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HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 07, 2005
5:00 p.m. @ NAIT College

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Mary Klassen
Marilee Toews
Henry Friesen
Jordan Johnston

Walter Sarapuk
Mike Alsterlund
Robert Popowich
George Friesen

Marcel Lecoure
Brad Asmussen
Susan McNeil
Lorraine Donovan

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Walter Sarapuk

That the agenda be accepted with an addition of;
5.5 Tolko fatality

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – April 05, 2005

MOTION

Moved By Walter Sarapuk

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes of April 05, 2005 be accepted with a change made to 6.3 the word waivers should be changed to dispositions

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

No new issues or concerns

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Review of PAC Terms of Reference

As discussed at previous meetings, there are a number of people that belong to both committee and to make it easier the two committees could be combined thus making it necessary to modify the PAC's terms of reference. Marcel passed around a draft of the new terms of reference, which does not contain anything that was not already in the current terms of reference. Comment was made that somewhere in the document it should state that we are strictly an advisory committee and are not to try and manage the companies.

Motion:

Moved By: Susan McNeil

That the committee accepts the revised terms of reference

Carried

5.2 FMA Analysis of Representation

Marcel explained the Enduring features protection areas gap analysis by showing the group maps that shows how things change with the overlaying of different scenarios; i.e. seismic activity. He also commented that the companies do want to work with the advisory committee and CPAWS to come up with a plan on how to best manage certain areas.

Marcel will be meeting with Helene Walsh with CPAWS in July.

5.3 2005 General Development Plan

The 2005 general development plan is in draft form and has been submitted to the Alberta Government, once approved it will be distributed to PAC members. Brad showed the group a map showing where their activity will be for the up coming harvest season. He also mentioned that his door is always open, feel free to stop by with any comments, concerns or questions.

5.4 Tolko/regen/Repairin/ Steen River

Tabled until next meeting

5.5 Tolko Fatality

Friday June 03rd at 1:30 pm there was an accident at the mill that resulted in the fatality of an employee. Although an investigation is still underway it does seem like it may have been a lockout violation.

6 OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Question of the Month

There was no response to our last question of the month contest. The committee agreed to hold off for the summer and perhaps start again in the fall. John will bring it up at the next NLFES meeting to see if they might have some ideas to generate more interest.

6.2 Clipping Service (handouts)

Marcel handed out copies of newspaper clippings

6.3 Mixed Wood Management

A PAC member reminded companies that he has asked for a report on their mixed wood management and has not received such a document. He would like to know what kind of harvesting procedures are in place; he was also concerned about the spraying of aspen to help regenerate the spruce. Marcel responded by saying that the mixed wood management plan will not be a formal document but they do have ground rules in place to help deal with the under story in many areas and also clarified that spraying does not kill the under story it just slows down the growth giving the freshly planted trees a much better chance of survival.

PAC member was also concerned that when the assessment was done it was done from the air during the summer time and the under story would not have been as visible. He feels another assessment needs to be done and it should come in higher than 10%.

6.4 Alberta Forest Service Salvage

At the April PAC meeting a committee member had given a location of wood that had been burned and was asking if Alberta Forest Services had checked out if a waiver had been granted. An Alberta Forest Service representative confirmed that a waiver had been granted due to the fact that the wood was over two years old and the companies would not take the wood at that time. A husky representative said he would find out from his people as to what happened and report back to the committee.

6.5 FFP/ Equalization cost of cut

Already discussed under item 5.3

6.6 Salvage Pricing Answer

A PAC member had asked Barry Gladders from Footner some questions regarding the price of salvage and has not heard any answers.

7. CORRESPONDANCE

7.1 Northern Lights Forest Education Society

Lorraine Donovan is now the Chair of the NLFES, she will keep the PAC updated on their activities. They will have one more meeting in June take a break during the summer months.

8 AROUND THE TABLE

John– Would like to thank Tolko and Footner for their support during the Machesis Lake clean up on May 27th. Good to see that there are now caretakers on site. Also, will get James Ahnassay's phone number to Marcel. Commented that it is good to see Monty back to represent the Oil and Gas sector.

Mary– Was voted in as the secretary treasurer at the AGM but only a voting member can hold an executive position. After brief discussion it was decided that the PAC is not in need of a secretary treasurer.

Mike – Students often have questions about the oil and gas and forestry industry. Would it be possible for the two industries to get together and build a program that would allow these kids to work with them to get a taste of the work and perhaps put some scholarships in place to educate them in the field that they are interested in which the students could pay back after a few years of service.

Marcel- Would like to thank Jordan for donating a tree for the Town of High Level's 40th anniversary where Tolko planted their 100, 000 000th tree. Also mentioned that it is George's 25th anniversary.

Monty- Is pleased to be back and will put the salvage issues on the top of his priorities.

Brad- Global TV will be showing a film on the forestry industry, some of which was filmed in our region. He will get the exact day and time to Mary who in turn will let all members know.

George- Passed around a newspaper article about Lowes coming to Canada

Marilee-IS concerned about the research and collection of data regarding the bird population. According to the Federation of Alberta Naturalists there has been a 30% decline of birds. It would be nice if more people became involved and reported the birds that they have spotted. If anyone wants to document the birds they see she would be willing to forward the information.

NEXT MEETING – July 05, 2005 @ 5:00 pm at the Fairview College

9 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned @ 7:23 pm