



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

## **MINUTES**

*Tuesday December 4th, 2007*  
5:00 p.m. - Spirit of the North Community School  
High Level

### **ATTENDANCE:**

John Thurston (Chair)	Scott McNeil (FFP)
Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)	Aaron Doepel (LCSM)
George Friesen (PAC member)	Dana Archibald (FFP)
Meaghan Allen (Alberta Environment)	David Lee (Alberta Environment)
Mark Stevens (Tolko)	Lori Friesen (FFP)
Mike Watt (Alberta Environment)	Lacey Reid (ECHO)
Mike Alsterlund (PAC member)	Chris Smith (FFP)
Marcel LeCoure (Tolko)	Ted Edwards (ASRD)
Marilee Toews (PAC member)	Chad Isenor (FFP)

**Recording Secretary:** Brenda St Arnault

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

John Thurston, Chair, called meeting to order at 5:10 pm

Introduction of attendees

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

Adopt Agenda as presented

**MOVED by: Lacey Reid**

**CARRIED**

### **3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – November 6, 2007**

Changes made to 3.1 3a) by Scott McNeil, wording deleted (continuously being turned over and exposed to the air)

Accept Minutes with changes

**MOVED by: George Friesen**

**CARRIED**

### 3.1 Action items from November 6, 2007 minutes

**Sustainable Resource Development Staff to confirm when Forest Operations Monitoring Program (FOMP) and Silviculture Activity Monitoring (SAM) will start in the Upper Hay District.**

Ted Edwards, SRD; mentioned the programs have started already in the Upper Hay District, and explained the two programs and what they are for.

Discussion on how areas are chosen for audit as well as the consistent approach Alberta wants to conduct the audits.

John T. asked if we (public) could see the audit results of the procedures.

Ted E. will check policy of the government to see if public can see results.

**ACTION: Ted Edwards to check into policy on allowing the public to see audit results from the FOMP and the SAM programs and get back to the committee at next meeting.**

## 4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

### 4.1 Document update

Jeremy reviewed all the Issues and Concerns which have been brought to the attention of the committee since the July meeting. It was agreed to have these items added to the Issues and Concerns Document and be reviewed at next meeting.

**ACTION: Jeremy to complete**

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### 5.1 Tolko Beehive Burner – Marcel LeCoure

Marcel LeCoure gave a presentation to committee which will be available to the members.

Mike asked a question about the ethanol plant in the area which may use some of the material from Tolko.

Marcel – Tolko was in discussion with them but Marcel has not heard of their progress.

Mike A - How long ago was Tolko notified with the deadline?

Marcel - June 2006

John T. - How have the presentations been going/accepted by the Companies/public?

Marcel - Companies and public appreciated that they are hearing how the variance application is going from Tolko, and not hearing secondhand from the general public.

John T. - Is there Air quality testing being done in High Level?

Mike W - A Mobile vehicle will be brought to High Level to conduct air quality test in various locations.

Mike A – Is Tolko going to come back in 2010 and say they are still looking to get a longer extension due to financial constraints.

Mark Stevens (Area Manager) replied and said that Alberta Environment is only willing to give so much time, so Tolko will be doing all we can to get the issue resolved in a timely manner.

Discussion regarding the Ash in the air and if there is anything Tolko can do to regulate how much is emitted into the air. Tolko is working to do a number of things to improve the efficiency of the burner.

Item added to Agenda: Footner Forest Products closing

Jeremy B. introduced Chad Isenor; General Manager for Footner Forest Products Ltd. Chad was at the PAC meeting to discuss the closure of Footner Forest Products Ltd.

Chad Isenor gave a brief update of what the layoff and curtailment plans for Footner Forest Products.

Question by Mike A - How will this affect the residual wood that is sitting in the woods?

Chad I - FFP will have to deal with it, maybe not this winter but they are working on various options. It is not an option to leave the wood out there due to the fact that Footner Forest Products has obligations with the Government.

Mike A. - How does this affect the DFMP?

Chad I. - It is put on hold, due to the closing of Footner Forest Products Ltd.

Mike A. brought up the joint FMA Footner Forest Products has with Tolko, will there be people on staff to keep working with Tolko?

Chad I. – There will be very limited activities from the woodlands department.

Marilee T. – We have been told in the past that the “business” end of things had not been any of our business.

Chad - Any questions regarding the FMA can be directed to Chris Smith for the time being.

Scott – we are still working out the issues from the decisions regarding the questions Mike/Marilee has regarding the business end of things.

Lacey R. – question regarding of employment situation for employees?

Lori F - We have gotten a good rally from employees and the Province, we have been looking at outsourcing, career employment, transition opportunities.

Chad E. – we will try to be as transparent as possible but we still have to deal with our people – thanked PAC committee for inviting him to meeting.

#### *5.2 Committee Discussion of working Document handed out at November meeting.*

No comments from Committee as no members reviewed document.

#### *5.3 Additional VOITs to be discussed*

Jeremy B. handed out supplement to VOIT working document. Full document was placed on the website so everyone can have access to it. We can table this until the January 2008 meeting

Aaron D. - When this process is final, how is this presented to your staff?

Jeremy B. – Staff are advised of the targets to be reached at the block level reporting of our process is through me, then back to the public and company

Aaron D. commented that it seems to be complicated process and we kind of made that link already, but I also have missed meetings and missed the other discussions that have been held regarding VOITs.

John T. comments that it would be a good idea to take these indicators out into the field and follow it through from the start. How the field indicators work? Is it possible to this?

Jeremy B. – we can work towards having a fieldtrip.

Mike A. – commented on Element 4.2 from the sustainable forest management plan regarding companies making efforts to reduce area lost on the DFA.

Mike had concerns that the target and method of achieving may provide for a loophole where companies can claim for ingress of black spruce or bogs, and that we are trying to limit impacts of beaver.

Discussion continued with comments from Ted Edwards that Net landbase determination accounts for changes in area, and inventory updates captures changes in forest stand typing. Ingress of black spruce in bogs occurs on the passive landbase and would not affect company operations.

Marilee asked that the “new” VOIT be thoroughly compared to the “old” SFMP VOIT as it appears to be different.

**ACTION: Jeremy to report back on VOIT related to maintaining the landbase.**

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### 6.1 Clipping Service (J. Beal)

Jeremy B. provided copies of newspaper clippings to PAC members.

### 6.2 Fort Vermilion event

Organized by Tolko and was attended by Mike A., Marilee T., John T., and staff from Tolko – Woodlands.

Discussion that the event was a success, roughly 30 people attended, and members felt that it was definitely a good experience.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS**

No correspondence/reports.

## **8. AROUND THE TABLE**

John T. issued a personal thank you to Footner Forest Products and all their staff for volunteering their time and giving their input. Footner Forest Products Ltd. will be missed at our PAC meetings.

Ted E. commented that he will speak with Caleen about the Audit results of the FOMP and SAM programs.

Marilee issued her best wishes to the Footner Forest Products staff.

Jeremy B. notified the committee members that he had log haul cards if anyone was interested in handing some out.

Aaron D. asked if there have been ads in the paper (Echo) regarding the Log Haul.

Marcel L. – Not sure, will look into to make sure it has happened.

Scott - Thanked the committee for the fundamentals and respect they have provided.

George – commented that the logging season has started today and hauling will commence on the 14<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>. FFP will be missed as they were making a product out of aspen that has long been seen as a weed.

Dana – Thanked the committee for opportunity to participate and that he believes the public process is valuable.

Mark S. - Commented that the PAC has been doing a wonderful job of assisting the companies

Lacey – are there any changes going to be made to the PAC committee because of the closure of Footner Forest Products Ltd.?

Jeremy/Marcel - We haven't had any discussions with Footner since the announcement was made 7-8 days ago to what will be happening.

**9. NEXT MEETING** – January 15th, 2008, 5 pm,  
Spirit of the North Community School, High Level

**10. ADJOURNMENT – 7:44 pm**