



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday February 6, 2007
5:00 p.m. - Tolko Boardroom

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Lori Friesen
Joy Friesen
Walter Sarapuk
Chelsea Minchau
George Friesen
Bruce Avery
Alex Bloss
Stephanie Grocholski
Marilee Toews

Lacey Reid
Jeremy Beal
Lorraine Donovan
Caleen Warren
Scott McNeil

PRESENTERS:

Mike Maximchuk
Grzegorz Kwiecien

Recording Secretary: Rachel Kidder

Due to the transition of secretarial duties from MEDC (Mackenzie Economic Development Corporation) to Tolko there was some confusion with the access to the NAIT campus. Therefore, dinner was served at NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) and then the meeting was moved to the Tolko Boardroom.

ACTION: Rachel to receive key & passcode from NAIT.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

John Thurston, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. There were a few new people attending the meeting so John Thurston suggested we go around the table and briefly introduce ourselves.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

MOTION

MOVED by Walter Sarapuk

That the agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: December 5, 2006, January 16, 2007

MOTION

MOVED by Lorraine Donovan

That the HLPAC (High Level Forests Public Advisory Committee) meeting minutes of December 5, 2006 be accepted with the following changes:

- 8.1 The sentence that reads “Kristin Arnott from the University of Alberta and is doing a survey on Jeremy Beal gave her a few names of the HLPAC members to contact” should read “Kristin Arnott from the University of Alberta is doing a survey and Jeremy Beal gave her a few names of the HLPAC members to contact.”

CARRIED

MOTION

MOVED by Lacey Reid

That the HLPAC meeting minutes of January 16, 2007 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

John Thurston said he had received a call from Mary Klassen who used to work for MEDC and had been the HLPAC Secretary in the past. She now works for EUB (Energy Utilities Board) and she mentioned that EUB would like to have someone attend HLPAC meetings. John said that this had come up in a previous HLPAC meeting and EUB had said at that time that they were too busy to attend and they would let the HLPAC know when they had time. John had never received a response until now.

ACTION: John will contact Mary and personally invite EUB to the HLPAC and will also send a letter to EUB. John asked Rachel to come up with a letter for him.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Work Binders

Jeremy Beal distributed the VOIT (Values, Objectives, Indicators, Targets) work binders to HLPAC members. He explained that the VOIT work binders have the entire VOIT spreadsheet. Also, each VOIT has it's own separate page with room for notes at the bottom. Extra VOIT work binders will be kept with Rachel Kidder at Tolko.

(Please note that contrary to the agenda, Mike Maximchuk gave his presentation before Grzegorz Kwiecien.)

5.3 Forest Health in Defined Forest Area (Mike Maximchuk, Alberta SRD)

John Thurston welcomed Mike Maximchuk back to the HLPAC. Mike gave a PowerPoint presentation to update the members on the latest forest health conditions. Currently the major forest pests in the DFA are the Spruce Budworm, Northern Tent Caterpillar, Large Aspen Tortrix, and Forest Tent Caterpillar.

Mike said that they have implemented a spraying program this year for the Fort McMurray area and they are also setting traps to monitor the number of moths. John asked why there was a greater concentration of pests in some areas. Mike said that different spring conditions in different areas could effect that. John also asked about predators for the pests. Mike said that there are predators but that the budworms can out produce their predators.

The Mountain Pine Beetle problem in particular is a major problem south of the DFA with billions of beetles flying in from BC over the last few years. Bruce Avery asked how bad the problem was on the west side of the province around Hinton. Mike said it was not as bad as in some areas, Dawson Creek for example where there are stands of pine trees 100% infested. Joy Friesen asked what the Spruce Budworm looked like. Mike said it was brown with white spots on its back and has a black head.

Bruce asked what the expectation was for pests this year and Mike answered that it depends on the type of spring we have. Bruce also asked if there were any studies on long term effects of defoliation. Mike responded by saying there were not very many studies but that the effect of repeated attacks can be a loss of timber up to 90%. Also there are other factors such as frost or moisture that could also contribute to minimizing tree growth.

Other forest pests include root diseases, Yellowheaded Spruce Sawfly (for young stands), and invasive plants such as perennial sow thistle and scentless chamomile. Bruce mentioned that Tolko is using a new chemical that will target only scentless chamomile.

Alex Bloss asked if there was a particular size (diameter) of pine tree that the Mountain Pine Beetles were attacking. Mike said that they are attacking mostly the pine trees with a diameter of 20 cm and the odd spruce tree. There have been pine trees around 6 cm diameter attacked but only in stands with high infestation. Alex also asked if the mills could expect ASRD (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development) to stay on top of the problem. Mike said it was hard to say how bad it would get and that it is difficult to control because many of the factors that can eliminate the pest are out of our control (such as weather). John asked if the temperature had to remain at -40° for two weeks. Mike said it didn't have to be that cold for that long but that the under bark temperature must be about -35° and stay that way for 24 – 48 hours.

Caleen Warren asked about a group regarding noxious weed control that she initiated with the government and oil & gas. Mike said that the group had gone

by the wayside due to lack of participation. Now ASRD sends out letters to companies regarding their noxious plant problems.

Jeremy Beal mentioned that this information presented by Mike will be presented by Mike will be incorporated in the new VOIT framework for the DFMP.

5.2 Heritage Resource Overview (Grzegorz Kwiecien, Alberta Western Heritage)

John Thurston welcomed Grzegorz Kwiecien to the HLFAC. Grzegorz Kwiecien gave a PowerPoint presentation on Archeology as it relates to our forests. See the attached outline for more information on the PowerPoint presentation.

The types of things they look for in archeology are items made from bone or metal because they survive the longest. They use carbon dating to date the artifacts that they find.

Grzegorz mentioned some of the challenges they face in northern Alberta which are:

- the soil in boreal forests are very acidic so bone artifacts don't survive very long.
- dwellings & features in boreal forests are not very visible because of the dense vegetation.
- archeological sites in northern Alberta are difficult to get to because of terrain and the distance required to travel. Cut blocks which are possible archeological sites are investigated by helicopter.
- most sites are very small so they don't find many artifacts in one place.

Grzegorz mentioned that it is most helpful that when they find a site to find it in some kind of context with its surroundings. For this they use sediment layering. This poses another problem because boreal forests don't have a lot of sediment layering.

John Thurston mentioned there was not a lot of exploration in our area and asked if they depend on farmers to discover things. Grzegorz confirmed that this was the case. He also mentioned that when artifacts are found they become property of the government.

Grzegorz said that in the 1990's a change started occurring within forestry companies. There was more of a focus on native cultures and historical resources. Due to this change, government is proposing a Heritage Management Strategy component as part of the mills' AOP (Annual Operating Plan). See the Grzegorz PowerPoint outline for more details on this component.

Stephanie Grocholski asked what the general public should do if they find artifacts. Grzegorz said they can contact a local archeologist or community development office, and if they find anything on the surface they can keep it. Marilee Toews mentioned that at the museum in Fort Vermilion they encourage people to note the legal land description of where they find items. John asked if

one of the mills found an old trappers cabin if they have to wait for the site to be investigated and Grzegorz said yes. John also asked if the first nations had laid claim to any artifacts. Grzegorz said not here in Alberta but there are problems with that in the US and in BC.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

6.1 Clipping Service (Jeremy)

This month's newspaper clippings were included in the VOIT work binders that were distributed earlier.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS:

There is no correspondence or reports at this time.

8. AROUND THE TABLE:

Jeremy said that the reason for Grzegorz Kwiecien's visit is to make people aware of archeological sites in the region, of Tolko and Footner's responsibility in following government regulations regarding archeological sites, and of archeological sites as they relate to section 6 of VOIT.

John Thurston reiterated that Tolko is taking over the secretarial duties for the HLFAC from MEDC. The HLFAC appreciates all the work that MEDC has done for the HLFAC.

Rachel Kidder will pick up all HLFAC documentation and letters from MEDC before the next meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING: March 6, 2007 @ 5:00 pm at the NAIT College Campus.

Presentation by David Andison (Bandaloop Landscape-Ecosystem Services) on Natural Range of Variability.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm