



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 07, 2006
5:00 p.m. @ NAIT College

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Lorraine Donovan
Henry Friesen
Robert Popowich
Scott McNeil
Mike Alsterlund

Marcel Lecoure
Marilee Toews
Walter Sarapuk
Bradley Asmussen
Susan McNeil

Mary Klassen - Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Susan McNeil

That the agenda be accepted as presented

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – January 10, 2005

MOTION

Moved By Lorraine Donovan

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes of January 10, 2005 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

A PAC member commented that birch is not being replanted and asked what effects that would have on the environment if any. Brad informed the group that they have no right to cut any birch. The amount of birch in the FMA is less than ½

of a percent. The only market for birch is firewood and some are using it to make furniture.

A PAC member received a concern from a community member regarding what seems like a two tier system between Oil and Gas and Forestry. He talked about an incident where the oil company had to go back through a reseeded area to the site to burn three logs that were left on a well site. He feels that Oil and Gas are held to a higher set of standards than forestry as there are piles of unburned wood in the bush that have been left behind by forestry. PAC member handed the location information to Robert Popowich who will make sure it gets to the appropriate hands.

Marcel Suggested that perhaps the decks laying in the bush were old (20 +) during that time there was not a big market for Aspen and it may have been left behind.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 VOIT Presentations

Marcel gave a presentation to the group regarding the VOIT's as it applies to the development of the companies new Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) The companies will now be using the PAC as the primary source of input. In addition to assisting the companies to complete the required VOIT's identified by Alberta, the PAC can also identify additional local-level VOITs for possible incorporated into the management plan. The companies will be presenting potential strategies and will be considering incorporating strategies outlines in the existing DFMP (2003) and the Sustainable Forest Management Plan used to meet the CSA standard for forest certificate, as well as research and other strategies used in other jurisdictions. The companies will also look into bringing in guest speakers to help provide professional opinions and rationale for possible strategies.

A PAC member asked if there would be a mixed wood management plan, Marcel indicated that although the current plan emphasizes mixed wood Management (within provincial requirements) and that there is some application of mixedwood management during our current management activities. Although the next management plan will incorporate more in this regard. There is also a requirement to manage the forest within provincial guidelines and given that only 10% of the land base remains mixed wood; the emphasis will be on managing pure stands.

5.2 Chain of Command

A PAC member asked if it were possible for the companies to put together a handout showing how the company is structured and outlining who to contact if problems cannot be resolved at the PAC meeting. He also asked if the discussions around the PAC table ever go beyond the meeting. He was assured that management does read the PAC minutes and Robert said that he does discuss PAC issues with his colleagues on a regular basis. If issues can be dealt with locally they do so but if not it does go to the Edmonton office. Brad stressed that the government is a regulation body for them just like for everyone else and they do not want to target them as they have no control and would rather focus on issues that they do have control of.

Scott from Footner informed the group that the company does have communication tracking system in place and anyone can call in and the company

will work to address and resolve all issues. Both companies as well as the government stressed that their door are always open and some issues could be easily resolved on the spot as all resources are on hand.

The topic of the price of private wood was brought up again and Brad reiterated that the mill is paying a competitive price that is not out of line. PAC member indicated that this issue is now resolved for him.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Clipping Service

Marcel handed out copies of recent newspaper clippings

6.2 Disparity of Treatment of O & G and Timber Companies

This was discussed under the agenda item number 4.

6.3 PAC Terms of Reference

As discussed and agreed to by the PAC during the January meeting, the PAC Terms of Reference document was revised to remove the requirement for an Honorarium. A revised copy of the TOR document was distributed to the group.

John Thurston indicated that there was also reference in the document to a "Treasurer" which we should look at removing since we don't have one and because MEDC does a good job in managing the finances. The group agreed and Marcel indicated that the change would be made.

A PAC member pointed out that they has never been a mileage claim sheet available, Mary will make sure that one will be available at the next meeting.

6.4 PAC Field Trip

Scott McNeil suggested that the group tour a research block about 58 km west of High Level. It is a projected headed by Tolko, Footner Forest Products, Mixed Wood Management Association of Alberta and the Canadian Forest Service. A tentative date of March 04th was set, we meet at the Tolko office at 11:00 am, Mary will send out a reminder notice one week prior to trip.

6. CORRESPONDANCE / REPORTS

None

7 AROUND THE TABLE

Brad – Informed the group that Scott NcNeil will be the main Footner contact for the PAC from now on.

- Also wanted to let the group know that this year the mill pulled 3900 loads off the main highway and put them on the winter haul road as opposed to 4400 trips last year

- At the last PAC meeting he had been asked to try and identify the driver of a speeding truck that a PAC member had encountered on his way to the meeting, due to lack of information on the truck he was not able to track him.
- The same PAC member had asked about a dropped pup on the side of the road and Brad did find out that the truck had experienced some mechanical problems

Scott – Handed out his contact information and handed out copies of The Mackenzie just for information and just pointed out how far the mill has come since start up.

Walter - About 4 or 5 years ago there was some talk about the start up of a Co-Gen plant and he asked if there was any more information on this project. Answer given was that some ground work has been done and an Energy Task Force as been formed. Information on timelines will be given at the next meeting

Mike – Mentioned that the Rocky Lane Agricultural Society is having a Lopit on March 25 and they are looking for some sponsors. He also encouraged everyone to attend; there is a category for everyone.

Marcel – We need to start thinking about the AGM, perhaps team up with the NLFES again. He suggested we could look at having Rob Layton as a potential guest speaker given his position as President of the Alberta Forest Products Association..

8 **NEXT MEETING** – March 07, 2006 @ 5:00 pm at the NAIT College

9 **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned @ 7:35 pm