



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

Tuesday, March 07, 2006  
5:00 p.m. @ NAIT College

## **Minutes**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

John Thurston, Chair  
Marilee Toews  
Henry Friesen  
Robert Popowich  
Susan McNeil

Marcel Lecoure  
Mike Alsterlund  
Scott McNeil  
Bradley Asmussen

Mary Klassen - Secretary

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

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:10p.m

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

#### **MOTION**

**Moved By Susan McNeil**

That the agenda be accepted as presented

*CARRIED*

### **3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – February 07, 2005**

#### **MOTION**

**Moved By Susan McNeil**

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes of February 07, 2005 be accepted with the following changes

6.4 should say 58 km

4. The issue was that Birch was not being replanted not that it was being cut

5.2 Last paragraph should say private wood

*CARRIED*

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

Brad informed the group that land use dispositions are now being applied for and seeing as the Oil and Gas industry is very busy and with the lack of picker trucker available there may be some wood that doesn't make it to the mills and will be decked over the summer.

A PAC member had been approached by a member of the public that was interested in started a business building packaged log homes and was asking for information as to how he would go about securing a supply of logs. He had contacted Alberta Sustainable Resources and was referred to Tolko where he was referred to ASR. Both Companies said that they would look at a business proposal if the individual brought one in. ASR representative also suggested the individual contact Gerry Sutherland or Pat Guider with Competitive Timber Sales to obtain more information.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Companies Organizational Structure**

Brad informed the group that all issues and concerns should be directed to Scott McNeil and if a resolution cannot be reached it will be passed on to himself, from there it will go on to Barry Gladders and from there to the General Manager Mike Winrow. He assured the group that the minutes are read by management and they are kept informed of issues that are brought forward by the PAC.

Marcel passed around Tolko's organization chart; if he cannot resolve issues that are brought to him they will be passed on to Tom Hoffman and from there to Rob Layton. Both Tom and Rob are both on the e-mail distribution list and receive all issues and concerns that are brought up at the PAC meetings.

Both companies stressed that the doors of their offices are always open and to feel free to stop by and discuss and issues or concerns.

### **5.2 Annual Performance Report**

Marcel gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Annual Performance report; this was part II of the report. Although it is not a requirement of the company to give a public report but with the involvement of the PAC it seems to be a good fit. During the report a brief discussion broke out about whether or not the infrastructure will be able to handle the increased logging activity. Marcel said that the companies will have do a great deal of planning and make sure that they build new winter roads in strategic places so to minimized the impact on the environment. A winter road is not be a high grade road and is gated at both ends.

Marilee asked if it would be possible to have a copy of the historical regions for her reference, Marcel will get a copy for her.

Marilee also asked if the PAC could play a role in the Biodiversity Monitoring Program and Marcel suggested having someone from the program in as a guest speaker.

Marcel explained that while there is no separate Mixed Wood Management Plan in place the companies are working together very closely to come up with an arrangement that fits both companies when there is a stand of mixed wood. It is never easy to make a decision on when and how to harvest a stand that has 17

meter aspen with spruce under story with minimal impact of the environment. Scott commented that the level of cooperation between these two companies working on the same land base is extraordinary and will be the key in working with the mixed wood.

The PAC member that had repeatedly brought up the issue of mixed wood indicated that he is now satisfied that the companies are doing all that they can to effectively deal with the issue.

Issue #12 is now resolved.

### **5.3 Public Involvement Summaries**

Marcel handed out a sheet with a list of issues and concerns that have been identified and will present some ideas on how to address these issues at the next meeting giving everyone some time to review them.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Clipping Service**

Marcel handed out copies of recent newspaper clippings

### **6.2 Co- Generation Update**

The feasibility study on the Co-Generation Plant has been completed and in the second quarter the engineering will be completed as well. The company will be relying on Riverside's expertise in Co- Generation. Some repairs will be done on the burner during the upcoming long weekend; it will be kept in compliance during the summer. Marcel did not have any timelines but the deadline for the burner is 2007.

Question was asked if the Co-Generation plant would reduce the amount of ash in the air. Marcel said that he was under the impression that that was the intent. Marcel will bring in an environmental report at the next meeting as it has been some time since the group has seen one.

### **6.3 PAC AGM**

After a brief discussion it was decided that having our AGM with the HLFES makes for a long evening and consensus was that it felt a little disjointed last year. It was agreed that it would be better if we have our meeting at 5:00 pm and then the individuals that are part of the HLFES can attend that meeting at 7:00 as well. John will get back to the PAC regarding a date at the next meeting.

### **6.4 PAC Field Trip**

Due to the lack of participants the field trip was cancelled but the opportunity to explore the research blocks will still be there in the spring or summer. Scott suggested that if anyone wanted to they could take in a smaller group as well, we don't necessarily have to go in at the same time. Dates and times can be discussed at the next PAC meeting.

## **6.5 Resolution List Update**

A Pac Member indicated that Robert Popowich had followed up with the location description that was given to him regarding unburned brush piles and the issue is now resolved.

Mike stated that he had brought up Footner's negative corporate image that stems from their private wood practices and as of yet has not heard anything from the company as to what will be done about this if anything. Being new to the PAC this was the first he heard of this concern, Scott said that it would be helpful to have some information that led to this issue to determine if this is in fact a problem or if it is coffee shop gossip. After a brief discussion Mike indicated that it was no longer an issue and that he would just "leave it out there."

Mike also asked Henry, a Friesen Logging representative who controls the trucks and why the shortage? Henry responded by saying that the contractors are bound by a contract to cut a certain amount of trees and they hire the trucks to haul the wood in. Most companies that have picker trucks are usually 1-2 truck operators and they are busy year round. It is easy to say that anyone could buy a picker today and never be short of work but in fact it is a big investment to make without a written guarantee of work. Robert added that the Oil and Gas companies must have a salvage plan outlined in their application and in some cases if they already know that Tolko/Fotner will be in the area in the following year some wood may be left behind.

## **6. CORRESPONDANCE / REPORTS**

None

## **7 AROUND THE TABLE**

Henry –Wanted to add that he does not work in the Oil and Gas industry and therefore cannot speak for them and how they deal with salvage. There are picker trucks out there that do pick up salvage and they are just too busy to keep up.

Scott – Wanted to stress once again that his door is always open and he is willing to come to you if you can't come in to see him.

Mike – Passed around information on the Rocky Lane Loppett being held on March 25<sup>th</sup> and encouraged everyone to stop by.

## **8 NEXT MEETING –April 04, 2006 @ 5:00 pm at the NAIT College**

## **9 ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned @ 8:20pm