



**HIGH LEVEL FORESTS
PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP**

“DRAFT” MINUTES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

5:00 pm - Four Winds Hotel, Banquet Room
High Level, Alberta

ATTENDANCE:

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)
Jon Goertzen (La Crete Forestry)
Marilee Toews (HBSWS)
Boyd Langford (TRL)
Tim DenOudesten (The Echo)
George Friesen (Contractor)

Carrie Demkiw (Facilitator)
Aaron Doepel (LaCrete Sawmills)
Joy Friesen (HBSWS)
Neil Harpe - ATCO
Jacques Caron - ATCO

REGRETS:

Theresa Griffiths
Rod Chalifoux (TOHL)

Paul Catt (WMWA)
Walter Sarapuk (MD)

Recording Secretary: Brenda St. Arnault

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

Introductions

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Removal of 4.4 from agenda

Add 4.5 – Appreciation to John Thurston

Moved by Aaron Doepel - Carried

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January 11, 2011)

Carrie D. review of minutes; January 11, 2011 minutes accepted with changes.

Moved by Boyd Langford – Carried

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Review DRAFT Terms of Reference from January 11, 2011

Jeremy B. provided overview of meeting from January 11, 2011 and the process of review for the Terms of Reference.

Need to change Footner Forest Products references to Ainsworth (Logo) on all documentation.

Page 4 – Group member responsibility – Marilee T.

Change the wording to be consistent with everything else on document.

#6 – “Group members will follow process for accessing items raised”

#7 – “Group members will identify areas where further information and education is needed for better understanding to contribute to the PAG ”

#8 – “Group members will be open to and receiving and bringing forward public inquiries ”

Terms of Reference approved with changes made May 3, 2011.

All meeting attendees will have their names recorded at the end of the ToR.

Moved by Jon G – Carried

4.2 Update about Tolko’s survey to develop forestry principles

Jeremy provided an overview that was provided by Tolko Industries (Brad Thorlakson) as to what direction Tolko would like to be as a Company.

- Top Decile Company
- Internal process, where we lack, where we need to improve overall as a company

Marilee T. - Will there be an information package as to the results of the survey provided to the public. It would be interesting to know where Tolko is moving as a company.

Jeremy will find out if he can provide information to the PAG when the process is complete.

Marilee T. – Posed a question to Shawn; where does Tolko see itself with CSA?

Joy – So is Shawn evaluating just Tolko as a company or is he also evaluating a group of companies?

Jeremy B. – Everything is being tallied to make Tolko a Top Decile company.

Action Item: Provide Information to the PAG when process is complete.

4.3 Results from Tolko's 12 month CSA Surveillance Audit (February 1 -3)

Jeremy provide summary of the CSA Surveillance Audit that was performed in February 1 – 3, 2011

Aaron – do you remember what 4 areas we improved in from the previous year?

Jeremy B. – No, but I can go back and take a look. Correction action plan was put in place to correct any issues that have been identified.

Aaron D. - Who does up the internal plan?

Tolko – other division within Tolko Industries provided plan

Second opportunity for improvement – Indicators; spruce budworm, was the current target changed?

Comments on positive things provided by the auditor

ACTION ITEM: Jeremy to provide the 4 corrective actions from previous year for next meeting.

4.4 Process for Tolko changing to 2008 CSA Z809:2008 Forestry Standard

Jeremy to explain process; mentioned in previous meetings that Tolko is certified by Standard CSA Z809:02

2008 Standard was available in 2008; in print for 2009 early 2010. Company has asked if High Level would like to certify to the 2008 Standard CSA.

Aaron D. - Is there anywhere it says we have to be certified to 2008 standard;

Jeremy B. - Yes, 3 years after the standard release date.

If you go on the CCFM website there is a section of criteria to provide a sustainable forest.

Criteria
Elements
Indicators
Mandatory Discussion Items

CSA Z809:08

Need to set local targets in these areas to become certified.

We have now a SFM Plan that is current 2010 – we already have VOITS but we have to upgrade them to meet the new CSA Z809:08.

There is a list that is provided that we have to work toward and meet the changes.

I have provided a very general overview of what is required to meet the new Standard.

Carrie D. – We would like to start the review process with a couple of items. What we would like to do tonight is to review the criterion; we would like to have everyone record items that are important to them.

Marilee T. - What level do you want this discussed; at the criterion or Indicators

Jeremy B. requested that everyone start reviewing the Mandatory Discussion Items and we will provide feedback to items you are not sure or understand about.

Jeremy B. - I may be able to provide a guest speaker at the next meeting to provide a review on some of the items.

Aaron D. – Items under the Mandatory Discussion Items are what we are reviewing tonight?

Jeremy B. – Yes, plus items more in-depth with First Nations and communities components, but everything is still the same.

Marilee T. – There is a lot to digest for everyone, is there opportunity to build on what has already been done in the past to augment this?

Jeremy B. - Yes, we are building on to this but it is still relevant to current items. We are looking at what are your interests, what your values when it comes to each of the Criterion.

Carrie D. reviewed reasoning for using the dots on the Indicators

Small dots – request more information

Big dots – interested/concerned

See attached for the breakdown of the dot exercise.

Marilee T. - Is there room or opportunity to provide more information (confidential) to everyone at these meetings.

Carrie D. – one of the items we (her and Jeremy) have had discussions on is how to conduct these meetings in order to effectively and efficiently work through the process. We are still thinking about this.

Marilee provide a copy of map of wilderness areas of Alberta – the Lower Athabasca Land-use Framework process has identified areas of potential preservation in our FMA.

Carrie D. – having a group that has a variety of knowledge is beneficial for our purpose.

Action Items: Put together a document gathering info from the 2002 plan and comparing it to the new standards.

Jeremy to collect information from 6 – 7 years ago to review if some of items have been discussed in previous meetings.

Website to review indicators from other countries – <http://www.sfmindicators.org/indicators>

Joy F. – some of the items say “Mandatory”

Jeremy B. - Yes but it is not limited to these items.

Marilee T. – Do we have the opportunity to bring up items even if they are not high on the discussion list at meetings.

Jeremy B. – We will still be discussing items that are listed on the exercise even if they are not as important as other items.

Marilee T. – is there a means by which First Nations people have the opportunity to voice opinion; would it be part of “Travelling Road show” so it can be addressed.

Aaron D. – provided an overview of workshop with the First Nations from the area and what opportunities would be available to companies.

Joy F. – as a member of one of the communities in the surrounding area, in dealing with First Nation people, they require a personal touch when dealing with sensitive issues.

Carrie D. – letter will be sent out to invite First Nation members in the areas to attend PAG meetings.

Jeremy and Carrie will be meeting regularly to discuss up-coming meetings.

Meetings set up for PAG in the upcoming months;

- September 13, 2011
- October 4, 2011
- November 1, 2011
- December 6, 2011

4.5 Appreciation – for John Thurston

Carrie and Brenda to come up with ideas

Funding will be provided by Tolko

Jeremy B. - I would like the Echo to do a write up on John and his contributions to the PAC and areas.

We will plan on something in June 2011

We would like to invite people that were involved with John and PAC committee at the beginning.

Jeremy to provide list of people that have moved away

5. CLIPPING SERVICE (16)

Jeremy B. distributed latest news clippings to the members.

6. AROUND THE TABLE

Jon – It was good to see the audit went well, any issues that there were simple fixes.

Jacques C. – thank you to everyone for allowing us to attend your meeting

Aaron D. – Is there any ACTO activities going on in our areas?

Jacques C. - Approaching all FMA holders with vested interest in the area regarding

Neil H. - Good to get some insight with what this group is doing, a lot of information to take in.

Marilee T. – Looking forward to process

Joy F. – something about this process is exciting, looking forward to meetings.

George F. – Congratulation to Tolko for the CSA audit

Jeremy B. – commented that the Auditor was very impressed with Camps and Contractors in our Area. Commented on how clean camps were compared to other areas they have been to.

Jeremy B. – SRD website Lower Athabasca – LandUse Framework Plan, explained the process of the Plan and what areas are impacted.

7. NEXT MEETING – June 7, 2011, 5:00 pm

8. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting Adjourned by Marilee T. - 7:55 pm

PAG MEETING
 Tuesday, May 3rd
SFM Standard Prioritization

Criterion #1: Biological Diversity

RANK	DISCUSSION ITEM	# OF VOTES	# OF INFO REQUESTS
1	Forest fragmentation & forest loss	6	3
2	Silvicultural regimes and tools such as plantations, pesticides (including integrated pest management and pesticide-use regulations), structural retention, and timber harvest practices (including clear cutting)	5	0
3	Practices to limit the spread of invasive alien species, and the regulatory prohibitions related to adverse ecological effects and the use of exotic tree species.	4	1
3	Locally available processes and methods for identifying sites with special biological and cultural significance	4	1
3	Management of cultural values and resources	4	0
4	Local and regional protected areas and integrated landscape management	3	2
4	Maintenance of populations and communities over time	3	0
4	Management and protection of biological resources of cultural heritage significance	3	0
4	Participation in government programs to protect threatened and endangered species	3	0
5	The gene pool of native seed stock, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and the associated regulatory/policy requirements	2	1
5	Conservation of old growth forest attributes	2	1
5	Management in the context of natural disturbance regimes and patterns and the range of natural variation	2	0

Criterion # 2: Ecosystem Condition and Productivity

RANK	DISCUSSION ITEM	# OF VOTES	# OF INFO REQUESTS
1	Biomass Utilization	5	1
2	Trends in natural and human-caused disturbances	4	0
3	Proportion of naturally disturbed area that is not salvage harvested	2	2
4	Climate change impacts and adaptation	1	2

Criterion # 3: Soil and Water

RANK	DISCUSSION ITEM	# OF VOTES	# OF INFO REQUESTS
1	Healthy water shed	5	2
2	Management practices and regulatory requirements that protect water quality and quantity	3	1
2	Season of operations (operating windows, impacts on soil during frozen and unfrozen conditions)	3	0
3	Site rehabilitation in areas of severe soil disturbance	2	2
3	Water quality in watersheds supplying domestic water	2	1
3	Soil productivity (long-term nutrient levels, shallow soils, best management practices for soil protection)	2	0

Criterion # 4: Role in Global Ecological Cycles

RANK	DISCUSSION ITEM	# OF VOTES	# OF INFO REQUESTS
1	Carbon emissions from fossil fuels used in forest operations	1	1

Criterion # 5: Economic and Social Benefits

RANK	DISCUSSION ITEM	# OF VOTES	# OF INFO REQUESTS
1	Proportion of goods and services sourced from local communities (to the extent that they are available and reasonably cost-competitive)	3	2
1	Benefits for local communities and Aboriginal Peoples (cultural, spiritual, economic, health, etc)	3	0
2	Fair distribution of benefits and costs	1	2

Criterion # 6: Society's Responsibility

RANK	DISCUSSION ITEM	# OF VOTES	# OF INFO REQUESTS
1	Development of working relationships with willing Aboriginal Communities and/or people	5	2