



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 5, 2006
5:00pm @ NAIT Campus

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Scott Miller, (LRRF)
Caleen Warren (ASRD)
Lorraine Donovan
Lacey Reid (Echo)
Mike Alsterlund
Paul Kitchen

Scott McNeil (FFP)
John Stadt (SRD)
Jeremy Beal (Tolko)
Marilee Toews
Walter Sarapuk
David Berg

Ashley Beaulieu-Zatko- Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meal catered by B & B, committee had meal prior to meeting.

John Thurston, Chair of High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

That the agenda be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

Moved By: Marilee Towes

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

MOTION

That the High Level Forest Public Advisory Committee meeting minutes be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

Moved By: Walter Sarapuk

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

John Thurston brought to attention a logging truck that was in the ditch, 20km east of High Level, and was carrying short logs. The truck had their safety triangles on the road and everything came to a stop. Also that there was another logging truck that was traveling west that stopped on the highway and left his high beams on that traffic flowing in the opposite direction was blinded by the lights.

Q- What are the procedures for log haulers when they do go in into the ditch?

A- There is a variety of procedures that occur when a situation like this occurs. Each log truck is to have their safety manual with them, to try and not block to highway so that traffic is free to flow, also to get a larger size tow truck or picker truck to come out and help them out of the ditch, the other is to get a small cat to come and clear around where the truck is to make a clear path.

Q- Did the trucker going west do what he had done properly? Should he have stopped in the lane, to help the other trucker out?

A- Without actually being there, and speaking to the driver, will not make any judgments. Peter Nicholson is always available for any questions or concerns.

Q- Does the truck driver that was in the ditch, does he have any radios to talk to anyone?

A- Yes they do radio each other in which direction they will be traveling.

Jeremy Beal will inquire about signage.

Scott McNeil informed the HLPAC members that if there is anything that goes on to please give FFP a call and will hopefully get to it immediately.

Walter Sarapuk has asked for maybe a simpler phone number to remember.

The suggestion was made that there be some sort of signs available on the road or a mail out flyer or brochure in the mail so that the community has access to a phone number of where they can reach an individual who might be able to answer some of their questions concerning the log trucks or any other comments. Also to promote that the log trucks are being monitored.

M. Alsterlund had a concern with one of the logging trucks on the highway. Mr. Alsterlund had informed the HLPAC members that he was driving down the highway on a particular day, and noticed in his rear view mirror that a logging truck was coming behind him quite fast and just about hit him in the bumper. Mr. Alsterlund informed the PAC members that the minute that he backed off the driver of the truck had also backed off. The driver of the truck had passed Mr.

Alsterlund, so Mr. Alsterlund went behind him to get his license plate number off the truck.

Mr. Alsterlund believes that empty/full and are not under contract or working they should still be warned.

M. Alsterlund had informed the HLPAC members that it would not be a bad idea to have some sort of signage along the highways for log haul complaints such as in the South, East, North and West.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Annual Performance Review of SFM Plan, Presentation 3 of 3. (Jeremy Beal) (PowerPoint)

Jeremy provided the 3rd of 3 presentations on Tolko and FFP's performance in accordance to the SFM Plan for the reporting period of May 1, 2005 to April 30th, 2006. Topics covered included reporting on targets for: cut control, historical resources, stakeholder input % of contracts awarded locally, adherence to contractual obligations & agreements, First Nations consultation, opportunity for public input, forestry awareness, growth and yield program and company integration. A few reports were not available at time of presentation but will be forthcoming from a consultant. All of the targets that were presented were met during the reporting period, except for number or mechanisms used to increase forestry awareness. Tolko and FFP will develop a plan to ensure there is continual improvement for this indicator and target. Some questions were posed during the presentation (as noted below). Jeremy informed that the final report will be available in February 2006, will distribute in forms of CD's and hardcopies.

Q- What happens when quota does not meet the 10%?

A- Then Tolko will ask for a carry over.

Q- What do you consider local business?

A- Within the communities approximately to FMA. Such as Rainbow Lake, High Level, Fort Vermilion and La Crete.

Q- Is Manning in their too?

A- No they are not.

Q- Would you have any indication of who is all involved in the FMA?

A- It will all be in the end report which is coming out in February.

Q- Are the plots proportionate to the timber resource?

A- I believe it is all scattered.

5.2 ECOLOGY 101- Biodiversity, DFMP and the new planning standard- (John Stadt from SRD Edmonton) (PowerPoint)

John Stadt provided an information presentation of the dynamics of forests within Alberta and Western Canada, and how fire and people have shaped the forest development. The presentation covered the concept of forest succession and that fire is a dominant part of the Boreal and interior BC and mountainous ecosystems. Along with wildfire, mountain pine beetle infestations' have always occurred within the pine forests of BC and AB however the unprecedented current infestations' is affecting those forests that have been protected from fire for many years. Natural Disturbance Type is any even such as fire, insect infestation, wind, landslide, etc., that have an effect on the current vegetation that would be replaced by a new forest. From these disturbances age classes across the landscape are shaped, which were sometimes very different from manmade disturbances (cut blocks, town, linear features, oil and gas, etc.). In recent years various silvicultural systems have been employed by foresters, such as retention systems and partial harvesting systems, to try and emulate natural disturbances. This change in systems along with government requirements for late, mid and early serial stages across the landscape is providing more diversity. Examples were shown of harvest patterns on the landscape compared to known natural disturbances in central AB that have occurred over the last century. Linear features were also shown. Spatial concepts were covered such as what are patch size, edge habitat, interior habitat and fragmentation in natural and man caused disturbances. Impacts of linear corridors was covered that include fragmentation, predator vs. prey relationships, and providing human success and presence in areas. Forest Management Principles was discussed that included rate of cut and pattern of harvesting.

Questions arose about the presentation and are noted below.

Q- If the martin didn't have a large patch size would they adjust to the area or would they dissipate?

A- They need extreme large home ranges to exist.

Q- What type of time frame was this (martin) study done over?

A- It was done over a period of four days.

Q- Where does reforestation fit into this?

A- In planting and undisturbed protection.

Q- When you were talking about interior habitats what species will benefit?

A- The boreal species.

Q- How many ecologists are involved in ASRD and what type of network do you have to research?

A- Forest Companies and Scientists are partner with universities,

Q- Where would someone access SRD performance standards?

A- From the SRD website, Forests Management Standard.

5.3 HORSE LOGGING

Q- Is there the possibility of a joint venture of finding new areas that might be open to horse logging?

A- Tolko has not identified any areas.

Q- Where are the horse loggers located?

A- They are located by Footner mill, small patches over the next few years the initial plan was to work over areas.

Q- Is horse logging still something you would like to use as a tool in the FMA?

A- Yes, every harvesting system has a cost, which can be expensive and difficult to find areas that are close to town.

Q- Would Tolko be more interested from purchasing wood from the horse loggers?

A- Tolko would have to do negotiations and find suitable areas in which they can horse log in.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Clipping Service- (handouts)

Jeremy Beal handed out copies of newspaper clippings.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS

7.1 Ashley Beaulieu-Zatko gave John Thurston, Chair of HLPAC meeting the Grande Prairie PAC minutes. John Thurston stated if anyone would like to see the minutes to please see him after the meeting.

8. AROUND THE TABLE

8.1 – Kristin Arnott from the University of Alberta is doing a survey and Jeremy Beal gave her a few names of the PAC members to contact.

John Thurston asked in October meeting about website for Tolko,

Jeremy Beal had gave some stats about the website,

- How the general public is accessing the website:

- 1) Direct Request
- 2) Msn
- 3) Footner Website
- 4) Google

- 5) High Level Woodlands
- The top three searches were:
 - 1) Tolko/ High Level
 - 2) Forest Products
 - 3) Tolko
- What countries people are searching from?
 - 1) USA
 - 2) Canada
 - 3) US Education
 - 4) Germany
 - 5) Thailand
 - 6) Turkey
 - 7) Japan
 - 8) Singapore

Jeremy Beal- has updated the Terms of Reference and are posted, is always open to suggestions on how to make the website better and to please send an e-mail. Also that the January speaker will be Dave Moyles – SRD Wildlife Biologist and will be talking to the PAC members about Retention Targets and Blow downs.

Mike Alsterlund- Apologizes for being so abrupt at the PAC meetings and is just bring concerns to the table that are made by the public.

- Wants a map of relevance to figure out the long and short haul, to see where the areas are for economic visibility over a long range.

Posed a few questions open to the PAC members-

Q- Who measures the air quality of what comes out the mill?

A- Alberta Environment monitors what is coming out off the mill and believe that there is a monitor station atop the old hospital.

Q- Who monitors the amount of wood that is left behind after logging, there is some that I noticed that should not be left behind, because they are good size logs?

A- AFS- there is a certain diameter that is taken, about 4-6 inches in diameter, Tolko would take those pieces of wood.

Scott Miller had answered a question that was asked about John D'or Prairie if there was a blockade there. Scott Miller stated that no there is no blockade of any kind since he has been there. They are logging this year but only from Garden River.

9. NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 9, 2007

10. ADJOURNMENT- 8:30 p.m.

