



**HIGH LEVEL FORESTS
PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP**

Approved MINUTES

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

5:00 pm – Spirit of the North Community School, Lunch Room
High Level, Alberta

ATTENDANCE:

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)
Marilee Toews (HBSWS)
Boyd Langford (TRL) 5:46 pm
Dana Williams (ASRD)

Carrie Demkiw (Facilitator)
George Friesen (Friesen Industries)
Al Toews (Guest)

REGRETS:

Theresa Griffiths
Jon Goertzen (La Crete Forestry)
Rod Chalifoux (THL)
Lindee Dumas (LRR)
Veronica Tallcree (LRR)

Walter Sarapuk (MD)
Joy Friesen (HBSWS)
Paul Catt (WMW)
Aaron Doepel (La Crete Sawmills)

Recording Secretary: Brenda St. Arnault

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm.

Introductions

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda accepted as presented.

Moved by George Friesen – Carried

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September 13, 2011)

Carrie D. reviewed minutes; September 13, 2011 minutes accepted

Moved by George Friesen – Carried

Jeremy B. – Discussion on attendance of PAG meeting, if we do not have confirmation of people attending meeting a week prior we will cancel and reschedule meetings.

Jeremy B. – review of what we have been doing, Tolko is moving CSA standards;
Dana is here to discuss the mandatory discussion items for
Outcome of Dana’s talk, if anyone has any questions for Dana please let us know.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Special Speaker, Dana Williams, Area Forester, ASRD

- Management and protection of biological resources of cultural heritage significance
- Management of cultural values and resources
- Locally available processes and methods for identifying sites with special biological and cultural significance

Management of areas and sites of special biological & cultural significance – an ASRD perspective

Contact information: dana.williams@gov.ab.ca

Jeremy B. – discussion on Upper Hay Ground rules;

Upper Hay OGR’s

- 5.3 Trapping
- 5.6 Historical Resources – significance to certain areas
- 7.7 species of special concern – section on ungulates habitat

SOP’s (plans & polices)

- Peace/upper hay area access planning guidelines
- Caribou Protection Plan (CPP) procedures

Marilee T. - How much of a role does the placement of roads - footprints; increase of predators, how much work has been put into this issue?

Dana W. - Linear features affects Caribou up to 500 m
Provides strategy for animals to hide
Definite various impacts on caribou habitat

Boyd - Do we know the caribou population in this area?

Jeremy B. - We have 4 herds we have to take into account for;

Chinchaga herd

Steen Yates herd

Bistcho herd

Caribou Mountain herd

Al T. - What makes caribou so special compared to Moose?

Jeremy B. – They do not do well with disturbance

Marilee T. – over a number of years ASRD has been in this area; a database has been developing around species of interest, how complete from a geographic standpoint, do you define species of interest?

Dana W. – generally speaking, these are species that have experienced a significant decrease in population over the years.

4.2 Review Tolko's proposed Indicators and Targets for Criterion 1

Carrie D. – reviewed discussions that we've had in past meeting regarding Criterion 1

Jeremy B. – provide comparison table between the old and new standards

Each indicator has its own table – identifies its own target

I provided this table the best way I could explain it to everyone and now I need feedback from public, if not I will be proceeding forward with the table I had provided.

Jeremy provided a brief description of indicators for members to have a better understanding.

Marilee T. - Legal requirements please explain that.

Jeremy B. – I will be expanding on this in the explanation of this portion of the plan. But, basically there is a requirement regarding seed zones that seeds are replanted in the areas they are taken from. If we want to stray from that, special permission is required and seldom granted.

1.1.2 Forest area by type or species composition – maintain balance, maintain habitat, biodiversity

Change regeneration targets for AB –

George F. – Has the government changed their mind about removing aspen from conifer stands?

Jeremy B. – We need to be sure to balance reforestation based on yield strata.

George F. - How is the conifer going to survive in year 12?

Jeremy B. - By the time conifer get to 100 years, aspen would have rotted.

George F. - Does free to grow not apply anymore?

Jeremy B. - We don't call it free to grow anymore

Marilee T. – clarification on OBJECTIVE – Manage the DFA to ensure the balance of species composition, we need to be more definitive.

1.1.4 Degree of within-stand structural retention

Needs to be edited but it will still need to maintain idea

1.2.1 Degree of habitat protection for selected focal species including species at risk.

Compliance to species diversity

Boyd L. - So none of this is the same in the Oil patch?

Jeremy B. – the oil companies are doing their own thing out in the forest.

1.3.1 The amount of area (ha) planted with seedlings from orchard stock.

Marilee T. - Why would someone maintain such a high percentage, was it because we didn't know (shot in the dark)?

Jeremy B. - I think it was a standard percentage

Marilee T. - Is there a reason why?

- Fall in line
- See ownership
- I think it is way apart from what we are doing

Jeremy B. - We'll adjust the target to reflect our practice.

1.4.1 Proportion of identified sites with implemented management strategies

Jeremy B. - Have an idea of what to place in this area now that we had Dana Williams provide presentation. I will fill in this area now.

Marilee T. – provided overview of Peregrine falcon sightings'.

Carrie D. – provided handout for criterion 2 & 3, have members read through and provide questions at our next meeting.

Next meeting will be November 1, 2011 and the following will be November 15, 2011

5. CLIPPING SERVICE (11)

Jeremy B. distributed latest news clippings to the members.

6. AROUND THE TABLE

No discussions

7. NEXT MEETING – November 1, 2011, 5:00 pm

8. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting Adjourned by Carrie D. - 8:10 p.m.