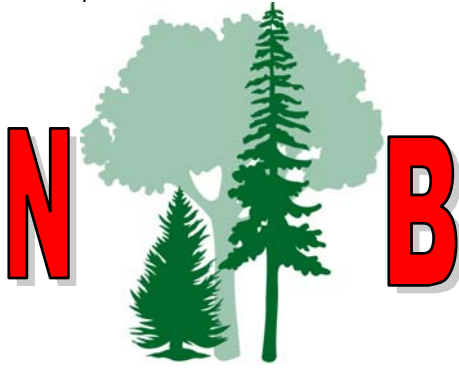


Propriétaires de lots boisés



Woodlot Owners

Federation News

Report on recent activities

April 2007

Federation Annual General Meeting:

The Federation will be holding its AGM on April 21 at the Delta Hotel in Fredericton. The event will commence at 9:00am and wrap up around 4:00pm. The agenda will include presentations by Mr. Jim Richard from Business New Brunswick and Mr Peter Vinall, President and CEO of AV Nackawic. The meeting is open to all woodlot owners. Each Board can have 10 voting delegates. Contact your Board office if you plan on attending.

Bill 22: Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the Forest Products Act*, was introduced in the Legislature for the second reading on March 14. The Bill introduces a new definition of Biomass to read as follows *"includes residual treetops, branches, foliage, non-merchantable woody stems, flail chipping residue and such other residual products of the forest."* This is of significance as it will allow for the tracking of biomass that is being harvested in the province.

Meeting with Self Sufficiency Task Force:

On March 16, Federation representatives met with the Self Sufficiency Task Force. We presented a brief we had prepared outlining our concerns with some of the recommendations the task force had proposed. Namely, our concerns centered around the desire to grow more wood on Crown land, providing

sole access to biomass to industry, lack of mention of wood energy, and the recommendation that mills be provided financial compensation to sell their allocations. The task force was adamant that they believe over the next 2-3 years, 2 pulp mills will no longer be operating in New Brunswick. On a positive note, they realized very quickly the need for a fair marketing policy for woodlot owners. A recommendation that a policy of this nature should be established was being considered by the task force.

Silviculture Managers Meeting: On March 22, silviculture managers and Federation representatives met with DNR staff to discuss the 2006 silviculture program and the upcoming 2007 season. Most of the discussion revolved around planting rates and the need for a rate increase as well the desire to be able to thin stands that currently do not meet the thinning criteria. As far as the 2007 budget goes, DNR representatives were unable to provide any information on this but it looks like the budget will remain unchanged, as will the activity rates.

Credit Union Presentation: On March 20, Troy Lifford gave a presentation to 25 Credit Union Commercial Lenders and Risk Assessors in Saint John. The title of the presentation was "The Forest Sector:

New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners

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What does the future hold?" Troy presented the struggles that the industry is experiencing across the country and the factors driving the struggles (energy, competition from low-cost producers, changing markets, declining US housing starts, mountain pine beetle, appreciating currencies, etc.). A woodlot owner's perspective was also presented and how woodlot owners fit into the current situation. Lastly, Troy presented what the future may hold. The opportunities included biomass energy projects, wood pellet projects, pre-fabricated homes, and marketing board wood yards using Carleton Victoria as an example. Overall, the presentation was well received and those in attendance left optimistic about the sector's future.

New Brunswick Forest Products Association Meeting: On March 21, Federation staff met with Mark Arsenault, Terry Noble and Robert Fawcett from the NBFPA to discuss the recommendations of the Self Sufficiency Task Force. Obviously, the NBFPA is pushing the agenda of growing more wood on Crown Land. We explained how there is no way we can support this initiative under the current system of how private woodlot wood is sold to mills. We explained that from our point of view an increased wood supply on Crown land simply means more wood for woodlot owners to compete with. Overall, the meeting was productive and we plan to meet again in the near future to discuss some other items.

North Shore News: The New Brunswick Forest Products Commission acting as the Board for the North Shore Forest Products Marketing Board recently announced that they would be appointing directors to the Board

shortly. They will be soliciting members from each district within the next two weeks. They will then assess the candidates and proceed to appointment. North Shore has also recently signed a multi-year deal with Uniboard Canada in Sayabec, Quebec for 1,000mt/week of mixed hardwood excluding poplar. The contract is valued at \$2.25 million per year for a 3-year period with price negotiated annually.

P.E.I. Conference: Peter deMarsh attended a woodlot owner information session in P.E.I. sponsored by the Provincial forestry department and the P.E.I. Model Forest Network. Topics included intergenerational transfers, trespass and owner liability issues, and an update on provincial programs and services. Peter also took part and gave an update on the lobbying effort for additional income tax changes, the status of the CSA certification standard, the growing interest in wood energy, and the new focus on setting up a network of pilot projects on environmental goods and services.

Upcoming Events:

1. Federation AGM, April 21, Delta Hotel, Fredericton.
2. INFOR, Celebrating our Forests, October 2007, Fredericton.
3. Marketing Board AGMs:
Madawaska – April 16, Carleton Victoria – April 26, Northumberland - May 19, SNB – May 26, YSC – May 30, SENB – June 7,
4. Atlantic Bioenergy Conference 2007, May 9-11, Delta Brunswick Saint John.

Contact the Federation for more information on these events or any other information in this newsletter.