



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

Tuesday, November 01, 2005  
5:00 p.m. @ NAIT College

## **Minutes**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

John Thurston, Chair  
Robert Popowich  
Cornelia Thomi  
Christopher Cottell  
Henry Friesen  
Marilee Toews  
Arlene Powers - Secretary

Marcel Lecoure  
Lorraine Donovan  
Peter Nicholson  
Mike Alsterlund  
George Friesen  
Susan McNeil

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

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. pm.

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

#### **MOTION**

**Moved By George Friesen**

That the agenda be accepted as presented

*CARRIED*

### **3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – October 4, 2005**

#### **MOTION**

**Moved By Marilee Toews**

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes of October 4, 2005 be accepted as presented.

*CARRIED*

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

Nothing new

It was mentioned that the ongoing list of Issues and Concerns should be updated by the Secretary.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Disparity of Treatment of O& G and Timber Companies**

Mike referred to 2005 Issues & Concerns Tracking Summary and identified a few discrepancies:

- #4 - This does not mention that the LandUse department of both Tolko & FFP has amalgamated.
- #11 – Does not state a resolution.

There was a question regarding chain of command and whether or not some of the issues/concerns that are discussed at the PAC meetings are discussed with upper management at both Tolko & Footner. Marcel indicated that there is some discussion regarding PAC however for the most part, feedback has been somewhat minimal.

All the employees do know however that the minutes are posted online.

Mike questioned the protocol for industrial salvage. He stated that “there seems to rules & regulations set out by Alberta Forestry. The appearance is that there is one set of rules for O & G and another for the forest industry.”

Mike reiterated his concern regarding salvage. Mike feels that there needs to be a standardized treatment and approach and to reevaluate such things as brush piles. The representative from ASRD stated that if there is a problem, he requires evidence such as dates and other specific information and that their office will investigate. As far as O & G salvage, the condition of well-site is due to legislation & policy.

Marcel advised the group that FFP and Tolko are still working together on the salvage issues and that the current program works well and is functional.

### **5.2 FFP Corporate Image**

Mike stated that there are public concerns regarding FFP and indicated that their image in the community is poor. There is undermining of softwood with other contractors as well as undercutting. Their appearance is not that of a long-term community company.

Peter stated that FFP administration looks at the minutes of the HLFAC meetings. He also stated that there is no undermining going on. Companies pay what market forces dictate. If one company pays more for wood, then any landowner with wood to sell is free to make his choice with who the wood is sold to. Footner is very much a long-term community company, and if anyone has concerns about this, they are more than welcome to bring those concerns forward with the where, when and why of the issue. Peter also restated that price of wood was not a mandate of PAC to discuss, but if one company is paying up to 400% more for wood, then the landowners would know who to sell to.

### **5.3 AB Forest Based Communities (FBC) Virtual Cluster**

Arlene extended an invitation to all HLFAC members to the Alberta Forest Based Communities (FBC) Virtual Cluster Video Conference on Forestry Initiatives & Opportunities. This is a video conference that is to be held on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. She also requested suggestions as to names of others that would be interested in this v/c session.

Arlene to email members with the time of the video conference as it was not stated on the invitation.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Clipping Service**

Marcel handed out copies of recent newspaper clippings

### **6.2 Salvage**

Mike expressed concern regarding piles of crown timber being destroyed. Mike felt that this was wasting wood as well as environmentally insensitive. Felt that there should be opportunities for all companies (O&G, Forestry & Logging) to establish a joint program for logging salvage. Suggestions such as financial aide, waivers, etc. could be used as incentives.

George suggested that there is just too much work and not enough trucks. This is also a province-wide issue. In order to haul salvage, trucks need to be set up different than regular haulers. There are contractors in the area that are dedicated to hauling salvage however; the financial margin is getting smaller and smaller.

There was also a brief discussion on the financial side of industrial salvage and the representative from ASRD offered to prepare a short Powerpoint presentation on TDA calculations for the next PAC meeting. Marcel also indicated that he would also provide the group with some clarification with regards to compensation at the next meeting.

### **6.3 Annual Performance Report**

Since the CSA standard for forest certification does require periodic revisions to the SFM Plan, the companies did review and make a few changes to the 2004 version of the document. Marcel gave a presentation to the group outlining some of the changes, most of which were administrative with the exception of some changes to the Defined Forest Area (Natural Sub-Regions).

Marcel also gave a presentation to the group on the companies performance Y.T.D in meeting some of the CSA commitments. Given the number of commitments, a second presentation will be provided at the December meeting.

### **6.4 General Development Plan**

Peter asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the companies GDP report that was handed out in July 2005. There were none.

## **7. CORRESPONDANCE / REPORTS**

### **7.1 Northern Lights Forest Education Society**

Lorraine reported that the Northern Lights Forest Education Society information packages at the library are being utilized.

The NLFES are looking at funding a forest ecology tour as well as tour of FFP mill for next year. The one that was held on Sept 23 went over well. Fraser Deacon is looking into getting a website developed with links to HLFAC, etc.

Tracy McLean is to be making presentations in the FVSD school staff meetings in December. Her presentations are to cover topics such as: Who is the Northern Lights Forest Education Society, what can they do (in classrooms) and what kind of funding is available for projects, fieldtrips, etc.

### **7.2 The Association of Alberta Public Advisory Committees**

Handout: There are a number of Public Advisory Committee's who share common issues as the group in High Level. This would be information sharing, minutes, technical advice, etc. They are looking at forming a provincial organization.

In the minutes from the Canfor Forest Management Advisory Committee Meeting, it was stated (pg 3) that "Dr. John Parkins wrote a paper three years back suggesting the value and a possible approach for a provincial group." The question from the floor was "is there any value in a registered assoc.?"

John to contact Paul Lemay and report back at next HLFAC meeting.

## **8 AROUND THE TABLE**

Marcel wanted to remind the group that both Tolko & Footner are having their surveillance audit to the CSA standard from November 22-26. There will be a field component to the audit as well as interviews if anyone is interested in participating in them.

Marilee – Concern expressed how much HLFAC information actually reaches mill management. Marcel stated that Tom Hoffman receives the minutes as well as a quarterly report is made to management regarding management issues.

Mike – Would like updates on coordination of mixed wood management from both FFP and Tolko.

Peter – Stated that concerns, complaints, issues, etc. are taken back to companies and will do a presentation if required (public education).

John – asked Tolko for new Truck hotline cards as well as what are the expectation for log haul for winter. FFP volume down as much as possible this winter due to log haul road from Rainbow Lake.

Tolko is planning on harvesting less volume than recent years and will be delivering less volume from the west than last year. Approximately 10% of the volume will be delivered from the south, 30–35 % from North (Zama City, Watt Mtn) and 40-45% from the west. Only approximately 10% of the volume is expected to be delivered from the east.

Marcel to get cards to John.

**9 NEXT MEETING** – December 6, 2005 @ 5:00 pm at the NAIT College

**10 ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned @ 7:50 pm