



**HIGH LEVEL FORESTS  
PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP**

**“DRAFT” MINUTES**

*Tuesday, November 15, 2011*

5:00 pm – Spirit of the North Community School, Lunch Room  
High Level, Alberta

**ATTENDANCE:**

Jeremy Beal (CSA Coordinator)	Carrie Demkiw (Facilitator)
Marilee Toews (HBSWS)	Boyd Langford (TRL)
Aaron Doepel (La Crete Sawmills)	Al Toews
Barry Gladders (Tolko Industries)	Marty O’Byrne (ASRD)

**REGRETS:**

Walter Sarapuk (MD)	Joy Friesen (HBSWS)
Jon Goertzen (La Crete Forestry)	Paul Catt (WMW)
George Friesen (Friesen Industries)	Theresa Griffith (Flow North)
Lindee Dumas (LRR)	Veronica Tallcree (LRR)
Rod Chalifoux (THL)	

Recording Secretary: Brenda St. Arnault

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:25 pm.

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Agenda accepted as presented with changes to 4.2  
Feedback for criterion 2, add as Agenda item 4.3

**Moved by Boyd Langford – Carried**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October 18<sup>th</sup> & November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011)**

Carrie D. reviewed minutes;

Discussion on October 18<sup>th</sup> minutes

**Moved by Marilee T. – Carried**

November 1, 2011 minutes – Carrie D. reviewed minutes and accepted as presented

**Moved by Aaron D. – Carried**

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Special Speaker Marty O’Byrne, Senior Forester, ASRD**

- Soil Productivity
- Seasons of Operations
- Maintenance of Forest Growth
- Growth and Yield
- Nutrient lost

**Jeremy B.** – explained why Marty is here to do a presentation on Soil and provide us with more resources.

**Jeremy B.** - How does this relate to winter operations? Frozen soils, what is the difference between winter and summer operations relating to the effect to soils?

**Marty O.** - I will review this in later in the presentation.

Effects include: compaction, displacement, rutting, mixing, stream bed, “structure” material deposit in stream bed

**Aaron D.** - How much degradation can be applied compared to the practices we do in this area.

**Marty O.** - These are risks that could go on, I will review this further on in the presentation and hopefully this will answer your question.

**Marilee T.** - asked what the word (Ingress) meant – natural seeding

**Marilee T.** - So is there a certain level of expectation of soil site assessments?

**Jeremy B.** - we don’t assess every area, the guys know what the soil assessments are for the areas we are working in,

**Aaron D.** – we know fairly accurately what we have for soil in our areas, learn something new and mistakes are made and we reclaim those areas.

**Marty O.** - Apply strategies; know what the risks are for soil to get ruined. Everybody knows there is a risk in the delivery of the plans.

**Aaron D.** – a few years ago we had worked in an Harvesting area by the Wadlin hills south of Fort Vermilion; we had brought in soil experts from BC to deal with the issues of soil slumping and other issues we recognized in the area.

**Marty O.** - picture review of the variance soil layers

**Jeremy B.** - Clarification to the variety of layers that happen over the years.

**Marilee T.** - We have a soil collection at the museum, shows profiles of different soils

**Marty O.** - And the collection is from soils of this area?

**Marilee T.** - It does come with pictures and lists areas of where the soils came from, if anyone is ever in the Fort Vermilion and would like to have a look at the collection.

### **Reforestation – The Objective**

Survival, Productivity

Categories of

4, 5, & 6

**Aaron D.** - We were limited time, we had 7 years,

**Marilee T.** - How are things going to work out over time if we continue to put spruce on spruce, what are the thoughts on the long term of that?

**Marty O.** - We in reforestation, we feel that the way regeneration is structured now, we can move that to another landscape.

It allows the diversity to be brought back, under the regulation

The RSA was brought back in 2010

**Marilee T.** - With spruce planted over spruce How is that going to affect your soils over a long period of time?

**Marty O.** - That will be changes to the soil over time; there could be an affect on the soil

**Marilee T.** - If we are going back to this – agriculture land base; the trend looks like it is going there even though it is miniscule compared to what is being taken out.

**Marty O.** - Agricultural interventions;  
Equal opportunity

**Jeremy B.** – if I can clarify, it comes down to economics of the stand; it comes down to mixed woods but you still have to balance it out, in our FMA it comes down to a volume thing not to stand.

**Marty O.** – there is opportunities still available, diversity is still there

**Marilee T.** - Management decisions that are made on the landbase, what are the long term choices being made

**Marty O.** - Do what you can to bring the diversity back to what it was. We are replacing trees.

**Aaron D.** - What do you have to say about Fir, we consider it undesirable?

**Marty O.** - Fir is there, it's a climax species, it had a value, fir is very prone to disease, very easily damaged. Then it starts dying around age 70, very dormant. As far as bringing back it back as a species, you could bring it back.

**Marilee T.** – so what if fir topples over and dies after 70 years, how does it come back? How prevalent are Fir stands in this area, is it very common to have fir stands in Alberta?

**Marty O.** - Not in Alberta, there are areas that are indicated, mostly around water area.

**Jeremy B.** - Frozen ground rules; harvesting areas in winter compared to summer harvesting; there are things we get away from disturbing/damaging when we harvest in the winter months compared to what kind of damage can be done in the summer.

**Jeremy B.** - That was all I was trying to point out.

**Marilee T.** – years and years ago I had papers dealing with machinery and what kind of damage it causes to the landbase. And over the years it has had an effect, caused a disturbance over the landbase

**Marty O.** –

**Marilee T.** - How do you these mounds, some of the mounds look very high , will it ever level down?

**Marty O.** – in my experience the scarification equipment that has been very huge;

A lot of the areas that have been scarified look huge; but they will level off when the ground is not frozen.

Inverted ?????? has worked very well with site preparation

**Marilee T.** - In reality, how height are the mounds in some of the slides we have seen?

**Marty O.** - In most cases the mounds are usually about 2 feet high, and then they settle down after the seedlings have been planted.

Options with Soil Damage – DE compaction

**Aaron D.** - Trying to picture this piece of equipment – with the wings, is this done in frost free conditions or how is this done.

**Marty O.** - Yes, it is done frost free

**Marty O.** – does Soils come up with the new CSA or had it always been present?

**Jeremy B.** – it has always been in the CSA but it ????????

**4.2** Review Tolko's proposed Indicators and Targets for Criterion 3 and 4

We will defer 4.2 and 4.3 to December 6, 2011 meeting.

Marilee T. - Criterion 4 – is there a handout for it;

Jeremy/Carrie - It has to do with Carbon; it is such a broad topic, we are having trouble coming up with a guest speaker; we will have to have to discuss

**4.3** Follow up on Criterion 2 – VOIT's

**5. CLIPPING SERVICE (10)**

Jeremy B. distributed latest news clippings to the members.

**6. AROUND THE TABLE**

**7. NEXT MEETING – December 6, 2011, 5:00 pm**

**8. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting Adjourned by Carrie D. - 8:10 p.m.**