

HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Issues and Concerns Tracking Summary

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(Updated to June 2, 2009 meeting)

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1. **Issue/Concern: Ground Rules**

June 1, 2004

A Pac member asked if the ground rules talked about in 5.2 of the April 6, 2004 minutes affected the timber supply at all.

Action:

June 1, 2004

The concern was brought up at a PAC meeting.

Resolution:

June 1, 2004

Brad said they outline operational guidelines so that they do not affect the currant timber supply.

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2. Issue/Concern: Cut Blocks

June 1, 2004

An individual was concerned about a cut block in the Bassett 3 area.

September 4, 2007

John Thurston inquired about a possible environmental incident he found with his wife while looking at a cutblock west of High Level (late July) where they saw a hydraulic fluid leak from a skidder, garbage burned and survey stakes strewn about.

October 2, 2007

John expressed the public sees differences in management between blocks that can be viewed from public highways versus blocks away from the public view on West Haul road.

Discussions on Government requirements for retention placement, sight lines, distance to hiding cover which are considered for all openings. PAC will have field trip during upcoming harvest season to explore west haul road.

Action:

June 1, 2004

The individual approached John Thurston about his concerns who in return brought it up at the June PAC meeting.

September 4, 2007

Scott (FFP) was to investigate whether it was one of their contractors.

October 2, 2007

Company personnel to report back on how contaminated material is disposed of.

October 2, 2007

PAC will have a field trip to compare management along the west haul road to blocks along the west highway.

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Resolution:

June 1, 2004

Information was brought back to the concerned individual and he no longer has any concerns regarding that area.

October 2, 2007

A FFP contractor was responsible for the hydraulic leak. FFP had a meeting with the contractor to advise this was not acceptable, and reviewed procedures if a spill occurs (report, clean up, etc.). Question from a member of how potentially contaminated material is disposed of? To be reported at next meeting.

November 6, 2007

Scott McNeil provided information on services provided to the forestry, and Oil & Gas industries for disposing of contaminated waste (oily rags, used oil, etc) which is normally handled by such companies as Neufeld's and RBW. Contaminated soils can also be land farmed, or sent to CCS in Rainbow Lake as a more expensive solution.

Jeremy added that the High Level landfill will accept contaminated soils (variety of chemicals) to a specific threshold of ppm, but above a level it must be disposed of through other methods identified above. Costs at the landfill for acceptable soils is \$8/metric tonne.

December 4, 2007

Recognized that with FFP closing indefinitely the field trip would need to be postponed until further notice.

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3. **Issue/Concern: Horse Logging**

July 6, 2004

A horse logger was concerned about the closing date on the horse logging contract and asked if it was advertised. He was also concerned about the qualifications of the horse loggers that got the contract.

January 16, 2007

A PAC Member wanted to know what FFP thinks about horse logging.

Action:

July 6, 2004

Concerned logger called Mike Alsterlund who brought it up at the July PAC meeting

January 16, 2007

Right now FFP is all about efficiency and low cost. If a horse logger can do it cheaper than a feller buncher, then we would entertain it. Right now there is no cost savings to FFP to harvest that way, we do not need to access any additional timber so it is not a method we are employing.

Resolution:

July 6, 2004

Marcel said to direct the logger to the horse logging coordinator, Lyle Duperron.

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4. **Issue/Concern: Salvage**

September 7, 2004

A PAC member reminded the mills that he had asked for a written salvage report a while back and he has not received it yet. There had been some salvage problems in the past and he wanted to know what solutions had been made.

March 7, 2006

A PAC Member had been approached by a member of the public who was interested in starting a business building packaged log homes and was asking for information as to how he would go about securing a supply of logs. He had contacted Alberta Sustainable Resources Development and was referred to Tolko where he was referred back to ASRD.

February 5, 2008

Member wants to know if the companies are utilizing the majority of salvage that is available.

April 1, 2008

Member reported that he learned from the public that salvage was disposed of improperly. Member will report back with location details in order for SRD to investigate.

Action:

September 7, 2004

Pac Member brought the concern up at the meeting and a FFP representative said he would look after that for him.

October 2004

Jayson Kofluk explained the Timber Damage Assessment (TDA) system. A TDA is paid by the oil and gas companies when they cut the wood, when the wood is brought in they can collect it back. It seems some companies are not bringing the wood back in.

The PAC member would like to see a report showing what improvements have been made to these salvage problems, he feels that the problem is worse than ever.

Marcel responded by saying that he feels that FFP has made huge improvements, even just the satellite yards alone have made a big difference. A forestry representative

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commented that he does a lot of snowmobiling in the winter and does not come across a lot of salvage lying around.

November 2004

Chris Valaire commented that salvage is a province wide issue. The Oil & Gas companies pay for and therefore own the timber. They have responsibility for it but after 60 days it reverts back to the Crown. The problem is being reviewed at higher levels of the Alberta Government and as yet there is no timeline for its resolution.

March 7, 2006

Both companies said that they would look at a business proposal if the individual brought one in. The ASRD representative also suggested the individual contact Gerry Sutherland or Pat Guilder with Competitive Timber Sales to obtain more information.

April 4, 2006

Corny Krahn, with Krahn Logging, commented that it is not just a case of lack of trucks but also that the Oil & Gas industry need to get organized a little earlier in the year. It isn't until the end of the season that they start thinking about removing the salvage; if they would start earlier there would be more time to get the wood out. In this area there are about 4 guys with picker trucks that haul mainly salvage.

February 5, 2008

Ted to look into question of salvage usage.

May 6, 2008

Member provided location information to SRD rep regarding improperly disposed of salvage.

Resolution:

September 6, 2005

After a brief discussion it was reiterated that it is in all three parties (Alberta Forests Service, the Oil and Gas Industry and the mills) best interest to get all the salvage brought in and the barrier to accomplishing this is the lack of and high demand of self-loading log trucks. A self-loading truck is in high demand during the logging season. Both mills stated that the amount of wood that's does not make it in is minimal compared to what does get brought in. Tolko estimated that they took in about 25,000 cubic meters and FFP took in about 30 000.

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May 3, 2006

After a brief discussion it was evident that issue #4 regarding salvage has been dealt with and while there is still a timing issue the group feels that the companies are doing everything that they can to ensure that the salvage gets brought in. During this discussion a question was asked if the salvage gets incorporated into the annual allowable cut, the answer was yes.

April 1, 2008

Caleen Warren provided information on the number of Conifer Salvage waivers issued for the 2007-2008 harvest season by the 7 Forest Officers in the district (see minutes for detailed values).

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5. Issue/Concern: Private Wood

October 5, 2004

A PAC member is concerned that there is not enough information available to private wood owner when they are looking to sell their wood. They do not seem to be treated fairly, not everyone is getting the same price for their wood. This may be due to a middle man taking advantage of the owner's lack of knowledge. There were some suggestions that perhaps the PAC could put together a pamphlet with the appropriate information in it. Information like who does the logging? Can you do it yourself? How is price established? What are the guidelines and procedures? Who do you call if you have wood for sale? Possibly put together a list of consultants and loggers.

Action:

October 5, 2004

PAC members addressed this issue at the meeting asking the companies for answers.

December 2004

Brad stated very clearly that he would not discuss prices at the PAC meeting. It is a business transaction between land owner and company and should not be discussed in public. The land owner needs to sit down with Dallas and talk about this one on one. A short discussion took place and it was agreed that due to lack of time this topic would be tabled until next meeting. Clearly there is a misunderstanding that needs to be clarified.

January 2005

Gray Jordan spoke on this topic as Brad was not able to make the meeting. He said that Brad has been digging in the archives looking for documentation that would support the idea that the mill had initially given the public a set price for which they would purchase private wood. As of yet, such documentation has not been found. There is a full time staff person at the mill whose job is to deal with private wood. Gray suggested that if someone is planning on selling wood to the mill to give this person as much notice as possible, this would make your chances of selling your wood a lot better. Gray did say he would contact Carl Leary, who was the consultant that the mill hired during all the public hearings to see if he has any information as to private wood pricing.

October 3, 2006

Personal interest and concerns to be forwarded to Wood Procurement Supervisor, Jayson Kofluk. Mr. Kofluk's business cards were distributed by Scott McNeil. Scott McNeil informed that if a citizen wants to sell wood on their own land it is up to the land owner, other than that there is a review of mill requirements.

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Resolution:

February 2005

Gray Jordan's response regarding the issue of private sales was as follows:

"I hoped to communicate that the search of our archives was exhaustive, and there is nothing left to search at FFP. Although FFP is as frustrated as Walter that we are unable to find conclusive evidence of an offer to purchase private wood made before start up, I believe we have to view this issue as closed. We have not paid \$8-12 per cubic meter for private wood in the past, nor does the market support that price at the present time. At the end of the day, as Lorraine pointed out, timber purchases are a commercial transaction, governed by the market, and all any landowner can do is research the market price, negotiate with knowledge, and make a decision about whether or not to sell.

I have talked to Carl Leary. He attended all public meetings before the mill was built, and during construction. Carl remembers price for private wood being discussed at these meetings. Hard numbers provided were \$1/cubic meter (What DMI paid at the time) to \$3/cubic meter (what Ainsworth Grande Prairie Paid). Carl remembers a meeting where one of the company representatives said he could "see" prices going as high as \$8-12/cubic meter in the futures, as the supply and demand of wood in the region changes. However, at no time was a commitment made to buy wood at \$8-12/cubicmeter."

February 2006

The price of private wood was brought up again and Brad reiterated that the mill is paying a competitive price that is not out of line. PAC member indicated that this issue is now resolved for him.

November 7, 2006

A PAC Member stated that after the last meeting, 2 days later they had a productive meeting discussion and did resolve some concerns.

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6. Issue/Concern: Log Truck Safety

November 2, 2004

A member of the public, driving south of High Level approximately one week ago, was concerned about a logging truck's speed. The individual used their cell phone to call the hotline to report it and there was no answer to the call.

February 1, 2005

A PAC member insisted that speed is an issue with log truck drivers, he has heard of too many stories told of speeding log trucks. The integrity of the tach cards was also questioned.

December 5, 2006

A PAC Member brought up an incident where a log truck, carrying short logs, was in the ditch 20 km east of High Level. The truck had its safety triangles on the road and everything came to a stop. Also that there was another logging truck that was traveling west that stopped on the highway and left his high beams on that traffic flowing in the opposite direction was blinded by the lights.

March 6, 2007

John Thurston identified a single issue/concern that had recently been brought up, that being the clustering of log trucks on the highways which can pose problems in times of poor visibility. In one specific incident, it was observed that there was up to three trucks traveling consecutively. PAC members commented that drivers need to travel the highways according to road conditions and ensure that their distance behind vehicles needs to be appropriate. The companies indicated that that specific issue has not been specifically highlighted in the past, but recognize that it is difficult to control traffic flow.

Action:

November 2, 2004

The concern was discussed at the PAC meeting.

February 1, 2005

Issue was brought forward at the February PAC meeting. Will responded by assuring the committee that Tolko does monitor the driver's tach cards and that they do not tolerate speeding or careless driving. The committee was told that while it is not impossible to tamper with the cards it is however highly unlikely or very rare that that does happen. There is not a lot to be gained by speeding because it would only cause for a lot of bunching up at the scale, also the trip cycle times are recorded at the scale house and the

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driver would be identified and reprimanded. It was agreed that it would be a good idea that Will and Mike will go out in an unmarked vehicle with a radar gun and see if speed really is or is not a problem.

April 5, 2005

A PAC member stated that even though he is being told that speeding log trucks are not a problem he still believes that it is in fact a huge problem. He has heard of too many people who are talking about meeting speeding trucks on the highway and has seen it for him self as well.

April 4, 2006

A PAC Member had been asked by a member of the public whether or not the companies keep track of calls to the hotline, the answer was yes. It was also said that the amount of calls have been decreasing.

December 5, 2006

There is a variety of procedures that occur when a situation like this (log truck in the ditch) occurs. Each log truck is to have their safety manual with them, to try and not block the highway so that traffic is free to flow, also to get a larger size tow truck or picker truck to help them out of the ditch. The other is to get a small cat to come and clear around where the truck is to make a clear path.

There was suggestion made that there be some sort of signs available on the road or a mail out flyer so that the community has access to the hotline phone number.

January 16, 2007

Scott McNeil stated that they were unable to find out what truck was in the ditch (as mentioned in previous minutes) also, that there was no record of what had occurred. If anyone had any additional information it would be helpful to narrow down the search. John Thurston said that there were a few people behind him that go to the same school and that he would ask around.

Jeremy Beal mentioned the mail out cards to be mailed out to the community in regards to the phone number and information regarding logging trucks on the highways. Unfortunately they will have to postpone the mail outs until possibly next year. Tolko has run ads in the High Level Echo and will continue to do so. Jeremy mentioned the sign down by the Shell gas station and unfortunately the sign is actually broken and will not be fixed until spring or summer.

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Resolution:

November 2, 2004

Will indicated that Tolko was aware of the problem which has now been fixed and that after hour calls go to voice mail to be handled the next business day.

April 4, 2006

Marcel will bring a report for the next PAC meeting.

May 3, 2006

Issue #6 may no longer be an issue although the issue of speeding trucks is still talked about at the meetings and in the public and will remain as an ongoing issue. Mike would still like to go out with a Tolko representative and a radar gun just to see how many, if any, trucks are speeding.

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7. **Issue/Concern: Log Truck Steel Strength**

November 2, 2004

It was brought to Mike's attention that at 40 below steel loses its ability to hold weight. Between 43 and 50 below the oil patch shuts down. The concern is with logging trucks that are fully loaded at 40 below. Is there a risk of that the steel could fail and cause a severe accident?

Action:

November 2, 2004

Someone suggested that it would be a good question to ask the engineer coming to give a presentation to their trucking fleet. He could then bring back the information to the next meeting.

Resolution:

November 2, 2004

Will did contact the manufacturer of the steel that the trailers are made off. The steel type is a T1 which is the strongest and of the highest quality and has been processed many times. If the steel does crack it is a 3 to 1 ratio/safety factor which means it is of higher standard than required.

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8. **Issue/Concern: Log Truck Parking**

January 11, 2005

Walter wanted to know if anyone knew why log trucks were stopping on the corner of Highway 695 and 88 for shift changes and to refuel. It does not seem to be a very safe place to park and a few people had approached him regarding this issue.

Action:

January 11, 2005

Will said that they may be trucks from Little Red River or from the La Crete Sawmills but he will look into it and report back at the next meeting.

February 2005

Will said he had not yet had a response to his e-mail that was sent to the La Crete sawmill and FFP. He suggested getting the truck number and a description of the truck such as the color of the truck which would make the driver easier to track down.

Resolution:

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9. **Issue/Concern: Reforestation**

April 5, 2005

A PAC member had some concerns about scarification and its effectiveness. Are the trees that are being planted on the top of the mount dying? Is anyone checking these reforested areas?

June 2006

John Thurston mentioned that there were some concerns regarding the scarification process. Some people don't like it. Some people, like Trappers, feel it changes the water flow.

Action:

April 5, 2005

Marcel responding by saying that it is in the companies' best interest as well that the planted trees survive and that they are aware that some of the trees planted on top of the mounts are dying and it is being addressed. Reforested cut blocks are being checked every two years.

June 2006

Marcel indicated that as a result of concerns expressed by trappers in the past, there is an ongoing effort to maintain traditional access during the scarification program. With regards to water flow, Marcel indicated that both treed and operational buffers are maintained and are important in maintaining water flow. There is even a 5 meter no machine zone on lower order streams. In addition, the contractors do not site prep perpendicular to any watercourses to prevent any possible sedimentation into the channels. The companies realize that there are issues with regards to how scarification looks however the goal is to meet or exceed regeneration standards. Some areas are not site prepped.

Resolution:

April 5, 2005

Reforested cut blocks are being checked every two years and it has been noted that some trees planted on the mounts are not surviving and it is being addressed.

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10. Issue/Concern: Pile Burning

April 5, 2005

A PAC member has noticed some unburned brush piles and would like to know why this is happening and who is responsible to make sure this doesn't happen. There also seems to be some disparity between what the Oil and Gas Companies are required to do and what the forest companies are required to do regarding burning bush piles.

February 7, 2006

A PAC Member received a concern from a community member regarding what seems like a two tier system between Oil & Gas and Forestry. He talked about an incident where an oil company had to go back through a reseeded area to the site to burn three logs that were left on a well site. He feels that Oil & Gas are held to a higher set of standards than Forestry as there are piles of unburned wood in the bush that have been left behind by Forestry. A PAC Member handed the location information to Robert Popowich, with SRD, who will make sure it gets to the appropriate hands.

Action:

April 5, 2005

Issue was brought up at the April PAC meeting

February 7, 2006

A PAC Member handed the location information to Robert Popowich, with SRD, who will make sure it gets to the appropriate hands.

Resolution:

February 7, 2006

Marcel suggested that perhaps the decks laying in the bush were old (20+) during that time there was not a big market for Aspen and it may have been left behind.

March 2006

A PAC Member indicated that Robert Popowich had followed up with the location description that was given to him regarding unburned brush piles and the issue is now resolved.

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11. Issue/Concern: Mixed Wood Management Report

April 5, 2005

A PAC member mentioned that he has repeatedly asked for a mixed wood management report and has yet to see one. He would like to know how the mills are doing in managing their mixed wood.

February 5, 2008

Member has concerns about the future management of mixedwood stands & utilization of aspen.

Action:

April 5, 2005

The PAC Member brought the issue forward at the PAC meeting.

February 5, 2008

Jeremy to solicit companies.

Resolution:

March 7, 2006

There was considerable discussion regarding mixed wood management. Marcel explained to the group that while there is no separate mixed wood management plan in place or in development, the companies are working together very closely to come up with an arrangement that works for both companies in the new Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP). Although the traditional cover types (C,CD,DC,D) have to be maintained over time, there is opportunity in deciduous stands with an understory. Exploring those opportunities require sufficient data to make assumptions and projections that the companies never really had for the first management plan but will look at for the 2007 plan.

The PAC member who had repeatedly brought up the issue of mixed wood indicated that he is now satisfied that the companies are doing all that they can to effectively deal with the issue

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12. **Issue/Concern: Herbicide Program**

October 4, 2005

A hunting guide approached a PAC member with concerns about the joint herbicide program between LA Crete Sawmills and Tolko. It seems it was swaying moose away from the area he was working in. He was not directly notified from the companies but found out through a trapper.

Action:

October 4, 2005

Marcel said that while they do notify guides when they are harvesting, historically have not been notifying them of herbicide programs and this has not been a problem in the past but will certainly document this and contact with the guide will be made.

Resolution:

Notifications are sent to a distribution list that would include First Nations, trappers and persons who have contacted Tolko in the past. Outfitters tend to be nomadic and difficult to know where they are operating within. All outfitters have the ability to contact Tolko/LCSM for details of herbicide programs, or attend open houses as part of the GDP review at which the herbicide program is available.

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13. Issue/Concern: Winter Haul Road

January 10, 2006

A PAC member had just returned from the MD council meeting and it has been brought to his attention that Tolko was not using the winter road that the PAC had been in support of.

Action:

January 10, 2006

Issue was brought up at the January PAC meeting.

Resolution:

January 10, 2006

Tolko representative indicated that although they used portions of the winter road last season, deliveries for the 2005-06 harvest seasons are less concentrated in the west than last year. Tolko will continue to evaluate the use of the winter haul road on an annual basis incorporating safety, costs and the concentration of harvest activity. The PAC member indicated that his concern has been resolved and he will take the explanation back to council.

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14. **Issue/Concern: Birch Wood**

February 7, 2006

A PAC Member commented that birch is not being replanted and asked what effects that would have on the environment if any.

Action

February 7, 2006

The concern was brought up at the PAC meeting.

Resolution

February 7, 2006

Brad informed the group that they have no right to cut any birch. The amount of birch in the FMA is less than ½ of a percent. The only market for birch is firewood and some are using it to make furniture.

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15. **Issue/Concern: Summer Logging**

June 2006

A PAC Member asked if there was going to be an increase in summer logging. If so, she wanted to know the timing of it because she has some concerns regarding nesting birds.

Action

June 2006

Marcel LeCoure said that there would be a low percentage of activity in the summer as is typical for Tolko. Marcel indicated that although he couldn't really speak for FFP regarding this summer's operations, he did indicate that some summer harvesting will likely be scheduled but a relatively low amount in comparison to the overall amount of activity for both companies, but with things the way they are, there has not been much change to the practices. The timing of summer harvest has some restrictions and nesting birds are considered. Marcel made reference to Slave Lake harvesting and how it was shut down around nesting birds.

Resolution

Summer logging is currently limited to activities of FFP as Tolko has minimal ground that could be accessed.

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16. Issue/Concern: Burner

January 16, 2007

Various PAC Members were asking about the emission reports and the burner.

December 4, 2007

Tolko requesting extension to operating permit while searching for alternative engineered solutions for utilizing green waste from mill.

Action

January 16, 2007

Scott wanted to inform everyone that their burner has not actually been operating since the end of October. FFP has an action plan that will address current issues with strands and potential re-entry to the fuel system. The mill is currently working on this plan.

December 4, 2007

Marcel LeCoure provided presentation to PAC on the issues surrounding the operation of the burner, burner operation variance request to Alberta Environment for extension to operating period, and developments to-date in finding an alternative method for utilizing green waste and shavings from the mill. Several questions were asked at the December 4th meeting and answered by Marcel or Mark Stevens (Area Manager). See full minutes on www.highlevelwoodlands.com

Resolution

Burner variance approved by Alberta Environment until December 31, 2010, with conditions of finding alternative solutions by December 31, 2008.

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17. Issue/Concern: PAC Membership

February 6, 2007

John Thurston said he received a call from Mary Klassen who used to work for MEDC and had been the HLFAC Secretary in the past. She now works for EUB (Energy Utilities Board) and she mentioned that EUB would like to have someone attend HLFAC meetings. John said that this had come up in a previous meeting and EUB had said at that time that they were too busy to attend and they would let the PAC know when they had time. John has never received a response until now.

Action

February 6, 2007

John will contact Mary and personally invite EUB to the HLFAC and will also send a letter to EUB. John asked Rachel to come up with a letter for him.

Resolution

John sent letter to EUB inviting them to attend meetings. No response as of February 5, 2008 meeting.

18. **Issue/Concern: Boyer Bridge Deck**

September 4, 2007

Marilee Toews expressed a concern about the Bridge deck for the Boyer River Bridge on Highway 88, who's responsible for repairs/complaints? Discussion was held regarding who does the repairs and overall responsibility. Scott McNeil commented that bridges in this area would be the responsibility of La Prairie Group. Walter Sarapuk commented that all bridges belong to Province. Another way to deal with it is to call La Prairie Group and voice your concerns about the bridge.

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19. **Issue/Concern: Company Related - General**

September 4, 2007

John Thurston asked who sits on the selection committee for High School scholarships from Tolko Industries Ltd.

February 5, 2008

Member concerned that the committee is not receiving information in writing from the companies on issues that cannot be answered by company representatives attending the meetings.

Action:

September 4, 2007

Jeremy to inquire who makes up the committee.

February 5, 2008

Jeremy to inquire at companies.

Resolution:

October 2, 2007

Tolko Area Manager, Controller, and person selected by Area Manager.

March 4, 2008

No written notices were ever made in the past. The companies preferred process is for the PAC Coordinator (Jeremy) to attend meetings to represent both companies, and any issue PAC committee has will be reported back to the companies and Jeremy to provide information at next PAC meeting.

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20. **Issue/Concern:** Forest Health

September 4, 2007

Question was asked by John Thurston about the black caterpillars on highways east of High Level, What are they?

May 6, 2008

Mike A. mentioned that clones of aspen are dying and he wanted to know why?

Action Plan:

October 2, 2007

Company personnel to look into.

May 6, 2008

Jayson Kofluk to inquire.

Resolution:

November 6, 2007

Scott reported back that it was the Woolly Bear.

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21. **Issue/Concern:** Safety – General

September 4, 2007

Les House commented on the safety concern regarding railroad crossings in community of Paddle Prairie as there is poor visibility that may lead to an accident. Who is the company to contact about clearing brush at crossings? Les has made several phone calls and has been getting the run around.

There was a discussion regarding who is responsible for railway/crossings maintenance and the consensus is that CN railway would be the company to deal with issues.

Action Plan:

September 4, 2007

Scott will look into this issue.

Resolution:

October 2, 2007

Scott provided contact information for CN railway - 1-888-888-5909, need to identify crossing # associated with railway crossings.

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22. **Issue/Concern:** Letter(s) from PAC member(s)

April 1, 2008

Mike Alsterlund provided a letter to committee which was a compilation of notes which were initially discussed at the February 5, 2008 meeting. See www.highlevelwoodlands.com for full letter provided.

By paraphrasing, the issues mentioned were, (1) future of aspen remaining decked in the woods, and will Alberta be subsidizing the removal, or will Alberta be suffering the loss of resources?, (2) will Alberta be subsidizing FFP through reduced stumpage fees or monetary help, (3) concern Alberta and communities not receiving benefit from FFP, and (4) inability of private landowners in the area being able to sell to FFP and this might be linked to cheaper wood on the FMA.

Action Plan:

May 6, 2008

The agenda for all future meetings will have “aspen decked logs” as a standing “Issue and Concern” to be discussed until there is resolution.

Resolution:

No resolution to date for the concerns identified (June 2, 2008).

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23. **Issue/Concern:** Stumpage (timber dues)

March 4, 2008

PAC Member requested information on timber dues (\$/m3) paid by FFP, and was it a reduced value based on a deal with Alberta.

Action Plan:

March 4, 2008

SRD to report back to committee.

Resolution:

April 1, 2008

SRD reported that FFP was provided dues at \$0.56/m3 until 2016 to assist with the establishment phase of the mill and due to the northern location. In September 2016 dues will be applied at the same rate as any deciduous operator in Northern Alberta.

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24. Issue/Concern: Decked Aspen Logs

May 6, 2008

PAC member is looking for letter stating what Footner Forest Products is planning on doing with log piles in the Bush.

Resolution:

May 6, 2008

FFP representative stated he would not be able to provide a letter, the situation has not changed.

May 6, 2008

Agreed by committee that there be a continuing agenda item called “Decked Aspen Logs” until the item is resolved.

October 14, 2008

Concern raised about longevity of aspen decked logs as a viable raw material. There were some comments about suitability of the decked aspen logs overtime to make OSB or as source of energy. Also, questions about the efforts made to advertise that decked aspen is available.

November 4, 2008

PAC member concerned that no value will remain in decked aspen while waiting for FFP to find a solution. Concerned that FFP will be allowed to operate without conditions attached or under a penalty due to wasting high volume of timber. Other comments about decked aspen at Paddle Prairie.

Members want a written response from FFP regarding the issue of decked aspen.

December 2, 2008

SRD representative reported back to committee regarding whether FFP will lose rights to FMA is they continue to not exercise those rights: There is no written rule stating timeframe when company would lose those rights. The Minister has the option to remove tenure from Footner Forest Products if FFP does not resume operations at the mill after 12 months according to the FMA agreement. Minister possibly reluctant to act as the current economic situation in Alberta is affecting several other mills and not just FFP.

Further questions about longevity of aspen and stumpage rates FFP paid while operating.

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Comments about Volume Supply Agreement that FFP has with PPMS. Appears to be miscommunication about what PPMS can do with aspen FFP was able to accept due to economic closure.

February 3, 2009

Chair mentioned that after a previous meeting when the committee decided to remove decked aspen logs from the agenda he received calls from the public asking about the decked logs. Therefore, John T. asked that “Decked Aspen Logs” continue to be on the agenda and discuss when there are updates, as the public seems to have interest in this topic. Discussion amongst committee about, (1) continued economic situation making resolution to this issue difficult, (2) request for advertisements in local papers to allow people to access for firewood (safety and liability issues), and (3) the public is unclear on what Alberta is doing to resolve situation.

Jeremy B. to leave Aspen decked logs on agenda permanently.

April 7, 2009

Dave S. from ASRD commented there are on-going attempts to deal with the issue of the Aspen decked logs.

Resolution

No resolution to the aspen decked log issue as of June 2, 2009.

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25. **Issue/Concern:** Participation at Trade Fairs and GTKYN

October 14, 2008

PAC member expressed concern that the HLPAC missed an opportunity in September to participate in Trade Shows and GTKYN in communities, and how important it is for our committee to make use of these venues in the communities which we represent.