



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009
7:20 p.m. – Four Winds Banquet Room
High Level, Alberta

ATTENDANCE:

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)	John Thurston (Chairman)
Marilee Toews (HBSWS)	Dave Sadowsky (ASRD)
Mike Alsterlund	Paul Ebert (SRD)
Al Benson (SRD)	Aaron Doepel (LCSM)
Jon Goertzen	Al Toews
Paul Kitchen (Tolko)	

Recording Secretary: Brenda St. Arnault

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:20 pm

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adopt Agenda as presented.

MOVED BY: Marilee Toews

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – April 7, 2009

Adopt Minutes as presented.

MOVED BY: Paul Ebert

CARRIED

3.1 Review of action items (old action items in italics)

Action item: Jeremy B. commented that he would review the PAC minutes for the past year and updates the Issues and Concerns document. - completed by Jeremy B.

Action item: Jeremy B. to look into FSC and if they use herbicide – Jeremy did not have time to check into practices of FSC regarding their use of herbicides, he will check into practices and get back to Marilee T.

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

4.1 Decked Aspen Logs

Mike A. asked on the effectiveness of PAC and how much authority the committee had with respect to providing comments on the potential opening of the FFP facility.

Would like to hear from Footner Forest Products and have them explain to us what their intention and situation is.

Al B. said to start with local MLA – as a committee, the PAC have a valid point, keep asking questions.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 2009 General Development Plan (GDP) and 2009 Herbicide Program

Jeremy B. advised that with the late meeting, questions regarding the GDP or Herbicide programs will be answered at the end of the meeting.

Marilee T. asked if there are any proven alternatives in competition control that does not involve the use of herbicides on the landscape.

Jeremy B. replied that he considers herbicide an effective means of meeting a competition control objective; however, he has not personally been involved in other treatments to prove usefulness of other methods competition control. Most companies have found that herbicides are cost effective and the science backs this up.

Marilee T. asked about the future of herbicide use in High Level and what impact will it have on the environment.

Al B. commented that this product is not an experimental product, there are procedures in place that companies have to follow and if they do not follow rules they are brought back to a reduced program or no program at all.

Discussion regarding assessment of regenerating stands and performance targets.

How do we achieve growth targets if we are not to use Herbicide?

- Growth back naturally?

- Go to mixed wood stands?
- Expectations/guidelines are changed?
- Reasonable expectations?
- Less intensive fashion of silviculture?

Jeremy commented that our objective with herbicide use is to enhance the growth; we do not want to re-spray areas. There is a lot we can do on the front end such as harvesting the right sites, proper scarification, proper planting, etc., which can reduce future treatments that would include herbicide use. Pending Alternative Reforestation Standards will hopefully reduce herbicide treatments in time.

5.2 Indicators

Jeremy reviewed Part 3 of the SFM Annual review of Performance to Indicators and Targets.

Presentation covered remaining 5 commitments;

#4: Age Class Distribution

Mike A. asked question regarding the Net landbase, why is the number over half of the Gross Landbase.

Jeremy B. replied Net landbase represents the productive timber in the area.

#5: Habitat Availability

Jeremy B. said that upon reviewing the Species at Risk Act the wolverine is a species of special concern on the DFA. It had been decided the Wolverine be added to the Expectations Booklet for the upcoming season.

John T. asked why wasn't the wolverine placed in the booklet before? How was it established that the Wolverine as a species at Risk?

Jeremy B. replied that Ed Anderson had received information from Federal website.

ACTION ITEM: Jeremy to get information to John T. regarding Species at Risk Act.

(Update: Wolverine not a SAR: incorrect interpretation of SAR listing)

#6: Vertical and Horizontal Retention

The Total number is an overall number of volume retained.

Mike A. asked if any of the companies leave single stem conifers in cutblocks?

Yes, there is.

Mike A. inquired isn't there enough debris left behind so single stem do not have to be left.

#13: Volume from Budworm areas

A minimum of 15% of coniferous volume harvested during the first 5-year period will come from areas infested by spruce budworm.

Al B. inquired how do you have a 15% target?

Jeremy B. commented that he would have to go back and look up information on the SFM, DFMP and Spruce budworm Plan.

Mike A. asked if the 15% was of the total Harvest, Is it going to keep up with infestation, is the percentage right.

#21: Reforestation Activities

Where the companies have maintained silviculture liability, reforestation activities have been completed within 2 years of the harvest date.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Clipping Service (18)

Jeremy B. distributed the latest news clippings to the PAC members.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS

No correspondence or reports.

8. AROUND THE TABLE

Al Benson will attend PAC meeting when he is in the area.

Paul Ebert will be replacing Caleen Warren as the ASRD representative at the PAC meetings from now on.

Aaron D. commented that the Herbicide program needs to be well thought out, well planned out and used properly.

John T. requested we have a meeting set aside for a session on Herbicide.

9. NEXT MEETING – September 1, 2009, 5:00 pm, Four Winds Banquet Room

10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:20 pm