



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 01, 2005
5:00 p.m. @ NAIT College

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Jordan Johnston
George Friesen
Marilee Toews
Susan McNeil

Walter Sarapuk
Mike Alsterlund
Colin Hanusz
Bradley Asmussen

Mary Klassen
Will Horbal
Lorraine Donovan
Henry Friesen

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Walter Sarapuk

That the agenda be accepted with an addition of;
5.3 Salvage
5.4 Footner Timber Harvest Plan
5.5 Feedback on Pile Burners Insurance

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – January 11, 2005

MOTION

Moved By George Friesen

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes of January 11, 2005 be accepted with a correction to item number 4. Issues and Concerns, it should read Highway 697 not 695

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

No new issues or concerns were brought forward

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Issues and Concerns Tracking Sheet

Nothing new to add

5.2 Horse Logging Tour (Colin)

A date of February 26th has been set for a horse logging tour. We will combine our tour with the Northern Lights Forest Education Society's tour, which will be opened to the public as well. The group will meet at the Tolko office at 9:00 am. The contact for the public is Fraser Deacon and PAC members can contact Colin Hanusz.

5.3 Salvage

A PAC member was asking if ASRD (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development) was going to respond to questions asked at past meetings about the salvage problems.

They're on the agenda for the March meeting.

A PAC member had an incident where he was told of a company authorizing the burning of timber. He is concerned that people are burning merchantable timber and asked if the companies were concerned about this as well.

The company would certainly want to be notified if someone is burning merchantable timber. If someone is not salvaging timber this should be brought to the forest services attention. In order for them to investigate this incident they would need the exact location and the name of the company that authorized the burning. The PAC does not want to put ASRD on the spot at the PAC meeting so it was suggested to write a letter requesting information on the topics discussed

MOTION

Moved By Marilee Toews

That the PAC write a letter to ASR to the attention of Gail Tucker requesting the guidelines for waiving timber, the amounts of timber waived in the last year along with their location.

CARRIED

5.4 Footner Timber Harvest Plan

Question was asked, are Footner and Tolko's harvest plans synonymous?

The balance of distance is different as is their targets. As much as they can they jointly share the hauling roads but that is not always possible. For example, Tolko's average haul distance will be higher than Footner's this year because of the activity in the Zama area.

Question was asked, are they taking the trees nearby and leaving the stuff that is not as easily accessed?

Typically when mills are constructing long term access roads they cut as the haul road gets built, thus accessing areas further away each year. However the companies try to maintain an average haul distance from year to year.

Also making the haul distance longer is the fact that this year Tolko is targeting the spruce budworm areas which are located in compartments along the boundary of the FMA. Footner does not have this same constraint as aspen is not directly affected by Spruce Budworm.

5.5 Insurance for pile Burners

Question was asked if there had been any feedback from James Ahnassay regarding the insurance for the pile burners.

Will has not been in contact with Cary Chonkolay since our last meeting but will keep the PAC informed if anything new arises.

Colin will contact James to GPS the Herring nests, perhaps in the spring as that would be the best time to do that. He suggested that perhaps we can tie that in with a tree planting tour.

6 OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Question of the Month

There was no response to last month's question of the month, it was agreed that we wait until after the horse logging tour and do up a question relating to the Echo's article.

6.2 Clipping Service (handouts)

Colin handed out copies of newspaper clippings

6.3 Private Sales

Gray Jordan's response regarding the issue of private sales is as follows; "I hoped to communicate that the search of our archives was exhaustive, and here is nothing left to search at Footner. Although Footner is as frustrated as Walter that we are unable to find conclusive evidence of an offer to purchase private wood made before start up, I believe we have to view this issue as closed. We have not paid \$8-12 per cubic meter for private wood in the past, not does the market support that price at the present time. At the end of the day, as Lorraine pointed out, timber purchases are a commercial transaction, governed by the market, and all any landowner can do is research the market price, negotiate with knowledge, and make a decision about whether or not to sell. I have talked to Carl Leary. He attended all public meetings before the mill was built, and during construction. Carl remembers price for private wood being discussed at these meetings. Hard numbers provided were \$1/cubic meter (What DMI paid at the time) to \$3/cubic meter (what Ainsworth Grande Prairie Paid). Carl remembers a meeting where one of the company representatives said he could "see" prices going as high as \$8-12/cubic meter in the futures, as the supply and demand of wood in the region changes. However, at no time was a commitment made to buy wood at \$8-12/cubicmeter."

6.4 Annual Performance Report

The annual report is in draft form and is currently being reviewed by the management. Once it is approved copies will be made and brought to the meeting. There will also be one available at the library for the public.

6.5 Update On Highway Safety

Will sent out an e-mail to La Crete Sawmills and Footner regarding the trucks stopping at the corner of 697 & 88, no response from them to date. He suggested that if seen again to get a truck number and perhaps the color of the truck which would make it much easier to track the driver.

A PAC member insisted that speed is an issue and a problem with log truck drivers, he has heard of too many stories told of speeding log trucks.

Will responded by insuring the committee that Tolko does monitor the driver's tach cards and that they do not tolerate speeding or careless driving. The integrity of the tach cards were questioned by a PAC member and was told that while it is not impossible to tamper with the cards it is however highly unlikely or very rare that that does happen. There is not a lot to be gained by speeding because it would only cause for a lot of bunching up at the scale, also the trip cycle times are recorded at the scale house and the driver would be identified and reprimanded.

It was agreed that it would be a good idea that Will and Mike will go out in an unmarked vehicle with a radar gun and see if speed really is or is not a problem.

6.6 Log Haul Safety

Will handed out handouts outlining the number of Tolko Log truck accidents versus number of loads delivered on Highway 58 west for the past three years. Also included was number of over weight graphs for the last few years that show Tolko is well within tolerance VS Alberta Transportation limits.

7. CORRESPONDANCE

7.1 Northern Lights Forest Education Society

The PAC's tour of the horse logging operations will be combined with the NLFES. John mentioned the society's plan look at different activities to coincide with National Forest Week, activities that would make the public more aware of what they do and perhaps involve them more.

It was agreed that the kids need to learn more about the management aspect of forestry.

7.2 Letter from Association of Alberta Forestry Public Advisory Committees

An invitation was sent to the PAC inviting them to attend in the fifth meeting of the Association of Alberta Forestry Public Advisory Committee. John will respond to the committee.

8 AROUND THE TABLE

John – Could not get a hold of Geoff with EUB but has left a message and is waiting for a response.

He also left a message for Dave Morle with hopes of Dave coming to the PAC meeting to give us some updates on Caribou Management.

Colin – There was some discussions at the PAG meeting of combining the PAC and the PAG as there are some members that are on both committees. Question was asked would everything get dealt with effectively if we combined the two? We don't want to be rushing through important agenda items.

Also wanted to inform the group of a funding opportunity for different projects, more information can be found on the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta website at www.friaa.ab.ca . People who are interested should open the Open Funds tab and fill out the paperwork under Local projects.

Also a reminder to all interested in the horse logging tour, we leave from the Tolko office at 9:0 am on February 26th, wear nice warm winter boots and other appropriate winter wear.

Marilee – Has an idea of a comprehensive forest exhibition that still needs some work. It was suggested that she bring it to the NLFES.

NEXT MEETING – March 01, 2005 @ 5:00 pm at the Fairview College

9 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned @ 7:25 pm