



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 2, 2007
5:00 p.m. – Florence McDougall Community School
Library

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston (Chair)
George Friesen
Dana Archibald
Ted Edwards
Mike Alsterlund

Scott McNeil
Bob Ghostkeeper
Lacey Reid
Marilee Toews
Jeremy Beal

Recording Secretary: Brenda St Arnault

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair, called meeting to order at 5:40 PM

Introduction of Attendees

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Defer 5.1.1 to next meeting.

Adopt Agenda with changes provided by J. Beal

MOVED by Lacey Reid

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – September 4, 2007

Review of action items from September 4, 2007 PAC meeting.

4 a) John Thurston –noticed hydraulic leak and garbage

Answer: FFP Contractor was working in area and was responsible for spill. FFP had meeting with contractor and reviewed procedures to take place once spill occurs. (report, clean up, etc).

ACTION: Find out where approved disposal site is and what is done with material at the site.

4 b) Boyer River bridge deck

Wording changed.

4 c) John Thurston asked who sits on the selection committee for High School scholarships from Tolko Industries Ltd.

Answer: Tolko Area Manager, Controller, and person selected by Area Manager.

4 d) Question was asked by John Thurston about the black caterpillars on highways east of High Level, What are they?

Answer: Black Caterpillar on highway are called Woolly bear.

4 e) Poor visibility at railway crossings near Paddle Prairie

Scott provided contact information for CN railway - 1-888-888-5909, need to identify crossing # associated with railway crossings.

5 – VOIT 1.1.1.5: Unique habitat question

Wording change to answer provided by Scott.

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

a) John expressed the public sees differences in management between blocks that can be viewed from public highways versus blocks away from the public view on West Haul road.

Discussions on Government requirements for retention placement, sight lines, distance to hiding cover which are considered for all openings. PAC will have field trip during upcoming harvest season to explore west haul road.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 VOIT discussion (J. Beal)

5.1.1 Review of Changes to VOIT's from last meeting
Deferred until November meeting

5.1.2 Review VOIT's from SFM Plan to incorporate within new forest management plan. Jeremy stated an overview of the SFMP VOIT's which were identified as covered already by Alberta framework or (d) open for discussion with PAC.

The following are the VOIT's reviewed and any notable comments: (# associated with Objective)

1.1.1a Companies recommend moving forward

1.1.1b reword, tied with other VOIT's in new framework. Companies to suggest new wording.

1.1.1c reword, tied with NRV project being reviewed by companies.

1.2.1a habitat availability will be reworded to meet current requirement. Structure diversity will be reworked into new framework.

Coarse woody debris, will be reworded for new framework.

Critical wildlife zones ties into the VOIT's in new framework but will be reworded.

1.3.1a Reforestation commitments will be carried forward to next plan.

1.4.1a areas of biological significance VOIT to remain following lengthy discussion of what companies currently do to meet this. Marilee did suggest companies make a better effort at involving the public.

1.4.1 b Watt Mountain VOIT will be carried over.

2.1.1a Insects and Disease VOIT is incorporated in new VOIT framework.

2.1.1b Natural disturbances VOIT covered by Alberta Proposed VOIT.

2.2.1a similar to 1.2.1a covered off in new framework

3.1.1a & 3.2.1a covered off in new framework

3.1.1a – 2 (target) rutting indicator to move forward

3.2.1a Riparian buffer zones covered in new framework

Watercourse crossings companies recommend using in new framework

4.1.1a reforestation reword and incorporate
SR reporting covered by new framework

4.2.1a amount of forested land covered in new framework

End of discussion, continue at November meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- 6.1 Jeremy Beal distributed the latest clippings service for group
- 6.2 Element 4.2 SFM Plan – M. Alsterlund gave some of his thought with regard to maintaining/sustaining the landbase.
- 6.3 Addition to SFM Plan (Supplement summary of current DFMP) change made and is acceptable to PAC.

Ramp up Decision – (biological) wording was removed

7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS

- 7.1 Environmental Advisory Committee (GP, Weyerhaeuser)

Minutes of meeting were sent to J. Beal, copy provided to group, which Marilee has copy.

8. AROUND THE TABLE

Marilee – Ducks Unlimited magazine, a couple of article might be of interest regarding the Boreal Forest.

John – Talked with Marcel (Tolko) regarding the need for a Meeting Facilitator, but Marcel indicated this is not viable because of the small group. Suggested that we moved meetings into the other communities to get a better turnout. Discussions regarding how to make this work.

- 9. NEXT MEETING** – November 6, 2007, 5 pm, High Level
- Location TBA within invite for next meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT – by 8:15 pm