

**Summary of Meeting  
Tolko Forest Management Licence Area  
Forest Resource Advisory Committee (FMLA-FRAC)  
Tolko Woodlands Office  
March 19, 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.

Meeting agenda (Att. 2) was reviewed. No additional items were suggested.

**2. Summary of December 12, 2007 FMLA-FRAC Meeting**

Summary as noted above was circulated (Att. 3) and reviewed. Discussion and concerns during review touched on a range of topics including the following:

- The process to change indicators in Tolko's CSA Sustainable Forest Management Plan
- The wording of Item 10 on the agenda for the March 19, 2008 FMLA-FRAC meeting
- FMLA-FRAC terms of reference
- Process to deal with requests from the public for Tolko maps
- How issues flagged during 2008 external audit of Tolko's CSA Sustainable Forest Management Plan are followed up
- Participation in 2007 external audit of Tolko's CSA Sustainable Forest Management Plan
- Joint resource management agreement between Province and OCN
- Page 4 of December 12, 2007 Summary, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph: concern that information as presented is inaccurate
- Discussion on the difference between "transcripts" and "minutes" of a meeting

**ACTION ITEM: Tolko to put discussion of Sustainable Forest Management Plan indicators that relate to public consultation on the agenda for the next FMLA-FRAC meeting.**

**ACTION ITEM: Tolko to amend Item 10 of the agenda for the March 19, 2008 FMLA-FRAC meeting that it will be mailing out following that meeting to read: "Over-harvesting in Tolko's Harvest Areas."**

**ACTION ITEM: Tolko to put FMLA-FRAC terms of reference on the agenda for the next FMLA-FRAC meeting.**

**ACTION ITEM: Tolko and OCN to work together to include Manitoba-OCN Co-Resource Management Areas on its planning maps.**

**ACTION ITEM: Tolko to strike 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph on page 4 of December 12, 2007 Summary.**

### **3. Forest Sector Update**

Fiona Donald stated that the high Canadian dollar, high fuel prices and slow U.S. housing market continue to negatively impact Tolko's operations in The Pas. On the positive side, sales of products from Tolko's kraft paper mill remain strong and Tolko has been able to build up a robust log inventory in its wood yard.

Tolko shut down its sawmill from January 28 through February 25, 2008 and plans an indefinite shift reduction to one shift per day at the sawmill starting the end of March, 2008.

Q&A took place during the update. Discussion touched on a range of topics including:

- How money returned to the Canadian government following resolution of the Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Agreement has been used locally
- Tolko's current harvest operation on its mill site
- Discussion on why inventory at its highest in 5 years.
- The ways in which Tolko currently communicates information about its operations to various public groups including school classes, and suggestions for improvement
- Discussion on money returned to the Canadian government following resolution of the Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Agreement has been used locally.

**ACTION ITEM: Will Trowell to provide Tolko with information and link to Balancing Act web site.**

**ACTION ITEM: Tolko to provide an update on the training proposal**

### **4. Public Issues and Concerns Table December 2007- February 2008**

Copies of Tolko's Public Issues and Concerns Table December 2007 to February 2008 were circulated (Att. 4).

General Q&A took place, focusing on the importance and benefits to Tolko of increasing the amount of public education it does concerning its operations.

### **5. 2008-2009 Proposed Annual Operating Plan**

Mike Paddock, Tolko's Area Planner for the Saskatchewan River and Highrock Forest Sections, provided an overview of Tolko's harvest plans for 2008-09 plus a look ahead for 2009 through 2013, for the Nelson River, Saskatchewan River and Highrock Forest Sections.

Paddock first referred to a large wall map of the Nelson River Forest Section. He pointed out what various colours on the map mean (e.g. green = harvest blocks proposed for 2008-09; light grey = previous 7 years of harvest). He indicated where contractors have been operating over the past year, and where Tolko proposes to have them operating in 2008-09. He also showed where Tolko plans to build or extend roads, and what type each would be (e.g. winter, ice, all-weather), and where Tolko proposes closing roads it does not use for its operations.

Paddock noted Tolko's planning year runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to May 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Tolko must submit each year's proposed AOP to Manitoba Conservation by March 1<sup>st</sup> for review and approval, and address any issues Manitoba Conservation raises.

Paddock then referred to a large wall map of the Highrock Forest Section. He showed where Forest Management Unit (FMU) boundaries had recently been realigned. He indicated where contractors and quota holders have been operating over the past year, and where Tolko proposes to have contractors and quota holders operate in 2008-09. He also showed where Tolko plans to build or extend roads, and what type each would be (e.g. winter, ice, all-weather), and where Tolko proposes closing roads it does not use for its operations.

Tolko has filed a proposal with Manitoba Conservation to extend the Dickstone Road, as well as build a new road through the open zone and part of the closed zone of Grass River Provincial Park plus a new bridge across the Grass River. This would allow Tolko to access significant volumes of wood in the File River area. Tolko has filed an application with Manitoba Conservation to amend the company's 13-Year Forest Management Plan to enable it to move forward on this project. This application is currently being considered by Manitoba Conservation.

Last, Paddock referred to a large wall map of the Saskatchewan River Forest Section. He indicated where contractors and quota holders have been operating over the past year, and where Tolko proposes to have contractors and quota holders operate in 2008-09. He also showed where Tolko plans to build or extend roads, and what type each would be (e.g. winter, ice, all-weather), and where Tolko proposes closing roads it does not use for its operations. Tolko is working with the province to realign some FMU boundaries as part of an updated forest inventory for the Saskatchewan River Forest Section the province is currently undertaking.

Paddock also presented an overview of Tolko's forest renewal plans for 2008-09 prepared by Paul Chapman, Tolko's Silviculture Forester. Tolko planted 5.6 million seedlings in 2007, and plans to plant 6.5 million seedlings in 2008. This includes a pilot project of approximately 600,000 seedlings in late August-early September to avoid the extreme heat usually experienced during the traditional tree plant season. Tolko will also aerial seed or plant two areas that burned in forest fires last year. Site preparation and scarification which did not occur in 2007 due to contractor issues is scheduled to go ahead in 2008. Due to current financial constraints imposed by the extremely poor lumber market, Tolko will not proceed with silviculture surveys in 2008, and will plan to do these surveys in 2009 once market conditions have improved.

Q&A during Paddock's presentation touched on a range of topics and concerns including:

- FMU boundary realignment and how that relates to Tolko's Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)
- Tolko's responsibilities to plan harvest areas and volumes for quota holders
- Access for quota holders on Chisel Lake Road
- The proposed bridge over the Grass River
- The Camp Whitney and Eight-Chain Bay areas
- Means by which a community can prevent Tolko from harvesting there, and Tolko's current processes and responses to community concerns
- OCN remains concerned with Tolko's proposal to harvest near Landry Lake
- Public access to Tolko's roads, and associated liability issues for Tolko

- How delaying Silviculture surveys by one year might affect forest health as well as Tolko's credibility and accreditation under CSA. The Silviculture surveys consist of regeneration surveys, which usually occur at 7 years after harvest, and the free-to-grow surveys which usually occur at 14 years after harvest.

## **6. Forintek Presentation**

Kurt Chesley, a representative of Forintek (a private, non-profit Canadian company that helps small companies develop value-added products from wood), gave a presentation about Forintek's national program structure. Forintek, Feric (which focuses on harvest processes and technologies) and Paprican (pulp and paper technologies) have merged in the last year to form FP Innovations. Each is now a division under FP Innovations, but continues to operate under its own corporate name. Presentation and hand-outs are included as Attachment 5.

Mary Robinson, local industry advisor for Forintek, followed with a short presentation on how she works with small sawmills and secondary forest products companies in northern Manitoba to help them with market and production issues.

General Q&A took place during the presentations. For more information, contact Kurt Chesley at address below or Mary Robinson (see information below). Web site:

<http://www.fpinnovations.ca/>

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## **7. Caribou Management – Ron Black**

A planned presentation by FMLA-FRAC member Ron Black about caribou management on Tolko's Forest Management License Area was deferred to the next FMLA-FRAC meeting. Black had originally asked to make the presentation stemming from his participation in the external audit of Tolko's Sustainable Forest Management Plan in the fall of 2007.

Black asked to defer his presentation because he wishes to first consider information about caribou management recently released by the provincial government.

**ACTION ITEM: Tolko to invite a representative of the provincial government to make a presentation about its caribou management strategies at the next FMLA-FRAC meeting, at which time Black is invited to also give his presentation.**

A handout was circulated with a link to the provincial government web site containing the most recent information on its caribou management strategy (Att. 6). In addition, copies of 'Woodland Caribou and Sustainable Forest Management', a booklet published by the Forest Products Association of Canada, were circulated (Att. 7).

Discussion also touched on how Tembec relates to stakeholders on its Forest Management Licence Area.

**ACTION ITEM: Tolko to invite a representative from Tembec to make a presentation on its relationships with external stakeholders at a future FMLA-FRAC meeting.**

## **8. Over-harvesting on Tolko's Harvest Areas**

Lee Theriault, a citizen of Wanless, gave a presentation outlining his concerns about Tolko's harvesting practices on its Forest Management License Area with particular reference to the Wanless area. Theriault stated that Tolko has seriously over-logged the Wanless area over a period of many years.

Theriault first referred to a map provided by Tolko showing a complete history of logging in the Wanless area, including dates of harvest. He stressed that the complete dynamics of development of the Wanless area (including not only Tolko activity but also logging on private lands, TLE selections, mining exploration activity, etc.) must be kept in mind.

Theriault then referred to a second map of the same area provided by Tolko showing areas Tolko proposes logging over the next few years, including contingency blocks Tolko has identified. Theriault stated that on general principle he is not against Tolko logging as he recognizes that Tolko provides many jobs; he is, however, against the amount of logging Tolko has carried out in the Wanless area in the past and what it proposes for the future. Theriault stated that the maps made it obvious that the Wanless area has been over-logged, and also expressed concerns that harvesting is taking place too quickly for caribou in the region to find winter food.

Theriault requested that the FMLA-FRAC take a serious look at Tolko's operations in the Wanless area. He also requested that Tolko stay entirely out of the Wanless area.

General Q&A during Theriault's presentation raised the issue that the maps presented by Theriault did not show areas that had been planted, or re-growth following harvest. Theriault said he did not disagree that forest renewal had been done, but the Wanless area had been logged too quickly and too much had been taken out. It was asked if there was scientific evidence for this statement and that the statement that the caribou presence has been reduced.

No recommendation was drawn by the committee. It was agreed that the field trip would focus on the Sturgeon Landing Road so that the committee could see some of the area in question.

## **9. Proposed Changes to Tolko SFM Plan Indicators**

Due to shortage of time, only changes to indicators distributed during the December 12, 2007 were discussed. Review of new proposed changes to other indicators was deferred to next meeting.

Copies of a change Tolko proposes making to Indicator 2.1.1.1.1 of its Sustainable Forest Management Plan (Att. 8) were circulated for discussion.

Fiona Donald first briefly reviewed the purpose of Tolko's Sustainable Forest Management Plan, and how it was developed.

Tolko's proposed changes to Indicator 2.1.1.1.1 were then reviewed. Following discussion, further changes were proposed.

**ACTION ITEM: Tolko to revise Indicator 2.1.1.1.1 to incorporate the FMLA-FRAC's suggested changes, and bring the revised document forward for consideration at the next FMLA-FRAC meeting.**

Copies of a change Tolko proposes making to Indicator 3.1.1.1.5 of its Sustainable Forest Management Plan (Att. 9) were circulated for discussion. Following discussion, the proposed change was accepted by all FMLA-FRAC members in attendance.

## **10. 2008 FMLA-FRAC Meeting Schedule**

The following upcoming FMLA-FRAC meetings were reviewed:

**June 4, 2008** – field trip (to be determined), plus possible presentation on Thompson climate change research project

**September 17, 2008** – Annual Report on Tolko's Sustainable Forest Management Plan, plus possible presentation from DUC Wetland 101 and Mapping Project

**December 3, 2008** – Results From 2008 External Audit of Tolko's Sustainable Forest Management Plan, plus possible presentation from FERIC regarding its operations and current projects in western Canada

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CONFIRMATION:** Regarding the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, a field trip to Sturgeon Lake Landing Road to view various stages of forest renewal following harvesting is now planned.

In addition, the matter of public meetings held this year on Tolko's proposed 2008-09 Annual Operating Plan was raised. Specifically, questions were raised as to why Tolko did not hold meetings in Pukatawagan or Cormorant this year.

Mike Paddock answered that regarding Pukatawagan, no operations are planned in the Pukatawagan area in 2008-09. Regarding Cormorant, Tolko did not get a response from Cormorant to its invitation for Cormorant to participate in a public meeting. Discussion then turned to ways to invite and involve communities and band councils in the annual planning process and regular FMLA-FRAC meetings. It was noted that positions of authority in communities, as well as those holding such positions, can change frequently.

**ACTION ITEM: Tolko to send out a blanket notice to all mayors and councils, resource management boards and all chiefs and councils, explaining the purpose of the FMLA- FRAC and inviting them to upcoming FMLA-FRAC meetings.**