



**HIGH LEVEL FORESTS  
PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Approved MINUTES**

*Tuesday, December 8, 2009*  
5:00 p.m. – Four Winds Banquet Room  
High Level, Alberta

**ATTENDANCE:**

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)	John Thurston (Chairman)
Marilee Toews (HBSWS)	Mike Alsterlund
Al Toews (Guest)	George Friesen (Friesen Industries Ltd.)
Paul Ebert (ASRD)	Carrie Demkiw (Town of High Level)
Tim Heemskerk (Tolko)	John Dunford (Tolko)
Aaron Doepel (LaCrete Sawmills)	Barry Gladders (Tolko)

Recording Secretary: Brenda St. Arnault

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Adopt Agenda as presented.

**MOVED BY: Mike Alsterlund**

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – November 17, 2009**

Adopt Minutes as presented.

**MOVED BY: Carrie Demkiw**

**CARRIED**

## **Discussion of November 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

### Discussion on Indicator #17 – Soil Productivity

Marilee commented that the focus of this indicator is different from what the intent was during development of the VOITs. Initially it was not the intention to measure tree growth in a growth and yield program but the public wanted a check on the health of the soil.

Jeremy replied that he did not have the history of how the discussions transpired or how the VOIT was adjusted from what the public want, but the Indicator has been the same since the SFM Plan was accepted by the companies and public. Even though the primary focus of the indicator is monitoring productivity of the soil between pre and post harvest conditions, there is a requirement for the company to report on applicable research in soil productivity and health.

#### **3.1 *Review of action items (old action items in italics)***

There are no action items for review.

## **4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

### **4.1 *Decked Aspen Logs***

Discussions held regarding meeting minutes from November 17, 2009, there was confusion between the two subjects discussed, Decked aspen logs and Incidental Aspen logs. George Friesen explained the Proposal was intended to benefit the loggers and not either of the Companies (Tolko Industries Ltd. or Footner Forest Products). Adjustment for November 17, 2009 meeting minutes will be made to reflect the change.

Mike asked who is the contact for Footner Forest Products, who can the public contact to ask about what is happening with the decked aspen?

Jeremy mentioned that it was recommended by SRD at the June PAC meeting that if the PAC wants to inquire to others than Footner Forest Products Ltd they can contact the local MLA or the Assistant Director of ASRD with a letter signed by the committee chair. That would initiate a response by the government.

Marilee asked with the current state of Footner Forest Products in curtailment who is managing FFP?

Jeremy – Jayson Kofluk is the site manager. Ainsworth and Grant continue to be the managing partners.

George speculated that with Grant under bankruptcy protection they might sell their share to Ainsworth.

Barry – Courts that are deciding on Grant's bankruptcy protection have until Feb 2010.

George mentioned that with regards to the Decked Aspen proposal there was samples of the wood that were sent out to be tested for viable to make pulp and the wood is still good.

Paul E. – Mentioned that his understanding was that the decked aspen will have no value by next year.

Al T. – With regards to the decked aspen proposal, if the public will be on the hook for the cost for transporting the wood to a facility, then he thinks the wood should stay in the bush rather than leaving it up to the tax payer to fund the removal.

Barry mentioned that if the response from the public is that they don't want taxpayer money spent locally on this project, then the governments will decide to use that taxpayer money elsewhere in the province. It will be our loss.

Barry recommended that if a letter is sent regarding progress on the decked aspen it should be directed to FFP. If a letter is sent to the government the most likely response will only be that the wood is still FFPs. Therefore, until we know otherwise, the wood is still a FFP asset so the public should direct any questions to FFP what they are planning to do with the aspen.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 *Presentation: John Dunford, Chair, CSA User Group***

John Dunford provided presentation Update on the;

- Roles in CSA SFM Certification
- CSA & SFM Standard (Z809)
- Certification Statistics
- Market Access Issues

### **5.2 *Sustainability Indicators for 2008/2009***

Jeremy B. reported on 8 commitments for the 2008-2009 timber year. The remaining 10 commitments to be reported will be completed in March 2010.

PAC was provided with a hardcopy of the presentation and a copy will be uploaded to the public website.

#### ***#2: Cover Types***

Manage the DFA to emulate natural disturbance patterns. (+ or – 5%)

For the 2008-2009 season there was 35.6 ha of too much DC created, and all the other cover types balanced. The pre-harvest declarations for the last 5 seasons amounts to an excess of DC area, not enough D, and C and CD are balanced.

Main reasons for the imbalance is that FFP is not operating to accept any reforestation liability for blocks moving from a conifer type (C, CD or DC) to a D, and, other adjustments from establishment survey results are not accounted for in the summary. Further analysis to be completed in 2010 to understand the true imbalance.

*#10: Compliance with Seed Zones*

All planting operations complied with seed transfer guidelines.

*#14: Salvage from Natural Disturbance*

To date there has been 6951.1 ha burned on the DFA, with 1803.2 ha being productive (25.9%), however there has been no salvageable area. (salvageable requires burned areas to be close to future harvest operations and have sufficient timber)

*#20: Watercourse Crossings*

No streams required reclamation work following removal of crossings.

*#21: Reforestation Activities*

To ensure that harvested areas are reforested within 2 years of skid clearance to maintain carbon recycling.

Tables provided show that Tolko is on track to maintain reforestation obligations.

*# 22: Area identified as being SR*

Only area identified as SR in the 2008 survey season was declared to Alberta. Any harvest blocks that are NSR have been scheduled for a resurvey or retreatment.

*#23: Forested area on DFA*

To maintain or increase the amount of forested land on the DFA.

During the 2008 planting season 3 well sites were planted. A 5 year summary of seismic line area planted concurrently with cutblocks was provided that shows Tolko has reforested 561.9 ha of area previously identified as non-forested.

*#28: Opportunities*

The number (%) of business and employment opportunities given to local employers and/or citizens.

88% of the business and employment opportunities were given locally.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

**6.1 2009 SFM Plan**

Jeremy handed out revisions, if there are any questions/comments please let Jeremy know.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS**

**7.1 *Clipping Service (25)***

**8. AROUND THE TABLE**

Barry – provided PAC members with an update on collective agreement negotiations between Tolko and United Steel Workers.

**9. NEXT MEETING – January 19/10 - 5:00 pm, Four Winds Banquet Room**

**10. ADJOURNMENT – 7:55 pm**