



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 3, 2007
5:00 p.m. – Tolko Industries

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston (Chair)
Mike Alsterlund
Scott McNeil
Marilee Toews
Lacey Reid
George Friesen
Jeremy Beal
Glen Greening

Caleen Warren
Richard Marshall
Walter Sarapuk
Aaron Doepel
Paul Kitchen
Bob Ghostkeeper
Larry Hiller

Recording Secretary: Paul Kitchen

1. CALL TO ORDER:

John Thurston, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

MOTION

MOVED by Marilee Toews

That the agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: May 8, 2007

MOTION

MOVED by Marilee Toews

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

Mike Alsterlund expressed interest in discussing Section 4.2 of the Sustainable Forest Management Plan at the HLPAC meeting. Decision was made to address this at the September meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Presentation of Values, Objectives, Indicators, and Targets for DFMP:

Presentation was focused on providing an overview of the VOIT framework as required by Alberta, how does the P.A.C. play a key role, incorporation of VOIT's in SFM Plan, timelines and expectations of process. Twelve VOIT's were presented, some of them mandatory and others with Indicators and Targets adjusted by Companies (presentation will be available on www.highlevelwoodlands.com). The presentation was given by Jeremy Beal. During the presentation the following questions were addressed:

1. What kind of data is collected to ensure that there is Conservation of Soil and Water Resources (M. Alsterlund)?
 - *Examples: road % within cutblocks, reporting of slumping events, reports on rutting disturbance, actual harvesting compared to planned provides a means of evaluating whether companies are meeting or exceeding water yield limits.*
2. In respect to areas that are burned, what kind of target is set for amount of retention (M. Toews)?
 - *Explained within target in proposed VOIT (ie., >10% of merchantable black trees in patches 10-100 ha & retain >5% of merchantable black trees in small patches, single trees according to loggers choice.*
3. How do single trees add to biodiversity (M. Alsterlund)?
 - *Provide food sources to primary cavity excavators (woodpeckers) and habitat for secondary cavity users (birds, squirrels, etc.) (J. Beal)*
 - *Spatially single trees may not make a difference as distance between the trees may be a factor (M. Toews).*
 - *Decided that question should be asked to David Andison from his presentation on Natural Range of Variability.*
4. Are there any audits conducted to ensure that targets that have been set are made in the field (J. Thurston)?
 - *Internal and External audits for CSA compare our targets to actuals in the field (sampling), and our internal planning audit does evaluate the actuals to planned.*
5. Will black retention be tracked separately from green retention (A. Doepel)?
 - *In order for the companies to evaluate performance tracking would need to be done separately (J.Beal)*
6. In respect to Riparian Zones, a request has been made to review the Sustainable Forest Management Plan to ensure targets are consistent in the Operating Ground Rules (M. Toews).

- **Bring copy of Operating Ground Rules to next meeting.**
 - *Reporting will be on infractions in riparian zones*
 - *Marilee mentioned the companies may want to exceed what is considered in compliance, as the PAC may have higher standards than what is proposed by government.*
 - *Aaron mentioned companies may want to set higher standards to show that companies can do better.*
 - *Companies are required to maintain buffer in OGR's as the minimum and there are instances where the companies may leave wider buffers to account for wildlife features.*
 - *If there are riparian areas of interest identified by the public the companies would be interested in knowing in order to capture some of those values within operational plans.*
7. There was a concern in regard to amount of buffers on streams in blocks (M. Alsterlund).
 8. What possibility is there for leaving a 15 m treed buffer on intermittent streams providing habitat for beaver (G. Greening)?
 - *Not looked at for this revision to the ground rules. Beavers are not a species which the companies have been directed by government to manage for, and they have been rather successful at growing populations in habitat created by logging activities.*
 9. How have the Operating Ground Rules been amended (J. Thurston)?
 - *Companies made requests with regards to alleviating "process", government made changes (addition or deletion) as the result of policies and legislative changes.*
 10. The Alternative Regeneration Standards will be established in the future, and an inquiry was made whether there will be a transition period given until the ARS will be approved to simplify work that is required now (A. Doepel)?
 - *It is anticipated that the companies will be able to adopt new standards upon submission of the ARS in May/2008 as items in the ARS will be already Agreed-in-Principle.*
 - *Further discussions are required with SRD on their expectations.*
 11. It was asked if Tolko Industries could provide assistance to Oil & Gas with reforestation of abandoned well-sites (G.Greening)?
 - *Tolko currently does not have agreements with O&G companies with regards to the above.*
 - *Tolko is notified of well sites and dispositions becoming available for inclusion in the net landbase, and then reforestation plans are made.*
 12. There was concern with the control of noxious weeds on an annual basis and whether it was absolutely necessary. More discretion should be used when deciding to control weeds (M. Toews).
 13. It was asked if there could be more clarification given in regards to Communities and Sustainability from the presentation at the next meeting (M. Toews)?
 - **Action: J.Beal to present.**

14. How does the Government regulate noxious weeds and whose responsibility does it become (A. Doepel)?
- *Industry is responsible for their LOC.*

5.2 Field Tour – July 13th, EMEND project NW of Peace River

- meet at Tolko office at 7:30 am to carpool to site.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- none

7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS:

- none

8. AROUND THE TABLE:

Mike Alsterlund asked if there was any possibility of minimizing the amount that loaded logging trucks need to pass each other going different directions to the Mill? It was answered that the Mill strategically plans its operating areas to balance the amount of logging trucks that are on the road. Glen Greening inquired if Industry could pressure Government for a new bridge over the Chinchaga River as the present one has safety and environmental concerns?

- *Companies would not have much say in this regard however community groups and residents of the area should pressure the MLA.*

9. NEXT MEETING:

September 4th, 2007 @ 5:00 pm at the NAIT College Campus.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm