

Summary of Meeting
Tolko Industries Ltd. Manitoba Woodlands CSA Public Advisory Committee
May 26-27, 2004
Kikiwak Inn, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Manitoba

1. Description

The meeting's primary purposes were to review the draft CSA-SFM Plan, and to assess the level of support for the plan's Indicators and Targets, and to address any outstanding items from the SFM process.

Attendance at the meeting is recorded on attachments. Sheldon McLeod of SLMcLeod Consulting facilitated the meeting. Avery Ascher of ASCHERWORDSMITH recorded the proceedings.

2. Welcome and Introductions / Meeting Agenda

Following a roundtable introduction, Sheldon McLeod reviewed the meeting agenda. No suggestions for additional items were put forward. D. Soprovich - his organization rejects some parts of the plan, while accepting others - could that information be provided to Tolko? D. Hunt - yes; the assessment of support stage of the meeting would be a good place to bring that forward.

3. Brief Overview of CSA and Progress to Date

Sheldon McLeod gave a brief overview of the committee's progress to date, and steps needed to complete the process. Individual input, mostly volunteer, averages around 100 hours each. The group will be asked to assemble annually to compare progress against targets set in the SFM Plan.

4. Review of Parking Lot Items

- a. Protected Areas Initiative – Sheldon McLeod has met with Dave Wotton, ADM of Manitoba Conservation, and proposed a meeting with McLeod/Wotton/Yvonne Beaubien (MC)/D. Soprovich on a mutually convenient date. Jeff Delaney commented that PAI and completion of forest inventory in the Saskatchewan River Forest Section would likely come together around the same time.

- b. Policy underpinnings of AAC – no response yet from Greg Carlson (MC).
Action item: S. McLeod and D. Hunt to follow up with Carlson. Outcome will be distributed to committee members. Any further follow-up to be determined.

Letter from committee to Manitoba Conservation – S. McLeod distributed the letter he had drafted summarizing committee deliberations and request for response. Several suggested changes were made. Letter to be fine-tuned over the course of the meeting, and final copy to be signed by all members present at meeting.

- c. Stumpage revenues staying in the north – to be reviewed following J. Delaney's presentation.

5. Minutes of March 2004 CSA Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Action item: D. Hunt to follow up on re-photocopying two background papers D. Soprovich had prepared for a previous meeting, and distribute these to committee members.

Minutes of the March 24-25, 2004 meeting were accepted as presented.

6. Manitoba Conservation Presentation on Forestry Stumpage Revenues

Jeff Delaney, Head of Forest Management with Manitoba Conservation, presented an overview of the provincial forestry stumpage system.

Discussion on:

- proportion of revenues collected that go directly back into forest management, and specifically to forest management on the FMLA they are collected from
- relationship between revenues collected, and government services provided, in the north
- opportunities for NGOs to review proposed changes in the Forest Act

7. Final Review of Indicators and Targets

D. Hunt distributed a Summary Table of Performance Framework for the Defined Forest Area covering CSA Criteria 1 through 6 (revision date May 13, 2004).

Criterion 1

All indicators and targets under Criterion 1 were reviewed, and discussion followed each. The following concerns were noted:

1. Un-numbered indicator (Composition of the forest as a percentage of area by forest type and class): D. Hunt indicated that because of past fire history patterns it would be extremely difficult for the Company to set any type of percentages for various forest type. Tolko will drop this indicator. D. Soprovich – concerns with dropping this indicator as they relate to biodiversity and age structure, and with not setting any target in this area. Discussion that indicator 1.1.1.1.1 might cover this off; also that the un-numbered indicator be retained in the SFM plan in some form, as it may be useful to revisit it once provincial forest inventory has been updated. This indicator has been added to the SFM plan under “Issues and Concerns Identified during Public Development Of CSA SFM Plan”
2. Indicator 1.1.1.2.1: D. Hunt outlined the reasons Tolko has added this indicator. Committee consensus that this indicator be added.

No further concerns were raised.

Criterion 2

All indicators and targets under Criterion 2 were reviewed, and discussion followed each. The following concerns were noted:

G. Pronteau - discussion on provincial fire response capability, and in particular how this relates to Thicket Portage. S. McLeod invited any committee members with concerns to work on drafting a section to include in the committee’s letter to Manitoba Conservation. D. Soprovich – some of the indicators and targets might fit better under Criterion 5. Concern that there is more emphasis in the plan on sustainable forest management activities rather than on forest conditions.

No further concerns were raised.

Criterion 3

All indicators and targets under Criterion 3 were reviewed, and discussion followed each. No concerns were raised.

Criterion 4

All indicators and targets under Criterion 4 were reviewed, and discussion followed each. The following concern was noted:

1. Indicator 4.1.1.1.1: Discussion on noting/tracking decommissioned roads in the Road Ledger. This is covered in 4.1.1.1.1(B).

Noted that fact sheets would be handed out to accompany each of the remaining indicators under Criteria 4 through 6, starting with Indicator 4.1.1.1.2.

No further concerns were raised.

Criterion 5

All indicators and targets under Criterion 5 were reviewed, and discussion followed each.

Indicator 5.1.3.1.1: D. Soprovich – concern that all concerns brought forward, in any context (i.e. not just public meetings), be documented.

Action item: Bullet point on Fact Sheet under Implementation regarding documentation of concerns to be amended to capture this. Action item: delete the words “subsequent follow-up” from the paragraph beginning “Documentation of concerns ...” under Monitoring & Controlling (p. 138 of draft SFM plan).

Indicator 5.1.4.1.1: Suggestion that this indicator also include landings.

Action item: Tolko to consider adding landings to this indicator.

Indicator 5.1.5.1.1: D. Hunt - Tolko has been getting mixed messages regarding Protected Areas and ASIs.

Action item: D. Hunt and D. Soprovich to jointly review this indicator.

Indicator 5.2.1.1.1: D. Hunt – sometimes contracts are signed but not acted on.

Action item: the wording in the Target and Monitoring & Measurement be amended to reference contracts “signed and acted on.”

General discussion relating to benefits of setting the bar as high as possible in defining targets; various constraints Tolko faces and how those have influenced setting targets to date.

Comment re Means of Achieving – perhaps a more specific word than “encouraging” should be used, to set parameters for local employment. D. Hunt – Tolko works with its contractors to encourage local employment but cannot force them to hire local people.

Comment re Means of Achieving Objective & Target – what does “development” mean? R. Gibbons – perhaps could pull something out of Tolko’s Aboriginal Policy that would be helpful here.

Suggestion re Monitoring & Measurement – document initiatives taken to encourage local contractors.

Action item – amend plan to incorporate this suggestion.

Indicator 5.2.2.1.1: comment – this focuses on company roads; what about public roads? D. Hunt - Tolko looked at what it could control from company perspective.

Action item: Tolko to review this with respect to including highways.

Indicator 5.3.2.1.1: suggestion made to add the following to Monitoring & Measurement: percentage of local active contracts.

No further concerns were raised.

Criterion 6

All indicators and targets under Criterion 6 were reviewed, and discussion followed each.

Indicator 6.1.1.1.1: change of wording required under Management Strategy on Fact Sheet.

Action item: change “The Company has developed and implemented an Aboriginal, treaty rights and cultural awareness workshop ...” to “The Company will develop and implement an Aboriginal, treaty rights and cultural awareness workshop ...”

Indicator 6.3.1.1.1: comment – the target could be set a little higher. The survey itself could be worded so as to define different aspects of satisfaction.

Indicator 6.4.1.1.1: comment – requirement for contractors to attend information sessions should be written into contracts. Suggestion – sessions be held spring and fall.

Indicator 6.4.1.1.2: discussion on placement of item presently under Monitoring & Measurement.

Action item: Move “Use EMS continual improvement process to identify opportunities for improvements to the EMS and/or SFM for the DFA” from Monitoring & Measuring to Means of Achieving Objective & Target.

Indicator 6.4.1.1.3: discussion on Means of Achieving Objective & Target.

Action item: Amend “Includes presentation of AOP, Forest Management Annual Report & SFM Report” to “Includes presentation of AOP, Forest Management Annual Report, SFM Report, Audit Report and Responses.”

Indicator 6.4.1.2.1: comment – need for some public recognition of commitment to time in developing SFM.

No further concerns were raised.

Appendix 6, The Table of Implications of Alternative Management Strategies for the DFA, was handed out to committee members.

D. Hunt briefly reviewed this table. Noted that Indicator 1.1.1.1.1 has been removed from the SFM.

D. Hunt – the draft SFM Plan will be going out to communities on Tolko’s license area at Annual Operating Plan open houses in June. Tolko hopes to have a final document to go forward with by the end of June 2004.

8. Review of Draft CSA-SFM Plan

S. McLeod provided an overview of the purpose and processes of an Environmental Management System (EMS) generally, as well as how an EMS relates to Tolko’s SFM Plan.

D. Hunt walked committee members through the entire draft CSA-SFM Plan. General discussion and questions; no concerns raised.

D. Hunt walked committee members through the appendices to the draft CSA-SFM Plan. Changes Tolko has made to various policies were noted. General discussion and questions; no concerns raised.

9. Support of Indicators and Targets

D. Hunt called for committee members to indicate their assessment of support or rejection of the draft CSA-SFM Plan, and to identify any outstanding issues. There was a general consensus the whole process had been sufficiently responsive and that organizations and people saw their involvement as worth while. There was broad agreement the process worked OK and should continue. The following points were raised:

D. Soprovich – T.R.E.E. will provide its own assessment to Tolko. Question – could this be made available to other committee members? D. Soprovich – yes. T.R.E.E. unable to endorse the Plan as a package. Some indicators and targets very good; others he has difficulty accepting, particularly relating to biological diversity and age structure. Preference that indicators should relate more to forest conditions than to SFM. Finds the approach taken with some indicators (i.e. deferral of issues) to be inappropriate. T.R.E.E. would prefer to endorse or reject on an indicator-by-indicator basis.

B. Huck – not satisfied with some of the target percentages that have been established (in which the target is lower than present performance). If goals can be updated annually, would find that acceptable.

T. Werstroh – could use some clearer definition of scope, of what to focus on managing with plan. Must keep focused on core scope of the SFM Plan. Would like to see more emphasis on “meeting or exceeding” targets. Ensure things don’t “drop off the table” during the audit process.

D. Hunt – Tolko has taken “crawl, walk, run” approach with this plan. Intends to raise the bar as things move forward, but difficult to know where to set the bar initially.

E. Johanson – the process in terms of getting people involved has been very open and welcoming. Suggested a point of appreciation for D. Hunt and S. McLeod in this regard.

10. Joining Tolko Manitoba FRAC and CSA Public Advisory Committee – Next Meeting

D. Hunt – September 22, 2004 will be the first meeting of the combined committee. Draft operating rules to be presented at that time. Also looking for expressions of interest from committee members to be auditors for CSA-SFM Plan.

The redrafted letter to the Minister of Conservation was presented for all committee members present to sign. S. McLeod – all members will receive a copy of any response received from the Minister, and will be notified of any commitment by the Minister to attend or send a representative to the September meeting.