



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 05, 2005
5:00 p.m. @ NAIT College

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Mary Klassen
Susan McNeil
Colin Hanusz
Lorraine Donovan
Peter Nicholson
Chris Cottell

Marcel Lecoure
Mike Alsterlund
George Friesen
Jordan Johnston
Bradley Asmussen
Tracy McLean

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 as presented

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – June 07, 2005

MOTION

Moved By Colin Hanusz

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes of June 07, 2005 be accepted with the typing corrections made to item 5.1 and 6.1

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

A PAC member asked Tolko whether or not they were planning on doing a winter understory assessment as item 6.3 in the June minutes stated that the assessment had been done in the summer therefore not being accurate. Marcel explained that while the forest inventory (Alberta Vegetation Inventory - AVI) is in fact completed during "leaf-on" conditions, the companies have been doing area-specific understory inventory in certain areas of the FMA. Since the costs of such initiatives are very high, the companies have been focusing on areas where the companies are operating to use the photos for operational purposes (i.e. path retention, etc.)

In April, the Companies' did complete 8 or 9 townships in the area to the east of Meander River. Additional areas have yet to be identified for 2006.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Presentation of Planning Process

Marcel gave a PowerPoint presentation on the detailed forest management plan that was approved in January 2004. Reasons that another plan is needed are that it is a requirement of the companies' joint FMA (2002). Since the forest and values change over time, plans need to be periodically revised to reflect those changes.

There are also some outstanding issues from the 2003 DFMP which also need to be addressed.

Marcel indicated that although there is a Plan Development Team (PDT) that will be involved in the technical components of plan development, the PAC will provide valuable input as the Public Participation Group (PPG) to help identify local-level values, objectives, indicators, and targets.

Since what we initiated as part of the SFM Plan which was developed to meet the CSA standard for forest certification, there are some recommendations made by the auditors that will need to be discussed with the PAC for possible incorporation into the next management plan.

Some of these recommendations may be incorporated into the revised SFM Plan which is scheduled for completion in October 2005 however the new management plan for the government is not scheduled until September 11 2007.

Question was asked if the salvage issue would be addressed. Answer given was that there will be timber values, objects, targets and indicators identified one of which could in fact be related to salvage.

5.2 Summer Field Trip

The companies have a few options for a summer field trip for the committee, a herbicide project, a summer logging site, or tree planting. After a brief discussion it was decided that August 13th would be a date that works best and if possible a tour of the summer logging site and the herbicide operation may be arranged.

5.3 FFP GPS Truck Monitoring Program

Tabled until the September meeting

6 OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Question of the Month

The question of the month was brought up at the NLFES meeting and although there was an interest no decision was made. Lorraine will report back after their September meeting

6.2 Clipping Service (handouts)

Colin handed out copies of newspaper clippings

6.3 Flight Over Steen River

Marcel and Mike will get together next week to organize

6.4 Alberta Forest Service Salvage

Tabled until September

6.5 Salvage Pricing

Nothing to Discuss

7. CORRESPONDANCE

7.1 Northern Lights Forest Education Society

Lorraine reported that there were three applicants for the bursary of which only one qualified, Amanda Avery

7.2 AGM Minutes

Available if any wants to see them

8 AROUND THE TABLE

Brad– Their General Development Plan has been approved by ASRD; copies will be available in September

George – Just for information purposes, Garden River Logging has been sold
John Thurston – asked if Colin had been able to contact James Ahanassay to GPS the Heron nest. Colin said that James cannot seem to make it as he is very busy, John said he would try to contact him.

Mike – Still feels that a summer work program needs to be set up for High school students. Brad said that they have two students going through camp right now and will work in different areas of the forest industry through out the summer. While this is a pilot program there is hope that it will continue and grow.

Susan- Commented on the premier being made a honorary member of the Tall Cree band.

NEXT MEETING – September 06, 2005 @ 5:00 pm at the Fairview College

9 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned @ 6:46 pm