



***HIGH LEVEL FORESTS  
PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE***  
**MINUTES**

*Tuesday February 05, 2008*  
5:00 p.m. - Spirit of the North Community School  
High Level

**ATTENDANCE:**

John Thurston (Chair)  
George Friesen (member)  
Walter Sarapuk (MD23)  
Ron Pelensky (Councillor, HL)  
Ed Anderson (Tolko)

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)  
Lacey Reid (Echo)  
Ted Edwards (ASRD)  
Mike Alsterlund (member)  
Glen Greening (Zama Mills)

**Recording Secretary:** Brenda St. Arnault

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

John Thurston, Chair, called meeting to order at 5:10 pm

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Adopt Agenda as presented

**MOVED by: George Friesen**

***CARRIED***

**3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – January 15, 2008**

Accept Minutes as presented

**MOVED by: Lacey Reid**

***CARRIED***

3.1 Action items from January 15, 2008 minutes

No action items

## 4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

### *Private Wood:*

Member believes that low stumpage prices affect the opportunity for private landowners to sell timber.

### *Salvage:*

Member wants to know if companies are utilizing the majority of salvage that is available (**Action: Ted to provide information**).

### *Terms of Reference:*

During the upcoming review of the PAC Terms of Reference in April, a member wants “economics” related to the companies operations to be allowed discussed at the committee

### *Mixedwood Management:*

Member has concerns about the future management of mixedwood stands & utilization of aspen (**Action: Jeremy to solicit companies**)

### 4.1 *Document Review*

The Issues and Concerns document was fully reviewed by committee to determine those items which have not been closed. Items to be concluded/updated:

*Herbicide Program:* Did the distribution list associated with notification of Tolko’s herbicide program change since this issue was raised at the October 2005 meeting? (**Action: Jeremy to inquire**)

*Summer Logging:* resolution to be completed

*Beehive Burner:* need to update issue with recent events

*PAC membership:* resolution to be completed

Comment from member that the committee is not receiving feedback in writing from the companies on issues that are raised at the table that cannot be answered by company representatives in attendance.  
(**Action: Jeremy to solicit companies**)

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### 5.1 *Alberta Monitoring Programs: FOMP & SAM*

Ted Edwards presented information on ASRD’s “Forest Operations Monitoring Program” (FOMP) and “Silviculture Activity Monitoring” program (SAM), to outline the department’s role and the purpose of the programs.

## 5.2 Annual Indicator & Target Review

Jeremy reviewed 17 of the 32 commitments, with the remainder to be reviewed at the April 2008 meeting.

Commitment #17: Member asked where are the companies getting information related to soil productivity being maintained, as removal of timber from harvested areas is known to deplete the soil?

Jeremy: Commitment has to do with maintaining a Growth & Yield program and ensuring that managed stands meet or exceed the growth of natural stands over time. Nutrient supply is not generally a growth limiting factor as soils in the High Level area tend to be rich. Growth is mainly limited by soil temperature, moisture levels and shortness of growing season.

George: Are there Growth and Yield plots added every year?

Jeremy: Yes, however for 2008 the program is suspended with hopes to continue the program in 2009.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

### 6.1 Clipping Service (J. Beal)

Jeremy B. provided copies of newspaper clippings to PAC members.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS

No correspondence/reports.

## 8. AROUND THE TABLE

Members expressed their concern that Footner Forest Products Ltd was not represented at the meeting.

PAC member: Has FFP abdicated their responsibilities and obligations they have for this license?

Ted: FFP is aware of their obligations and responsibilities and that ASRD is working with them to ensure the requirements are met.

PAC member would like the following concerns directed to company representatives who can provide comments:

- He mentioned a year ago that the companies should slowdown operations due to adverse business conditions. Why was this not done at FFP to avoid a shutdown? Tolko was able to reduce a shift and continue to operate.

- Did FFP receive reduced stumpage of \$0.56/m<sup>3</sup> for the first 5 years of operations as an incentive from government? And if this is true, did the forecasted increase in stumpage cause the mill to become uneconomical to operate?
- Low stumpage set by government affecting sale of private timber.
- Possible loss of marketable volume if aspen left in FFP blocks is left too long.

Jeremy: Asked PAC member if they had been following the news, and if they were aware of the state of the Canadian forest industry and the unprecedented adverse business conditions that exist that has led to countless mills curtailing or closing in Canada and the US.

**(Action: Jeremy to provide companies with comments)**

**9. NEXT MEETING** – March 4, 2008, 5 pm,  
Four Winds Banquet Room

**10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:10 pm**