



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

Tuesday, November 4, 2003
Fairview College
5:00 pm

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair	Susan McNeil
George Friesen	Lorraine Donovan
Stephanie Grocholski	Bradley Asmussen
Jorden Johnston	Marcel LeCoure
Leo McNamara	Marilee Toews
Aaron Doepel	Mary Klassen
Arlene Powers	

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Lorraine Donovan

That the agenda be accepted with the following additions:

Under New Business;

- Chinchaga Wilderness

Under Old Business:

- 2003-2004 Harvest Areas
- Blow Down Salvage

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – October 14, 2003

Old Business – Old Growth Forest

- Question re: why there is no poplar in the landscape 200 years into the future.
 - Aspen/Poplar does not have the same life span as Spruce; therefore, it is not shown.

MOTION

Moved By George Friesen

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

- John Thurston inquired about the possibility of obtaining some of the “Log Haul Hotline” cards that have been distributed by the Companies in previous years. Marcel indicated that he would check into it and bring some of the cards to the next meeting.
- It was also suggested that we update the town sign and place the log haul hotline number on the sign for public use.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- Chinchaga Wilderness - handout (*Jorden*)
 - Driving factor of this handout is Old Growth Forest
 - Concern expressed regarding how it is written (does not agree)
 - Says land it totally allocated (Untrue statement)
 - Serious implications for logging industry & other groups including Tolko (P10 Forest Management Unit)
 - Concern expressed regarding protected areas – Protected from what?
 - Jorden has invited Glen Semanchuk of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists (Edmonton) to next PAC meeting to discuss concerns.
 - J.P. Bielech of Manning Diversified is also invited.
 - Handout distributed as reading material
- Tabled**

6. OLD BUSINESS

- Public Perception of Forestry
 - Few people read national newspapers
 - We cannot see problems being written about forestry in national papers therefore, cannot recognize other issues
 - Clipping service would enable membership to keep up to date with current issues
 - Information to be distributed at membership meetings
 - Useful if we want to be frontrunners – not blind sighted by issues
 - Marcel also indicated that the Companies do receive a number of scientific journals. Relevant articles could be collected and distributed at the meetings if the PAC members would like them.
 - Information received from independent sources – able to ask questions
 - Membership consensus to contact clipping service for articles dealing with forestry in Northern Alberta / National Daily's / Newspapers only.
 - Brad / Marcel to get more information regarding cost / content, etc.
 - Marcel discussed Tolko's recent assessment of forestry education and awareness in the area. The Company is currently reviewing alternative strategies to address forest education and public awareness regarding forestry.
 - Radio Ads
 - Increased Education Initiatives

- Clipping service would help this initiative.

Tabled

➤ Spruce Reforestation

- through PHA's to make sure they are doing it
- right. Public concern regarding the choosing of areas to plant spruce.
- What kind of control is there on this type of decision making and how is decision made?
- Brad informed the group that there are still outstanding issues that the Companies are working on
- Companies will be monitored & measured on it by gov't
- Currently trying to manage on a compartment level Working way
- Companies have to do a better job in identifying reforestation issues and prescriptions prior to harvest.
- Regulations we have to live by – Regen Standards

➤ Question of the Month

A question was presented to Tolko (Marcel) & Footner (Brad) at the last meeting. The question was: "How is salvaged Oil & Gas timber handled?"

Brad presented the answer to the question. Members requested a slight modification to the answer. It was suggested that the answer is quite obvious in that the Companies want to take as much of the accessible salvage as they can before merchantable forest (standing timber) is taken. It was also suggested that it is the government's responsibility to regulate. Monitoring is done by the Forestry.

Brad will forward modified answer to Arlene for insertion into both The Echo and The Pioneer.

It was suggested that the next question of the month speak about the blue Dot Program. Brad and Marcel to bring an answer to the next meeting.

Arlene to create binder of past and future "Question of the Month" as reference.

➤ Harvesting

- Brad presented a map showing areas where cutting will be taking place this winter. There will be reduced traffic coming from the south and east of High Level this winter compared to last season. Although much of the harvesting will again be coming from the west, there will be a reduction in overall log truck traffic as a result of FFP's use of their infrastructure project which parallels HWY58 west.
- A question was raised as to the harvesting of black spruce. The members were advised that only incidental black spruce was scheduled for harvest this winter.

- Blow Down Salvage
 - A local resident found some blow down in the F1 Management Unit and contacted FFP regarding this issue. A follow-up flight confirmed that there is approximately 30,000 m3 of conifer blown down. A plan is currently being put in place to salvage.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- Minutes from other PAC Groups
 - To send copies of minutes to other PAC groups (Valleyview North)

8. AROUND THE TABLE

- George just returned from Paraguay. Some mills are shutting down due to no forest as a result of no long term planning. Currently planting trees that will be ready to harvest in approx. 10 – 15 years.
- Marcel reminded members that the next CSA meeting will be in Ft Vermilion on November 12, 2003. Meeting to be held in the School Division office.

9. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

- December 2, 2003 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Adjourned @ 6:35 p.m.