



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 01, 2004
Fairview College

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Andre Roy
Jorden Johnston
Marilee Toews
Walter Sarapuk
Colin Hanasz

Susan McNeil
Lorraine Donovan
Mike Alsterlund
Mary Klassen
Ben Secker

Dusty Powers
Bradley Asmussen
Arlene Powers
Stephanie Grocholski

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Lorraine Donovan

That the agenda be accepted:

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES –April 06, 2004

MOTION

Moved By Susan McNeil

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

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

4.1 Mike Alsterlund asked if the ground rules talked about in 5.2 of the April 06th minutes affected the timber supply at all and was told by Brad that they outline operational guidelines so will not affect our current Timber Supply.

- 4.2 John Thurston had some concerned individuals come to him regarding a cut block in the Bassett 3 area; item 5.2 will address these concerns.
- 4.3 Susan McNeil pointed out that the Species at Risk Act had been tabled at the last meeting. Colin Hanasz said that Marcel had asked that it be tabled until the July meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Open House

Brad encouraged everyone to spread the word of the Open houses to be held between June 11 and June 22 as the attendance has not been what they had hoped for in the past years. The highest attendance has always been Assumption and the poorest High Level. It will be a chance for the public to view the GDP, FMA, SFM, and DFMP. A list with the places, dates, times and contact information was passed out.

5.2 Patch Retention Presentation

The cut block in question was block 1012 in the Bassett 3 compartment. Brad gave a PowerPoint presentation that included maps, still pictures and a short video showing where patches and single trees were left standing. He explained that the target is 1% of merchantable timber be left and because it is not along an access road, line of sight does ground rules do not apply. The presentation also included pictures of block 420 and 1011; all blocks were within the detailed block plan that was submitted to the Alberta government. The mill is still waiting on the photography which will give them a better idea of the percentage of patch retention. John requested a hard copy of the presentation and Brad agreed to print one for him. John also suggested taking it to the open house in Paddle Prairie.

5.3 DFMP Distribution

Colin Hanasz handed out 2 piece disk sets of the DFMP. Members that received the disks were, Walter Sarapuk, Mike Alsterlund, Susan McNeil, John Thurston, Lorraine Donovan, Marilee Toews, Stephanie Grocholski, Jordan Johnston, and MEDC.

5.4 Tree Planting Field Trip

It was agreed that the PAC plan a tree planting field trip to Watt Mountain on July 10, if at the July 06 meeting we find that a different day would be better suited we can make different arrangements at that time.

5.5 Chinchaga Flight with Mike

Mike Alsterlund, Marcel and Brad will get together to set a date and time for a flight over the Chinchaga area.

6 OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Question of the Month

There was some debate as to whether we involve the students in this month's question of the month so it was decided that Brad and Marcel to get together to discuss this in more detail and get back to PAC.

6.2 Clipping Service (handouts)

Colin handed out the latest newspaper clippings. John, Marilee, Susan and Walter would like to be taken off of the e-mail for clippings as they slow down their computers too much.

6.3 Public Land Sales

Walter Sarapuk said that public land sales should start soon. Question was asked whether there was a huge demand. Walter said that 52 quarters are already applied for. In the past every piece of land that was posted has been sold. Question was also asked if opening the land sales would hurt existing farmers, so far it never has. It was also confirmed that the land for sale was not DFMP land.

6.4 Tolko Burner

Fred Dupas will come in to give a report but was not available for this meeting. It was agreed to table it until the July meeting.

6.5 AGM Format

John Thurston asked for some feedback on the format of the PAC AGM. Everyone seemed to agree that perhaps next year we have more coordination between the two groups. The Northern Lights Forest Education Society seems to be trying to do what the PAC would like to see happen, an example of that is trying to get young students interested in the forestry industry, so a brief monthly update on what they are doing would be nice. It was agreed that Stephanie would take care of that and would be added to the agenda.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

None

8 AROUND THE TABLE

Mike – Would like to see in writing a report on salvage operations outlining how they have changed and what has been done to improve the situation as well as how many m3 of salvage is taken in by the companies annually. Mike also asked for a statement on how the mixed wood management process is going. Then he made a plea for a \$50 000.00 donation to build a new chalet for the Rocky Lane Agriculture Society.

Brad – Wanted feedback from the PAC as to how communication were between the public and the company (FFP) He is open to any suggestions as to how they can improve their public image and how to improve communications. It was suggested that they might sponsor a big event like a baseball tournament or

curling bonspiel. Another suggestion was that they might change the name "Open House" to something that is more appealing to the public.

Andre – Back to the issue of old growth, Andre commented that not everyone has the same idea as to what is considered old growth.

Ben – Explained that if anyone cuts wood they are responsible for reforestation but it is not up to the companies to enforce the laws. He also commented that the difference between 1% and 15 % patch retention means the adjacent rules would be different as well.

Colin – Encouraged everyone to spread the word on the open houses

Susan – Commented that she has a hard time getting information from the Footner mill, and would like to know who the media representative is. The list of issues and concerns that were passed out at the AGM did not have the actions that were taken on it and it would be nice to see them there.

Arlene – Commented that the trade fair display board needs to be updated, it was agreed that the PAC discuss it at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING –July 6, 2004 @ 5:00 pm at the Stardust.

9 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned @ 7:25 p.m.