

HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 2, 2003
Fairview College
5:00 pm

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair	Trudi Lang
George Friesen	Ted Edwards
Tom Friesen	Dennis Eckford
Henry Friesen	Marcel LeCoure
Mike Alsterlund	Marilee Toews
Jorden Johnston	Byron Grundberg
Monty Moore	Brad Asmussen

Recording Secretary: Arlene Powers, Mackenzie Economic Development

1. CALL TO ORDER

J. Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:23 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Jorden Johnston

That the agenda be accepted with the following additions:

Under New Business;

- Media / PAC Meetings
- Forest Eco Lab

Under Old Business:

- Trade Fair

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – August 5, 2003

MOTION

Moved By Marilee Toews

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

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

- M. Alsterlund raised a concern regarding Oil & Gas Salvage. The question was “How much (ballpark) is a log worth in a cut pile in the bush?” Marcel indicated that unmerchantable timber in the brush piles does not have value to the mill. The price for coniferous and deciduous timber varies depending on the size and distance to the mill.

The public should realize that it is uneconomical for companies to pick up individual merchantable pieces all over the FMA. Since 2000, the Companies have done a much better job in coordinating Oil & Gas activities through our Land-Use Department. Through the field representatives, many of the Oil & Gas companies are able to better plan salvage.

Although it may seem that the piles of salvage are not going to be used, there is usually a plan for delivery at some point in time.

- M. Toews suggested calling (780) 926-3781 to attain the pricing. Also it was mentioned that the farther away from the mill, there was an increase in dollar value.
- Another concern was “How many salvage piles are there?” Marcel indicated that Tolko historically averages approximately 25,000 m³ of salvage delivered annually.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Mixed Wood Management Presentation

- There will be a Mixed Wood Management Presentation on September 9, 2003 at the Stardust Motor Inn Banquet Room (PAC membership welcome to attend) hosted by FFP. The facilitator is Dr. Ken Greenway from Alberta Sustainable Resources in Edmonton. There will be 2 presentations – 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Brad will email additional detail to Arlene Powers and she will email members and collect information and advise Brad re: attendance at the 2:00 p.m. in order to ensure seating and refreshments.

5.2 Media / PAC Meeting

- As there was no one from the media in attendance, this was tabled to the next PAC meeting.

5.3 Forest Eco Lab

- Steve McIsaac is facilitating a presentation at the next Professional Development Day on September 19, 2003 in High Level. Agenda items to include topics such as: Intro to Forest Ecology, fieldtrip to cut block, tour FFP plant and how concerns of industry relate to curriculum. J. Thurston & L. McNamara to attend. J. Thurston to bring feedback to next meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

➤ SRD Presentation – T. Edwards / D. Downey

- Derrick Downey was not available – deferred until next meeting.
- Kim Morton relocating to southern Alberta. J. Thurston to write letter of thanks to Kim for his support and time spent with the HLFAC committee.

➤ Question of the Month

B. Asmussen distributed response to September's question "Why Summer Log Haul?" Question was initially submitted by J. Johnston. J. Johnston was asked if this was the response he was looking for. J. Johnston clarified what he really meant by the question: educating the public in understanding why hauling now and not before and also what is the future of summer log hauling. B. Asmussen to resubmit the Q of the M with modifications.

➤ Trade Fair

J. Thurston asked PAC members if there was interest in assisting with the booth at the Trade Fair. J. Thurston, J. Johnston and G. Friesen all advised of their availability.

7. AROUND THE TABLE

M. Alsterlund put forth the question "What effect will harvesting black spruce have on the water table over the year and how will be reforesting those stands?"

M. LeCoure stated that reforesting black spruce stands will be a challenge; however, other Tolko mills have been doing it for many years. High Level Lumber will utilize the experience that these other mills have in meeting this challenge.

With regards to the effects of its harvesting on water table, there are hydro studies on clear cutting which should be made available to the PAC if requested.

8. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

- October 7, 2003 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Adjourned at 6:35 p.m.