



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 06, 2005
5:00 p.m. @ NAIT College

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Lorraine Donovan
Cornelia Thomi
Christopher Cottell
Henry Friesen
Bradley Asmussen
Walter Sarapuk

Marcel Lecoure
Jason Friesen
Peter Nicholson
Tracy McLean
Joy Friesen
Jordon Johnson

Mary Klassen - Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Lorraine Donovan

That the agenda be accepted as presented

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – November 01, 2005

MOTION

Moved By Lorraine Donovan

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes of November 01, 2005 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Nothing new

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 CSA Surveillance Audit Results (Tolko/Footner)

As part of their commitment to communicating the results of both their internal and external audits, Marcel provided the group with a presentation on the results of their recent surveillance audit to the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Z809:02 forest certification standard.

Although there were a few Opportunities for Improvement identified (including some directly related to the PAC (i.e. honorarium), the companies have maintained their certification status to the CSA standard. Maintaining this certification status indicates that they are continuing to improve their performance towards balancing the social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable forest management.

This presentation is available on disc if anyone wishes to have a copy feel free to contact Marcel for a copy.

5.2 Alberta Planning Manual

The companies are currently in the process of initiating development of their 2007 Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP), a document which is intended to meet both the requirements of Alberta and the CSA Standard for forest certification.

To help in the process, the province has developed a new draft planning standard which outlines the planning requirements, including a mandatory set of Values, Objectives, Indicators, and Targets for managing forest in the area. Although the VOIT's remain draft at this time, the companies (with assistance from the PAC) need to start working on the new VOIT's for the next management plan. Since the companies and PAC (and the Public Advisory Group) have completed some of the work already through the current version of the DFMP and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan, the group will not have to start from scratch as we can use some of the existing information available.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Clipping Service

Marcel handed out copies of recent newspaper clippings

6.2 Salvage

Tables until January meeting

6.3 Disparity of Treatment of O & G & Timber Companies

Tabled until the January meeting

6.4 The Association of Alberta Public Advisory Committees

Paul Lemay had initially contacted John regarding the starting of an association of Public Advisory Committees; John has tried to contact him but has not heard back from him. The process has been started and John will keep the group informed as he gets more information.

6. CORRESPONDANCE / REPORTS

None

7 AROUND THE TABLE

John – If Mr Anassay has not contacted Tolko by the New Year regarding GPSing the Blue Heron nest John would be willing to do it.

- Commented that he was surprised to read about the large amount of deaths in the forestry industry in British Columbia in the last year and was asking what would have contributed to such large numbers. A brief discussion took place on the different logging techniques in BC due to the very different terrain, such as helicopter logging and rock blasting. Another factor might be the increased amount of logging due to the Mountain Pine Beetle and not have properly trained people in the field.
- We have not done a Christmas Bird Count in our region since Richard Chemenko moved away and John will take it upon himself to compile the results if everyone calls them in to him. The count is to take place on December 17th.

Jordan – Jordan informed the PAC that he would be resigning from the committee as of this meeting. HE will be moving to Stony Plain to run a nursery that is to open in April of 2006. He thanked the PAC for all the good discussions and encouraged everyone to push both companies to continue improving. Both Tolko and Footner presented Jordan with a gift of appreciation for his involvement in the PAC right from its beginning.

Tracy – Hillcrest Community school has contacted her regarding their 20th annual science fair, they are looking for sponsors, if anyone is interested please contact Marcel.

- She gave presentations to the three schools during staff meetings and as a result of this she has been invited to do a full day presentation to a grade seven class on plants in the area.

Joy – Her question was; do our mills have access to wood in BC? It seems that a lot of wood is being burned and it seems like such a waste, they should be some way that this wood could be used. In order for wood to be brought into Alberta wood must be debarked and canted also we do not want to bring the Mountain Pine Beetle into Alberta. There may be a few different explanations as to what this wood is being burned.

- Joy also had a concern about summer logging; it seems that by logging in the summer you may be destroying a whole generation of birds. Marcel responding by saying that they are not allowed to cut until July 15th for this purpose. The Federal Government is reviewing the Migratory Birds Act as it is a very old dating back to 1911 and more research needs to be done.

8 **NEXT MEETING** – January 10, 2006 @ 5:00 pm at the NAIT College

9 **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned @ 7:20 pm