

Sustainable Forest Management Committee
"Ensuring the CSA Standard"

SFM Committee Meeting

January 19, 2012

Tolko Woodlands Meeting Room

A. Introduction:

1. Welcome

Meeting convened at the Tolko offices The Pas 9:00 a.m.

Welcoming remarks by Ron Black and attendance was noted.

Tolko acknowledged the work that Ron Black had done in attempting to engage Nelson House with a local meeting.

Noted that Tolko had attempted to set up a call-in with one remote member and had e-mailed the needed files to him, a last minute conflict resulted in the member not being available.

2. Agenda Summary

Agenda was reviewed and any deletions or additions were invited:

- Discussion re: coarse woody debris was added by request of Richard Gibbons

Discussion followed including:

- Question if any surveys completed for comparison use
- Paul Chapman noted undertaking in Minutes, June, 2011, to survey 30 blocks during 3 years for comparison
- Paul noted also that a final report was completed about a year ago
- In new blocks full tree skidding is being done; therefore survey samples will be available. Richard, requested undertaking by Tolko to obtain and provide future comparison information.

B. General Business:

1. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

It was noted the previous meeting was the Hobbit Road Field trip, the minutes of which are a report. Those that attended were very pleased with the field trip.

Richard noted use of GPS units and inquired about sub-meter accuracy

Minutes of meeting June 23, 2011 were presented for review and approval

- Status of the court case re: Dickstone Road was requested. It was noted that the parties continue waiting for a decision of the court.

Motion by John Marnock to approve the minutes was approved

2. Business Arising from Minutes: No business arising

C. New Business:

1. Election of Chairperson: Ron Black was elected for a one year term

2. Public Concerns Report:

- June 23, 2011 meeting: concerns of Trapper about harvesting in the Vamp Lake and Duval Road area noted. Harvesting to continue with care taken about addressing the Trapper's concerns
- July: no concerns
- August: telephone inquiry from Wanless about the Dickstone Road
- September : telephone call from Moose Lake area Trapper with concerns about proposed harvesting. Was invited to attend the office and review options to mitigate concerns

- October: External independent asked First nations about relationship with Tolko. Cross Lake replied that Tolko had not responded to a request for information. However staff was able to locate a copy of correspondence indicating a reply was sent.
 - November: Meeting with OCN re: Landry Lake family concerns re: logging. Meeting held at the OCN offices. Logging suspended until issues resolved; meanwhile Tolko has a supply of harvested wood to be removed from the area.
 - Moose Lake, a similar situation but logging has not stopped.
 - December: no issues
- D. Tolko Update:
- Industry Report:
- Dickstone Road: Doug Hunt reported that progress to develop the road is being delayed by the present court action between environmental group and Provincial government in which the issue appears to be the definition of “logging”. The road is 17 km in length 7km of which has been cleared. Sub-grade work has stopped except for some approved in September and no further clearing can occur pending the court decision.
 - Chisel Lake Mine Road: Companies or persons involved in mine site reclamation at Elbow Lake have requested use of the road for access to the work with heavy machinery. It was noted the road is not suitable for heavy machinery traffic.
 - Kraft Mill: at present the Mill is operating satisfactorily. There was some financial challenge some months ago, believed to have been caused by unrest in the Middle East and the European debt situation.
 - Lumber: Doug Hunt noted some increased activity in the lumber industry, for e.g. mill at Carrot River has been started again. Also the mill at Prince Albert is scheduled for production next year. This will stress wood supply for Tolko, the result being a requirement to log more on the licence area. The immediate problem for the whole industry is the lack of contractors and/or truck drivers and raiding is common.
 - Hog: Doug referred to the previous supply of hog fuel by the sawmill and use of Bunker C and waste oil. Bunker C is in short supply and the situation is that without fuel the Kraft Mill would close. The possibility of harvesting hardwood for fuel is being considered. Tolko does not have a licence to harvest hardwood; so it would need to purchase the wood supply. Also use of hardwood is considered the best environmental and economic fuel supply in the circumstances.
 - The real economic issue: supply of labour and material
 - Lumber mill: mothballed and equipment still there, and no intention to dispose of the equipment
 - LP operating at half capacity with one result being difficulty to retain trades people
- E. Hobbit Road Field trip:
- Report of the field trip was reviewed
- F. 2010 annual SFM report review:
- The executive summary report was reviewed by Paul Chapman
 - The result was a satisfactory audit; the only noted concern being industrial comparisons which has been placed in abeyance because no comparison is available.
- G. Audit (2011) report:
- Review of the audit and field trips was presented by Paul Chapman and Robert Hanson
 - The audit was successful: no non-conformances, four areas of concern were noted, and five issues as opportunities for improvement were noted.
 - Robert provided an informative and interesting explanation of a spilled lubricant cleaning procedure he and the auditor witnessed during their field trip.
- H. SFM performance indicator report on harvest patch targets:
- Analysis was completed by Maskwa Ecological Consulting Inc.
 - Determined premature to implement a harvest patch target because the Province is still determining the targets and landscape level considerations.
 - Recommended that advice of SFMC be obtained

- Desired a provincial landscape management guideline
- Note recommendation (7) directed to SFM
- Forest Practices Committee in infancy in work to make recommendations to the Province e.g. Moose Lake area, experiment with harvest management area for landscape management
- Doug Hunt noted Tolko is already in landscape management
- Forest Practices Committee (Gov't, Industry, reps) Chairman/Member: Phil Keenan. CSA, SFM Performance Indicator re: Harvest Patch Target Assessment

I. Indicator and required subject discussion:

- Re: Element 3.1, Objective 3.1.2x, Indicator 3.1.2xx (Coarse Woody Debris) e.g. starting 2012, for 3 years annually coarse woody debris survey on ten blocks; if 10 blocks cannot be surveyed in a year the difference to be made up with the 3 years.
- Richard Gibbons inquired if the proposed sampling will be adequate. The existing wording was reviewed. Tolko is open to suggested wording improvement. Richard requested wording related to "timber profiling". The wording was changed as follows: "particularly where timber profiles...".
- The research project will conclude with a new target and indicator identified by December 31, 2015.

J. Annual Operating Plan

- Mike Paddock, using maps, presented the proposed 2012 operating plan
- By agreement with MC we are showing some blocks in ASI as a way to try to force resolution of boundaries
- Upcoming road decommissioning reviewed
- Paul Chapman presented the proposed 2012 silviculture plan.
- Troy Westroh, commented also about the provincial silviculture plan he manages.

K. Program:

- During lunch, an interesting audio presentation by Pam Schwann, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Mining Association, addressed the Association's concern about Canada's Boreal Caribou Forest Recovery Strategy.
- Suggested flaws with the strategy include:
 - The federal jurisdiction is considering 8 areas but the province is identifying 2 areas; therefore there is a conflict of understanding between jurisdictions.
 - The province is developing its own plan based upon a 35% disturbance level
 - Environmental Canada is using forest fire areas for disturbance areas also thus increasing the disturbance factor by 49%-60%. In such an area to mines, roads, power lines, or any kind of development would be permitted.
 - Environment Canada, believes it has ultimate authority
 - Schwann, urges: lobby MPs and government
 - Another noted concern is federal government use of Quebec and Ontario reference models, which have different population and land use characteristics.

L. Future Meetings:

- Calendar of SFMC meetings 2010 was agreed as: April 26, September 6, and November 29, Tolko Offices, The Pas beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- A field trip is to be planned.

Note: April 26th date was later rescheduled to Thursday, May 3/12

Adjournment: 3:00 p.m.

Attendance		
Paul Chapman	Troy Werstroh	Bob Huck
John Marnock	Richard Gibbons	Robert Hanson
Ron Black		