



**HIGH LEVEL FORESTS  
PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Approved MINUTES**

*Tuesday, November 17, 2009*  
5:00 p.m. – Four Winds Banquet Room  
High Level, Alberta

**ATTENDANCE:**

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)	John Thurston (Chairman)
Marilee Toews (HBSWS)	Mike Alsterlund
Al Toews (Guest)	George Friesen
Ted Edwards (ASRD)	Carrie Demkiw (Town of High Level)
Derek Downy (ASRD)	Mark Andrews (EnCana)

Recording Secretary: Brenda St. Arnault

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Jeremy Beal made an Addition to agenda– 5.3 Wildfire Management in Upper Hay Presentation by Derek Downy – ASRD.

Adopt Agenda with Addition.

**MOVED BY: George Friesen**

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – October 17, 2009**

Adopt Minutes as presented.

**MOVED BY: Marilee Toews**

**CARRIED**

### 3.1 *Review of action items (old action items in italics)*

There are no action items for review.

## 4. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

Mike A. – Is it possible to get the amount that is being trashed (Incidental aspen)?

George F. – The total amount estimated in this year's cut is about 130,000 m<sup>3</sup>, and normally about 20% of that amount is cut, decked and left.

John T. – Question regarding Negotiations – is there any news yet?

Jeremy B. – Has no idea what is happening with negotiations as he is not part of them.

Mike A. – Questioned what the salary reductions were at Tolko for salary staff and management. This comes out of a comment from a hourly person that staff should also be taking salary reductions along with any that the mill employees might take.

Jeremy B. – Salary employees and Top Management took a pay cut approximately 18 months ago. Depending what level of management the position was, salary reductions were either 3%, 6% or 12%. 6% was the most common salary reduction.

### 4.1 *Decked Aspen Logs*

Mike A. – Asked if the proposal to remove the Incidental Logs (involving FFP, MD, DMI, etc) was approved and if the external funding is going directly to the Companies involved?

George F – Explained the proposal for the Incidental logs was meant to benefit the Loggers and no funds will be going to Footner Forest Products Ltd.

No approval at this time. DMI would receive the wood fibre only if they contributed towards the chipping and trucking. The government funding would offset contractor costs.

### 4.2 *Incidental Aspen*

Mike A - Question regarding Incidental Aspen and that DMI purchases, hauls, then destroys aspen, is there any truth to this happening?

Ted E. – DMI has several Licenses, and it is not necessary for DMI to take all the aspen as long as DMI meets their AAC requirements.

Jeremy B. – explained the reasoning for companies not taking the incidental aspen – it is meant to reduce costs.

There was general discussion on companies not taking Incidental Aspen during Tolko's harvesting operations (some details not recorded at meeting)

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Sustainability Indicators for 2008-2009**

Jeremy B. reviewed 15 of 32 commitments of sustainability that Tolko is measured to. Most of the remaining commitments will be reviewed at the next meeting however, others cannot be provided until annual summaries are completed in March 2010.

#### *#8: Wildlife Zones*

Described where Tolko and LaCrete Sawmills operated with Caribou Protection Area and Ungulate Winter Range.

#### *#17: Soil Productivity*

Mike A. asked question about Natural Soil Productivity; does the target have with capacity of the soil to grow things (all vegetation including weeds) or does it have to do with growing trees to meet free to grow?

Jeremy: When the commitment was developed the consensus around the committee was to have growth and yield as the focus of proving no diminishment in soil productivity from natural stands to managed stands. Because the G&Y program supported by both Tolko and FFP has been stalled, Tolko is reporting on research related to forest growth. The commitment is not about analyzing soil properties (ie., nutrients, microbes, fungi, etc.) but to determine if the soils capacity to produce our forests is diminished.

#### *#19: Buffer Zone Compliance*

Explanation of 3 infractions.

#### *#24: Cut Control*

Entering new quadrant for FMA holders. Little activity by embedded operators.

#### *#25: Historical Resources*

9 sites found near 2008-2009 operations. Plans adjusted.

#### *#27: Stakeholder Input*

Provided table listing communications from EMS site by category.

#### *#29: Business Agreements*

3 agreements (LaCrete Sawmills, Little Red River Forestry, Crestview)

*#30: Aboriginal Consultation*

Open house at Tolko; First Nation Supplement Information Package; meetings

*#32: Forestry Awareness*

Commitments 3, 9, 11, 12, 16, 26

#3: No activities within areas of Ecological Significance

#9: No orchard stock were used in the 2008 plant

#11: No activities within areas of Biological Significance

#12: No activities within the Watt Mountain Natural Area

#16: No rutting occurrences

#26: No activities within area removed for aesthetics

Mike A. – Question for Ted E. regarding cut control values for FFP: The table is showing that FFP has planned volume for the remainder of this quadrant, so if they do not harvest over the next 4 years do they lose their AAC?

Ted E. – it is something that is at the discretion of ASRD.

Jeremy: As was mentioned during previous meetings by Dave Sadowsky, it is unlikely that the Minister will take their FMA away. However, if the markets return and the Footner Forest Products facility continues to be idle then the Minister may be more inclined to look at how that volume can be used.

Mike A. – FFP Dues rates were set very low (\$0.53/m<sup>3</sup>) at start up. What kind of assessment is the Government going to have in place before allowing the Footner Forest Product facility to open up to ensure the operation is viable?

Ted E. – Environmental (prior practices) and Economic stability

**5.2** *Upcoming Audits*

Jeremy advised committee members John Dunford will be in High Level December 8 – 10/09 to do an internal audit on EMS/CSA.

The CSA Re-registration audit will occur mid-January 2010 by Quality Management Institute. It will likely be Nate Ryant as the Lead Auditor.

### 5.3 *Wildfire Management in the Upper Hay for 2009 – Derek Downy*

Derek Downy from ASRD made a presentation on Wildfire Management in the Upper Hay for 2009:

- Fire Tower locations
- Fire Season (timing)
- Locations of fires
- Types of fires normally encountered
- Risk management procedures to action a fire (risk to life is primary)
- Fire control of vegetation around Native Reserves
- # Permits provided

John T. – Private property observation; is there anyone available in your office that would come out if owners requested assistance to FireSmart their homes?

Derek D. – There are pamphlets available for any lands owners – Firesmart etc.

## 6. **OLD BUSINESS**

There are no old business items to discuss.

## 7. **CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS**

7.1 *Meeting minutes from DMI – PAC (provided to committee)*

7.2 *Clipping Service (11)*

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

## 8. **AROUND THE TABLE**

George F. – regarding negotiations, logging contractors were told not to expect to hear any news until December 1st

Carrie D. – Commented that the Town of High Level submitted a Proposal for Firesmart Community Grant to do prescribed burn in the area. The bulk of the project will be completed in 2010.

Marilee T. – requested copies of Making the Grade articles and EMEND 1 Seminar held on November 13/09 – Jeremy to provide at next meeting.

## 9. **NEXT MEETING – December 8, 2009, 5:00 pm, Four Winds Banquet Room**

## 10. **ADJOURNMENT – 7:40 pm**