

Minutes of Meeting
Tolko Woodlands Forest Resources Advisory Committee (FRAC)
September 22, 2004
Tolko Woodlands Office

Attendance

See Attachment.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Doug Hunt, FRAC Chairperson, welcomed those in attendance and committee members around the table introduced themselves.

2. Update from Tolko Regional Planners and Silviculture Forester

Mike Paddock, Saskatchewan River Forest Section planner, reviewed the information package used at Tolko's 2004 Annual Operating Plan meetings in the spring.

Tolko has applied for, and Manitoba Conservation has approved, a shift in Tolko's operating year from January 1-December 31 to June 1-May 31. The timing of AOP public meetings may change to Jan/Feb of each year.

Question: The public questionnaire included in the AOP information package is different than one seen previously. Comments on how the AOP questionnaire relates to tracking and documentation as outlined in the SFM plan.

Comment: There is a need to get more information on what Tolko does into the schools.

Question: Is the information that comes out of public meetings forwarded to the appropriate government departments?

Question: What is the process for consultation with communities? Concerns that information is not getting to the grassroots level.

Considerable discussion followed on actions Tolko and the communities themselves could take to facilitate more involvement by communities and interest groups on the license area.

Mike Paddock reviewed the status of planning and harvest operations in the Saskatchewan River Forest Section, indicating where contractors and quota holders are/will be operating. .

Question: are areas that are accessible but marginal due to distance being included in the AAC?

Question: The special allocation being given to Moose Lake Logging – will that exceed the AAC?

Question: What is the optimum radius for harvesting economically?

Andrew Forward, Highrock Forest Section planner, reviewed the status of planning and harvest operations in that area. He indicated where contractors and quota holders are/will be operating, with particular reference to the 5-month transition period as Tolko moves toward its new operating year.

Discussion of the caribou strategy being developed for the Wedge Lake area, and how that is affecting/will affect contractors.

Question: the Chisel Lake area – how is that accessible now - is that a summer or winter haul area?

Question: what is the difference between a quota holder and a situation like Moose Lake Logging?

Question: can a quota holder go to a different area in northern Manitoba?

Discussion followed on how quotas are obtained, and compensation to quota holders in the event of forest fire.

Andrew Forward noted Tolko is developing a 5-month plan, and that some amendments are being made to the 2004 AOP and 13-year plan, to cover the transition period to the new operating year.

Discussion as to how shutdown of HBR's Lynn Lake line has affected Tolko.

Don Aikman, Nelson River Forest Section planner, reviewed the status of planning and harvest operations in that area, indicating where contractors and quota holders are/will be operating.

Question: re clarification as to where Cross Lake residents might be cutting.

Question: re 4-inch tops – what's the base diameter on that?

Question: what's been harvested, what's been moved, and what's still sitting?

Question: do the rail spurs belong to HBR?

Discussion re economics of moving wood by rail versus truck.

Question: how are ASIs in the Nelson River area affecting Tolko?

Discussion re effect of ASIs on Tolko's operations; also how communities can have their say on what's happening in ASIs near their communities.

Question: is that all-weather road to McLaren Creek going ahead?

Question: why doesn't DFO give Tolko some options respecting compensation?

Paul Chapman, Tolko's silviculture forester, outlined adjustments being made to forest renewal planning in light of the upcoming change to the operational year. He reviewed site prep procedures Tolko typically uses; depending on the species to be planted and existing soil conditions there is not always a need for site preparation, and Tolko is increasingly doing more direct planting. Areas to be site-prepped and planted in each forest section were detailed.

Question: what's the source of Tolko's trees that it plants?

Question: who's doing the planting in these areas?

Question: when you talk about competition, are you talking about green alder?

Question: when trees are snow cached, who's responsible for cleaning up the pallets and other debris?

Question: does Hadashville have enough seedlings – are you ever short? Any changes in price of seedlings? Is the cost of seedlings increasing?

Question: when will the first harvest of trees from Tolko's planting program be?

3. Update on Road Closure Procedures

Doug Hunt reviewed the list of roads that Tolko has closed in recent months. Tolko now has a working plan with respect to decommissioning in place with the provincial government. Tolko has committed to decommissioning 150 km of logging roads/networks in its SFM plan. Any new roads will have plans for eventual decommissioning built in. Hunt reviewed the timetable and procedures for decommissioning roads that has been established.

Question: what does "closed" mean?

Question: what about bridges and culverts?

Question: is the work that Tolko's been doing (closing roads, removing culverts, etc.) – is that what you've been offering for DFO compensation? Have you been able to apply any of these to compensation?

Question: after 2 years, a closed road would go off the official books – but the SFM plan says it would be tracked. How would this work?

Question: the Crossing Bay road – that's not going to be closed, is it?

Question: is there a list of road closures that's being given to the provincial government?

4. Review of Minutes of November 12, 2003 Tolko Woodlands FRAC meeting

The minutes were approved as presented.

5. Review of Minutes of May 26-27, 2004 Tolko Woodlands CSA Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Doug Hunt provided updates on each of the action items flagged in the minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

6. Draft Operating Rules for Joint FRAC-CSA Committee

Doug Hunt provided draft operating rules for a joint FRAC-CSA committee. Discussion was tabled to the committee's next meeting.

7. Review of Letter from Minister of Conservation

Committee members discussed the response to the committee's May 27, 2004 letter received from the provincial Minister of Conservation.

Dan Soprovich noted he, Peter Miller (T.R.E.E.), Sheldon McLeod, Yvonne Beaubien and Dave Wotton had met September 3, 2004 regarding the committee's concerns relating to the Protected Areas Initiative. A proposal for a pilot project to do community planning and gain local traditional ecological knowledge relating to ASIs was favourably received.

Discussion followed re identifying a suitable area for this pilot project. The Tom Lamb Wildlife Management Area was proposed. Further discussion re forming a steering committee for the pilot project, and pursuing funding.

Action item: Dan Soprovich to let Yvonne Beaubien know the FRAC is interested in moving forward with this pilot project. Dan to draft a proposal in more detail for FRAC members to review and respond to. He will also follow up on inviting a provincial government representative to the next FRAC meeting to speak on the importance of the Tom Lamb WMA from the government's perspective.

Action item: Any FRAC members interested in serving on the steering committee to let Dan know.

Action item: Doug Hunt to look into getting an ADM from Manitoba Conservation to speak to the May 27, 2004 letter at a future committee meeting.

8. Brief Overview of CSA SFM Plan

Doug Hunt noted that little in the final plan dated August 4, 2004 has changed from the draft distributed in the spring. Dan Soprovich has provided an extensive critique on behalf of T.R.E.E.; Tolko will go through this and provide a written response.

Doug Hunt reviewed key areas of interest on the Tolko Woodlands internal web site, particularly those that relate to the SFM plan (e.g. the web pages dealing with the company's EMS). Tolko has a computerized EMS that makes the process efficient not only for the company, but also for review by auditors.

9. October 2004 CSA Audit

Doug Hunt circulated a letter detailing the timetable of QMI's October audit of Tolko's Woodlands to committee members. All members were invited to attend any parts of this audit.

Action item: Doug Hunt to follow up with committee members to determine possible interest.

10. Review of Public Concerns Table

Doug Hunt noted that Tolko is presently developing a public concerns table to document issues raised by the public and track actions taken by the company. Tolko intends to bring the table to each FRAC meeting for review, and will be looking for feedback from the committee on this process.

A questionnaire is being developed for feedback on public participation during Tolko's CSA SFM public participation process. It will be designed for response both from

committee members that regularly attended meetings, as well as from those who received information by mail.

Upcoming meetings:

December 1, 2004 The Pas

And

February 23-24, 2005 (Thompson field trip)