



**HIGH LEVEL FORESTS
PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP**

“DRAFT” MINUTES

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

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

ATTENDANCE:

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)	Carrie Demkiw (Facilitator)
Jon Goertzen (La Crete Forestry)	Aaron Doepel (La Crete Sawmills)
Marilee Toews (HBSWS)	Joy Friesen (HBSWS)
Boyd Langford (TRL)	Rod Chalifoux (THL)
John Thurston (Guest)	Paul Catt (WMW)
Mike Alsterlund (Guest)	Veronica Tallcree (LRR)
Carla D’or (LRR)	Lindee Dumas (LRR)

REGRETS:

Theresa Griffiths	Walter Sarapuk (MD)
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Recording Secretary: Brenda St. Arnault

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm.

Introductions

2. RECOGNITION OF JOHN THURSTON (Followed by meal)

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda accepted as presented.

Moved by Jon Goertzen – Carried

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (May 3, 2011)

Carrie D. reviewed minutes; May 3, 2011 minutes accepted as presented.

Moved by Boyd Landford – Carried

4.1 Action Items

Jeremy was to provide items for external audit requested by Aaron D.

Area of concerns: audit has some (4) concerns of areas that need a corrective action plan in place.

1. Remote camp setup – how the approvals for the waste systems was set up and where the kitchen is set up in camp – disposal area
 - Contractors had issue with how things were approved by County
2. Creek crossing and creek crossing removals – lack of records from the Government and records in-house
3. Internal auditor – lacking of documentation from internal auditor

Aaron D. - How are the visits from Government representatives tracked

Jeremy B. - We have a Form on the Tolko EMS website that tracks visits

Marilee T. - Is there a cost for these approvals

Jeremy B. – there is a cost to the contractor, which in turn, costs Tolko. Contractors had an issue with the process due to the costs, some contractors have to move camp more than once in a harvesting season – contractor felt it was a money grabber

Marilee T. - The essence of the process if there is something going on, from the auditor

Jeremy B. - Every contractor is different when it comes to setting up camp, they do not know how, where camp is going to be set up until they are actually out there, and some camp standards are not inspected by Alberta Health Services. Alberta Health Services standards are not always the same as the County's standards.

Paul C. – Do businesses in other industries have the same issues? Oil companies etc.

Aaron D. - I do believe that they do have the same issues.

Moved to accept as information by Aaron Doepel - Carried

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Tolko's 2009 - 2010

Jeremy sent out via Email, if anyone requests more information let Jeremy know and he will sent out document by email and if there are any questions please do ask.

Quick review of handout by Jeremy

Paul C. - Question #7 Wildlife piles, why does it matter how many piles are left?

Jeremy B. – there is a certain percentage that is required for wildlife and the Crown requires that Tolko burn piles due to fire hazard.

Marilee T. – I do recall that we had said this due to fire hazard

Carrie D. - If anyone does have any questions forward them to Jeremy by email, or phone call

5.2 Transition to new 2008 CSA Standard:

Carrie reviewed briefly what was discussed at the last meeting in regards to the discussion items from the last few years from PAG meetings.

The Plan is that we are going to discuss how we can tackle the items, targets, indicators, to ensure that everyone is on board with the decisions and understand items.

Jeremy explained to the new people at the table what the new 2008 CSA Standard is and that Tolko Industries - High Level is trying to be certified by 2012.

Carrie D. – Today we are here to identify if we need to have guest speakers and what discussion items have already been covered.

Mike A. - Is the company considering looking at mimicking the natural growth pattern in their harvesting?

Jeremy B. - The company is looking at something like that but they would not have huge cutblocks, as this would not be acceptable to the communities.

Paul C. – Wildlife retention in blocks

Jeremy B. – We do have retention areas in cutblocks, walkways for wildlife and small clumps of trees.

Mike A. – with single tree retention in conifer, does the company still use this trend?

Jeremy B. – Yes we do still use this method

Jon G. – there is clumps left but it is un-merchantable mixed wood.

Carrie D. – I understand that everyone wants to discuss the issues now but the reason for this meeting tonight is we really need to get an idea of what is needed for the fall sessions.

Marilee T. – this is very overwhelming and it is not easy to decide what items need to be discussed and if we need to bring in guest speakers. This is dealing with Challenging activities.

Carrie D. – I have gone over the document and in reviewing items and there are only 4 to 5 items that have already been extensively discussed.

Marilee T. - There are items in this document that have not been discussed in a few years and I think they need to be discussed again.

Jeremy B. – I do realize that there are items that probably need to be discussed but these items are already in the indicators and have already been looked at by the PAG.

Boyd L. – Are we looking to rely on Jeremy to generalize the issues, I think if we had speakers brought in to discuss items because we do not have the time to go out and get a forest management degree to understand indicators/target

Carrie D. – We will be sure to bring in guest speakers that can address multiple discussion items at a time. The purpose of the discussion items is to make sure that everyone has a foundation of understanding of each criterion to critically reflect and comment on the targets that will be proposed by Tolko.

Joy F. – confused as to the criteria and what these items are.

Carrie D. – explained what the Criterion items are – 6 items

We will bring someone in on September to do a presentation on Criterion 1 and discuss/refresh everyone at that time.

Paul C. – even if we were to cover 1 criterion at each meeting, will we be done by the end of December.

Jeremy B. – We had discussed the timeline yesterday and if we need to schedule another meeting before the end of December to cover everything by then we will schedule one.

If at any time people are uncomfortable with going forward please come forward.

Carrie D. - We have a motion on the floor put forward by Boyd

Motion by Boyd L. to have Carrie and Jeremy identify guest speakers to invite to the fall meetings to deal with the mandatory discussion items. Motion carried

5.3 Comparison of Current Indicators to new CORE Indicators

Jeremy has gone over the new standard to the current standard; Purpose of document
Explained the color coding

Carrie D. – Review document, Core indicators

1.3 Genetic Diversity – where there aren't any CORE indicators, we could add in our own.

Marilee T. - I think this color coding is good, it can help us know more about indicators and what they can be.

Maybe we can write more in the areas of concern.

Jeremy B. - Where there is no alignment for indicators there is going to be some process for the group and where do we go from here.

Marilee T. – what are the identified sites for protection?

ACTION ITEM: Jeremy to get back to Marilee with this.

Paul C. - I think that we are going to follow it, so this is an information session to let us know what is going to happen in September and we will have speakers to present indicators.

Marilee T. – Question about when she was speaking with Shaun M.
FSC how does it fit, can we use this process to help us get ready for that as well, to cut down on more work we may have to do later?

Joy F. - I was thinking that we have to be careful with the amount of discussion we have for these items.

Jeremy B. – I am not trying to ram these items through because it can affect the company with future audits

Paul C. – are there minutes on line, I have missed the last set of minutes?

Jeremy B. – Yes, they are online on Highlevelwoodlands.com

Marilee T. – indicators - comparing this to another system

Carrie D. - There is a bar we are shooting for, the targets cannot just be token, they have to mean something and challenge Tolko in achieving more sustainable practises.

Boyd L. – I would like to comment on Marilee comments on the indicators and comparing this to another system. It could really lengthen the process if we try to account for other standards and certifications that could potentially come in the future.

Jeremy will send out the current VOITS before next meeting for everyone to review.

5.4 Plans to move forward

Carrie D. – Jeremy and I will group the discussion items, identify and invite speakers to the fall meetings that will be able to cover off multiple discussion items. The first part of each meeting will consist of a speaker, the second part will be reviewing proposed targets relating to the previous meeting's speakers content.

6. CLIPPING SERVICE (6)

Jeremy B. distributed latest news clippings to the members.

John T. would like to thank Tolko for the service, it helps to get a better understanding of the Forest Industry

Veronica T. – would like to thank Tolko for inviting us and I will be researching more for the next meeting so I will have a better understanding of what is going on.

7. AROUND THE TABLE

Lyndee T. – It is all very confusing

Marilee T. – I would like to mention that the Hungrybend Sandhills society is revitalizing and we will be having a meeting on June 16th at 7:00 pm in the Lobby of Curling club in Fort Vermilion.

Jeremy B. – thanked LRR for coming out

Jon G. – thanked John T. for his service over the years

Boyd L. – Land-use Framework for the Lower Peace will tie into this, as of June 1st Exxon will be taking over Husky.

Sitting on a board, working on the extension of highway 58 from Rainbow Lake to Fort Nelson

John T. – work for the Northern Lights Forest Education Society to make aware of forestry in the area, speaker, we would like to piggyback presentation to address public interest.

Second item – additional areas of concern, knowledgeable of areas, ski trails in Watt Mountain to be kept out of the harvesting plans. I had noticed flags in the area and I have discussed this

with Tolko planners, but would like to make sure something formal is in place to protect this area.

Marilee T. - Heroning in the area

Jeremy B. - Outside of our landbase of concern

Joy F. – it looks to me that there is a bit of structure going on now for this process.

Mike A. – Thank John & Jeremy for listening to all the ranting and raving over the years

Concern – Forest Fragmentation and Lost; that could be brought up with next meeting

Article that relating to the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement, make sure that Tolko is going to honor the agreement.

Question for next meeting – is Tolko going to honor this and what percentage is it?

Jeremy B. – There are working groups dealing with each of the priorities identified in the agreement. The areas in question are being deferred from any harvest until specific direction is given coming out of these working groups.

Beehive burner, it would be good if you could update the people of High Level

Carrie D. – thank everyone with their patience in this process, re-iterated that the intention behind the process is genuine and any concerns will be properly addressed, the intention is not to push anything through.

Make sure everyone is comfortable with the process, if you aren't let Carrie and Jeremy know.

Mike A. – John T. and I have been working on ski trails for the last 30 years and I invite everyone to come out and enjoy them. Make sure you bring a dog with you.

8. NEXT MEETING – September 13 , 2011, 5:00 pm

9. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting Adjourned by Carrie D. - 8:00 pm