

**Minutes of Meeting  
Tolko Forest Management Licence Area-  
Forest Resource Advisory Committee (FMLA-FRAC)  
Tolko Woodlands Office  
September 17, 2008**

**1. Welcome and Agenda**

Fiona Donald, Tolko's Inventory Forester, chaired the meeting and welcomed participants. Participants introduced themselves. Attendance is noted on Attachment 1.

Fiona Donald introduced guest, Murray Harvey who is to observe the function of the FRAC and provide comments.

Meeting agenda (Att. 2) was reviewed. Following changes to the agenda were made:

1. Order of business- moved FRAC ground rules to third item.
2. Addition to the agenda: statement from the Western Canada Wilderness Committee regarding Dickstone Road Environment Act submission.

A timekeeper format will be instituted for agenda items.

**2. Forest Sector Update**

Doug Hunt, Woodlands Manager, provided the Forest Sector Update:

American financial institutions going under.

Backlog of homes in US

Downturn of housing starts

Lots of inventory stockpiled

Tolko Sawmill running on 1 shift.

- Focus is on value-added lumber – “A” and “J” Grade adding ± \$50/k over two (or better) grade.
- Mill running 1 shift has required an increase in in-bush chipping.

Woodlands

- Logging has been down since April, 2008 and slowly starting up now.
- Contractors from Thompson are moving closer to The Pas in the short term.
- With poor economics and large inventories at spurs, full scale operations are delayed. It is estimated at present demand and rail performance, the spurs will not be emptied until September 2009.
- Thompson Woodlands office closed in May.
- There were two large fires this past summer, one close to the community of Sherridon and the Jungle Lake Spur and the other close to Moose Lake Logging stock piled inventory.
- Tolko is working towards CSA chain-of-custody certification. This certification will ensure that the customer is receiving certified wood. Standard requires labelling to specify percent of raw material from certified forests.
- Planted 6.4 million trees this season.

### **3. Minutes from June 4, 2008**

No errors or objections from minutes of last meeting.

No new business arising from the minutes – Moved by Lee Theriault and seconded by Andrew Forward – carried.

There will not be an election for Chairman as there are no other candidates.

Lost two members; one to a full time job and the other to illness. One of these members was the minute taker. **If you know of a person that would be interested in taking minutes, please contact Fiona.**

### **4. FRAC Ground Rules –Reviewed revisions**

Frequency – Add “opportunity” for field trip.

Motion: Moved by Lee Theriault and seconded by Andrew Forward to change the number of meetings to 4 per year.

Discussion:

- Should match indicator which is 3 times per year.
- Sufficient time now if committee is prepared with advance material.
- Motion to amended frequency of meetings to match indicator of at least 3 meetings per year. Motioned by Lee Theriault. Seconded by Andrew Forward Carried.
- Motion now amended to at least 3 meetings per year. Carried.

Section 5. Chairperson

- Changes were accepted – Motioned by Andrew Forward. Seconded by Dan Soprovich. Carried.
- Correct term from chairman to chairperson. Also grammatical error on second line.

New Section – Member Conduct- Bulleted points

Motion to accept by Lee Theriault. Seconded by Laurel Palosaari. Carried.

New Section regarding member removal:

Motion: Moved by Ron Black and seconded by Ron Spence to have power of sanction be vested with committee of interested members – failed.

Motion: Moved by Laurel and Seconded by Ron Black - Statement be removed – carried.

Motion: That the committee have training on committee member responsibilities. Moved by Lee Theriault and seconded by Laurel Palosaari – carried.

### **Action Item: Fiona to set up training on committee member responsibilities**

Accept change to process – Ron Black and Andrew (add review every 2 years).

Attachment # 3- Revised FRAC Ground Rules with edits as per above discussion

## **5. FRAC Survey Response regarding Dickstone Road**

Attachment #4

Has there been any response from the government. Nothing yet.  
23 responses – 13 in favour, 10 against and 1 with only comments.  
Reviewed comments of both in favour and against

### **Suggestion that FRAC designs a process to evaluate environmental impact on all resource uses.**

Review CSA Standard and Tolko SFM Plan and how FRAC participates.  
Motion to extend discussion by Ron Black and seconded by Andrew Forward.  
FRAC is not a political body – cannot demand change in policy.  
Dan Soprovich presented statement (Attachment #5) on behalf of Western Canada Wilderness Committee as submitted by Eric Reder. Mr Reder has requested caribou data germane to Dickstone Road area from MC – He has not received any data to date.

Discussion on Dickstone Review:

- FRAC invited to comment on Dickstone too late.
- Why is FRAC just hearing about it now?
- Access management (gate) potentially to be a troublesome issue.
- Protection of resources is not achieved with a gate.
- Lee and Ron to extend the time:
- Lee objected to road: (1) negative impact to caribou; (2) too much activity in park.
- Laurel – were trappers consulted with survey?  
Shouldn't trappers be consulted in the process, not informed after the proposal?

**Action Item: Fiona to follow-up on what consultation with trappers has taken place regarding the Dickstone Road and include in minutes.**

## **6. Review of Agenda**

It was noted that there would not be enough time to cover all agenda items. The committee agreed to review the agenda.

Discussion:

Public Concerns Tables- no issues; therefore, item can be dropped from agenda

Proposed Changes to indicators could be deferred to next meeting

It was suggested that the review of the Annual Report be deferred. It was noted that this could result in an Opportunity for Improvement (OFI) or a system weakness in the upcoming audits because in a previous audit suggestions were made “in order to publish the annual report earlier in the year”.

Suggest that “Lessons Learned” be added as an agenda item

Suggested Revised Agenda:

12:00-12:15- Lunch

12:15- 1:00 Annual Report Review

1:00-1:15 First Nation Consultation presentation  
1:15-2:45 Caribou presentation  
2:45-2:55 Break  
2:55 Lessons Learned

Motion: Moved by Andrew Forward and Seconded by Ron Black accept revised agenda.  
Carried

## **7. 2007 Annual SFM Report**

Covered executive summary

Reports on indicators 1.1.1.1.1 and 3.1.1.1.1 (A) are incomplete because of lack of supplementary photography. Expected to have data processed and updated reports in about a month.

Also incomplete is the report review section until FRAC and staff review is completed.

**Action Item: Fiona will send out only the pages (approximately 12) that will be changed when updated information is available.**

Two new appendices:

Appendix II – Summary of Environmental Indices 2007.

Appendix III – Coarse Woody Debris Survey results.

- Discussion on statistics and the amount of variability in results suggest more sampling required

Comment: Dan Soprovich regarding indicator for biological diversity. For the past few years the annual report has described the amount of disturbance patterns. The indicator (or standard?) calls for set of targets forest types and age classes. What about reporting on this?

Motion: Moved by Troy Werstroh and Seconded by Ron Black to defer additional discussion on Annual Report until after presentations.

## **8. First Nation Consultation**

Bruce Holmes presented. Hard copy attached. Attachment #6

## **9. Caribou Presentation**

Manitoba Conservation by Kent Whaley and Vicki Trim. See attachment # 7

Question: Dan Soprovich re amount of old growth requirements in biological diversity. Set requirements for old growth retention in CSA standard.

Answer: Troy Werstroh – Eventually caribou plans will mandate a minimum percentage of old wood to be retained.

Hunting pressure prior to listing of caribou?

**Action Item: Dan Soprovich to provide some harvest information for caribou hunting**

Motion: Fiona Donald to highlight in this meeting minutes to FRAC members to review Annual Plan and return comments to Chairperson by mid-October.

**Action Item: FRAC members to review Annual Plan and return comments to Chairperson by October 16th.**

**Action Items: Follow-up Mary Head regarding her objections to the format of the meeting. Doug Hunt and Ron Spence.**

There are a number of new members that were not involved in the development of the Tolko SFM Plan. Motion (who?) to hold an orientation session for the CSA standard and the Tolko SFM plan. Seconded ?. Carried

**Action Item: Fiona to organize an introductory to the CSA standard (preferable from a member of the standard committee) and Tolko's SFM plan.**

Thereafter, still need a process to orient new members.

**10. Observation on Committee functioning:**

- Purpose of committee seems clear from ground rules in that it is a forum to express opinions that will be brought forth to the company to consider.
- Need clarification on process

**Adjourned at 17:00**

**11. Follow-up from Action Items**

- Consultation on Dickstone Road Proposal
  - Public consultation has occurred as follows
    - Applied for an amendment to FMP May 2007
    - Upgraded to an Environment License amendment. Application for Environment License amendment March 2008.
    - Public open house meetings held in Snow Lake, Flin Flon, Cranberry Portage and Sherridon (January/February 2007 and 2008);
    - Forest Management License (FML) Area Forest Resource Advisory Committee (FRAC) Meetings held on March 14, 2007, June 6, 2007 and September 26, 2007;
    - Snow Lake FRAC Meeting held on March 29, 2007;
    - Use of a mail-out information circular provided to all households via mailbox delivery in the Town of Snow Lake (April 2007) and:

- Use of an annual newsletter (Woodworks) to the FRAC and all interested parties on the Tolko mailing list which included a description of the proposed Tolko FMP amendment for the Loonhead Lake/Wheadon River Operating Area (which has subsequently been approved) and the Dickstone South Road and crossing of the Grass River (September 2007)
- Trappers were notified about the public meetings

- Harvest Statistics for caribou- Dan Soprovich

Harvest estimate data for caribou, as promised. I only have the one year's data at my disposal but will try to get additional years. This is for the 1989/90 big game season (Soprovich. 1990. Big game hunter questionnaire survey, 1989/90. Manuscript Report No. 90-17).

All caribou seasons were fall of 1989. For GHA 7 and 7A (K/N and R/Y "populations", maybe other populations), there were 25 tags, and an estimated harvest of 2 caribou. For GHA 2A (K/N), there were 10 tags and an estimated harvest of 1. For GHA 4 (K/N), there were 10 tags and an estimated harvest of 3. Four of the six caribou were estimated to be adult females per these data. This does not include any crippling loss.

I believe that there were winter seasons before that ... will check and try to get the various data.

**12. Western Canada Wilderness Committee- News Release**

- Attachment # 8 is the news release by Western Canada Wilderness Committee that was issued on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**13. Report on Committee Functioning**

Attachment # 9 is the report from Murray Harvey regarding the functioning of the FRAC.