



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 04, 2005
5:00 p.m. @ NAIT College

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Mary Klassen
Susan McNeil
Tracy McLean
Henry Friesen
George Burns
Wilfred Courtoreille

Marcel Lecoure
Aaron Doepel
Peter Nicholson
Mike Morgan
George Friesen
Marilee Toews
Cornelia Thomi

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Marilee Toews

That the agenda be accepted as presented

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – September 06, 2005

MOTION

Moved By Susan McNeil

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes of September 04, 2005 be accepted with the typing corrections made to item 6.3, it should read decks not docks

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

A hunting guide approached Aaron with concerns about the joint herbicide program between La Crete Sawmills and Tolko. It seems it was swaying the moose away from the area he was working in. He was not directly notified from the companies but found out through a trapper. Marcel said that while they do notify guides when they are harvesting, historically have not been notifying them of herbicide programs and this has not been a problem in the past but will certainly document this and contact with the guide will be made.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 General Development Plan

Peter had passed out copies of the General Development Plan at the last meeting and was open to taking any questions or comments that anyone might have after reviewing the document.

There were no questions or comment

5.2 Alberta – A Centennial Forest History

Watched the movie before meeting started, there were no comments, questions or concerns.

5.3 CSA Internal Audit Results

On September 20-21, both Tolko and Footner participated in an internal audit to the CSA Forest Certification standard. The audit was lead by John Dunford, RPF (Tolko-Corporate Sustainability Manager) and Holly Irwin, RPF (Tolko-Meadow Lake)

The purpose of the audits was to review the performance requirements of the CSA and included interviews with some of the staff of both companies as well as a field visit. Both Tolko and Footner have made a commitment to communicate the results of the internal and external audits to the public.

While there were no non conformances there were several recommendations and opportunities for improvement, these were identified to assist in the strengthening of the SFM Plan as it evolves over time. Some of the recommendations were in the administrative areas and some clarification was needed in some of the reporting requirements. These opportunities for improvement will result in increased training and awareness for staff and contractors.

One of the positive comments that the companies continue to hear is how well the two organizations continue to work together, this makes going through a joint certification initiative so much easier.

5.4 Alberta Forest Usage Survey

An e-mail from the Alberta Forest Products Association was included in the package as information. Peter encouraged everyone to go to the web site and have a look at the survey.

6 OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Clipping Service

Marcel handed out copies of newspaper clippings

6.2 Summer Works Program

George Burns gave a brief background on “Careers Next Generation” it is a not-for-profit organization that is funded 30% by the federal government and 70% by industry. George and Barry Gladders attending the Alberta Forest Products Association meeting in Grande Prairie in April where they were introduced to this organization. Issues that were discussed were; what are the labor issues? Where will all laborers come from? Are the forestry schools meeting the needs? Representatives from NAIT, The U of A, Peace River School Division and Thor Napp were present. Consensus was that information needs to get out to the schools to let students know of the wide range of careers available in the forestry industry. Enrollment in the Forestry program at NAIT is down substantially from past years, it has gone from 300 applicants to 35 for the 75 available seats. Tolko, Footner and Hasslefield Forestry participated by hiring two students and the La Crete Sawmills hired one this summer. Students were sent to Fairview for some basic safety training for the first week and then went to work for two weeks at \$10.00 per hour. The rate was set at \$10.00 to create interest and motivate but yet not to be an incentive to quit school. Although the program was a success George said that it might be a good idea for the Northern Lights Forest Education Society or the Junior Forest warden to be the sponsoring body for next year as education is their mandate.

6.3 Regional Open House Summary

Tolko held a series of open houses from September 6-16 through out the region, out of the 9 open houses they had 47 people show up. This year Rocky Lane was added to the list as well. Last years numbers were 21 people at the 7 open houses. They always try to have the planning and operation’s guys that are relative to the area present to answer any questions or address any concerns. Suggestion was made by a SRD representative that perhaps they could team up with Fire Smart to draw more interest and attendance. Although everyone felt that the open house where very well advertised they will go one step further and place ads in the band’s newsletters for next year. It was also recommended that the ads be bigger to get more attention.

7. CORRESPONDANCE

7.1 Northern Lights Forest Education Society

On September 23 was Professional Development Day and the NLFES sponsored a forestry tour which consisted of a forest ecology tour north of town and a tour of the Footner mill. Handouts that were given out included maps and a list of suggested times to take students out to the mills or different sites such as a reforestation or harvest site.

They are planning on offering tours such as these to educators each year in hopes of building a good rapport between the schools and the forestry industry. There were 15 teachers present this year and the feedback has been excellent.

7.2 Letter to Alberta Trappers Association

A letter has been sent to the Alberta Trappers Association letting them know that the PAC is very interested in have a member of trapper community on the committee.

Letter was included in the package.

8 AROUND THE TABLE

John– Commented that Mike Alsterlund had called him to give his regrets as he could not make the meeting but would like to have the issue of salvage kept on the agenda.

Marcel – A few minor revisions are being made to the SFM Plan in the administrative areas, the document is currently reviewed and will be available on the web site for review prior to ratification.

- The companies will be undergoing an official surveillance audit on November 22-26 which will include a field component. The auditors may ask some of the PAC members to assess their performance, Marcel encouraged the group to give the audit some thought.

- The Annual Performance Report should be available at the November meeting
Susan – Commented that Rob Layton has confirmed that Tolko is testing the vitality of a co-gen plant and a substantial amount of money has already been spent in the process. An increase in the allowable cut along with the high price of heating fuel could make it more feasible as well

NEXT MEETING – November 01, 2005 @ 5:00 pm at the Fairview College

9 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned @ 7:10 pm