

PAG Meeting

Fairview College, July 8, 2003

Attendance:

- John Thurston – High Level Outdoor Club
- Marilee Toews-Hungry Bend Sandhills Wilderness Society
- Brandon Boucher-Netaskinan Logging
- Mike Alsterlund-Citizen
- Tracie Dahdona-Dene Tha' First Nation
- Lorraine Donovan-Town of High Level
- Ted Edwards-ASRD-LFD
- Ted Patmore-Fort Vermilion
- George Burns-Tolko Industries Ltd.
- Henry Friesen-Friesen Logging Ltd.
- Tom Friesen-Precision Lumber Products Inc.
- Byron Grundberg-Facilitator
- Bradley Asmussen-Footner Forest Products Ltd.
- Laurie Jenkin-Tolko Industries Ltd.
- Marcel LeCoure- Tolko Industries Ltd.

1) Introduction

- Welcome
- Brief Overview of CSA certification
 - The Companies are actively seeking forest certification according to the standards outlined by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).
 - The CSA standards emphasise the need for public participation and involvement in the identification of local level values, objectives, indicators and targets
 - In May, the Companies held a number of Open Houses in communities throughout the region to introduce the CSA certification standards and to generate interest in participating in the public involvement process.
 - Through the public involvement plan, the Companies will develop a Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan for a Defined Forest Area identified by the Companies.
 - Although much of the work in developing the SFM Plan will be by this Public Advisory Group, the Companies recognize that not everyone has the time to attend meetings, especially given the season. With that in mind, the Companies have established a website (www.highlevelcsa.com) and email address (hl_csa@tolko.com) to allow those individuals to also participate in the process and as a mechanism for information distribution. The Companies will also provide some compensation for participants, which will be discussed later in the meeting.
 - The Companies will also accommodate the needs of all participants by distributing all information in a manner that makes it easier for the participants. Email, fax, or general mail delivery could all be options for information distribution.
- Why are Tolko and Footner becoming certified? The Companies are pursuing forest certification to help ensure market access, and as part of the Companies commitment to continual improvement of or operations in managing the forest resource. Tolko is currently ForestCare (provincially recognized certification system) however are pursuing CSA certification because it is internationally recognized.
- The SFM Planning process is expected to take about 6 months to complete. The Companies will then implement the SFM Plan and will participate in a 3rd Party audit sometime in 2004 with certification expected by December 31st 2004.
- Introduction of Byron Grundberg – process facilitator

2) Administrative Items

- a) Review June 3rd minutes – no changes required
Review agenda – no additions
- b)
 - i) Distribution of information binders. This information includes the following:
 - CSA-Z809-02 Guidelines
 - PAG Terms of Reference
 - An example SFM Plan (Tolko –Louis Creek Division)
 - Sample PAG Meetings (Tolko – Louis Creek Division)
 - The Forestry Chronicle Article on Forest Certification
 - Notepad

Any information that is distributed by the Companies should be placed in the working binders to ensure that the information is kept in a central location.

- ii) Presentation of CSA website (www.highlevelcsa.com) and email address (hl_csa@tolko.com)
- c) Byron proposed workplan with several full day workshops to accomplish the SFM plan.
 - Question: Why a 6 month completion, is the process being rushed? Marcel – Six months is enough time as proven by other Tolko BC operations. Want to keep things rolling and not stagnate. Bryon - The workplan is designed not to rush but move forward. The January 2004 is a target, can be adjusted if necessary.
 - Question: How much of the DFMP notes can we use for the CSA process? Marcel - We will follow the DFMP ideas, but right now two separate documents. CSA has additional focus of public input.
 - Question: To complete the CSA Annex C table, what have we covered in the DFMP process? Are there any holes? Marcel - Yes, the DFMP process addressed much of the required content for CSA, but there are a few areas that were not considered by the DFMP. CSA will allow the bar to be set higher on any issue, however we cannot deviate from existing laws, regulations, or the direction for forest management as outlined in the DFMP.
 - Question - What is the public benefit of CSA, if it will not change the DFMP? Why not bring the elements and work of the DFMP working groups to the table for the PAG group to ratify? Marcel - Companies wanted to develop the SFM plan from the ground up with the input from the PAG vs. working with a reactionary input to the proposals.
 - Question to the PAG – Would the group be acceptable to the Companies preparing the criterion and values of the Matrix from the DFMP feedback? Group is favourable, (no one disagreed out loud) it would save time for the group. The Companies will prepare (fill in) the Matrix with the DFMP conversations, and for additional ideas use other companies CSA's. Then bring the matrix partially filled in to the PAG for discussion, further input or complete re-working if the PAG deems necessary. The Matrix will be distributed prior to the next meeting so everyone can think of what they want to see in the plan and where the process is starting.

To illustrate the matrix and how it is to be completed:

Value: SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT
Goal: MAINTAIN OR INCREASE TIMBER SUPPLY
Indicator: NON-DECLINING AAC at this point another value was raised

Value: SUSTAINABLE NON-TIMBER RESOURCES

**The presented work plan was declined by the group in favour of the Companies putting together the Matrix from all available information and presenting this to the PAG for discussion and approval.

- d) Presentation of the Terms of Reference, dated May 30, 2003. Terms were reviewed by PAG and adopted.

In addition, the Goals & Objectives developed by the Companies and members of the public were distributed to the group for reference material.

- e) Mileage Compensation: Forms distributed to the group in order to compensate their mileage expenses in order to attend the meetings. Includes personal compensation or a donation to a charity in the name of the group. All compensation and donations will be paid upon the completion of the SFM Plan.
- Question: Will there be a core PAG group? Marcel – Yes, but will have fluctuation, because conflict with other commitments. Meetings will always be open to the public.
- Question: Can we set the CSA targets higher than the DFMP? Marcel – Yes, and higher targets can be incorporated and implemented into the next DFMP.

3) Local Values for Criterion 5

- Item 3 on the agenda removed from the agenda because change in focus. Will be addressed in a future meeting in a different format.

4) Next Meeting Date

- Next meeting – August 5, 2003 in High Level at Fairview College

Outstanding Items for Next Meeting

- Home work:
 - Think if you want to be on the Communication Committee (assist in preparation of media releases and documents representing the PAG) or the Induction Committee (bring new members up to speed).
 - What important issues do you want to see addressed in the Matrix in order to make the CSA important to you?