



# ***HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

## **Minutes**

*Tuesday June 06, 2006*

### **ATTENDANCE:**

John Thurston, Chair	Mike Alsterlund
Walter Sarapuk	Susan McNeil
Marcel LeCoure	Marilee Toews
Aaron Lambie	Christopher Cottell
David Berg	Ed Anderson

Tony Walker – Recording Secretary

### **1. Call to Order**

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

#### **MOTION**

**Moved By Susan McNeil**

That the agenda be accepted with the following additions  
6.3 Suggested Book for Purchase by PAC for Libraries

*CARRIED*

### **3. Adoption of Minutes – May 03, 2006**

#### **MOTION**

**Moved By Walter Sarapuk**

That the High Level Forests Public Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting Minutes be accepted with the following changes

6.0 Mike additionally spoke of the reimbursement for km  
Mike's comment on the government pulling out of the PAC was taken out of context

*CARRIED*

#### 4. Issues and Concerns

John Thurston mentioned that he was in Assumption and met with some people who gave raving reviews of the research plots along the highway. He asked why can't more of this be done.

He also mentioned that there were some concerns regarding the scarification process. Some people don't like it. Some people, like Trappers, feel it changes the water flow.

Marilee Toews asked if there was going to be an increase in summer logging. If so, she wanted to know the timing of it because she has some concerns regarding nesting birds.

Marcel LeCours said that there would be a low percentage of activity in the summer as is typical for Tolko. Marcel indicated that although he couldn't really speak for FFP regarding this summer's operations, he did indicate that some summer harvesting will likely be scheduled but a relatively low amount in comparison to the overall amount of volume harvested annually. If the access were there, there might be more summer activity for both companies, but with things the way they are, there has not been much change to the practices. The timing of summer harvest has some restrictions and nesting birds are considered. Marcel made reference to the Slave Lake harvesting and how it was shut down around nesting birds.

In response to John's concerns, Marcel said indicated that as a result of concerns expressed by trappers in the past, there is an ongoing effort to maintain traditional access during the scarification program. With regards to water flow, Marcel indicated that both treed and operational buffers are maintained and are important in maintaining water flow. There is even a 5 meter no machine zone on lower order streams. In addition, the contractors do not site prep perpendicular to any watercourses to prevent any possible sedimentation into the channels. The companies realize that there are issues with regards to how scarification looks however the goal is to meet or exceed the regeneration standards. Some areas are not site prepped.

Walter Sarapuk suggested that DMI is now out of the area and that will mean less summer harvesting.

#### 5. New Business

##### 5.1 Annual Operating Plan

Scott was not at the meeting, so this item has been tabled.

##### 5.2 Public Involvement Survey

Marcel LeCours presented the results from a recent survey conducted at the La Crete Trade Show.

	<u>2006 Survey</u>	<u>2005 Survey</u>
Safe Log Haul?	100%	87% satisfaction
Contacting the Company	75%	53%
Heard Radio? NP Ads	88%	80%

Marcel indicated that the results would be tabulated for the next PAC meeting. He also indicated that these survey results are always included in the company's Annual Report.

### **5.3 Wildlife Habitat**

Ed Anderson presented a slide show of information relating to the "Maintenance of Habitat for Identified High Risk Species".

Ed mentioned that the DFMP is currently being revised. It will be long term and of a higher level than before. It will look at the social and economic outcomes of harvesting. It is the document that drives the operational planning for harvesting.

The DFMP is developed with input from all stakeholders. It is important for public participation like the HLFAC.

VOIT – set goals, then decide if we met or exceeded the objectives. Next question is can we do more? – for the next DFMP.

A member of PAC asked how to measure the maintenance of populations.

Ed replied that they don't measure populations but rather by hectares of habitat.

A member of PAC asked if it was also measured by distribution.

Ed replied that in fact they do measure by distribution. The distribution of habitat can change over time. This is something they are looking at for the new DFMP. It is important to integrate all stakeholders and known information in to the process. Oil & Gas, forestry, public, age of stands, etc. all need to be considered.

PAC members responded by saying that they were happy with the ways things have been done. It is not reasonable to expect the forestry companies to take the brunt and responsibility. A PAC member suggested that there should be a bibliography of the research that has been done over time.

Ed concluded his presentation with a discussion around sustainable forestry practices. It has to do with economics and environment. Everything impacts everything. The FMP has a target of 10% old growth forests, which is 120 years plus. There was a concern about the 10% target. Marcel indicated that current levels of old forest are at approximately 16% and that the focus of our targets are not limited to just the landscape. Even through our harvesting, the companies are "managing" old forest over time through understory protection, merchantable retention, and coarse woody debris retention. Ensuring that both landscape and cut-block level tactics are incorporated into an overall strategy ensures that the attributes of "old forest" are maintained longer over time.

A concern was expressed about the impacts of oil and gas on these targets. Marcel reiterated that the different sectors are becoming more and more motivated to work together for a number of reasons. There has been more integration which will continue in the future to ensure win-win situations for everyone. Better integration speeds the processes for things like government approvals as well helps with cost savings and

creates a better image. There has been a lot more integration of plans now than there has been in the past.

Mike asked if we can get the Oil & Gas Industry to do the same as the Forestry industry with regards to things like the Species at Risk Cards. Marcel didn't know however it mentioned that it was important to recognize that the legislation regarding things like Species at Risk is the same for all companies and sectors. How different companies or sectors deal with the legislation to ensure compliance may be very different - we have chosen to use the card to at least promote local awareness for staff and contractors.

Marilee suggested that we need government representation at the PAC meetings. She asked how we suggest letters and recommendations. Someone mentioned the EUB.

Marcel indicated he would try to get some information for the next meeting about what the Oil & Gas Industry are doing with respect to Species at Risk etc.?

With regards to responding to a question around the overall impact of the O&G industry, Marcel mentioned that up until around 1991, the Oil & Gas Industry actually harvested more trees annually than the forestry industry did however that has likely changed since that time..

## **6. Old Business**

### **6.1 Clipping Service**

Marcel handed out copies of recent newspaper articles.

### **6.2 PAC Field Trip**

After discussing possible dates, it was decided that there would be a field trip planned for Saturday, June 17, 2006. All members of PAC and their families are invited. MEDC will help with the organization of it.

### **6.3 Book**

Marilee had a book that she suggested would be a good idea for the HLFAC to purchase for the three local libraries. The book could be stamped as a gift from the HLFAC. It is a book on Eco-forestry written by some UBC Professors. The cost of the book is \$29.95 each and through the library there may be a 20% discount.

A PAC member suggested that MEDC could order a stamp with the logo and name on it.

Marilee will contact the library to see if they already have the book.

John suggested that any book suggestions could be brought to the attention of MEDC and be discussed at future meetings. He thanked Marilee for her efforts.

## **7. Correspondence/Reports**

John mentioned that he had received the minutes from the Weyerhaeuser PAC meeting.

## **8. Around the Table**

John said thanks to Tolko & Footner for 5 years of helping with the Machesis Lake clean up. Tolko and Footner helped to feed the staff and helpers and it was very helpful for the teachers and the students. The MD #23 is looking after it now.

John presented a group photo with signatures to each mill for their support.

John also mentioned that at the AGM in May, Marcel had asked if the PAC was doing OK. Is it getting the public involvement it wants in the processes? He mentioned that Marilee suggested that the PAC needs some new faces. He asked about the idea of moving the meetings around the region. And lastly he asked, how effective is the PAC?

Marcel – you should feel you have achieved something. The PAC helps improve the overall performance of the mills. The PAC has made a difference from Tolko's point of view and in their decision making areas especially. They have enjoyed the open approach.

Marilee – the two way communication is good. We have definitely found out who to contact. There are still some issues that are not taken up the chain of command but she feels there has been a good sharing of information. She wonders if the broader community knows about the PAC. What it is or what it does.

Aaron – Do the companies have any issues for the PAC?

Dave & Chris – are in the process of developing a PAC within their own DFMP. They are with LRRF and are tasked with educating and communicating the activities to the local public and band members.

They plan on exchanging minutes with the HLFAC and have some same stakeholders. They see promise in the process. Quota holders are not held to the same mandate as FMA holders.

Marcel – handed out the “Tolko Annual Performance Review” on CD. He indicated that the position of Divisional Forester has been filled by Jeremy Beal and he will transition into the PAC meetings. Marcel invited everyone to the Community Open Houses which will be taking place in late June throughout the region. Details will be posted in upcoming editions of both The Echo & The Pioneer.

## **9. Next Meeting**

Tuesday, July 4, 2006 @ 5:00 pm at the NAIT College

## **10. Adjournment**

Adjourned @ 7: 30 pm