



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 07, 2004
Fairview College

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Bradley Asmussen
George Friesen
Marilee Toews
David Berg
Hennie DeMeyer

Susan McNeil
Jorden Johnston
Colin Hanusz
Mary Klassen
Henry Friesen

Lorraine Donovan
Mike Alsterlund
Tim Gauthier
Tracy McLean
Walter Sarapuk

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Walter Sarapuk

That the agenda be accepted with a few additions

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES –July 06, 2004

MOTION

Moved By Lorraine Donovan

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes be accepted with the change of the number for more information regarding fire, the number should have been 310-3408

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Issues and Concerns Tracking Sheet

John explained the new tracking sheet that was put together by him and Mary and it was suggested that an updated one be passed out at every meeting.

5.2 GDP

Brad passed out a CD containing the 2004-2005 General Development Plan. If any one has any questions after viewing it please give him a call.

5.3 Terms of Reference

Brad commented that it had been at least a year since the terms of reference had been looked at and will be handed out at the October meeting for everyone to have a look at.

5.4 2004/2005 Harvest Operations

Brad gave a power point presentation. If anyone wishes to have a hard copy contact Brad.

There was a question regarding how much private wood they plan on harvesting, Brad suggested to contact Dallas to get that answer.

The mill is experimenting on planting hybrid poplars on public land, once a site has been established the Pac will be welcome to have a look at it.

5 OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Question of the Month

Susan will take pictures of the four winners for the question of the month contest. The winners were Tianna Card, Steven Fernie, Amber Fernie, and Kendra Thomas. The prize will be Tolko and Footner stuff and tickets to Sammy's theater. Brad will look after contacting the winners.

This month's question of the Month is:

"What do the growth rings of a tree show? Age, environment, history of the area or all of the above.

This will be a contest open to children under the age of 10.

6.2 Clipping Service (handouts)

Colin handed out copies of newspaper clippings

6.3 Trade Show Display

It was agreed that the display was in need of updating. Some changes that were suggested were that the Tolko's amount of trees planted be changed from

6,000,000 to 8,000,000. The members list also needs updating. It was also suggested that we post pictures of our contest winners on it as well. Lorraine and George each volunteered some of their time at the High Level trade show.

6.4 Photo Slide Show

Brad gave a photo slide show of different cut blocks that were viewed by Helicopter along with Mike Aslterlund. Size of the cut blocks and regeneration had been a concern for Mike but with a closer look on the ground he was happy with the regrowth and cut block size. There was some concern about how the two mills were going to deal with the mixed growth that was happening due to the aerial seeding in the 80s. These areas would have been re-inventoried during the development of AVI and therefore were brought into the model as the current species composition not the pre-harvest composition.

6.5 Highway Signage

John Thurston pointed out that in the Hinton area the Wellwood mill has posted signs along the roads complete with the date of when the area was harvested and when it would be next harvested. The road looks similar to the one going to Rainbow Lake and he was asking why they are allowed to do that if the PAC cannot. Brad said that perhaps their signs were within the cut block area and he would pursue it a little further.

6.6 Tree Planting Trip

John thanked Tolko and Footner as well as Wildwoods for the wonderful trip out to their tree planting site. He was very impressed with the quality of work that was being done as well as how very accommodating they were to our group. The PAC members that went on that trip all agreed with John, that it was time well spent.

6.7 Species at Risk Act

Marilee pointed out that a number of species that are at risk have been spotted in our area, like the Peregrine Falcon has been seen in the winter which is rather usual. Also the short eared owl has been spotted in the Rocky Lane area. She would like to make her list of endangered species available to the general public as they should also be educated not just the people working in bush in these areas.

A species data base has been started by the companies and will be updated periodically. The two companies will be asking their employees to keep track of species spotted.

6.8 Salvage Report

A PAC member reminded the mills that he had asked for a salvage report a while back and had not gotten it yet. There had been some salvage problems in past and he wanted to know what solutions had been made. He also wanted to know how the prices were established. Brad said he would look after that for him.

6.9 Over Mature Timber

A PAC member wanted to know how many hectares of over matures timber will stand. Over mature being older than the usual tree being harvested. Brad said he would respond at next meeting.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Northern Lights Forest Education Society

Stephanie was not available to attend the meeting to bring in report from the Northern Lights Forest Education Society. John commented that Gray Jordan has arranged for a field trip for teachers on Professional Development Day. There was some discussion for a field trip for non teachers possible for next year.

7 AROUND THE TABLE

Lorraine – Will contact Arlene at MEDC to spend some time with the PAC display board at the High Level trade Show.

Mike– Wanted to know if Dallas could come in to discuss private land sales and was told that that could be arranged.

Was also asking if there are grants available for private wood reforestation, is there information on this and if so who has that information?

Tim – A representative from King Motion Pictures was in our region in August doing interviews with the people at the local mills and also shot some footage from the air. They are putting together a movie titled “Alberta Forests and 100 Years of Forestry” which will air sometime in February. Brad will bring in the CD at the next meeting for the PAC to view.

Colin – Distributed a CD with the Sustainable Forest Management Plan on it.

John– Suggested we move the PAC meeting around to our neighboring communities.

Commented on Hinton’s demonstration forest complete with walking trails and mini cut blocks, said it was very educational and would be nice if we had something like that. Someone said that we used to have one on Watt Mountain but it never did get completed.

NEXT MEETING –October 05, 2004 @ 5:00 pm at the Fairview College

8 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned @ 7:36 p.m.