

**Summary of Public Meeting
Tolko Industries Ltd.
Elks Hall, Snow Lake, Manitoba
January 22, 2004
7:00 p.m.**

Welcome and Introductions

Sheldon McLeod of SLMcLeod Consulting introduced himself and his role as meeting facilitator. Members of the public introduced themselves, followed by Tolko staff.

Agenda

Sheldon McLeod reviewed the meeting agenda (see Attachment). This was followed by comments from Garry Zamzow, Snow Lake Mayor, and Doug Hunt, Tolko's Divisional Forester, who gave short overviews of the working relationship that has developed between the town and Tolko over the past year. A Snow Lake Forest Resources Advisory Committee (FRAC) has been formed, has met several times in the last year and continues to meet. Garry Zamzow noted that he also now sits on Tolko's regional FRAC that brings together stakeholders and interested citizens from across the license area. Tolko is presently drafting a long-range plan for an area north of Snow Lake, and will bring that forward for public discussion once it's ready. Hunt noted that Tolko posts minutes of all FRAC meetings, together with documents like its Annual Operating Plan, on its Web site www.tolkomanitoba.com.

Review of Proposed Logging Operations

Andrew Forward, Tolko's Supervisor/Planner for the Highrock Forest Section, showed areas Tolko plans to log around Snow Lake for 2004, 2005 and 2006 on a map. An aerial photo of the area was also available for meeting participants to look at. These plans are not fixed, and are subject to many factors. Tolko met with the Snow Lake FRAC twice in December 2003, and discussed areas Tolko proposes to cut this winter. Discussion following the presentation focused on the respective buffers Tolko would leave around various water bodies in the area.

Forest Renewal

Paul Chapman, Tolko's Silviculture Forester, outlined where Tolko plans to plant trees in the Snow Lake area in 2004 (Mitshto River near Ponton) and 2005 (Osborne Lake road). He reviewed the various methods (e.g. disc trenching) that

Tolko uses to site prepare areas to be planted; in some cases site preparation is not needed and seedlings are direct planted. He reviewed the provincial government renewal standards Tolko is required to meet at 7 and 14 years after planting.

Chapman outlined the areas where Tolko wishes to apply herbicide to check competition from aspen that is impeding the growth of planted trees. Tolko would consult with the Snow Lake FRAC before applying for a permit for any such work.

Discussion following this presentation included the following:

- harvesting near water bodies including spawning areas, and how Tolko mitigates the environmental impacts of cutting near water bodies;
- the long-range vision Tolko has for the Snow Lake area that would see an operation running through 5 winter months and the dry season in summer;
- where logging roads might be developed;
- economic spin-off opportunities for the Snow Lake area arising from Tolko's operations;
- how Tolko intends to contract out work, how local people can be involved, and if Tolko will train. Dave Neufeld, Tolko's Woodlands Manager, noted that Tolko has opened discussions with Keewatin Community College on developing a contractor training program. Such a program could cover areas such as the environmental aspects of logging, maintaining machinery, road building and driving logging trucks;
- Tolko will schedule another public meeting before any decisions regarding long term harvesting plans are made. This could include a field trip to the proposed cutting area(s);
- anyone can contact Tolko if they think logging operations are not being done properly. There is a list of contact names and numbers on Tolko's Web site;
- how Tolko supervises contractors doing logging.

Closing and Adjournment

Sheldon McLeod noted that a positive working relationship between Tolko and Snow Lake appears to be emerging, and thanked everyone for their efforts to work together. Doug Hunt invited anyone who is interested to come to Tolko's regional FRAC (the next meeting will be in March 2004); and/or to have his or her name put on Tolko's mailing list.

An informal question-and-answer period followed the formal meeting.