



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

Tuesday, December 2, 2003
Fairview College
5:00 pm

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair	Susan McNeil	Frank Unruh
Ted Edwards	Lorraine Donovan	Erin Farrell
Glen Semenchuk	Bradley Asmussen	Lyle Duperron
Jorden Johnston	Marcel LeCoure	Milton Friesen
Laurie Jenkin	Marilee Cranna Toews	Theresa Fisher
Joy Friesen	Linda Taylor	Sarah Mullin
J.P. Bielech	Mike Alsterlund	Arlene Powers

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:11 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Lorraine Donovan

That the agenda be accepted with the following addition:

Under New Business: Outfitters
CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – November 4, 2003

MOTION

Moved By Susan McNeil

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes be accepted as amended.
CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

➤ None

5. NEW BUSINESS

➤ ***Natural Resources Canada PAC Questionnaire
Tabled***

- ***GPRC Student Presentation***
Practicum students, Sarah Mullin (Tolko) and Theresa Fisher (FFP) from Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) gave a presentation on the “Applied Forest Resource Management Degree” available at GPRC. Their talk was regarding the forestry program and what makes it unique. This program is a four year program but, due to lack of interest, this program is being phased out of the school curriculum.
Resources: Applied Forest Degree pamphlet & course outline.
- ***Horse Logging – Lyle Duperron***
Tolko met previously with Lyle (representing Horse Loggers) and a commitment was made to continue talks towards a potential commitment for volume. An agreement is expected sometime within the next 6-7 months.
John Thurston inquired as to what has changed at Tolko for the company to now explore horse logging. Marcel indicated that this is an issue that continues to be brought forward and one that the company feels needs to be addressed. Although the commitment has been made to explore potential opportunities, plans remain very preliminary at this time as there are a number of details to work out. It was also mentioned that FFP was not represented at the meeting and has not yet met the Lyle. It was suggested by a member that the Horse Loggers be given a selective area to log (possibly private land) and have them go in and log and see if they can do it. Could be a 2004 winter pilot project.
- ***Outfitters***
Posters were presented to the HLFAC on behalf of the Outfitters. It was suggested that the posters could be used for the traveling information board that is used at Trade Fairs, Community Information sessions, etc. Arlene accepted the posters on behalf of the HLFAC.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- ***Chinchaga Wilderness***
Presentation by Glen Semanchuk, Executive Director, Federation of Alberta Naturalists, Edmonton.
Glen advised group that there is a growing frustration in “how we manage forest in this area” as well as “how we operate forest in this area.”

Glen also made reference to the recent announcement that was made by the government of Alberta to not allocate any timber rights in the P8 Forest Management Unit which lies adjacent to the HLLD/FFP Forest Management Area. Although there will be no timber allocation, Oil & Gas exploration will remain in the area.

Although this isn’t entirely what the Alberta Federation of Naturalists was looking for, it is a positive step in their opinion.

Glen presented HLFPAC with a number of resources:

Chinchaga Wilderness – the last hope for the creation of a large protected area in the foothills of Alberta

Alternative Futures: Alberta's Boreal Forest at the Crossroads
by Richard R. Schneider

Special Places 2000: Beyond the Gaps - News Release Oct 20, 2003 – Chinchaga identified as Endangered Forest by Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society – Edmonton

Petroleum & Natural Gas Exploration & Development and the Alberta Special Places 2000 Initiative – Meeting the Challenge - Statement of Consensus & Outstanding Issues – Feb 12, 1998

News Release – November 14, 2001 – New report shows Alberta policies are a disadvantage to forest companies.

Parks and Protected Areas: Their Contribution to the Alberta Economy – A Discussion Paper

Letter to Honorable Mike Cardinal – dated November 28, 2003 re: Detailed Forest Management Plan of the Slave Lake Pulp Corporation (West Fraser).

Forest Stewardship Council – Alberta Regional Committee

J.P. Bielech of Manning Diversified made a few comments regarding the Chinchaga Wilderness brochure.

➤ **Public Perception of Forestry**

- Marcel is looking into clipping service.
- Has received 1 response so far but awaiting 1 more.
- Ballpark cost @ approx. \$750.00 per year.
- Marcel to bring options to next meeting.

➤ **Question of the Month**

- Answer to question regarding Blue Dot Program presented to the group by the Companies.
- Answer to the answer regarding November's question "How is salvaged Oil & Gas timber handled?" was presented by one of the members. Suggested that a letter to the editor would be an appropriate format for this as it was not answered to the member's satisfaction.
- It was suggested that the next question of the month speak about the stopping distance for log trucks. Brad and Marcel to bring an answer to the next meeting.
- Suggestion was also made to *Tolko* and *FFP* to include this information on news advertising.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- Minutes from other PAC organizations

8. AROUND THE TABLE

- For clarification, Brad (FFP) mentioned that companies will take ALL "useable" wood that is brought in.

- Laurie – is going to be meeting with Salvage / Oil & Gas Company truck drivers regarding salvage rate changes.
- Ted – doesn't think things are as grim as some of the public are lead to believe. Gov't is currently working on initiatives dealing with these perceptions.
- Linda – Agrees with Horse Logging. However, it is impossible to clean-up after the fact. Important to adopt the "no trace camp" concept (clean-up camp area).
- Mike – has made some observations from Helicopter. Counted at least 25 cut blocks with no obvious reseeding / regeneration. Areas start approx. 5 miles past Chateh turnoff and west towards Rainbow Lake.
- Marcel – Lots of CSA presentations coming up. Rainbow Lake on Dec 3, High Level December 4 and La Crete on December 5, 2003. Draft Annex table is complete. Also suggested that HLFAC consider a field tour in early 2004 to tour the blow-down areas. **Tabled to next meeting.** Also mentioned that the 5 km signs that were posted North, South and West have been removed and impounded by Highway personnel.
- Sarah / Theresa – Presented handouts regarding presentation. Applied Forest Degree pamphlet & course outline.
- Lorraine – suggested a "Dear Santa" letter regarding bus driver rage in the form of a letter to the editor. Was willing to tackle this herself.
- Marilee – "How do you effect gov't policy?" Suggested that attending conferences, etc. are a good forum to debate issues as all kinds of issues are being heard during this time.
- Brad – FFP works with gov't on a daily basis. Advised members that the government deals with a many issues and numerous stakeholders – they are not just concerned about financial issues.
- John – Suggested that Mike, Ted, Brad & Marcel get together and research some of Mike's concerns.

9. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

- January 13, 2004 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Adjourned @ 8:23 p.m.