



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

Tuesday November 6, 2007  
5:00 p.m. – Spirit of the North Community School, High Level

### **MINUTES**

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

John Thurston (Chair)  
Dave Sadowsky  
Jeremy Beal  
Maury Simoneau  
Lawrence Giffin  
Jeremy Beal

Scott McNeil  
Marilee Toews  
Larry Hillier  
Aaron Doepel  
Lacey Reid  
Glen Greening

**Recording Secretary:** Brenda St Arnault

#### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

John Thurston, Chair, called meeting to order at 5:05 pm

Introduction of attendees

#### **2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Adopt Agenda as presented

**MOVED by: Lacey Reid**

**CARRIED**

#### **3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES – October 2, 2007**

Accept Minutes as presented

**MOVED by: Aaron Doepel**

**CARRIED**

### 3.1 Review action items from October 2, 2007 PAC meeting.

**3a)** *Find out where approved disposal sites are and what is done with material at the site?*

**Answer:** Scott McNeil provided information on services provided to the forestry, and Oil & Gas industries for disposing of contaminated waste (oily rags, used oil, etc) which is normally handled by such companies as Neufeld's and RBW. Contaminated soils can also be land farmed, or sent to CCS in Rainbow Lake as a more expensive solution.

Jeremy added that the High Level landfill will accept contaminated soils (variety of chemicals) to a specific threshold of ppm, but above a level it must be disposed of through other methods identified above. Costs at the landfill for acceptable soils is \$8/metric tonne.

## 4.0 ISSUES AND CONCERNS

No issues or concerns

## 5.0 NEW BUSINESS

### 5.1. VOIT discussions

Revisited VOIT Table

J. Beal provided PAC with a draft working copy of the proposed VOIT table which the companies are proposing for the Forest management plan. All of the VOIT's in the document have been reviewed at either the July, September, or October meetings, and include VOIT's required by Alberta for companies to follow and include VOIT's currently being used from the existing sustainable forest management plan.

PAC members were asked to review the document and provide comments/questions at the December meeting, at which these VOIT's can be discussed further along with the remainder of the VOIT's which the companies will bring forth.

Marilee T. asked what are the members to do?

J. Beal explained the members should consider whether the VOIT makes sense to them and is it a measure of sustainability.

## 5.2. Internal Audits

J. Beal provided an overview of the results from the internal audits that occurred at Tolko and Footner Forest Products between August 27 – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Non-conformances and opportunities for improvement – consideration were mentioned.

Aaron Doepel commented that he would like to know more about how the companies are doing in any audits being conducted by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development through their Forest Operations Monitoring Program (FOMP) or Silviculture Activity Monitoring (SAM). Dave Sadowsky said that he will have to confirm with others at SRD the progress with these programs, however company personnel do not think the auditing process has begun in the Upper Hay District.

**ACTION: SRD to confirm when FOMP & SAM will start in the Upper Hay District.**

John Thurston asked about one of the items identified in the CSA Internal audit with regards to wording of indicator for mechanisms used for public forestry awareness. J. Beal mentioned that the indicator is fine however the target of ever improvement in number of mechanisms used to gain public forestry awareness will become impossible to achieve as there is a limit to mechanisms. It would be more appropriate to have a target that can be improved upon, such as number of students attending presentations, number of presentations/staff, improvement in quality of events measure through survey cards, etc.

## 6.0 OLD BUSINESS

### 6.1 Clipping Service (J. Beal)

J. Beal handed out the newspaper clippings and other forestry items. Attention was drawn to “Framework of Criteria & Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management” which is a new publication by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers. The revised framework has mostly changed in Criteria 5 & 6, which are related to the Public and Aboriginals.

### 6.2 Community Open House – discussion point from October Meeting

Discussion on PAC meetings being held in surrounding communities and find out if the meetings would attract an interest from the general public. At the last meeting, J. Beal suggested that PAC have open forum around the time of the truck haul.

A discussion was held on some ideas on how to deal with awareness issues with the surrounding communities.

- Get a guest speaker
- Have a bond fire during Midnight Madness (High Level, Fort Vermilion) and have a booth/table set up for public to ask questions.

**ACTION: Jeremy to inquire with companies if attending the Fort Vermilion event is OK, If so, make preparations.**

Marilee made a comment on how there is a lot of cynicism in that people don't feel that they can make a difference if they were to attend meeting so no one wants to attend.

### 6.3 Field Trip of West Haul Road – discuss possible dates

Prior to the October meeting some members of the public expressed concern to John Thurston that logging practices and look of cutblocks are much different when comparing the west highway to Rainbow Lake to the West Haul Road.

PAC will coordinate dates for a tour in 2008. Members are encouraged to advise John T. by December 17 of dates they are available to attend in January.

### 6.4 Surveillance Audits at Tolko/FFP between January 7-9, 2008.

There is opportunity for members to participate in the audit, by being interviewed and possibly accompanying the auditor on their field day.

## 7.0 CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS

Marilee T. didn't get a chance to go over the minutes of meeting from Environmental Advisory Committee.

## 8.0 AROUND THE TABLE

Jeremy provided an invitation letter to John Thurston which is directed to the Mayor and Councillors in High Level for them to participate on the PAC. The letter was suggested during the recent CSA internal audit. It was agreed by the committee such a letter should not only be sent to High Level but also other governances in the area to gain their support and to participate (eg; First Nations, NPTC, Paddle Prairie, MD23, Rainbow Lake, etc.)

Dave Sadowsky handed out sample of pamphlets which ASRD has for many Forest Health issues in the province, as well as other forestry related topics. If members want more pamphlets they are invited to visit the local SRD office.

Glen Greening suggested that the PAC do a short presentation to the teachers during PD days. John said this is something that had been done and is ongoing.

Jeremy mentioned we are not being charged for the use of SNCS kitchen for our meetings but the school said that they would accept a donation to the library. It was agreed this should occur.

Suggestion made by John T. for the companies to provide map of harvest plans for the next 10 –20 years for the hallway by the library.

John asked when log haul will begin?

Footner Forest Products is currently hauling from Satellite yards with the full log haul beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December.

Marilee mentioned she is continuing with the historical sites project and if any one knows of such sites to contact her. Currently they have documented over 300 sites in the area.

**9.0 NEXT MEETING** – December 4, 2007, 5pm, High Level  
Spirit of the North Community School

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT – by 7:30 pm**