



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

Tuesday, October 14, 2003
Fairview College
5:00 pm

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair	Susan McNeil
Wil Horbal	Ted Edwards
Dennis Eckford	Brad Asmussen
Henry Friesen	Marcel LeCoure
Mike Alsterlund	Marilee Toews

Recording Secretary: Arlene Powers, M.E.D.C.

1. CALL TO ORDER

J. Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Mike Asterlund

That the agenda be accepted with the following additions:

Under New Business;

- Blow Down Salvage (*Brad*)
- Logging Season Ramp-Up (*Brad*)
- Blue Dot Program (*Brad*)
- FMA Mission (*Marcel*)
- FMA Vision (*Marcel*)

Under Old Business:

- Salvage (*Mike*)
- Mix Wood Management (*Mike*)
- Old Growth Forest (*Mike*)
- Cut-Blocks (*Mike*)

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – September 2, 2003

M. Alsterlund clarified his question regarding ballpark price of a log in a cut pile in the bush. He was referring to a **brush** pile, not a cut pile.

Marcel indicated that although a “ballpark” price was given, the Companies would prefer not to include such specifics into the meeting minutes, especially if this information is available to members of the public.

The Companies will continue to discuss specific issues and/or questions and provide answers when we can; however, we hope that the information is kept to members of the group.

Mike also appreciated the same respect as he has spoken candidly regarding the activities of some Companies in the area.

In the future, any information provided by the Companies that is not to be included in the minutes will be identified.

MOTION

Moved By Marilee Toews

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

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

J. Thurston raised an issue for *J. Johnson* regarding reforestation. The question put forth was “What factors are considered when locating spruce reforestation areas?”

Tabled to next meeting

J. Thurston also raised an issue regarding attendance at meetings. The October 7 meeting was postponed until October 14 as only 2 people had notified *Arlene* regarding their attendance. It was suggested that members try and notify *Arlene* whether or not they can attend meetings in order to alleviate any confusion for future meetings.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- Media & PAC
 - Media to leave out names, etc.
 - Regular monthly column
 - To bring info forward to PAC meetings as necessary
- CSA Meeting Schedule
 - Members are “meeting’d out” – to tight a schedule
 - Schedule to be modified as required
 - The Companies want the CSA process to work for everyone; therefore, they are willing to adjust the meeting format to accommodate the PAC. *Marcel* indicated that the PAC meetings have an important function in discussing operational issues which will probably increase as we near the winter season. *Marcel* indicated that the Companies are on target regarding timelines – Annex table continues to be worked on. Following completion of the Annex Table, the number of meetings will decrease in the short-term until the SFM Plan is actually developed.
 - 2 more meetings – main portion completed

- Next PAG meeting – mid November in Ft Vermilion
- Public Perception of Canadian Forestry
 - *J. Thurston* presented *J. Johnston's* concern regarding public perception of Canadian Forestry.
 - Article in Edmonton Journal titled “Forestry in Canada Unsustainable.”
 - Is it possible for PAC to subscribe to newspaper clipping service for pertinent issues
Tabled
- Wood Borer Presentation
 - *W. Horbal, Tolko* gave interesting presentation on HLLD Wood Borer Management
- Public Involvement Survey
 - *M. LeCoure* distributed a copy of “Public Input Questionnaire”
 - Results to be used for planning and development with respect to Heritage sites, etc.
 - Originally introduced at Trade Fair (55 individuals completed)
 - Concern expressed regarding sustainability of resources
 - Suggestion from members to include schools in public education – possibly a coloring contest, etc.
- Blow Down Salvage
 - Major wind even around Ft Vermilion caused some areas of blowdown within the FMA
 - The Companies are currently preparing plans that will allow them to salvage some of this blow down timber during this years harvest operations.
- Logging Season Ramp-Up
 - Logging Truck traffic will be picking up in November due to the start up of the winter harvesting program
 - Log trucks will be coming from all directions; however, more volume will be delivered from the north and west than the South and East.
- Blue Dot Program
 - The Companies are part of a program to put up a Blue reflector indicating a school bus stop ahead so school buses can turn on their lights further in advance to allow logging trucks more time to slow down.
 - This is a joint program between the Universal Trucking Group consisting of FFP, Tolko and La Crete with the local school district.
- FMA Mission / Vision
 - *M. LeCoure* presented the PAC with a copy of the FMA Mission and Vision statement.
 - Although the Companies are guided by separate corporate Mission/Vision statements, the Companies have developed a joint Mission/Vision for the management of the FMA.
 - To be mounted on PAC information board

6. OLD BUSINESS

- Salvage
 - Cut blocks look excellent / some trees left
 - Trees left sporadically
 - Left in clumps or patches where possible
 - *B. Asmussen*, FFP to bring salvage guidelines to next meeting
- Mix Wood Management
 - There was an issue regarding how the Companies will ensure that the forest cover is maintained.
 - Although forest cover and seral stages will vary at any given time, the Companies are obligated to maintain the current cover type distribution to +/- 5% from current levels (legal obligation).
 - There was also an issue regarding the Mixedwood Management trial that was recently presented to the PAC and the impact on soil disturbance on future forest growth.
 - Marcel indicated that that was a small-scale trial only and the effects and trade-offs with such operations need to be fully understood before something like that would be implemented on a broad-scale.
- Old Growth Forest
 - The amount of old-forest varies over time as the forest is impacted by Insect/Disease and fires. In the DFMP, the companies have committed to determine the historical range of old forest across the landscape and operating within that range.
 - There was also a question as to why there is no poplar in the landscape 200 years into the future?
 - Aspen/Poplar does not have the same age span as Spruce, therefore, it normally does not exist.
- Cut-Blocks
 - There was a concern regarding how 2 companies harvesting different species cannot impact each others AAC's.
 - The FMA states that neither party can do anything that can be detrimental to each other's respective AAC's
 - Although the Companies manage different species, we are forced to work together through the FMA and DFMP to manage the forest instead of the landbase.
- Trade Fair
 - PAC information board @ Trade Fair
 - Some public interest
- FEESA Ecolab
 - Presentation a School Division Professional Development
 - Day
 - Tour of FFP
 - 15 teachers participated

- Mix Wood Presentation
 - Presented September 9, 2003
 - Excellent Presentation
- Question of the Month

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

Marcel and Brad will come up with an answer to the question and will be reviewed by the PAC Committee on Nov 4, 2003 and, once approved, it will be submitted to both The Echo and The Pioneer.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

8. AROUND THE TABLE

- Discussions regarding Oil & Gas
 - Environmental guidelines different from Forest Companies
- *M. Asterlund* questioned, "Who pays for reforestation of cut lines."
 - No obligation to anyone

9. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

- November 4, 2003 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Adjourned @ 7:54 p.m.