



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Approved MINUTES

Tuesday, October 20, 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	Barry Gladders (Tolko)
Lacey Reid (Echo)	

Recording Secretary: Brenda St. Arnault

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:44 pm

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adopt Agenda as presented.

MOVED BY: Marilee Toews

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – June 2, 2009

Adopt Minutes as presented.

MOVED BY: Marilee Toews

CARRIED

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

Jeremy B. to look into FSC and their practices in using herbicides.

Jeremy provided pages from FSC Boreal Standard with regards to herbicide allowance.

Jeremy to get information to John T. regarding Species at Risk

Jeremy provided John T. with information related to Species at Risk.

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

4.1 Decked Aspen Logs

Mike A. asked if Barry G. knew anything about log decks.

Barry G. commented that he did not know what was going on with log Decks; but the MD23 has put forward a proposal to move logs to satellite yard and DMI would chip logs.

The Federal Government would donate 1/2 of funds for the project and if MD23 were able to obtain to other 1/2 of the funds, the project would go forward.

- Logs are still merchantable.
- Provide employment opportunities for local people.

Mike A. commented that he was glad with the news and would be following up with MD23.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Tolko Update - Barry Gladders

Barry G. provided an overview of current news and operations at Tolko that touched on:

- Current lumber markets
- Union agreement and upcoming negotiations
- Logging for upcoming winter

(Note: Persons interested in more details can contact the Tolko office and speak with Barry Gladders, Woodlands Manager, 780-926-8907)

John T. mentioned he was asked a question regarding the Oversize logs in the yard and they are being moved by rail to BC.

Barry G. replied that any high quality oversize logs that cannot be used at the sawmill are sold to a company in BC. This equals less than 0.5% of our total annual log profile.

John T.: If Tolko does not go logging this year – when would they know.

Barry G: As soon as it is decided.

Mike A. If Tolko does not log this winter, does it have the option to do summer logging?

Barry G.: Not in the conventional way, we would have to negotiate for hauling etc.

Marilee T: How much notice does Tolko have to give to its Employees if they are planning on shutting down?

Barry G.: Not sure

Mike A.: Many mills have taken a hit, not just Tolko; due to the free trade agreement, we should expect a few more dips in the economy.
Housing is not the greatest in the USA; I think we should expect more downfalls.

Barry G: Had a meeting with government officials and they do not want Tolko to shut down. Therefore, they have been helpful to come up with solutions.

Al T: Is Tolko getting any benefits from the Government?

Barry G.: we are getting the opportunity to sit down and speak with the Government; Tolko did not have that option 3 months ago.

Barry G.: DMI have the incidental on all standing Aspen.

John T.: Asked what percentage of Tolko lumber was being sold to China?

5.2 Proposed changes to SFM Plan – Jeremy Beal

Jeremy B. presented to PAC members changes Tolko are proposing in the SFM Plan. Items reviewed:

Indicator 6: Retention Targets

Mike A: is the Government going to approve of blocks <15.0 hectares that may not have any retention?

Jeremy B: Table is used, as a guideline only – does not replace the indicators and targets which we need to meet at a landscape level.

Mike A: Eliminated any need to have economically valuable trees in blocks?

Barry/Jeremy: any timber left in the blocks can or cannot be merchantable.

Indicator 11: Final Harvest Plans to protect areas of interest

Auditor found that planning layer data from outside sources was not being updated periodically. Revised to ensure that outside data is updated annually before Final Harvest Plans are developed.

Indicator 17: Soil Productivity

Refers to maintaining Growth and Yield Program which has been put on hold since curtailment of FPP. Auditor recommended that the indicator be adjusted due to changing circumstances. Changed wording to current "research" reporting requirement.

Marilee T. commented on the importance of the Growth and Yield Program and the valuable information that will be gained from continued plot establishment and measurement.

Indicator 18: Water Yield (variance with PFMS)

Jeremy provided overview of proposed change.

Indicator 26 & 3: Area removed

Indicators involve accounting for area removed from ecological and aesthetic significance. Wording now in the SFM Plan shows these Indicators as being completed.

Marilee T. asked if there would be an opportunity to bring forward areas for potential removal.

Jeremy B. commented that public would have the opportunity if there were areas they had in mind.

Indicator 27 and 31 Part 1: Stakeholder participation

Aligned Target with Monitoring & Reporting.

Indicator 31, Part 2: Mechanisms for public input

Currently reporting based on what mechanisms have been used for public involvement. Auditor suggesting change to include continual improvement on the target.

Suggestion is to have reporting based on management response to public input on plans (eg., timing, level of concern, content, etc.).

Marilee T. made a comment regarding Jeremy B. willing to put in public domain.

John T. commented on 2009 Tradeshow questionnaire, are we looking at furthering the situation/results of the questionnaire?

Jeremy B. commented that it could be used for that purpose.

John T. commented that if we are serious about pursuing this we have a good place to start.

Indicator 32: Forestry Awareness

Current target is to have continual improvement in the number of mechanisms used. Will be changed to recording # of attendees involved in various forestry awareness opportunities and provide reporting as a ratio with # of staff during reporting year. (Example: 200 attendees and 11 staff, then ratio would be 18.2:1. Target would be to continually improve on this.)

PAC Roles and Responsibilities

Required to include a general overview of the PAC's role under Shared Responsibilities section of the SFM Plan.

Conclusions from Divisional Management Review:

Provide an overview of what was discussed at the Divisional Management Review and what were the resulting conclusions from Management on the SFM program in the past year.

6. OLD BUSINESS

No old business discussed.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS

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

7.2 Clipping Service (10)

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

Jeremy B. also handed out information regarding a workshop in Peace River, Nov 13/09, regarding a 10 year program update on EMEND.

Handout regarding CSA Standards and what is new in the program was provided to committee.

8. AROUND THE TABLE

No comments made.

9. NEXT MEETING – November 17, 2009, 5:00 pm, Four Winds Banquet Room

10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:15 pm