



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Approved Minutes

Tuesday, May 06, 2008
5:00 p.m. – Four Winds Banquet Room
High Level, Alberta

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston (Chair)
Lacey Reid (ECHO)
Marilee Toews (HBSWS)
Ed Anderson (Tolko)
Dave Sadowsky (ASRD)

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)
Mike Alsterlund (PAC Member)
George Friesen (PAC Member)
Jayson Kofluk (FFP)

Recording Secretary: Brenda St. Arnault

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair, called meeting to order at 5:43 pm

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adopt Agenda as presented

MOVED by: Lacey Reid

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – April 01, 2008

Adoption of minutes with the following change:

- Portion deleted from the “letter of concern” will be revised, as too much was originally deleted.

Accept Minutes with addition

MOVED by: George Friesen

CARRIED

3.1 Review of action items

Companies to assemble possible contact list of groups that could be contacted for their participation on the PAC committee. Also, companies to provide draft letter to invite groups to participate on the PAC and explain the benefits.

Jeremy provided list of contacts of Organizations/societies in the Area. Will complete draft letter of participation when review of Terms of Reference is finished.

List of Organizations/Societies in the High Level Area that may have been missed:

- High Level Rangers
- Junior Forest Rangers
- Junior Forest Wardens

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

John mentioned that there have been a lot of rumors and speculations regarding the potential economic situations Tolko and Footner Forest Products Ltd., may presently be in. John requested Jeremy and Jayson to clarify the rumors that have been circulating in our communities

Jayson commented that Footner Forest Products has not been sold and the situation has not changed since the last PAC meeting.

Jeremy reviewed the situation at Tolko; we are still at 2 shifts. The company approached the unionized employees regarding a Work Share Program which would involve going to a 4 day work week. No definite plans for this to take place at this time. There has also been a recent staffing reduction across the company, which involved only 1 person in High Level.

Jayson commented that Ainsworth is a public company and information regarding situation can be seen on tsx.com website.

Mike wanted to know if there were answers to “Situation Critical” letter he handed out at previous meeting.

Company representatives do not have the data used in the AFPA handout which Jayson provided at a previous meeting.

Mike is looking for letter stating what Footner Forest Products is planning on doing with log piles in the Bush. He asked Jayson if he would be able to provide letter for Mike.

Jayson stated he would not be able to provide a letter, the situation has not changed.

Jeremy commented that the answers to questions Mike has asked have been answered in the April 1, 2008 PAC meeting.

Mike commented about the personal cost to attend PAC meetings.

John pointed out to Mike under Terms of reference, under section "Resources" to access travel expenses for him attending PAC meetings.

Jeremy commented that discussions were held in previous meetings regarding funds/travel expenses for PAC members and those funds would be donated to schools for books.

With regards to issues allowed to be discussed at committee, Mike asked whether comments made by Walter at the previous meeting regarding use of Wood Waste for biofuels would meet the criteria.

Jeremy directed Mike to the PAC Terms of Reference in which direction is provided under "Goals" and "Operating Guidelines" for discussions at committee. Walter comment was more for information purposes.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Terms of Reference review – continuation from April Meeting

Marilee: The 2nd goal of the committee actually contains two distinct goals; therefore she recommended that three distinct goals be developed.

3rd Goal: Help develop procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of both the public advisory process and FMP to ensure continual improvement.

Under the section "*Operating Guidelines*" the following listing of Interest Groups to be removed:

- Lubicon Lake Indian Nation
- Boreal Naturalists Club
- District Agriculture Office

The following Interest Groups to be added:

- General Public
- Oil and Gas
- Guide and Outfitters Society
- Northern Lights Forest Education Society

Timelines: Change the year to 2009.

Under section “*Roles, Responsibilities, and Obligations of Participants*”

1. *Advisory Members* – wording to be changed from then to than.
- i. *Committee Member Responsibility* – numbering to be put in order.

Under section “*Decision-Making Process for the VOIT*”:

- 7c. Quorum to be changed from 8 members to 4 members.

Vote on changes to ToR: John asked if there were any more changes to be made; if not all those in favor of the changes. – **CARRIED**

5.2 Annual Performance Report – handout

Jeremy handed out the finalized SFM - Annual Performance Report to the PAC members.

5.3 Examples of Economic Indicators from other SFM Plans

Jeremy reviewed the handout which lists current Economic Indicators within the SFM Plan which are reported annually, plus a couple other indicators are listed for consideration for the 2009 DFMP. Due to the increased level of discussion about economics at recent PAC meetings, the list was provided to show there are economic indicators and they are discussed at the VOIT level, and others can be added to the DFMP.

One item was missing from the commitment “List” provided at the meeting

- Contributions to local organizations.

This will be added to the list and made available.

5.4 General Development Plan process

Ed handed out the First Nation Supplemental Information Package as a basis for the Committee discussion. Ed discussed the details of what is included in a GDP and that the planned submission date to the government is June 2, 2008. The GDP will be available on the High Level woodlands website.

Marilee asked that after reviewing the document and members have concerns, how do we bring up any issues we may have? Ed informed her that in Marilee’s case she would bring up her concerns to the PAC meetings.

Jeremy informed the PAC members that normally we would do Open Houses in the surrounding communities, but due to a staffing shortage Tolko will not be having Open Houses in Rainbow Lake, Zama City, High Level, Fort Vermilion or LaCrete. Focused meetings will be scheduled with First Nations as part of the Aboriginal Consultation Process.

Marilee commented on the proposed spraying of Herbicides and how she does not agree with their use for reforestation purposes. It may assist reforestation efforts however she is concerned with the ecological impacts at time of application and in the years to come. Ed mentioned to Marilee that there are regeneration standards set by the Government that have to be met and herbicide is a tool Tolko is using to achieve the targets. Areas that have high amounts of competing vegetation that would prevent an area to achieve Performance criteria the area will be sprayed. Alternative Reforestation Standards may provide flexibility around Performance criteria such that herbicides use could be minimized.

Question asked by Marilee; Are you using the same herbicides? Yes, glyphosate is the active chemical.

There are seasonal parameters on the spray program and there are monitors on the ground to evaluate conditions.

The companies are required to conduct "Over Treatment Area" surveys to report on any excursions which may have occurred during the previous program. Report is provided to government and it can be audited.

With regards to the harvesting portion of the GDP, Mike asked about the amount of volume that will be cut this coming season? What is the difference from what was cut from last year?

Ed informed Mike that there are contingencies in place, depending on the situation. There are too many things up in the air right now to have a definitive targeted cut level.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Clipping Service (J. Beal)

Jeremy B. distributed the latest news clippings to the PAC members.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS

No correspondence/reports.

John asked if there were some correspondence/reports mailed to Jeremy from other companies and if he could make available for the PAC members.

Jeremy mentioned that he receives meeting minutes by email from DMI – PAC committee and he will make copies for members.

Jeremy also showed members a CD which was sent to the PAC from DMI which is the final product from a FRIAA project called "High Risk Species of Northwest Alberta Forest Management Activity Area; - A Field Guide to Recognition, Species issues, and Mitigation Opportunities". If members are interested to obtain their own copy you can contact DMI in Peace River.

8. AROUND THE TABLE

Mike was approached by a public member and was asked why groups of poplar are dying in various areas? Is there a disease going around?

Action: Jayson will inquire.

Mike requested that for the Wood Decks in the Bush that a standing agenda item be included under "Issues and Concerns" regarding this. Each meeting the item will be reviewed to ensure the PAC does not lose focus on this. Until situation is resolved the following will appear in the minutes:

"No indication of situation begin resolved at this time"

Jeremy commented that Tolko does not have the staffing to support any extra activities than essential business tasks. John mentioned he advised teachers that because of the staff shortage at Tolko that no foresters would be as readily available for school talks and science fairs as they have been in the past years.

John mentioned the High Level Running Club is organizing a Marathon and requesting donations. **Jeremy to inquire at Tolko.**

The Annual General Meeting will be June 3 and John is requesting someone else to run as Chair. John has been sitting as Chair for 11 years and hoping to step down in the coming year as he will also be retiring from teaching.

John also mentioned the organizing of the annual Machesis Lake Science Camp, and Marilee commented that she was involved in it last year and it was a good experience and anyone who has the opportunity should get involved.

Jeremy will ask Mark Stevens (Tolko-Area Manager) to be a guest speaker at the AGM.

9. NEXT MEETING – Annual General Meeting, June 3, 2008, 5 pm, Four Winds Banquet Room

10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:00 pm