



HIGH LEVEL FORESTS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 11, 2005
5:00 p.m. @ NAIT College

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

John Thurston, Chair
Jordan Johnston
George Friesen
Marilee Toews
Susan McNeil

Walter Sarapuk
Mike Alsterlund
Colin Hanusz
Stephanie Grocholski
Gray Jordan

Mary Klassen
Will Horbal
Lorraine Donovan
Tracy Mclean

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Thurston, Chair of the High Level Forests PAC called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved By Lorraine Donovan

That the agenda be accepted with an addition of 5.3 Log Truck Safety

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – December 07, 2004

MOTION

Moved By Susan McNeil

That the High Level Forests PAC meeting minutes of December 07, 2004 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Tracy commented that Gail Tucker had been asked to talk about salvage and asked if it could be tabled until the March meeting.

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.

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

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Issues and Concerns Tracking Sheet

Jordan took the pictures of the unidentified bird's nests to show Glenn Semenchuk from the Federal Naturist Organization who identified them as Blue Heron nests.

Jordan also had found some articles on woodlot conservation in a few different magazines. He just commented that if people are interested in woodlots they might want to get more information from these sources.

5.2 Horse Logging Tour (Colin)

The horse logging camp is recovering from a recent fire and Colin suggested we reschedule our tour until sometime in February.

5.3 Log Truck Safety

A PAC member commented that there seems to be more Highway accidents this winter than in the past. A brief discussion of the recent accidents took place which consisted of trucks flipped in the ditch, trucks dropping logs, log truck accidents involving passenger vehicle. Questions that were asked during this discussion were as follows;

What is being done to monitor the speed of the log trucks?

Are the trucks responsible for picking up their dropped logs?

Are the Highways being maintained properly?

Will address all questions.

Tolko does monitor the trucks tachograph cards to make sure they are not exceeding the speed limits. FFP monitors their trucks with GPS. The trucking rates are based upon on 10km/h less the posted speed limit when loaded and 5km/hr less the posted speed limit when they are empty. There is very seldom a problem with speeding trucks.

Highway 58 West has not been properly maintained this winter and has become very dangerous resulting in more traffic accidents than in the last 5 years. . Will mentioned that he may be able to gather figures to show the number of accidents on highway 58 west. The mill has deferred one contractor to the winter road and is in the process of deferring one more. The scales were shut down during the Christmas break and it would have been a good time for LaPrairie Group to de-ice and wing the roads but that was not done. Having said this, there has been a significant amount of snow this year than any other year as well.

There is a log retrieval schedule in place, whereby each contractor is on duty for a two week period. Each contractor has the responsibility of collecting the dropped logs once per week (usually takes place during the weekend when there is less traffic) and will pick up logs immediately if it is safe to do so.

It was decided that the only thing the PAC can do to try and improve our road conditions is to lobby the Alberta Government and bring this issue of road safety to their attention. Mary will write a letter to the MLA and Alberta Transportation, attached to the letter will be the membership list and a copy of minutes attached.

To get the bulk of the heavy industrial traffic off the Highway 58 West, Footner would like to construct a 20 meter wide winter LOC from the Chinchaga River to the Town of Rainbow Lake. However the Alberta Government has restricted the project to a 10 meter LOC which will not accommodate two- way industrial traffic. Footner Forest Products is asking for support for this project.

It was agreed that Mary write another letter on behalf of the PAC in support of this project and send to the MLA as well.

6 OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Question of the Month

Due to lack of response from January's question of the month it was agreed to run again in hopes of more contestants. Kendra Thomas was the winner for December's questions and will be invited to February's PAC meeting to collect her prize.

The question for the month of January will be for ages 12 and under.

The tree Aspen Poplar (*Populus tremuloides*) is the deciduous tree which is the most common tree in our Boreal forest. (Primarily used by FFP) Which of the following statements best describes the poplar tree leaf?

- A) Tiny holes on the underside
- B) Gives off oxygen (O₂) in light
- C) Gives off carbon dioxide (CO₂) in darkness
- D) All of the above

The information to help you answer the following questions can be accessed at the web site www.highlevelwoodlands.com

All winning answers will be put in a jar for the winning draw.

6.2 Clipping Service (handouts)

Colin handed out copies of newspaper clippings

6.3 Private Sales

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.

Susan commented that there is a graph of private wood sales prices posted on the Alberta Government's web-site in case anyone was interested.

6.4 Mixed Wood Management

Gray distributed a handout detailing the initiatives that both mills are in support of or participating in.

6.5 Annual Performance Report

This was tabled until February's meeting

7. CORRESPONDANCE

7.1 Northern Lights Forest Education Society

Stephanie did not have an update on what the society has been doing because they did not have a meeting last month. There will be an article in the newspaper highlighting some of their activities.

John Thurston thanked everyone that was involved in helping his students learn and understand mapping. A great time was had by all.

7.2 Copies of Letters sent out

Attached

8 AROUND THE TABLE

Mike – What is being done about the independent insurance for individuals doing the pile burning?

Response from Will was that he has made contact with Cary Chonkolay from the Dene Tha and Cary will work on this issue to make sure that the trappers are paid properly by the band. The trappers would be covered by the bands insurance and the band would take a small portion for administration.

Mike – Would like to see a clear cut vision of Footner's-10 year plan. How are they doing on long and short haul cuts, are they cutting everything that is easily accessible and leaving the wood that is far away?

Gray responded by saying he would make a note of it

Stephanie – Made a comment regarding the letter of support and the letter regarding Highway Conditions that we should make sure when attaching a list of members that they be the true members.

Susan – Again just suggested to anyone interested in private wood sales that the Alberta Government has a graph of average prices posted on their site.

Jordan – The Weldwood Advisory Committee has 22 members consisting of people from the companies, different agencies through their region, Town of Hinton, representation from their Health Care, Chambers and the petroleum industry. It would be nice if we could expand our membership to include more people from different groups.

The pulp mill in Hinton gives the Advisory committee regular environmental updates, including safety issues

Walter – Commented on how nice it was for Tolko to give the kids in Rocky Lane an opportunity to pick black spruce cones

John – Pointed out that our local biologist has moved away and the nearest one is in Peace River and perhaps we should look into inviting him to attend one of our meetings.

We seemed to have lost our Oil and Gas representation; Monty Moore has expressed interest but is just too busy to attend meetings now.

John will contact Geoff Mussel from EUB to see if he is interested.

NEXT MEETING – February 02, 2005 @ 5:00 pm at the Fairview College

9 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned @ 8:00 pm