



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP

Approved MINUTES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

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

ATTENDANCE:

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)	Boyd Langford (TRL)
Pat Cabezas (N'Deh)	Marilee Cranna Toews
George Friesen (Friesen Industries)	Melanie Plantinga (Tolko HLLD)

REGRETS:

John Thurston (Member of the public)	Joy Friesen (HBSWS)
Don Warman (High Level Chamber)	Paul Catt (WMWS)
Randy Hellwig (Beaver First Nation)	Veronica Tallcree (LRR)
Mark Andrews (Cenovus)	Aaron Doepel (LCSM)
Darren Carnell (LRRF)	Steve Beson
Teresa Griffiths (Flow North Paddling Co.)	Steven Butler (WMWS)
Walter Sarapuk (MacKenzie County)	Richard Martens (Taqa North)
Lindee Dumas (LRRCN)	

Recording Secretary: Melanie Plantinga

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:21 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Boyd Langford
Seconded by Pat Cabezas
Carried

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (April 10, 2012)

Moved by Boyd Langford
Seconded by George Friesen
Carried

3.1 Action Items

- Clipping service – Jeremy will show Melanie how to gather news clippings and the Clipping service will resume next meeting
- Audit Report – Summary was reviewed the full copy is available on request. George, Pat and Marilee, request copies of the Complete Audit Report. Melanie to send the report.

(Break for meal)

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Review PAG Terms of Reference to meet 2008 CSA Standard Recommendations from consultant.

- See List of Changes to HLF PAG TOR and High Level Public Advisory Group (PAG)
 - Second Note: “The scope of the Defined Forest Area (DFA) referred to in this Terms of Reference is defined in the most current version of the Sustainable Forest Management Plan of the High Level Lumber Division.” Added
- Operating Guidelines: “Participation in the Public Advisory Group is open to all interested members of the public. New members will be accepted providing there is balance in the interests represented and the size of the group is not becoming too large.” Pat asks how the PAG insures that there is balance in the represented interest. Jeremy explains that participants from different sectors are invited and encouraged to attend. This has traditionally been the Job of the facilitator. Tolko etc. also attempt to minimize staff attendance to people performing advisory and administrative duties only.
 - Should remove “the size of the group is not becoming too large.” Since the PAG is not at risk of becoming too large at present this statement should be removed.
- Pg. 4 Under “Timelines” in the sentence “Providing input to Tolko’s operations on the Defined Forest Area (DFA) occurs on an ongoing basis.” “Tolko” should be changed to “company”.
- Under “Measuring Participant Satisfaction” the sentence: An annual questionnaire will be used to gauge the satisfaction of participants with the public advisory group process” will be added.

Move to accept: Marilee Cranna Toews

Seconded by George Friesen

Carried

4.2 2010-2011 SFM Annual Performance Summary with details

- “2010-2011 SFM Performance Highlights” will be posted on the website, however our focus to review in this meeting will be the 2010-2011 Annual Performance Report Summary – Backup.
 - Focus will be to review targets that were not achieved.
 - Commitment No. 1: 100% Adherence to PFMS.
 - Not enough mixed / conifer due to Footner closing. Exceeded variance, though with Government approval from meeting in 2008 following curtailment of FFP. Operations on the FMA have changed therefore the Spatial Harvest Sequence does not suit current operations. We are generating a new Timber Stand Analysis and Spatial Harvest Sequence to adjust for changed operations on the Forest Management Agreement area..
 - Commitment No. 5: .
 - Habitat availability: Not following due to variances from Spatial Harvest Sequence
 - Question about other requirements in the indicator regarding how Tolko is involving public regarding identifying wildlife. No trade shows were held during the period in question to allow for public to comment on wildlife species and public was not asked about wildlife species in another way
 - Suggestion: considering that allowing the public to comment on Species at Risk is a part of this indicator, the addition of Species at Risk to agenda from time to time may help to fulfill this commitment.
 - Commitment No 6:
 - Retention: Vertical retention achieved. Horizontal retention of 5.0% area of harvest blocks in lesser vegetation was not achieved. Jeremy emphasized that the required retention may have been achieved. Because of errors in reporting we cannot report with certainty that this objective has been met. For example the areas near waterways and areas noted as unproductive have been retained but not noted as horizontal retention.
 - Pat asks the question, “if the company is unable to meet targets set in the SFM do we inform the PAG before, during or after the failure to achieve?” Jeremy replied that it depends on the target and when it is to be achieved. Sometimes the company does not realize that it will not meet a goal until the end of the season. The Continual Improvement process – Plan (say what we are

going to do), Do (harvest), Check (achieve), Act (what will we do better). The company strives for continual improvement, targets may be too high or too low. For targets which are not reached the company creates a corrective action plan to try to do better. The company is currently rewriting the SFMP and all indicators will be reassessed for targets, how the indicator is being monitored, and when will reporting occur and how it will be done. Goal is for quick reporting to enable continual improvement plus have realistic targets that the company needs to strive to meet.

- Commitment 18: Adherence to PFMS (Water yield)
 - The initial water yield forecast was based on following the spatial harvest sequence. Considering that operations have varied from the SHS we need to assume the water yield forecast does not hold true.
 - Marilee asks “How is the water yield determined?” Computer forecast model.
 - Marilee noted an early algae bloom. “Is there observation of water bodies?” Jeremy responded not by Tolko but perhaps Alberta Environment. “Has something happened to create early blooms?” Standing vs. moving water. Unknown.
- Commitment 19: Riparian buffers
 - One buffer zone infraction due to incident during 2009-10.
 - George asked “Was the trespass by a Site preparation contractor?” This has been an occurrence in past years but Jeremy was unsure if this infraction was related to site preparation.
- Commitment 32:
 - Classroom presentation: attempts were made to arrange for a classroom presentation at High Level Public however after repeated rescheduling over a few months the school year ended and Tolko was unsuccessful.
 - No request for Forestry Tours/mill tour
 - Unique presentation at PAC: no opportunity for presentation as the PAG process was just getting underway
 - GDP Open House: 1
 - Unique Forestry Awareness Newspaper Ads: 0
 - Because the company offers monetary support to the Northern Lights Forest Education Society, the company will use their activities to complement our forestry awareness program.

- Marilee suggests that John Thurston used to offer Macheses Lake Forestry tours for the schools, could this help satisfy the classroom presentation requirement? Yes it could, but we are unaware if this activity is still occurring.
- Marilee suggests that the “Get to know you nights” might be better than “Trade Shows” as opportunities for Forest Education.

4.3 Update on progress with rewriting SFM Plan

4.3.1 Indicator write-ups

- Diane is rewriting the SFM plan to ensure it meets the new standards and maintains the objectives of the previous SFMP. She has done research on the practices of other companies. She will offer suggestions of changes to the SFMP. They will be drafted and then brought forward to the public for consultation. Drafts of all indicators and targets will be completed in August with the plan to bring forward to public in September.

4.3.2 PAG review of new indicators.

- Jeremy would like to review the new indicators with PAG in September?
- Combining a PAG review of new & amended indicators/targets with a public open house would meet new CSA Standard requirement.

4.3.3 Open house September 11, 2012

4.4 Addition to agenda: Mandatory Discussion Items from April

4.4.1 Climate Change impacts and adaption

- Handout from “Canadian Council of Forest Ministers” what may be the impact of climate change to Canada’s forests. Jeremy reviewed some statements within the introduction portion of the document to give the PAG a general overview of what Canadian governments are forecasting as the effects of climate change.
- Executive summary: “Over the next decades, the climate in Canadian forests will shift northward at a rate that will likely exceed the ability of individual tree species to migrate.”
- General Effects pg3
- Pg. 4 regeneration success, forest health (eg mountain pine beetle), productivity (changes to water cycle), amount of growing stock, species ranges, composition, age class distribution, forest structure.
- Northern and southwestern boreal forests are highly vulnerable to climate change.

- Species are threatened by climate change some are more threatened than others.
- Uncertain: Eg. Mountain Pine Beetle.
- Pg. 6 Options & Opportunities. Facilitating migration, gene pools, etc. Protect what you have. Modify management of current forest.
 - Seed plantations in new locations: Alberta is doing this.
 - Seed zone: What is the best way to move the trees from their seed zones? Alberta is doing this
- Partial picture (pg 7). How does lack of spruce tree effect everything else.

Comment from Pat is that the environment is always changing. This is not always a loss, but an opportunity. Who can predict where the opportunities may lead? Peoples instinct is to stop change. But change will occur regardless.

4.4.2 Proportion of naturally disturbed area that is not salvage (under fire indicator)

- This mandatory discussion item is actually covered in an existing indicator around salvaging damage timber following fires. Therefore this discussion is considered already reviewed with the PAG.

5. CLIPPING SERVICE

- 5.1** Don't have anything to provide. Jeremy and Melanie will touch base and provide this at the next meeting.

6. AROUND THE TABLE

- 6.1** George has noted that processing has begun in the satellite yards. Jeremy explains that DMI is processing tops for chips to use in their operations. 50% or so of Tolko's harvested volume is within Satellite yards. With DMI chipping the tops of trees the overall utilization of fiber is greatly increased.
- 6.2** Boyd mentioned there is a Tri-council meeting upcoming (THL, TRL, MD). They plan to discuss the Landuse frame work. Troy will be present to speak about the burner.
- 6.3** Pat- On July 18th minister for Aboriginal Affairs is coming to the region to meet with Chief Ahnnasay.

7. NEXT MEETING – September 11, 2012

8. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting Adjourned, 7:52pm