



## **HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP**

### **“Draft” MINUTES**

*Tuesday, February 14, 2012*

5:00 pm – Town of High Level office, Room 110  
High Level, Alberta

#### ATTENDANCE:

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)  
Marilee Cranna Toews (HBSWS)  
Randy Hellwig (Beaver First Nation)  
George Friesen (Friesen Industries)  
Don Warman (High Level Chamber)

Teresa Griffiths (Flow North Paddling Co.)  
Boyd Langford (TRL)  
John Thurston (Member of the public)  
Walter Sarapuk (MacKenzie County)

#### REGRETS:

Rod Chalifoux (THL)  
Jon Goertzen (La Crete Forestry)  
Lindee Dumas (LRR)  
Mark Andrews (Cenovus)  
Pat Cabezas (N’Deh)  
Lindsay Thompson (REDI)

Joy Friesen (HBSWS)  
Paul Catt (WMWS)  
Veronica Tallcree (LRR)  
Aaron Doepel (LCSM)  
Steve Beson  
Steven Butler (WMWS)

Recording Secretary: Jeremy Beal

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:20 pm.

Jeremy advised that Carrie Demkiw was not available for this meeting and may not be returning as Facilitator due to her upcoming Maternity Leave. Also, Brenda St Arnault left Tolko so Jeremy is the recording secretary for this meeting.

Jeremy provided a brief description of the Public Advisory Group to new members in attendance, and he will follow up with providing the Terms of Reference to them.

**Action:** Jeremy to forward ToR to Randy Hellwig and Don Warman.

#### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

One change: Lindsay Thompson sent her regrets, so her presentation will be postponed.

**Moved by Boyd Langford**

**Seconded by John Thurston**

**Carried**

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (November 15, 2011)

No action items from minutes, and No Changes proposed.

**Moved by Boyd Langford**

**Seconded by Marilee Toews**

**Carried**

(Break for meal)

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

#### 4.1 Randy Hellwig, Beaver First Nation (BFN)

*“Benefits for local communities and Aboriginal Peoples from the forest”*

- The BFN would like to be able to keep jobs that they currently have and would like to receive jobs from Tolko’s operations
- The BFN get other benefits from the forest by just being able to enjoy nature and do the traditional activities.
- There needs to be a balance between industrial activity and BFN being able to use the forest for their traditional use
- These need to go hand-in-hand otherwise that is where conflicting intentions exist
- Currently there is an Alberta Consultation Protocol (lengthy) and a FN protocol. Although the FNs do not agree with the AB protocol it does require that consultation be meaningful. This is more than a once/year meeting when Tolko wants to harvest, but a dialogue is required throughout the year to build a relationship. A balance is needed.
- BFN does not have the answers, but they want to be informed and work together with industry.
- Communication needs to occur in order for BFN to become engaged.

*“Development of working relationships with willing Aboriginal communities and/or people”*

- Evidence is the Public Advisory Group as a place where this can happen.
- Lots can be learned from Elders in developing relationships. Elders continue to want the ability to do the things they are the happiest in doing, such as camping, fishing and hunting. Memories of a simpler life.
- There is a need for industry to understand the FN culture ... progress is being made.
- The younger adults recognize they need jobs, and jobs help the community. The youth need this as well so they know there is a future.
- The BFN is willing to work with other communities, Nations and Industry.
- The start of that process is working with the PAG.

- Chief and Council advised that the BFN Aboriginal Title and Rights be recognized and that tonight's meeting is occurring on land that is the Traditional Area of the Beaver First Nation. By their Elders signing Treaty 8, the younger generations are entrusted to protect this area.
- BFN still use medicinal plants found in the forests
- BFN members do have forestry employment experience and they want to be involved where they can ... smaller role, and not a full logging contract.
- BFN have a broad spectrum of experience and would like to participate in local employment opportunities

Q. Jeremy: What are some indicators to show that BFN members are receiving a benefit from forestry operations?

- Economic opportunities
- Contractor possibilities
- They have realistic expectations of work they expect to gain, and provide employment for those that are willing to work.

Q. Marilee: What are the benefits that BFN can provide Tolko?

- Machinery / employees
- Share information – Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) from elders
- As an example, Elders have been used to provide information to Trans-Canada for a project near Manning.

Q. Boyd: What does protecting Treaty 8 area mean?

- Elders' stance is that the land was given to them as their home and they want to protect it as such. They want to protect their Traditions as well.

Comments from John Thurston:

- He has been working with local schools and is finding that aboriginal students are dropping out of school before graduating but they still want to work opportunities.
- Reasons for this is that the students need examples of what work is available to them, and what education is required in order to do the job.
- Job shadowing opportunities while the student is still in school is one method to ensure that the student sticks with school and sets a goal.
- Job shadowing will show the student the skills they require.
- This is such an opportunity for Tolko to step up and provide opportunities for school tours of forestry and mill operations and to invest in the youth in the area.

George:

- there was an event in 2004/2005 at his acreage where many students were brought to view forestry equipment that demonstrated felling and skidding some trees. This can be done again if there is interest.

Jeremy: response to John's comment

- tours have occurred in recent years for those schools that have requested a tour of the mill or forestry operation.
- Recent Canadian statistics stated that the fastest growing segment in the Canadian population is First Nations, and the demographic of this population has around 30% under the age of 24 years. This represents a huge % of the population in the north and a large workforce. Industries that can find a way to capitalize on this opportunity will be successful.
- Further work in the area of engaging FN youth should be discussed.

Q. Boyd: Has there been cooperation between First Nation's in Treaty 8 regarding employment opportunities, etc?

- There has been some cooperation, but the Nations tend to operate distinct from one another.

(General Discussion about engagement)

Q. Jeremy: What is the first step in developing a working relationship?

- Meeting and talking
- Meaningful consultation is key to develop a relationship!
  - More than just one meeting per year
  - Improves communication between BFN and Tolko
  - Better to be doing prior to finding an issue

#### **4.2 Discussion on carbon emissions background paper**

- Jeremy summarized the carbon emissions background paper in a powerpoint presentation that highlighted several statements
- Slide 1:
  - The mandatory discussion item is “Carbon emissions from fossil fuels used in forest operations”.
  - To assist the public and CSA Users (Ex., Tolko) to discuss this topic, McGill University Grad students were asked to produce a discussion paper: “From Carbon Source to Carbon Sink: How Forestry can Help Mitigate Climate Change”.
- Slide 2:
  - Forests play a key roles in slowing climate change
  - There is a carbon balance cycle, and forests can act as carbon sinks or source of carbon.
- Slide 3:
  - Forest harvesting operations affect the carbon balance of forests, and with equipment used to extract the timber there are carbon emissions that occur.

- Forest management strategies can increase carbon storage and reduce emissions from forest operations (ex., afforestation, stand management, harvesting, and processing)
- Slide 4:
  - Afforestation is not something practiced in the High Level area
- Slide 5:
  - Quick reforestation has been successful in High Level.
  - Protecting forests from natural events may create implications as older mature forests become susceptible to insects and disease or massive fires.
  - Big difference between young and old forests when comparing carbon on site and ability to accumulate CO<sub>2</sub>
- Slide 6:
  - Planning a harvesting program is key is preventing unnecessary carbon dioxide emissions
  - Examples of harvesting programs that would ensure reduced emissions and improved efficiencies: minimize road network, match road design with harvesting method, maximize payloads, minimize handling of logs, etc.
  - Slash piling and burning still occurs, however by maximize the number of wildlife piles retained on site there is less carbon released to the atmosphere
- Slide 7:
  - Many opportunities to reduce carbon emissions at a processing facility such as in: improved energy efficiency, change in processes, minimizing waste and ensuring waste is converted to energy

*(There was much discussion on Tolko's energy project and the upcoming deadline for the burner to be decommissioned. No progress being seen. There is much opportunity to utilize that resource that is just being burned.)*

## 5. CLIPPING SERVICE

No handouts provided due to lack of Admin support, however website address was provided to access latest Forestry News, [www.canadian-forests.com/news.html](http://www.canadian-forests.com/news.html) . If anyone wants paper copies that can be arranged. The clipping service will return next meeting.



**6. AROUND THE TABLE**

Several members expressed their appreciation for Randy Hellwig to attend the meeting. Marilee liked the fact there are some new faces around the table.

**7. NEXT MEETING – April 3, 2012**

**8. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting Adjourned, 8:25pm**

**Moved by Walter**

**Seconded by Teresa**