

Stillwater Timberlands Weyerhaeuser **Advisory Group**
May 10, 2000

Minutes

Recording Secretary: Pam Dowding

Attendance: 29 people– refer to attached sheet.

Cathy Bartfai opened the meeting and welcomed all members. An addition to the agenda was added; Mr. David Perry, facilitator and lawyer for the Cortes Island group, was scheduled to arrive at 8:00pm.

Dennis Fitzgerald provided background information on the reason for Mr. Perry's visit. Discussion will take place regarding the Cortes Island group's proposal, which was made public in the Powell River Peak on Wednesday May 10, 2000.

Cathy thanked Eagle for the handout. The official binder is still at the Stillwater office. A map of TFL 39 Block 1 was presented for the group.

Cathy introduced Pam Dowding, new secretary for the group.

Expression of "What matters" to members:

Mark Desnoyer presented a letter of intent, outlining initial values identified by the Powell River Visitor's Bureau. Copies will be included with these minutes.

Linda Schieber introduced herself as a tourism operator (Fiddlehead Farm) and expressed the same views as Mark.. Better communication with Weyerhaeuser would be one of her wishes. She would like to know of their plans in order to steer tourists in the right direction.

Arlette Drader of Malaspina College read from Liz Kellough's handout, which outlined the importance of successful forest management so that long-term job opportunities can be developed and sustained.

Rory Maitland stressed the importance of good sustainable forest practices so that the contracting business's can rely on good timber harvesting for sustained supplies in the future.

Bill Maitland agreed with Rory, and expressed a wish for a very well managed forest.

George Ferreira identified what he would like: clean air, fresh water and nature as it should be. A place for adventure, natural, man-made history. George noted that a donkey machine was recently taken from Powell Lake and put in the Forestry museum. He would like to see a place for motorized recreation vehicles, 4x4 wheel ATV's., stock cars, drag racing and more outdoor events, with free access to the forests for these activities with no gates.

Eagle Walz presented a handout, entitled "Potential Topics of Interest to Weyerhaeuser", (re Weyerhaeuser's role as a key corporate citizen of Powell River.) The Vancouver Sun articles from last Friday, Saturday and Sunday were also mentioned. The establishment of the Millennium Park in the heart of Powell River could be accomplished through swapping forested land. Access to the back country with twenty-four hour access to the Horseshoe Valley was also mentioned. Eagle suggested using a portion of the five- percent provincial clawback to set up the Eco-Tourism Zone.

Michael Conway-Brown introduced Sally Keays, his alternate. Michael stated what he wants from this process, (and will settle for nothing less). Coordinated, pro-active planning that meets the needs of wilderness alpine recreation access. He hopes that good planning will be achieved to avoid having to patch up damage later. Michael is also working on a statement for the Environment.

Sally Keays agreed with Michael's objectives. Sally hopes to be as involved as she was in 1992. She stressed that it would be good if lands could go back into private hands.

Rita Rasmussen spoke as a representative of the Powell River Nature Society. Her Statement of Intent is attached to these minutes.

Janet May has joined the group because she wants to be involved in local forestry practices. Janet is concerned mainly with environmental issues. The attached statement illustrates Janet's views.

Bill Duff of the Wildwood Ratepayers Association would like to see an open dialogue forum and sustainable forest improvements.

Ken Jackson would like to see free access to all public land for fishing, hunting and recreational use.

Dave Gabelhouse stated that he has a long time interest in outdoor recreation. He is representing the Municipal council of Powell River. He is interested in the spin-off possibilities for recreational leisure opportunities. The maintenance and

promotion of sustainable, renewable resources are what he considers are important.

Cathy Bartfai noted that the Regional District of Powell River had decided not to send a representative at this time. However, they requested copies of the minutes of each meeting. These will be forwarded. (Letter from Donald G. Turner on file.)

Joanne Cameron-Nordell stated that she represents the business sector of this single resource dependant community. It is her goal is to work to ensure the development of a truly sustainable forest industry that encompasses both the corporate and community needs.

Peter Ranger noted that he has spent a quarter of a century working for the company. He emphasized the need to create more jobs. Also noted that there are many other opportunities, over one hundred and sixty botanicals that can be harvested, and lots more undiscovered. A well- managed forest is top priority. The need to clean up trees, by taking off dead limbs was also noted. The use of vegetable oil as an alternate fuel was also suggested.

Paul Holbrook commented on the need for more forest-based jobs in the community. He would also like to see spraying curtailed.

BREAK for dessert

Rod Tysdal thanked the group for their input, and noted that there are some very tall orders out there! He also noted that there is a lot of work to be done. He is optimistic about the future of this group.

Brainstorming for Critical Elements Values:

Cathy thanked the group for their input.

The Criteria #6, First Nations Values, which was scheduled for today's meeting, will be postponed until a representative from First Nations is present. Criteria #5 will be dealt with instead. Wildwood ratepayers met with Sliammon two weeks ago, and confirmed that they will be participating in this group. They will send Maynard Harry as their member.

Group discussion of three critical elements:

1. Extraction Rates
2. Resource Benefits
3. Mix of Market & Non-Market

4.

Brainstorming

Janet asked about sulfides in the air and acid rain from Japan causing root rot. Rod explained that monitoring stations have not detected any in this area.

Sally questioned the high extraction rate compared to jobs.

Rod promised to provide definition on AAC next time.

Natural disaster, climate changes and better utilization of all trees were some of the points covered in this session.

This session was cut short due to the arrival of Mr. Perry.

Cathy introduced **Mr. David Perry**, facilitator and lawyer for the Cortes Ecoforestry Society, Klahoose First Nation, and Weyerhaeuser.

Mr. Perry explained the reason for his visit to Powell River. He wished to consult with the group and discuss the subject of a proposed land swap, which could involve some Crown land areas surrounding Powell River. Weyerhaeuser owns about 1,800 hectares of private forestland, or 12% of Cortes, which is managed by the Stillwater Woodlands Division. Weyerhaeuser would prefer to keep their contractors and their employees working closer to home. (Powell River). Preliminary talks have taken place, but the government will make the final decision. The proposal would have to be agreed upon by all involved, and could take many months to finalize.

Many questions were asked and Mr. Perry tried to answer as many as possible. However, many possibilities exist, and the exchange of land could also involve land on the island instead of Powell River. The amount of land in question is approximately three square miles, which could be in several small parcels

. Michael requested a map so that the group could see which lands are involved.

Linda asked who decides which land is chosen, will there be a vote?

Mr. Perry said there wouldn't be a referendum. There will be no job loss to contractors. Sally asked if Mr. Perry was sent to Powell River today to test the waters?

Compensation was paid last year for loss of cutting rights. There would be less crown land in Powell River.

Mr. Perry emphasized that there would be no loss to the province.

Rory noted that the deal seemed not fair for Powell River, but good for Cortes.

Peter asked what plans for the wood?

Bill asked if they are working towards certification.

Joanne asked why couldn't compensation be paid to Weyerhaeuser, like the Clayquot Sound deal. Why should we give up Crown land, why can't the province pay Weyerhaeuser for the land. Crown is our asset, and belongs to the people of Powell River.

Mr. Perry explained that the reason he came here tonight was to explain that the proposal for 1,800 hectares on Cortes, be given give to the crown, here over in Powell River, then give the same amount of crown land back to Weyerhaeuser. It would still be crown land with a new type of tenure.

Lorne asked what would motivate the people of Powell River to agree to this type of deal.

Mr. Perry stressed that it would not go ahead if there were a huge amount of opposition. Peace on Cortes Island, secured work in Powell River, would be achieved if it did transpire.

Joanne felt that the whole thing sounds counter-productive and not a modern method of approach. It would be nice to have new tenures all over the province, with cooperation, Michael asked why Powell River was absent from the discussions that have been going on for four months. He also asked why not find land further out and not land near Paradise Valley and Lois Lake. Why has Powell River not been informed of a potential idea? before now?

Mr. Perry will go back and let them know that the community doesn't like the idea. If they can find land that is agreeable to the people of Powell River, they are trying to get the idea out there, even though some people aren't in favour of it.

Michael asked if it was true that the people of Cortes were told to keep it secret?

Sally expressed an opinion that maybe the people of Cortes are more vocal than the people of Powell River?.

Eagle said that the positive aspects are that it could be made Ecoforest land. However, he doesn't see any real advantages for Powell River. However, if it came over to Powell River, we would probably go along with it, but he doesn't believe that there would be any increase in jobs.

Ken expressed a concern that we lose control when crown land becomes private land.

Mr. Perry said that there would be no change in the amount of crown land overall.

Dave suggested that development of the Millennium Park might be a little compensation. if this deal were to go ahead.

George asked if there would be a public hearing so that the public could have a say. Mark stated that he thought that the swap idea is not a bad idea, but has concerns with the way the lands would have to be logged. (to modern standards).

Mr. Perry stated that Weyerhaeuser wants to get some value out of the land. Weyerhaeuser is trying to protect good relations with the Klahoose village.

Sally asked if the province is willing to give up 5,500 hectares for a different kind of tenure on Cortes, then maybe they could give us 5,500 as well?

Mr. Perry stated the Klahoose would be able to get some of the land as part of treaty negotiations.

Paul asked if that's what Klahoose is saying, that the land is theirs?

Mr. Perry replied yes, they think they own the whole province.

Joanne asked if this was what they are talking about in treaty negotiations?

Mr. Perry replied that if it is crown land it could be part of treaty negotiation.

Lorne asked what kind of increase would we be looking at

Mr. Perry said that it may not be 1,800, but value for value.

Sally asked whether this land swap would happen before treaty negotiations.

Mr Perry answered Yes.

Joanne stressed that the deal would seem that they asking us to give up lands that are important to us.

Mr. Perry stressed that any type of swap would have to be approved by the government. Michael stated that he is not in opposition to the people of Cortes, but opposition to Weyerhaeuser. The land close to town is what concerns him.

Mr. Perry stated that he would take that comment back to the government.

Michael again asked why no map was provided to see what land is in question. Several people in the group stressed the opinion that "our crown land is not for sale"

Mr. Perry advised again that no decision has yet been made, and that there is a lot of work to be done with First Nations. Reaction from the group would be what he would take back to the Cortes Island groups discussions.

Cathy thanked Mr. Perry for meeting with the group this evening, asked about another meeting. Sally expressed the need for a map and more information

Rod suggested a Saturday meeting in June, second or third Saturday

Cathy stated that Doug's presentation would take place next time.

Joanne suggested initiating a public consultation as soon as possible.

Sally asked Mr. Perry if the government wants to know how we feel that he should let them know. More information and maps are needed to discuss the ideas next time.

Meeting adjourned

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group

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Attendance

Present

Name	Position	Member Seat
Linda Schieber	Primary	Tourism
Mark Desnoyer	Primary	Tourism
Arlette Drader	Alternate	Edu/Emp/Training
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractor
George Ferriera	Primary	Recreation
Bob Baxter	Alternate	Recreation
Eagle Walz	Primary	Recreation

Jim Stutt	Alternate	Recreation
Michael Conway Brown	Primary	Environment
Sally Keays	Alternate	Environment
Janet May	Primary	Environment
Rita Rasmussen	Alternate	Environment
Bill Duff	Primary	Citizens
Ken Jackson	Primary	Recreation
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
David Gabelhouse	Primary	Local Govt.
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business
Ian Fleming	Alternate	Local Business
Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependant Ent.
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependant Ent

Absent

Leni Goggins	Primary	Youth
Liz Kellough	Primary	Edu/Emp/Training
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens
Maynard Harry	Primary	Sliammon

Resource /Other:

Rod Tysdal - Weyerhaeuser Al Shaw - Min of Forests

Dennis Fitzgerald - Weyerhaeuser Doug McCormick -
Weyerhaeuser

Walt Cowlard - Weyerhaeuser

Guest:

Mr. David Perry - Facilitator and Lawyer for Cortes Island groups

Facilitator - Cathy Bartfai - chamber@prcn.org

Secretary - Pam Dowding - dowding@aisl.bc.ca

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Amendment

Page 2 –change – **Sally Keays** statement.

She stressed that it would be good if TFL land could be changed into a different tenure.