



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 2, 2004
Fairview College

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Robert Popowich
Jordan Johnston
Marilee Toews

Susan McNeil
Lorraine Donovan
Marcel LeCoure
Arlene Powers

Leo McNamara
Bradley Asmussen
George Friesen

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Lorraine Donovan

That the agenda be accepted with the following additions:

Under New Business: 5.4 La Crete Tradeshow
5.5 Integration Plan F51
5.6 Roadside Turnout
5.7 F11

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – February 3, 2004

Concern with 6.2 Public Land Sales – John to speak to the MD to get clarification.

MOTION

Moved By Leo McNamara

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

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

- 4.1 George raised a concern regarding the roadside turnout sign. Sign states "Mandatory wrapper checks." Sign should be changed to read "wrapper checks" as per 4.1 Feb 3 '04 minutes "depending on where the harvesting is taking place and where the log trucks are coming onto the local highway, some trucks might not be stopping at the wrapper check stations because they all check their wrappers prior to coming onto the highway. Some of these drivers may still want to stop at the wrapper check stations to do a second check if they feel their load may not be secure." This check stop is no longer mandatory.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. *Co-generation*

Marcel informed the group that Tolko has plans in 2004 to complete preliminary assessments on the mill site for a potential co-generation plant to be constructed in the future. The current permit for the beehive burner expires in 2005. However, an extension can be permitted until 2007, at which time Tolko needs to have a plan in place for an alternative to the burner (example: co-generation plant).

5.2. *CPAWS Letter - RE: CSA certifications of Tolko Industries* (handout)

Letter from Helene Walsh, Boreal Campaign Director, CPAWS – Edmonton Chapter to Michael Chenard, Director, Environmental Affairs, Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse

The main issue that is identified in Helene's letter was regarding the lack of protected areas. Marcel made a brief presentation on natural areas and other areas excluded from future harvesting activity within the joint FMA, as well as across our region (i.e. Wildland Parks, National Park, other Natural areas).

Consensus of the group was that of disappointment in the letter. Marcel informed the group that he personally will not be responding to the letter. However, he expects that the Sustainability Manager from Tolko may be responding on the company's behalf.

The group suggested sending an invitation to Helene Walsh (author) to visit High Level and make a presentation on the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Standards. Marilee was nominated to invite Helene on behalf of group.

Marcel to follow-up and report at next HLFAC as to Tolko's response to letter.

5.3. *CSA-SFM Plan Development* (handout x 2)

Sustainable Forest Management Plan is now completed. There will be a community presentation at end of March 2004. Document will also be available in its entirety and in individual sections on the website at:

www.highlevelcsa.com

5.4. La Crete Tradeshow

MEDC to sponsor a booth at the La Crete Tradeshow. HLFAC would like their display board also on display. Arlene to update board and ensure board is taken.

5.5. Integration Plan F51 (handout)

Letter from FFP & MD to Hon. Mike Cardinal, MLA dated Feb 4, 2004
FFP and MD #23 working together for the development of a Local Integrated Plan for the White and Green Zone areas with in FMU F51.

5.6. Roadside Turnouts

Province has sent a letter to FFP & Tolko stating that they are looking at removing 35 roadside turnouts in the province. Province is looking for input from companies to assist them in determining which ones can be removed. The companies responded by sending a letter stating that they are not in favor of any roadside turnouts being removed in Northern Alberta. Group response was that all current roadside turnouts are required – they are all being utilized.

Brad to update

5.7. F11 (point of Info)

FFP is currently working with province in investigating the opportunity for a co-management group for F11 – East/West. This plan is currently in its infancy stage. The goal is to have 3rd party management representing the interests of all tenure holders in F11.

Brad to update on developments.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1. Question of the Month (handout)

Question: *What happened to all the timber that was blown down as a result of the windstorm last July?*

Suggestion for Marcel to amend to incorporate “numbers” and send to Arlene for insertion into the local papers.

New question for April 2004 – Are there any protected areas in the FMA?

6.2. Clipping Service (handouts)

The Singing Forest – Canadian Geographic (Jan/Feb 04)
To Infinity, and beyond - Wood Buffalo National Park – National Post (21/02/04)
BC - Government naturalists clash over birds of prey – National Post (04/02/04)
Layton urges retaliation against U.S. on softwood – National Post (12/02/04)
Ainsworth Lumber shares ride booming OSB demand – National Post (17/02/04)
Abitibi, Domtar face further cutting cost – Financial Post
Pulp maker Tembec warns on second quarter – National Post (26/02/04)
Canada claims victory in softwood ruling – National Post (11/02/04)

6.3. Yearly Minutes for local Libraries

Bound copies of yearly (May – April) minutes to be placed in local libraries in High Level, Rainbow Lake, La Crete and Ft Vermilion.

Timing coincides with Forest Week

Suggestions for guest speaker:

Someone from AI-Pac

First Nations representative

Fiona Schmiegelow, Assoc. Prof, Renewable Resources (U of A)

Alberta Native Plant Council – Elizabeth Bobian

Alberta Forest Products Assoc. – Industry Perspective

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None

8. AROUND THE TABLE

Susan – Shared article on School bus accident with Log Truck in Athabasca area.
Nice to see mills at Winterfest

Robert – Access to clippings American Foresters
Will bring in articles of interest

Marilee – Article from Wildlands Advocate – FSC Canada’s Boreal Forest Standard
Dec 2003 release
Expressed concerns regarding – MD 23 – Council Meeting Highlights of
Feb 10, 2004
”Council will oppose any attempts by environmentalists to conserve the
boreal forest in the MD borders.
Councilor Greg Newman suggested that council start opposing any
conservation efforts before they were already in place. “There is probably
a threat to our resource base,” he stated. “Better start some opposition
before it’s in place. The issue started after an article in the Canadian
Geographic discussed an alliance between industry and conservation
groups targeting boreal forests in Canada. “

Leo – extended thanks for sponsorship for attending EdWest Conference

9. NEXT MEETING – April 6, 2004 @ 5:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.1. Adjourned @ 7:26 p.m.