



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012
5:00pm - Town of High Level office, Room 110
High Level, Alberta

ATTENDANCE:

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)
Don Warman (High Level Chamber
George Friesen (Friesen Industries)

Boyd Langford (TRL)
Melanie Plantinga (Tolko HLLD)

INFORMATION SENT:

John Thurston (Member of the public)
Randy Hellwig (Beaver First Nation)
Mark Andrews (Cenovus)
Darren Carnell (LRRF)

Pat Cabezas ('Neh Deh)
Walter Sarapuk (MacKenzie County)
Arthur Dumaine (LRRCN)
Barry Gladders (Tolko HLLD)
Conroy Sewpagaham (LRRCN)
Harvey Sewpagaham (LRRF)
Keith Badger (Tall Cree)
Lubicon Lake Nation (Consultation)
Peter Ernst (Mayor, Town of High
Level)

Joy Friesen (HBSWS)
Veronica Tallcree (LRR)
Aaron Doepel (LCSM)
Tim Heemskerk (Northern Lights
Forest Education Society)
Steven Butler (WMWS)
Richard Martens (Taqa North)
Baptiste Metchooyeah (Dene Tha)
Carol Gabriel (Mackenzie County)
Walter Sarapuk (Mackenzie County)
Jayson Kofluk (Ainsworth)
Les House (Paddle Prairie Metis)
Lindee Dumas (LRRCN)

REGRETS:

Teresa Griffiths (Flow North Paddling
Co.)

Marilee Cranna Toews (Hungry Bend
Sandhills Society)

Recording Secretary: Melanie Plantinga

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:36 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Don Warman.

Carried

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (June 5, 2012)

Moved by Boyd Langford

Seconded by George Friesen

Carried

3.1 Action Items from June 5th, 2012:

3.1.1 Clipping service – Melanie has prepared clippings.

3.1.2 Audit Report – Summary was reviewed at the June 5th meetings, and the full copy is available on request. Melanie sent the report to all PAG members who attended last meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Terms of Reference revisited:

- After reviewing the Terms of Reference (ToR) at the previous meeting some items were noted that needed to be changed. The Terms of Reference have been edited to define the roles of Tolko High Level Lumber Division, Ainsworth and LaCrete Sawmills as it relates to Sustainable Forest Management Certification, the Defined Forest Area (DFA) and Forest Management Plan (FMP). Jeremy reviewed the changes with the PAG and requested feedback. No questions or comments arise.
 - Action item: Due to a shortage of attendees the ToR will be tabled until the next PAG meeting.

4.2 Get to Know You Night"

- 4.2.1 High Level - Will be held on September 12th, 2012, any members from the PAG interested in helping at the booth are welcome to join Jeremy and Melanie there. Goals include: generating interest and public participation in the PAG. Make the changed (TOR) available to the public.

Suggestions for the booth? Suggestions to renew public interest in the PAG.

Would a Guest speaker help to generate interest? George comments that it has been a while. Discussion about previous speakers and their contributions. This may create interest.

Jeremy asks if George thinks that periodic changes of location would facilitate attendance of people in other communities (LaCrete). George doesn't think it would be helpful, people do not find travel a great deterrent. If the PAG visited Rainbow Lake or LaCrete it would mean additional travel for people at the opposite side of the DFA. The PAG will not investigate other locations at this time since High Level is the most central community.

Would winter tours of the logging operations be interesting to the general public? George comments that previous tours were well attended. Not only the PAG/PAC members attend but their spouses also came out.

4.2.2 September 14th Jeremy will attend the "Get to Know You Night" in LaCrete – George may stop by. September 26th Trudi Lang, Trilang Consultants, Tolko High Level Lumber Division EMS coordinator will attend the Rainbow Lake "Get to Know You Night".

- These events are being planned to meet several goals. To raise public awareness about sustainable forest management. To create an opportunity to present the indicators and SFM plan to the public and to record public response.

4.3 Open House on September 17th Noon till 7:00pm, Town of High Level Town Hall.

This event has objectives similar to the above noted events.

4.4 Values and Objectives

"Values and Objectives 2012 Sustainable Forest Management Plan" was distributed to the PAG. See Attached. The suggested changes are presented followed by the most similar current values. The local values are specific to the High Level DFA.

Objective – future goal, state or condition

Indicator – method of determining if the objectives have been met.

Boyd indicates that the boxes with "Missing" entered are misleading. It suggests that something has been removed. In this context "Missing" just means that there was nothing in the previous SFMP which corresponds to the new values, objectives or indicators. It may be better to leave the boxes blank.

George points out that the "Values" from the old plan are similar to the "Objectives" in the new plan. Jeremy agrees that this is a good observation. During the review of the old SFMP the consultant also noted that the values were more like objectives than values.

4.5 General Overview of new indicators in SFM Plan

1.1.1 Ecosystem area by type. DFA include quotas, F-1 DMI, F14 government managed units – Dene area, DMI's P19, as well as FMA 0200040. Different natural subregions – based on elevation, soils, species groups, different ecosystem types. Climate change may change boundaries of natural subregions over time. Natural subregion boundaries guide seed collection and

seedling transfer. Tolko will track sub region changes. Update will occur at DFMP (ten years). Break down of area (hectares) of each subregion in the DFA will be reported in the first year.

1.2.3. Proportion of regeneration comprised of native species. This indicator is part of the ESRD compliance with the reforestation standards of Alberta. Boyd asks when cutting an area which has been harvested before would reforestation be of species on site at time of 1st or 2nd harvest. Although the standard would be to species on site at time of 2nd pass, Tolko is not yet harvesting areas which are at that stage.

4.1.1 Net carbon uptake/balance. Maintenance or increase of forest carbon stocks. Carbon budget modeling has been considered, however it is not something that the general public is fully aware of or can understand. Fire has more of an impact than Tolko's operations. Tolko is in partnership with AFGO, to consider carbon budget. Don asked if an inventory may be a good place to start to show current carbon levels. The forest industry in Alberta is developing into the carbon trading/budgeting business. Tolko will delay carbon budget model until government standards are established. We will see during the next audit how the auditor interprets this indicator.

5.2.2. Level of investment in training and skills development. Safety and environmental training is provided to employees and contractors through HLEMS online training. Also, there is a measure of employment to students & internships towards forestry careers.

5.2.3 Level of direct and indirect employment. Relatively stable employment rates over time are the goal. To maintain employment levels High Level lumber division will harvest the annual allowable cut. 4 jobs per 1,000 m3 harvested is the standard. Is this multiplier appropriate? Boyd calculates that roughly 5600 jobs are the goal. Based on a reliable source Jeremy believes this estimate is appropriate based on the jobs created from the stump to the end customer.

5.2.4 Level of Aboriginal participation in the forest economy. Maintain or increase working relationships. Current agreement in place with Dene Tha First Nation that involves aspects of planning, education, employment and wood purchase agreement. There have been wood purchase agreements with LRRCN. Beaver First Nation is interested in participation. By having defined relationships with FNs it just makes good business sense as they are future employees in the region. REDI has an aboriginal engagement initiative in progress. Dan Fletcher is the new Manager of REDI. He has begun having meetings with each band. REDI is planning a symposium.

6.1.1 Evidence of a good understanding of the nature of Aboriginal title and rights. 100% Woodlands employees who interact with First Nations receive training. Awareness training available online is the eventual goal. Need to have training that allows us to be in compliance with law and legislation changes. Training not yet set up, working towards it. Don asks if there is consultation with aboriginal groups about forest practices. Jeremy responds that this is required by law. There are other indicators that deal with consultation.

6.3.2 Evidence of cooperation with DFA – related workers and their unions to improve and enhance safety standards, procedures and outcomes in all DFA – related workplaces and affected communities. Intent is to have a safety

program in place for Woodlands staff and all contractors and then track and report performance on certification of program. Contractors are required to have system in place however Tolko does not manage their system. COR requirements may be tough for smaller contractors.

6.3.3 Evidence that a worker safety program has been implemented and periodically reviewed and *improved*. Reviewed with 6.3.2.

6.4.1 Level of participant satisfaction with the public participation process. Participant satisfaction survey will be created and conducted. PAG and other members of public who have shown interest.

6.4.2 Evidence of efforts to promote capacity development and meaningful participation in general. Track education initiatives about SFM. Northern lights Forest Education Society could be part of Tolko's initiative. Reports and plans on web site. PAG meetings, tours and open houses.

6.4.3 Evidence of efforts to promote capacity development and meaningful participation of Aboriginal communities. Initiate conversation about Sustainable forestry and learn about traditional aboriginal values. Boyd reports on a REDI futures game, which teaches children how a decision made today may affect what happens 5 years from now.

- The other indicators were in the previous SFMP. Jeremy or Melanie will send the complete document to the PAG.

4.6 Next steps with SFM Plan

- Feedback from open houses' will be reported to PAG in October. At the next meeting November 6, the SFM Plan will be presented and discussed.

5 CLIPPING SERVICE

- Has resumed

6 AROUND THE TABLE

6.1 Jeremy reports that if anyone is interested the area burnt this summer is on a map available on the government website. Some of the fire was on Tolko's FMA. Some previously planted and surveyed cut blocks (3800 ha) will have to be replanted. The fire burnt very hot and not much of the burned trees can be salvaged.

7 NEXT MEETING – November 6th, 2012

8 ADJOURNMENT – 7:42