



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

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*  
5:00 p.m. – NAIT College Campus

## **Minutes**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

John Thurston  
Mike Alsterlund  
David Andison  
Paul Kitchen  
April Bloss  
Ed Anderson  
Gray Jordan  
Scott McNeil  
Brad Asmussen  
Meghan Allen  
Walter Sarapuk

George Friesen  
Marilee Toews  
Marcel LeCoure  
Lorraine Donovan  
Lacey Reid  
Aaron Lambie

### **PRESENTER:**

David Andison – Bandaloop Landscape  
Ecosystem Services

### **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

John Thurston, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

**MOTION**

**MOVED by Marilee Toews**

That the agenda be accepted with the following addition:

5.2 Driver Fatality – March 5, 2007

***CARRIED***

### **3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: February 6, 2007**

**MOTION**

**MOVED by Lorraine Donovan**

Mike Alsterlund inquired about the binders that were referred to in the February meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** Ensure that a binder is made available to Mike for the next meeting.

**MOTION** **MOVED by Lorraine Donovan**

That the HLPAC meeting minutes of February 6, 2007 be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

#### **4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:**

John Thurston identified a single issue/concern that had recently been brought up, that being the clustering of log trucks on the highways which can pose problems in times of poor visibility. In one specific incident, it was observed that there was up to 3 trucks traveling consecutively. PAC members commented that drivers need to travel the highways according to road conditions and ensure that their distance behind vehicles needs to be appropriate. Companies indicated that that specific issue has not been specifically highlighted in the past, but recognize that it is difficult to control vehicle flow.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **5.1 Natural Range of Variability (David Andison – Bandaloo Landscape Ecosystem Services)**

David Andison of Bandaloo Landscape Ecosystem Services was attending the meeting to provide the group with a presentation on natural disturbances and forest management.

Ed Anderson of Tolko indicated that there have been commitments made in both the 2003 Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) and forest certification initiatives to address natural disturbances, in particular with regards to maintaining old forest within the natural range of variability. There are also new provincial requirements in terms of seral-stage management which can be developed in conjunction with some of David's work.

Ed also mentioned that copies of the presentation will be made available to the group for inclusion into their working binders.

##### **Presentation:**

The model that Mr. Andison uses incorporates historical fires and projects what the forest would look like without disturbance from man. The model that he uses has been tested and has been well received in both the scientific and ENGO (Environment Non-Governmental Organization) communities. Once age classes

(including “old” forest) are defined, the amount and distribution of old and young forest can be predicted over time in conjunction with predictions on such things as fire frequency. David discussed some of the work he has completed in other regions including the AI-PAC FMA as well as Saskatchewan. The results of his work will not give the answer as to how much should be maintained across the landscape over time. The group will have to take the information that is provided and make decisions that will consider the results of the project while recognizing other local values.

The Tolko/FFP project is currently underway the results of which should be made available to the group later in the year. It is likely that the companies will invite him back to present the results at that time.

### **Questions:**

1. Do fires tend to follow topographic features?

Yes and No. In more rugged regions, topographical attributes certainly influence fire behavior. However, in areas such as ours, topography seems to play a less significant role.

2. Is this a way to get larger cutblocks?

The commitment is to manage for natural disturbances which will result in some really large harvest areas and some small ones. At the end of the day, the intent is that the better we incorporate and manage for natural processes during the development of our management plans, the more likely we will be able to appropriately manage biodiversity.

3. How does this type of concept apply to National Parks?

Most National Parks are now incorporating these principles into the management of the National Parks themselves. Because of the way that National Parks have been managed in the past (ex. fire protection), this has created a number of issues not only in terms of fire and forest health risks, but also in terms of habitat for elk and caribou. As a result, many National Parks are using the information included in similar models to develop prescribed burning.

### **5.2 Driver Fatality – March 5, 2007**

Marcel advised the group that there was an accident on Monday March 5<sup>th</sup> involving a loaded logging truck and an industrial service vehicle on the Zama road that did result in a fatality. The accident remains under investigation by the RCMP and the specific details of the accident have not been released. The driver of the industrial vehicle was not from the area.

Lacey Reid from the Echo/Pioneer indicated that the report will appear in this week's addition of the newspaper.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **6.1 Clipping Service**

Ed Anderson distributed the latest clipping service information to the group prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS:**

The invitation letter has been written to EUB regarding their participation in the HLFAC.

## **8. AROUND THE TABLE:**

Positive feedback was given to David Andison regarding his research and the concepts of managing for natural disturbances.

Marilee inquired as to the status of a complaint she had filed regarding a log truck that had passed her on the way home from the February HLFAC meeting. This issue was enhanced by the fact that the log-haul hotline did not work (no voice mail) when she tried to reach the company after hours however she did call the next day to voice the concerns (truck incident and phone). Marcel indicated that there was in fact an issue with the phone for a couple of days however the problem has since been corrected. Although it is normal procedure to follow-up with members of the public regarding the status of a particular complaint, in this case the truck could not be accurately identified given its location and the direction it was traveling at the time. Marcel reaffirmed that not all log trucks in the region are working for Tolko or FFP and that it is sometimes impossible to identify trucks when an issue arises. In this case, if there was no follow-up completed, it was an oversight on the part of the companies.

Marilee also discussed the "Book Review" program and whether or not the Echo/Pioneer posted the submission from Joy Friesen. The representative from the Echo/Pioneer was unsure as to whether or not it was done. Marcel indicated that if there are reviews completed to send them directly to Tolko (Jeremy) who would coordinate the posting of the reviews in the local newspapers. Marilee also identified another book that could be used in a future review.

Mike indicated that he would like to talk about the current economic state of the forest industry at a future meeting.

## **9. NEXT MEETING: April 3, 2007 @ 5:00 pm at the NAIT College Campus.**

## **10. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm