



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Approved MINUTES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009
5:00 p.m. – Four Winds Banquet Room
High Level, Alberta

ATTENDANCE:

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)	John Thurston (Chairman)
Marilee Toews (HBSWS)	Al Toews (Guest)
Dave Sadowsky (ASRD)	Ed Anderson (Tolko)
Marcel LeCoure (Tolko)	Al Benson (ASRD)
Lacey Reid (ECHO)	Pat Cabezas (Dene Tha First Nation)
Mike Alsterlund (Member)	Walter Sarapuk (MD #23)
George Friesen (Member)	

Recording Secretary: Brenda St. Arnault

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adopt Agenda as presented.

MOVED by: Pat Cabezas

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – January 6, 2009

Adopt Minutes as presented.

MOVED by: Walter Sarapuk

CARRIED

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

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Aspen decked logs

John T. mentioned that after a previous meeting when the committee decided to remove decked aspen logs from the agenda he received calls from the public asking about the decked logs. Therefore, John T. asked that “Decked Aspen Logs” continue to be on the agenda and discuss when there are updates, as the public seems to have interest in this topic.

Discussion amongst committee about, (1) continued economic situation making resolution to this issue difficult, (2) request for advertisements in local papers to allow people to access for firewood (safety and liability issues), and (3) the public is unclear on what Alberta is doing to resolve situation.

Jeremy B. to leave Aspen decked logs on agenda permanently.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Tolko CSA/ISO Audits: Overview of Results

Jeremy gave a presentation to overview the results of the audits, and corresponding handouts were provided to PAC members. The audit handouts will be made available on www.highlevelwoodlands.com.

The audits occurred January 19 to 22, 2009 by Nate Ryant (Lead Auditor) under contract with Quality Management Institute (certifying body). General components of the audits were:

- Interviews with Office staff
- Field Day; visiting field operations, interviewing contractors, evidence gathering, assessing field indicators, documenting use of operational controls
- PAC member interview
- Invited First Nations to participate in interview: Dene Tha had rep participate
- Government personnel interviewed
- Summary of Areas of Concerns and Opportunities for Improvement were provided by auditor, and Jeremy provided initial Root Causes and what improvements Tolko needs to take.
- Internal audit will occur in Dec/2009, and the CSA Re-registration audit will occur in January 2010.

5.2 Hand-out of 2007/2008 Annual Performance Review – Part 1

Jeremy B. provided copy of 2007/2008 Annual Performance Review – Part 1, Part 2 should be available to the PAC members in April if data is made available by our consultant.

5.3 Schedule of meeting topics for 2009

There was general discussion about upcoming meetings

March 2009	open for topic. Ideas welcome
April 2009	discussion on indicators, final handout
May 2009	Jamie Bruha – ASRD (Presentation TBD). GDP overview
June 2009	Annual General Meeting
July – Aug 2009	No PAC meetings to occur
Sept 2009	Fall Trade Fair preparations
Oct to Dec 2009	Annual Performance Indicators, company harvesting plans

John Thurston mentioned that he would contact Mike Maximchuk from ASRD to see if he could do a presentation on invasive plants at the June meeting. If people have any other ideas of presentations please let us know.

5.4 Tolko Issues

Curtailment: Marcel provided update to PAC members regarding Tolko's decision to shutdown for a 2 week period. Decline in lumber markets has not improved therefore Tolko decided to shutdown 7 of their mills in BC and Alberta. Three (3) mills including High Level are planned to reopen on February 23, 2009 as it is expected demand and lumber prices will increase during curtailments. Due to the mill curtailment Tolko's harvesting program was reduced as well.

Beehive Burner: Marcel updated PAC members on situation with Beehive burner. The deadline for a signed agreement at the end of 2008 was not achieved due to continued discussions with other partners and lawyers reviewing legal agreements. Tolko received 3 month extension from Alberta Environment until March 31, 2009 to have agreement signed with other party. The plan is to have the Beehive burner deactivated by the end December 2010.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Clipping Service (6)

Jeremy B. distributed the latest news clippings to the PAC members.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS

Jeremy B. provided copies of meeting minutes from DMI Public Advisory Committee meeting.

8. AROUND THE TABLE

- John T. requested PAC members notify Brenda/Jeremy of your attendance so appropriate arrangements are made for the caterer.
- Pat C. mentioned his appreciation to Marcel LeCoure with the openness regarding the situation with Tolko Industries.
- Al Benson appreciated the discussions.

- Dave S. commented he found a copy of OSB book by Daryl Kenton and would provide copy to Jeremy B. for addition to acronyms list.

9. NEXT MEETING – March 3, 2009, 5:00 pm, Four Winds Banquet Room

10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:15 pm