

## Sherridon FRAC Meeting Minutes

Location: Sherridon/Cold Lake Town Council Office  
Date: November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Time: A little past 7:00 PM

1. Meeting opened with a review of the proposed agenda for the meeting. Items 3 and 4 were swapped to allow for late attendees to take part in the discussion surrounding the cutblocks at Bess Lake.
2. **Reviewed minutes from the previous FRAC meeting** on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004. No additions or changes were suggested at this time. It was noted that if anyone found the minutes to be lacking a particular detail, or would like something changed they can contact Andrew Forward and the minutes would be amended.
3. **Discussed Post and Rail mill operations.** Andrew Forward spoke with Duncan Waugh in The Pas about his operation. Duncan indicated that setup and installation of his (and most post and rail mills of significant output) require a significant capital investment (\$150,000 - \$250,000). Market prices at the current time are stable, however, demand has almost completely dropped off in the wake of the BSE (Mad Cow) scare and closed US borders. He indicated if Sherridon is interested he would sell his post and rail operation to them. Tolko indicated a potential fibre supply exists from FMU 63 as it is operated at a Flexible Utilization (4 inch top) standard. This fibre from 4 inches and down is post and rail material. Troy Werstroh mentioned that Forintek, a group with expertise in helping small business setup in the wood processing industry, will be having an employee stationed in The Pas soon. This person would be an excellent source for information and advice for Sherridon. Andrew Forward is to gather more info regarding Forintek and Post and Rail operations for the next meeting. Questions of volume required, numbers of people employed, and Crown dues requirements (stumpage) could not be answered with certainty. It was estimated that 20,000 to 30,000 cubic meters of roundwood would be more than enough to sustain a single line mill. Number of employees was estimated at three or four. Crown Dues Fees (stumpage) could probably be negotiated with Manitoba Conservation.
4. **Discuss Bess Lake amendment.** At the outset of discussion on this topic, Andrew Forward indicated that as the picture of how the winter season is unfolding becomes more clear, Tolko doesn't expect all the blocks identified in the Bess Lake operating area would be cut this winter should harvesting proceed. As indicated at the end of the previous meeting and in the letter of invitation to this meeting, it was hoped that the group could specifically identify concerns, so that discussion on how their concerns could be alleviated could take place.

Discussion followed surrounding widths of buffers that would be applied on Kississing and Bartlett lakes, access to blocks, importance to wildlife and caribou, and meeting with the registered and/or active trapper of the area.

Grave concern was expressed regarding the accountability of the company and its approach towards mitigating the community's concerns in the past. Specifically, the area known as Collin's Point which was harvested around 1996. The community was told the cutblocks would not be seen from the lake, that access onto the island would be dog-legged so as to mitigate line-of-sight into the cutblocks, and that the camp would not be seen. While operations were underway, the camp was close to the shoreline. Upon completion of the harvest, the cuts could be seen from the lake and the access road had not been dog-legged. Local lodges had to boat a long way to bypass these areas so that customers did not see them. An issue with trust was identified.

Andrew Forward identified that given Tolko's current commitment to certification, and the requirement to adhere to work permit criteria issued by the government, these kinds of issues rarely happen anymore. These things ensure that what Tolko commits in a work permit, is what happens on the ground.

Forward then indicated that in terms of targets and priorities, BS-5 (west side of Sherridon Road), BS-1 and 2 (east side of Sherridon road) would be how the proposed cuts would be sequenced.

It was pointed out by the group that all community requests, such as charity type projects such as breakfasts for kids, etc, have been answered by a letter indicating Tolko doesn't support those types of ventures. The only exception has been the latest proposal, requesting aid in repair of the bridge in town, which is used by heavy trucks moving contractor's equipment. Tolko offered to pay half the repair bill, however it would be Sherridon's responsibility to fix the bridge. Having said that, why should Sherridon entertain the idea of helping Tolko out with harvesting Bess Lake? A lot of townspeople are adamantly opposed to the harvest. The lodges in town provide more support and income to the community than Tolko ever has, and therefore, why should the town allow Tolko to threaten the very industry it depends on? There are undercurrents of potential militant type actions such as spikes in trees, etc. being heard and expressed within the community. In particular, Sherridon is firm on the stand that the west side of the Sherridon road (BS-5) will not be harvested.

Forward pointed out that while Tolko is not interested in harvesting timber in Bess Lake at the expense of it's relationship with the community, the area in question is Crown Land within our FML boundaries.

The group pointed out that this area is also within the community's five mile "Sphere of Influence", and as such they will fight any proposed harvest in block BS-5.

It was agreed that a stalemate had been reached on block BS-5. Forward indicated that excluding the ability to see the proposed cut from the air, the concerns being expressed

could all be mitigated. He indicated the same issues of mistrust toward the company existed in Snow Lake and through the FRAC in Snow Lake we were able to educate and rebuild some levels of trust there.

The group proceeded to review BS-1 and BS-2. It was suggested that the buffer along the drain which feeds Molly lake (Sherridon's water supply) could be moved back to a minimum of 100 m and the top of the ridge along that drain where 100m was not sufficient to reach that point.

It was pointed out that this area should be reviewed with the active trapper. Jim Dudgeon and Brad Watchorn were present at the original meeting and were able to review the proposed areas of harvest.

A general consensus was reached that there would be no resolve to accept harvest in these areas at this point.

Another meeting was proposed for December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004 to further discuss the issues. That date will be confirmed in a few days to allow everyone to review their schedules.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.