

# PAG Meeting

## Tolko Industries Ltd. Office October 26, 2004

### Attendance:

Mike Alsterlund – Public  
Marcel LeCoure – Tolko Industries Ltd.  
John Janzen - Alberta Trappers Association

John Thurston - Public Advisory Committee  
Tracey McLean - ASRD  
Lilly Lizotte – Tolko Industries Inc.

### 1. Introduction

- There was a quick “Round-Table” to introduce all those in attendance.

### 2. Administrative Items

- Marcel initiated a presentation on the progress made to date by the Companies (i.e. Tolko Industries Ltd., Footner Forest Products Ltd., and where applicable, the embedded operators (i.e. Quota Holders) in meeting commitments made in the Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) and/or the CSA Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan.
- The presentation (“SFM - Report Card 2003-04”), included the following key agenda items:
  - EMS – Environmental Management System
  - CSA – SFM Indication Status.
  - DFMP Progress Report
  - SFM – Internal Audit
  - CSA – SFM Registration Audit

### 3. Presentation

- In a number of previous meetings, Marcel has discussed the Companies' integrated Environmental Management System (EMS). To ensure that everyone has an idea of what this EMS actually looks like, Marcel did a brief overview of the web-based EMS website highlighting such things as the Operations Inspection Form (OIF), Tailgate Meetings, Environmental Policy, etc.
- A brief overview of the CSA-SFM certification process was provided to those in attendance. This process included the identification of the Companies' Defined Forest Area (DFA) as well as a brief overview of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) criteria and the process of identifying local-level values, objectives, indicators, and targets.

Question: How can Tolko guarantee that the timber we purchase from other companies (e.g. Netaskinan Logging Ltd.) meets the CSA standards?

Answer: Since many of the environmental-related objectives, indicators, and targets included in the SFM Plan are also consistent with those included in the integrated DFMP for the FMA portion of the DFA, the embedded operators are expected to report on the same targets. However, the Companies (Tolko & Footner) recognize that because most of the actual monitoring programs we utilize is done so through our EMS, the embedded operators will have difficulty reporting on the SFM targets in a format that is consistent with the Companies. With that in mind, the Companies will be working with the embedded operators to ensure that they are aware of the EMS & SFM targets and work with them to report on the SFM targets within the DFA.

- SFM Targets Discussed:
  - Maintenance of older age classes on the DFA
  - Maintenance of areas in the DFA which are retained because of their ecological/aesthetic significance
    - Ponton River Corridor
  - Maintenance of Species Diversity.
    - Habitat assessments for selected species
    - Provide training for staff and contractors
      - Species at Risk Handbook & SARA Field Cards distributed.
      - Process outlined in the *Contractor Manual* to follow when rare species or their habitats are found in the field.
  - The Companies also committed to retaining a minimum of 1% of the merchantable volume within harvest areas.
    - To ensure that the target is achieved on the landscape, the Companies have developed a set of field protocols based on cutblock size
      - i.e. the larger the block, the more retention with "patches" taking into consideration species composition
      - Although there will be some single-stem retention within harvest areas, the Companies will prioritize retention in "patches" to ensure that areas retained are able to remain standing over time.
    - The Companies presented the retention achievements for the 2003-04 harvest season based on the cutblock photography acquired in 2004. Some areas (ex. Steen-2, Steen-4) are not included since the photos could not be acquired. Retention for areas not flown in 2004 will be included in the summary for the 2004-05 season and reconciled accordingly.
      - Although patches will be monitored/measured through the annual cutblock updates, single-tree retention will be tracked in the Operations Inspection Form on the EMS.

Question. There was a concern identified about the quality of timber left in the retention patches and the potential effects long-term regarding the future forest.

Answer. The Companies have yet to develop protocols for retention. However, it is the goal of the Companies to leave representative stands and species as part of the retention strategy.

- Maintenance of Coarse Woody Debris
  - Although this target has yet to be implemented on the landscape (to be implemented this season i.e. 2004-05), the Companies have developed field protocols which outline the minimum and maximum number of piles to be retained to achieve the targets.
- Compliance with operations in critical wildlife zones
  - In 2003-04, the Companies were in compliance to all operating plans within critical wildlife zones.
- Maintain areas of biological significance with the DFA
  - The Companies did establish a target to protect the integrity of the Watt Mountain Natural Area during operations
    - No operations were conducted near the area during the 2003-04 harvest season
  - In response to some recent correspondence from the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), the Companies will be doing further analysis to identify additional areas of high conservation value within the DFA and work with CPAWS and our local Public Advisory Group (PAG) to develop specific strategies to ensure their long-term maintenance. Both the PAG and PAC will be updated as work on the project progresses.
  - One of the strategies that was identified during the public advisory process was the need to develop a database(s) to track "rare" areas that were identified during operations. Through the Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre and our data storage service provider (Silvacom), the Companies have developed a spatially referenced database of known locations of rare plants and/or animal species throughout the DFA.

- Marcel quickly showed the group some of the information included in the web-based database.
- Maintain Forest Ecosystem Condition and Productivity.
  - The Companies are trying to minimize fibre loss from insects & disease across the DFA. During the CSA-SFM process, the Companies established a target that > 15% of the total coniferous volume harvested over a 5-year period would come from areas infested by the spruce budworm.
    - During the 2003-04 harvest season, approximately 44% of the coniferous volume harvested came from areas infested by the spruce budworm.
    - There is a Spruce Budworm Management Plan currently under development (December 31<sup>st</sup>).
- Maintain the natural process of carbon recycling
  - Reforestation activities are completed within 2 years of harvest.
  - Regeneration success
- Multiple Benefits to Society
  - Local employment
    - Both Tolko & Footner have exceeded the target of >80% of the employment opportunities being provided to local contractors and/or citizens.
  - Forest Education
- DFMP Progress Report was also included in the presentation
  - Ongoing Inventory Programs
  - Ongoing Understory Inventory
  - Ongoing Cutblock Updates
  - Ongoing Growth & Yield Program
- CSA – SFM Internal Audit.
  - Completed October 22, 2004. The internal audit was completed by John Dunford, Tolko Sustainability Manager
  - There were a few Opportunities For Improvement identified which will be considered in the development of the next SFM Plan.
- CSA Z809-02 Registration Audit
  - Scheduled for November 23-26.
  - Audit to be completed by QMI, the same consultant that completed the Tolko ISO registration audit in January 2004 and the same consultant which will be doing the Footner ISO registration audit later this month.
    - The auditors are independent, third party auditors
  - The audit includes both office & field operations.
    - Members of the public advisory process are invited to participate.
    - Involvement can include either personal and/or phone interviews or as an observer on the field component.

## Questions

1. Will the AAC (Annual Allowable Cut) be stable?

The AAC will be evaluated on a regular basis to ensure that the forest is sustainable from an environmental, economic, and ecological perspective. Since society's values change like the forest, the Companies need to continually evaluate our activities to ensure sustainability and adjust our plans accordingly. The next Timber Supply Analysis (TSA) is scheduled for 2007.

2. With the mills increase in production will our old growth population start to decrease?

Since the forest changes over time, so does the amount of "old forest" across the landscape. In the CSA-SFM process, the Companies established a target of maintaining at least 10% of the landbase on an "old forest" condition (i.e. >120 Years Old). As Companies, we need to measure this indicator periodically to ensure that we are in fact achieving this target.

If we cannot achieve the target, we will need to adjust our harvest strategy accordingly.

3. Are burned area's being reforested? Yes.

The Companies actively reforest burned areas which are salvaged. Although the remainder of the burned area is left to reforest naturally, the Companies incorporate these areas and assumptions into each Timber Supply Analysis (TSA).

#### **4. Next Meeting**

- Part II of the "Report Card" presentation
- Next meeting, 5:00 PM on Tuesday November 16<sup>th</sup> 2004 at the Tolko Industries Ltd. office