



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 03, 2006

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Robert Popowich
Marcel LeCoure
Mary Klassen

Mike Alsterlund
Susan McNeil
Marilee Toews
Scott McNeil

1. Call to Order

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION

Moved By Marilee Toews

That the agenda be accepted as presented

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes – May 11, 2005

MOTION

Moved By Susan McNeil

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

CARRIED

4. Election of Executive

John Thurston – Chair

MOTION

Moved By Mike Alsterlund

CARRIED

That John Thurston be elected chair by acclamation

HLFPAC – AGM – May 3, 2006

Marilee Toews – Vice-Chair

MOTION

Moved By Mike Alsterlund

CARRIED

That Marilee Toews be elected as vice chair by acclamation

5. Review of Issues/Concerns

After a brief discussion it was evident that issue # 4 regarding salvage has been dealt with and while there is still a timing issue the group feels that the companies are doing everything that they can to ensure that the salvage gets brought in. During this discussion question was asked if the salvage gets incorporated into the annual allowable cut, answer was yes.

Issue #8 may no longer be an issue although the issue of speeding trucks is still talked about at the meetings and in the public and will remain as an ongoing issue. Mike would still like to go out with a Tolko rep and a radar gun just to see how many if any, trucks are in fact speeding.

Issue #13 has also been resolved. Contacting all trappers is a reoccurring task for Bruce and he will also include hunting guides and outfitters as well.

It was decided that the issues that have been resolved will be archived; the issues that remain will be labeled as ongoing and added to the meeting package.

6. Open Discussion

Mike – Would like to thank Tolko and Footner as well as John Thurston for their support at their Rocket Loppet in Rocky Lane, they had a great turn out.

John – Would like the summer field trip to remain on the agenda. The companies have had some internal discussions regarding who to bring that would have the expertise to point out and talk about plants, birds or fossils that we might encounter on our trip.

Mike – Had called the Echo in hopes that they would publish an ad listing some common plants and birds that may be seen in the region while people are camping, walking or hiking but was told they were not interested so he asked if the PAC would be interested in sponsoring such an ad just to create some interest.

Marilee – Asked if the PAC would be interested in purchasing some books to donate to the Library and perhaps have a review written by the Echo at the same time.

Mike – In order for the PAC to create some attention he suggested that the companies donate a nice log bench with a plaque stating “donated by the High Level Forestry Public Advisory Committee” and place it in front of the library. He also suggested that the PAC set up a display at different community events to educate people as to what we do. Lastly, he suggested that the reimbursement for kilometers to the public committee members of PAC be used for the bench program.

John – Each year the Rocky Lane school, along with the companies have done the Machesis Lake clean-up and for some reason this year the MD said that they have hired their own people to that. John feels that this is a good opportunity to teach the children to have pride in their community and to take responsibility and will go ahead anyway to organize the event as usual.

Marcel – Wanted some feedback from the group as to what their thoughts were of the PAC and how the companies are doing.

Marilee – Thinks it's necessary to have Public Advisory Committee in place but it would be nice to have some new faces around the table

Mike – Admits that in the beginning he did feel very foreign to some of the forestry terminology used and at times has felt like a “rubber stamp” but appreciates the opportunity to be able to come in and speak openly about his concerns and feels that they are dealt with and resolved.

John – Feels very comfortable to come in and discuss his concern and feels that the group is doing what it was formed to do.

Marcel – Asked the group if they felt they had made a difference or if they thought they were heading in the right direction?

Marilee – during the certification process she felt very heartened and when she participated in the audit she did not feel like she was making a difference but was glad that she participated this year because she could see a difference from the last year. She says she does sometimes go home after a meeting wondering if she is contributing anything meaningful.

Robert – Public participation is part of the planning manual and that will not be changed any time soon.

Scott - Sometimes people feel like they don' t have anything to offer to make a difference and it may be a little daunting to step into the room not knowing what to expect or not understanding the terminology which make it more important to speak in terms that the average public member can relate to.

Marcel – suggested we move the meeting around making it easier for some people to attend.

7. Next Meeting

Tuesday June 06th at 5:00 pm

8. Adjournment

Adjourned @ 7: 30 pm