scott McNeil

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes of March 07, 2005 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

A PAC member had been asked by a member of the public whether or not the companies keep track of calls to the hotline, answer was yes. It was also said that the amount of calls have been decreasing. Marcel will bring in a report for the next PAC meeting.

Corny Krahn with Krahn Logging just wanted to comment on the topic of salvage. He commented that it is not just a case of lack of trucks but also that the Oil and Gas industry need to get organized a little earlier in the year. It isn't until the end of the season that they start thinking about removing the salvage; if they would start earlier there would be more time to get the wood out. In this area there are about 4 guys with picker trucks that haul mainly salvage.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Natural & Environmentally Significant Areas on the FMA

As part of the VOIT framework outlined in the Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard as well as addressing the requirements outlined in the CSA Standard, the companies are exploring conservation strategies in the next management plan. A map was presented to the group which outlined existing Natural Areas as well as areas that have been deemed as being "Environmentally Significant" either provincially (relatively undisturbed, sizeable remnants of upland/valley habitats, waterfowl, critical habitat), nationally (national parks etc.), or internationally (RAMSAR sites)). Also included on the map were the areas removed from the Timber Supply Analysis (TSA) in 2003 (Peace River Islands & Ponton Corridor)

The companies are looking to develop a strategy that will address the requirements of the Planning Manual as well as incorporate concerns identified through the PAC, or DFMP & CSA public advisory processes. Although some preliminary analyses (by sub-region) on the area within and outside the current net land base have been completed, a detailed strategy remains under development and will be presented to the PAC at a later date.

The goal of the companies is to hopefully address some of the concerns identified while minimizing impact to the fiber supply. Over the next couple of months, the companies will run some preliminary analyses and update the group.

5.2 Burners Emissions Report

Marcel reported that the companies are continuing with the monitoring program and that a copy of the most recent report was not available for this meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Clipping Service

Marcel handed out copies of recent newspaper clippings

6.2 PAC AGM

After a brief discussion it was decided that we hold out AGM on May 03rd at 5:00 pm at the NAIT college campus, this makes it easier for anyone that wishes too to attend the NLFES's keynote address at 7:00 pm at the Stardust.

6.3 PAC Field Trip

The group is still looking to have a field trip to the research blocks some time in the summer. No date was set.

6. CORRESPONDANCE / REPORTS

None

7 AROUND THE TABLE

Marilee – handed out some handouts from the Footner timber development area public meeting for information.

- Voiced some frustration due to the lack of human and financial resources available to start projects to help educate people on the other values of our forests other than industry. It seems we have so much of value in this area but not enough manpower to market, promote or to educate people in eco-tourism. Perhaps a start would be to expand out field trip to include a speaker or guest that can identify plants/rocks of interest to bring in some new faces and to generate some interest.

Scott – If anyone has any new idea fro the field trip to please give him a call and he will do what he can to accommodate.

Marcel - Notified the group that Tom Hoffman will be leaving High Level to pursue another job opportunity with Tolko in British Columbia and that he has assumed the role of Woodlands Manager. With that in mind, the recruitment process for the Divisional Forester has been initiated. In terms of the PAC, Marcel will be stepping away to allow the new recruit coordinate however Marcel assured the group that in the interim he will continue to attend to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible.

8 NEXT MEETING –May 02, 2006 @ 5:00 pm at the NAIT College

9 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned @ 6:40 pm