

**Minutes of Meeting
Tolko FMLA Forest Resources Advisory Committee (FRAC)
December 1, 2004
Tolko Woodlands Office**

Attendance

Committee members – 16, Tolko - 3

1. Welcome and Introductions/Review of Agenda

Doug Hunt, FRAC Chairperson, welcomed everyone and committee members around the table introduced themselves. The agenda was reviewed and the following item added: proposed pilot project to address concerns associated with protected areas such as the proposed Manitoba Lowlands National Park.

Doug Hunt advised that Tolko's recently purchased Riverside Forest Products in B.C. and this new operation will be privatized.

2. Review of Minutes from September 22, 2004 FRAC Meeting

Follow-up on action items from September 22, 2004 meeting:

- Attendance of Manitoba Conservation ADM at a future FMLA-FRAC meeting: attendance of a representative from Manitoba Conservation is anticipated for the February 2005 meeting. Noted by a FRAC member that this person should be knowledgeable about trapping.
- Proposed pilot project to address concerns associated with the proposed Manitoba Lowlands National Park: to be dealt with later on agenda.
- Participation of FRAC members in CSA registration audit: to be dealt with later on agenda.

Noted by a FRAC member that now that Tolko is a larger company, there should be a comprehensive approach taken to forest education in the schools that addresses trees as more than simply a fibre resource. Ideas put forward included: coordination through UCN; a knowledgeable woman in Thompson who might be interested; involvement of Thompson Boys and Girls Club. Tolko is looking at getting a Junior Forest Ranger program started; Manitoba Conservation has formed a committee on this as well. Requested by a FRAC member that all committee members receive information on what's being planned so they can offer input.

3. Update on Road Closures

Doug Hunt advised that Tolko has closed 8 logging roads to date this year. DFO has accepted part of the Egg Lake Road closure for habitat compensation for the bridge crossing on the Ruddock road.

Q. Could Tolko sign a road over to a user with conditions?

A. Tolko does not have the authority to sign roads over. Interested users must talk to the provincial government.

Q. Will the Davidson Lake Road be closed?

A. Tolko is still using this road but will likely close it in the next year or so.

4. CSA SFM Audit October 2004

Doug Hunt reviewed the letter received from QMI confirming recent registration of Tolko's SFM plan to the CSA Z809:2002 standard. Several members of the CSA public advisory committee were interviewed for the audit.

In a reply dated November 22, 2004, Tolko responded to the comprehensive written assessment of indicators and targets in the SFM plan provided by T.R.E.E. in its letter dated August 11, 2004. Tolko's response has been provided to all FRAC members for further discussion, and will form part of the formalized annual review of the SFM plan.

Section 4 – Audit Findings – Point 5 of Positive Aspects of the Management System: Noted by a FRAC member that the standard of 5 stems/hectare referenced is meaningless without including dbh (diameter at breast height). Noted also that notation should be made of live versus dead trees.

Opportunities for Improvement – Recommendations: Doug Hunt noted that these are worth considering but are not mandatory.

Opportunities for Improvement – System Weaknesses: these must be addressed before the next audit.

Q. How were the field sites for the audit selected?

A. They were randomly selected.

Q. How were the contractors who were audited chosen?

A. Randomly chosen. All contractors will be audited over time. All contractors were told they might be audited.

Q. What's the process now? Does the SFM plan get submitted to CSA, or is it certified now that QMI is done?

A. The registration is complete now that the QMI registration audit is done. QMI reviewed the SFM plan in advance of the audit.

Richard Gibbons noted that the hard work done by the CSA Public Advisory Committee and by Doug Hunt on the plan had been recognized by QMI. Doug Hunt further recognized the work done by Doug Mount of GeoSpatial Consulting on contract to Tolko in producing the SFM plan.

5. Public Issues and Concerns Table

Doug Hunt briefly reviewed the Public Issues and Concerns Table that Tolko has compiled. Tolko will review and update this table monthly and attach it to the relevant indicator in its SFM plan.

6. Draft Ground Rules for Joined CSA/FRAC Committee

Doug Hunt distributed the draft operating ground rules for a restructured forest resources advisory committee that will formally merge CSA and public advisory functions.

Noted by a FRAC member that the FRAC is just one vehicle for raising forest awareness, and that it is not a substitute for community consultation.

Action item: that wording of the draft ground rules reflect that the FRAC does not replace community consultation. Doug Hunt to follow up.

Tolko has recently established a small FRAC in Sherridon. Tolko now has a main FMLA FRAC, a Snow Lake FRAC and a Sherridon FRAC.

Action item: announcements of all upcoming FRAC meetings will be noted in the minutes of all FRAC committee meetings.

The draft ground rules for the restructured main committee (as presented) were accepted. The merged committee is now known as the Forest Management License Area Forest Resources Advisory Committee (FMLA-FRAC).

7. Public Mailing List

Copies of Tolko's mailing list were distributed to FRAC members. Members were asked to strike off names that are no longer valid, add others that are appropriate and correct any errors.

8. Survey Questionnaire Forms

Tolko is distributing two follow-up surveys seeking evaluation of the CSA public advisory process. One is going to active CSA public advisory committee participants, and the other to those who expressed an interest in receiving information by mail only. Tolko requests that responses be returned to GeoSpatial by the end of December 2004.

9. Proposed Pilot Project to Address Concerns with Respect to Protected Areas

Dan Soprovich distributed a conceptual document outlining a proposed pilot project aimed at permitting broad public input into decisions on protected areas. The pilot project will focus on the Tom Lamb Area of Special Interest (ASI).

Discussion included the following:

- A resource person to provide information on the significance of the Tom Lamb ASI (could be local, with the province, or both - suggestions as to particular people were made)
- FRAC members to take the document as a starting point, and come to the next meeting with a plan/approach. Alternatively, input could be received before that time, with a completed plan to be presented at the next meeting
- Obtaining information on the rationale and background relative to ASIs
- First Nations should be involved in the up-front planning for this pilot project

Doug Hunt distributed copies of a November 18, 2004 Winnipeg Free Press article referencing an economic impact study of the proposed Manitoba Lowlands National Park. Potential impacts of the park on Tolko's operations were discussed (e.g. the AAC for the Tolko-Chemawawin partnership is projected to drop by more than half).

10. Presentation to Tolko from Ducks Unlimited

On behalf of Ducks Unlimited, Chris Smith presented a painting to Tolko in recognition of Tolko's sponsorship of DU fundraising initiatives.

11. Presentation on Northern Forest Diversification Centre

Dave Buck, manager of the Northern Forest Diversification Centre in The Pas, provided an overview of the NFDC including mandate, vision, training in local communities, marketing and business assistance for local entrepreneurs, product development and certification, and activities directed toward ensuring sustainability of the non-timber forest products industry. Buck emphasized the follow-up the NFDC provides to local entrepreneurs once they have established businesses; these efforts are aimed at breaking the "rusty sawmill cycle." Q&A and discussion followed.

Next FMLA-FRAC meeting: Thompson - February 23-24, 2005. Meeting to include bush tour. Meeting location in Thompson and time to be confirmed.