



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 06, 2004
Fairview College

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair	Jessica Lees	Lorraine Donovan
Bradley Asmussen	Jorden Johnston	Mike Alsterlund
Gail Tucker	Marcel LeCoure	Fred Dupas
Marilee Toews	Mary Klassen	Tracy McLean
Derrick Downey	Kirk Hlewka	

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Lorraine Donovan

That the agenda be accepted with a few additions

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES –June 01, 2004

MOTION

Moved By Jordon Johnson

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

4.1 Mike Alsterlund received a call from a concerned horse logger. He was asking why the closing date for the contract was now when logging doesn't start until September. Was it advertised and where? He was also concerned about the qualifications of the loggers.

Marcel said that he met with the horse loggers earlier on in the year and Tolko's expectations regarding safety and qualifications were made very clear to the coordinator, Lyle Duperron, and suggested to Mike to direct the individual towards Lyle with his concerns and questions.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Fire Smart

Derrick Downey with the Forest Protection Division talked about Fire Smart which is a fairly new initiative in Canada. At the time of meeting they had identified Zama and Rainbow Lake as high risk areas. They have gotten together with the communities to identify the different strategies in case of an out of control fire.

A member of the PAC asked if they would make house call, the answer was yes. They will come out to the rural residents and identify the hazards and make recommendations as to how you can make your home more fire safe. Their main source of advertising has been trade fairs and the handouts that the patrol men distribute; there is also a web site www.albertafirebans.ca and a phone number 310-FIRE for more information.

Question was also asked why the Fire Protection Division is protecting the white zone area when it seems it should be the MD's responsibility. If a structure is in danger of fire the MD may get there first but they are limited as to equipment and training in the event of an out of control forest fire. The Fire Protection Division's first priority is human life regardless of white or green zone.

Fire Smart's top three goals are education, engineering, and enforcement.

5.2 Species at Risk

A copy of The Field Manual for Wildlife Species at Risk was passed around. This document was put together by Footner Forest Products, Tolko and Alpine Environmental. The plan is that very person that works in the bush for both mills will have a copy to make it easier to identify these species when they run across them. Once these species are spotted they will be GPSed for future reference.

The Tolko staff will be spending some time this summer at the local library talking to kids about important forest issues and the endangered species will be one of the topics because it was agreed that there is limited information about the species that inhabit our area.

5.3 Tree Planting Trip

The trip was scheduled for July 10th, Saturday. Marcel will contact the tree planters to let them know we will be coming. He will also contact MEDC regarding the time to meet at Hutch Lake. The trip should be about four hours.

5.4 Open House Update

The open houses were not as well attending as they would have liked. A few issues that did come up were brush disposal projects and communication with the trappers. Communications have already improved a great deal but there is still some work that could be done. Both mills are planning on making a trip to

Rainbow Lake because there will be a lot of activity there next winter. It was suggested to do that in September so that the school kids can participate as well. John and Marcel will get together to make a presentation ready for September for the Rocky Lane School. If it is received well they may take it to the other schools as well.

5.5 Future Plans for Tolko

Fred Dupas from Tolko passed out handouts explaining what their plans are regarding the burner. Half a million dollars has been spent in maintenance since January. It is in compliance with all regulations and could run safely for many more years but because it is such a high cost item they do want to get rid of it as soon as possible.

5.6 Cut Block Size

Marcel handed out sheets outlining the different cut block size and retention. He explained how the larger the block the high the retention. The goal is always to a mix of distribution.

6 OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Question of the Month

This month's question of the month features a contest for school kids between the ages of 10-15 only. All students who answer the question correctly will be eligible for a draw for a prize that was not determined at the time of meeting.

This month's question of the month is:

"In the High Level area, which of the following insects are the most damaging for aspen and spruce?" Spruce Budworm, Mountain Pine Beetle, Large Aspen Tortrix, or Gypsy Moth."

Please select two (2) of the insects listed above and indicate which insect effects which tree species and send your answers along with your name, age, address and phone number by email, fax, or mail by July 30, 2004 to the MEDC office.

6.2 Clipping Service (handouts)

Marcel handed out copies of clipping dating between June 03 and July 03.

6.3 Flight with Mike Alsterlund

Mike, Brad and Marcel flew into the area that was a concern to Mike. From the air the planting had not been efficient but once on the ground Mike saw that the regrowth was excellent. It was evident that the newer cut blocks were coming back more natural looking that the older ones. There was one 20 year old stand that was coming back very sporadically, it looked like it had been a D block but was now a C block. Picture were taken but were not available at the time of meeting but will be available at the next PAC meeting. Mike was very impressed overall and thanked Brad and Marcel for their time and patience.

6.4 Display Update

The trade show display has not been updated in sometime and does require some attention. It was agreed that Mary would bring it in to the meeting in September. In the meantime Brad said we might get someone from their HR department to stop by the MEDC office to have a look.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Northern Lights Forest Education Society

The members of both groups agree that they should keep informed as to what each group is doing. Stephanie will be bringing information to both meetings to keep everyone up to date. She was not available at this meeting.

8 AROUND THE TABLE

John – Would like to get together with Mary to development some kind of a tracking system for the Issues and Concerns, it seems they sometimes get overlooked and become forgotten. He also commented that on one of his weekly walks he happened to come across some unusually big poplar trees and it would be nice to see them stand instead of being harvested.

Jorden– recently traveled the Deh Cho Trail and commented on how BC and the Territories have much better signage than Alberta. It is not so bad if you are from Alberta and know your way around but it would be nice to have better signage for people that are coming from out of the region.

Mike – Commented that it would be nice to have some kind of signs along the Rainbow Lake road explaining why the area is cut the way it is.

Marilee – Distributed a brochure on The Hungry Bends Sandhills

Gail – Introduced a new member of the Sustainable resource Department Tracy McLean

NEXT MEETING –August 10, 2004 @ 5:00 pm at the Fairview College

9 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned @ 8:00 p.m.