



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday March 04, 2008
5:00 p.m. – Four Winds Banquet Room
High Level

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston (Chair)	Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)
Lacey Reid (ECHO)	Ron Pelensky (Town of High Level)
Mike Alsterlund (PAC Member)	Enola Alsterlund (Guest)
Marilee Toews (HBSWS)	AL Toews (Guest)
Ed Anderson (Tolko)	Joy Friesen (HBSWS)
Jayson Kofluk (FFP)	Gordon Court (AB Fish & Wildlife)

Recording Secretary: Brenda St. Arnault

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair, called meeting to order at 5:10 pm

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adopt Agenda as presented **MOVED by: Marilee Toews**

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – February 05, 2008

Mike A. made comments that he was not in agreement with the minutes as they did not capture his concerns expressed during the last meeting.

Minutes to be accepted as presented, but discussion about his concerns will be reviewed again at end of Presentation.

Accept Minutes as presented **MOVED by: Ron Pelensky**

CARRIED

3.1 Review of action items – February 5, 2008

Ted Edwards was to obtain information about Private Wood and Salvage issues and provide facts to the PAC members. Ted was not available for meeting however will present at next meeting when information is available from Lands department.

Actions during review of Issues and Concerns document:

Question asked about Herbicide program – issue was raised from outfitter back in 2005 that he was not informed about herbicide program.

- Prior to approval of a herbicide program it is required that Tolko contact and advise Stakeholders through phone calls, Ads in the Echo, at Open Houses held in various communities. Plenty of opportunity for interested parties to inquire about program. It is now required Alberta that the proponent consult with First Nations regarding herbicide programs.

Regarding the issue of Companies to provide written response to questions raised at PAC meetings:

- No written notices were ever made in the past. The companies preferred process is for the PAC Coordinator (Jeremy) to attend meetings to represent both companies, and any issue PAC committee has will be reported back to the companies and Jeremy to provide information at next PAC meeting.

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Question asked by Lacey Reid regarding rumor that FFP wood is to be sold to DMI?

- Jayson replied that there is no agreement in place.

Mike A. asked what will happen to the residual aspen in blocks that is left standing in blocks?

- Jeremy replied that what has been cut will be left at roadside and incidental volumes will be charged against their quota allocation.

4.1 Updates to document

Issues and Concerns document has been updated to the February 5, 2008 meeting. Document will be copied and be provided at next meeting for members that don't have access to internet. For other members, or people interested in reading the Document it will be posted on www.highlevelwoodlands.com

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Introduction for Presentation: applicability of VOIT's

Jeremy reviewed proposed VOITs for the next DFMP that are related to wildlife, and forest dwelling raptors could be considered when developing the related targets.

- (1.1.1.5a) Areas of unsalvaged burned Forest
- (1.1.1.5b) Areas of unsalvaged blowdown
- (1.1.2.1) Retain stand level structure
- (1.2.1.1) Maintain habitat for identified high value species
- (3.2.2.1) Minimize impact of operations in riparian areas

5.2 Gord Court, Ph.D, Provincial Wildlife Status Biologist

Gord Court presented topic "Owl and Owl Conservation in Alberta"

Gord provided overview of 11 (eleven) Owls that are found within Alberta, which included their habitat needs, breeding activity, predator/prey relationships, hazards to owl success, conservation concerns and efforts, owls banding, owl monitoring, wintering areas and migration. Gord provided information on specific forest habitats that are vital to owl success.

Presentation will be available on www.highlevelwoodlands.com

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 *Clipping Service (J. Beal)*, no articles were available this month.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS

No correspondence/reports.

8. AROUND THE TABLE

Mike A. had concerns with how his questions were documented in minutes for the February 5, 2008 meeting, which he considered were polished to make it suitable for the minutes.

Jeremy requested written notes from Mike that detail his questions and related issues, which can be provided with the March 4 meeting minutes. It was explained to the committee that minutes are mostly a paraphrased record of what transpired at the meeting. Detailed information that is requested to be recorded verbatim in the minutes, which could involve questions from a PAC member, should be provided to the Recording Secretary to ensure content is not overlooked.

Mike provided the information a second time and mentioned he will provide a written submission for the March minutes. *(At the time of these minutes being completed no written submission was received.)*

Some concerns and issues raised by Mike A.;

- Concerns are Impartial – do not have anything to gain with questions asked.
- Mentioned a year ago that the companies should slowdown operations due to adverse business conditions. Tolko was able to reduce a shift and continue to operate. Why was this not done at FFP to avoid shutdown?
- Mike believes PAC members are kept in the dark like “mushrooms”, as he feels the Committee’s inability to inquire about business/economic related issues during the meetings makes him wonder, What is the purpose of PAC if we are not able to deal with these issues?
- Why are Albertans paying for FFP mismanagement? Who is this benefiting?
- Asked FFP to put in writing that they will not ask for a low stumpage fee or subsidy from Alberta to resume operations.
- FFP should be obligated to purchase a portion of their mills capacity from private landowners

Jayson Kofluk pointed out that the economic problems is not isolated in High Level but is a Province wide issue. Nothing has changed in the market place since the FFP curtailment. Jayson handed out Alberta Forest Products Association pamphlet that details economic problems facing the industry in Alberta.

Mike A. asked the following questions for the record;

Has FFP approached the Government for financial assistance?
If FFP get financial assistance, is it in contravention to NAFTA?

Jeremy mentioned that the new CSA Standards are available in DRAFT format – available to public for review distributed on February 6, 2008 and are available on CSA Website (www.csa.ca)

2006/2007 Annual Performance Report Part 1 of 2 is complete, waiting for approvals from FFP and Tolko before making available for public. Part 2 will be presented at April meeting and ready for public distribution.

9. NEXT MEETING – April 1, 2008, 5 pm,
Four Winds Banquet Room

10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:10 pm