

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group

Sept 13th 2000

Minutes

Recording Secretary: Pam Dowding

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

Dinner - 6:00pm.

6:20pm- The facilitator opened the meeting and welcomed all members. The number of members present tonight was counted as a quorum. The guest speaker, Don Benn was welcomed and introduced. Two handouts, articles copied and provided by members, were available on the table. A copy of the summary of the walk in the woods (August 23rd) was also available. Minutes from August 30th, and attendance and amendments to previous meetings were also available.

Presentation of Agenda

The agenda was presented and any additions requested.

Approval of minutes from August 30th

Amendments were made to the above minutes. Copies of amendments will be sent out by e-mail. The minutes of all meetings are open to discussion with the facilitator or secretary. Members were asked to review the minutes, whenever possible, prior to the following meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the addition of *names* for the new sub-committee. It was decided that names should be included in the minutes in this case.

Question regarding timelines and schedules, (mentioned in the minutes of August 30th) was answered. Weyerhaeuser will provide the notice of timelines and reasons at the next meeting. Weyerhaeuser requested that if any of the group had any items they wished to be included in the schedules, to e-mail Rod and let him know so they could be accommodated.

Question regarding the *Management Plan #8*, this will be sent out as soon as Weyerhaeuser receives a list of member's addresses.

Question regarding mapping details in the minutes, which were different from the table. It was noted the table was correct. The minutes will be amended to reflect the wishes of the group, according to the table.

Website

It was noted that the development of the website is progressing well. The website should be ready to view early next week, but is not yet on line. The facilitator noted that the North Island and West Island groups had taken a summer break, and had not disbanded as previously noted.

Literature

An objection by a member of the group was noted regarding the literature that was brought to the group. Discussion followed, and according to the Terms of Reference, members were invited to bring information that they thought useful and interesting to the group. Any educational material was welcome. It was decided that if a member wished to bring literature to the group, it should clearly identify where the material had come from. A suggestion was made that members supplying the literature could be scheduled into the agenda to present the information. Members were requested to bring the literature to the Chamber of Commerce office two days ahead of the meeting for photocopying.

Herbicide Symposium

One member spoke on the up-coming symposium on herbicides. The member has agreed to make a presentation if one other resource person could be involved. A request was made for an outside resource person (Caroline Cox, a scientist, connected to the Northwest Coalition for alternatives to pesticides), from Eugene, Oregon, to be invited to speak to the group regarding alternates to herbicide use. An open house would be taking place, and was suggested as a better venue for the alternate ideas table. Since the invited guest Dr. Frank Dost of the University of Oregon was already scheduled for the Community Advisory Group meeting on September 28th, the group felt that it would be beneficial to hear both sides, of the debate, and include another speaker or two. The group felt that having only one speaker on such an important issue would be very unbalanced. It was suggested the possibility of two different evenings for speakers could be arranged. Most of the group felt that since it is an educational process, and it was important to have both sides represented and to bring them together on the same day. It was noted that it is important for people to hear both sides. Manual brushing as an alternate to herbicides was mentioned. Weyerhaeuser wishes to allay the public fears regarding herbicide use. The offer of a table at the open house for members of the group was again mentioned. The meeting for the Community Advisory Group that will take place with Dr Frank Dost (an authority on herbicides) will be Thursday September 28th. Discussion followed and it was stressed that to have an informational meeting with only one

side represented, would be very unbalanced and unfair to the group. The group wished to have different points of view represented at the meeting. The suggestion was made that the speakers each have time allotted, with question time at the end. The group was unanimous in their support for the member's request for the speaker on alternates to herbicides. It was also noted that this was the first request for a resource person of the group's choice to be made to Weyerhaeuser. It was noted that this was part of Weyerhaeuser's commitment to the group (to provide resource persons). No conclusion was made at this meeting regarding this issue. It was decided that discussion on the subject should continue and a decision made as soon as possible.

Presentation of Don Benn – Juan de Fuca Environmental Consulting

Don Benn was introduced and gave the group an outline of Recreation Inventory. The process of updating the Stillwater Timberlands area inventory was explained. The three main inventories are – Visual Landscape, Recreation Features Inventory, and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum. The first inventory for the Stillwater area was done in 1967, there was another one done in 1981, and another in 1995. There is another one in process at present. *Question* – Inventories mandated by an act? The Ministry of Forests sets the ground rules for how the inventories are done. The purpose of the inventory was questioned. The answer was to maintain a consistent appraisal in terms of recreation. All crown lands in the province are in the inventory.

Recreation **Features** are identified - beaches, caves, water- falls, wild life, vegetation, old growth etc.

Recreation **Activities** identified- climbing, sunbathing, swimming etc.

Recreation **Importance** -identified by significance and sensitivity to development. At present there are no official guidelines, just professional opinion is used in determining importance. *Question* was asked who makes decisions on the inventory. The person who does the inventory makes the decisions, and a lot of the decisions are based on knowledge of the area and "common sense". The condition of beaches, safety, etc is taken into account before assessment. The subject of community input was noted, and questionnaires had been sent out for the public. The responses on the questionnaires are taken into account when the inventories are done. *Question* - was the public invited to give opinion on the finished product? The quote of "benevolent dictatorship" was made. In response, it was suggested that the public have to trust the credentials and experience of the professionals in this area. Since time was running out, and time had been taken up with esoteric background information, Mr. Benn was requested to give some *concrete information on the local findings*. One member asked about a specific area where herbs are gathered, and whether it was still part of the recreation inventory. *Question* on whether there is a process to find out the results of the inventory for 2000. No answer to this specific question was given.

Questions regarding the connection between Weyerhaeuser and the work done by Juan de Fuca Environmental Consultants. Analysis on the TFL and decisions (on cutting) are influenced by the findings and public input. The recreation inventory on Powell River area was shown on the map. Some contact with public regarding the findings has already been made. Mr. Benn invited the group to arrange another meeting to discuss the details of the recreation inventory. This invitation was well received, and members discussed the possibility of an extra meeting. October 2nd or 4th was suggested as a possible date. Wednesday, October 4th was chosen (by a show of hands) for the extra meeting. The facilitator pointed out that a quorum would not be required, since it will be an extra meeting. Anyone not able to meet on this date could arrange for a separate meeting. A request was made for some information on what areas have been identified so far. It was noted that the 1995 inventory is available at the Weyerhaeuser office. The facilitator thanked Mr. Benn for speaking to the group. A list and overview of Mr. Benn's presentation will be included as an appendix to these minutes.

BREAK 8:00PM – 8:10PM

Youth Seat Vacancy

The seat for youth has become vacant, since the member for youth (Leni Goggins) will be leaving the province for a six - week period. Suggestions were made to approach the High Schools and student councils for a new primary representative for youth. Leni will be happy to stand as an alternate when she returns from Ontario.

Next meeting dates

The facilitator asked the group to make note of the following dates:

Thursday September 28th (Herbicides) and ***Wednesday October 4th***. (Recreation Inventory) September 28th will be a regular meeting.

Correspondence

In response to the letter from the group that was received at the last meeting regarding meetings in the summertime, a letter of response from Weyerhaeuser was read to the group. Copies will be available at the next meeting. The group also received a letter of response from the Chair.

Access

A report from one of the members was provided regarding access to trails and recreation areas. The following areas were reported:

B-200 road to Emma Lake Trail is now open. A slide from the steep heli-logging site above wiped out the road both above (impassable by vehicle still, but not important) and below. This has been in the roads agreement the Ministry of Forests and Weyerhaeuser since Feb 1997 to be repaired, but was never carried out. Volunteers spent a big effort where minor money and a rubber-tired backhoe could have (and should have) repaired this years ago.

Goat Two access to Triple Peaks Trail is open again. It was inadvertently destroyed by Geofor and public FRBC funds have paid for a crew to repair it. Apparently an excellent job was done by Fford Coast Expeditions.

The Lois Main road – Information will be available at a later date..

The Mt. Diadem spur road (off the Lois Main) has been re-opened by Weyerhaeuser's contractor. It was grossly deactivated by CanFor a few years back, ruining access to Mt. Diadem, and has been re-deactivated by a trail on top of the deactivated road instead of concentrated logging debris. The trail is a full hoe bucket wide, and adequate for ATV traffic. Good Hope Ridge and all other deactivated roads in this valley also have had trails left on top. This is the most significant change in forestry policy vis - a` - vis recreation in many years.

The hoe operator made it very clear, and was willing to be quoted, that "it doesn't cost any more to leave a trail on top than to leave debris on top". This is important because some interests have vacillated on this, initially claiming no extra costs, then claiming in public meetings that extra costs would be incurred, and that it might not happen because of increased costs.

The bridge across the Lois Main, just past Khartoum Lake will **not** be ripped out by September 15th. Two members of the Alpine Club were called by the Ministry of Forest's Recreation Assistant to let them know that the bridge was slated for removal, with no possible options for keeping any access across the Lois River. Inspection revealed cat tracks across the bridge, and a full sized loader moving shake blocks across the bridge daily. Pat Salisbury and Glen Allen will make improvements to this bridge as necessary for industrial and recreation use. The illogic was considered that the bridge could be suitable for heavy equipment until the last machine is out, then it suddenly becomes unsafe for recreation use and must be ripped out. After much confusion, and several conflicting phone calls, (to Min of Forests, Gordon Wilson's Office, The Peak and Weyerhaeuser office), it was discovered that the bridge will **not** be coming out. The long- term fate of this bridge is still unknown, and even the short-term fate should be closely monitored to prevent its loss through continuing miscommunication. Ultimately the bridge will be replaced at taxpayers' expense and Weyerhaeuser's convenience, but there apparently is no means to connect the two and replace the bridge now. More than a dozen calls and six letters from people in the community were received regarding this bridge. This

correspondence will be forwarded to the Ministry of Forests and the District Manager.

One argument has continually surfaced in discussions that is patently false and must be discarded once and for all. The claim is made that blocking old bridges from vehicular traffic doesn't work because the 4x4ers with their toy trucks agree that they can easily block a bridge such that it can't be breached by the 4x4ers with their toy trucks with their 12-volt winches. Larger rocks can be placed in holes such that they can't be skidded sideways a bit at a time, but would have to be lifted several feet straight up before being dragged sideways. Street pipes embedded in the ground and filled with concrete would accomplish the same thing; they couldn't be physically moved or even cut with a torch. "It's not the technique that is lacking, but the will."

Incidents of vandalism had been reported, metal left on bridge, and vandalism to a campsite with a backhoe. It was reported that for most of the summer, where road closures had taken place, contractors had on the whole been helpful and maintained good relations with the public regarding access. However recently there had been incidents of rudeness (of contractors) and incidents of vehicles blocking access. The groups' support was requested to draft a letter to Weyerhaeuser regarding this issue.

Mapping

The recreation zones and other areas on the maps were discussed, and the group looked over changes that had been made to the map. An additional page was added to the group's chart of "*Block 1 Pilot Project – Identified Areas of Concern*" Items added to the map were as follows:

Additions to the recreation zones were made.

Added connecting corridor from Elephant Lake Old growth zone to Fairview Bay and a corridor down to Lois Lake.

Added Recreation zone in Freda Mountain area extending down to road where access comes through for Freda Mountain.

Added a piece to take in Triple Peaks hiking area continuous with South Powell Divide area.

Added Mount Diadem as a recreation zone

Added Lost Lake area as a recreation area as part of the park area

Added more marbled murrelet and old growth management zones.

Open discussion regarding the overview of the area followed. Areas set-aside for wildlife, riparian and habitat and recreation were discussed. The total amount of hectares involved was questioned. The AAC was discussed and was netted down to 75,000hectares.

Summary: Whole land is 180,000 hectares of which 90,000 hectares is productive. Every 5 years a new management plan review is done. Management Plan #8 will be finished shortly.

Question regarding retention and reserve areas was answered.

Question regarding the Canoe Route whether the whole of Lois Lake could be included as a recreation zone. It was noted that what the group requested and what Weyerhaeuser is asking for is **different** and still open for discussion. The areas that the group would like to see are still under discussion.

Mapping Time

Frustration and annoyance were voiced at the short time allowed for mapping at this meeting. More time is needed and a special request was made to put the mapping **first** on the agenda for the next meeting.

Values and Goals

A request was made to re-visit the goals and criteria with Dennis Fitzgerald and Yuka Ota. This will be arranged.

Change to Terms of Reference

Some changes will be made to the Terms of Reference. They will be completed shortly.

Open Discussion and Presentation from the floor

Several members of the public were in attendance and invited to speak.

John Keays

John Keays addressed the group and had several concerns on the use of herbicides, especially the use of glyphosate. The answers to most of the questions are available at Weyerhaeuser's office. Mr. Keays questioned whether the committee would be evaluating the problem. The question on alternate costs (manual brushing) was raised. The answer was between \$400,000 and \$500,000 is saved by using herbicides, and fewer accidents occur. More information will be available on herbicide use at the September 28th meeting (not open to the public). An open house on herbicide use will also be taking place.

Paddy Goggins

Paddy Goggins asked the group whether they felt that they were representative of the public. He also questioned some of the literature on the table, which was part of a document from Weyerhaeuser. The group generally felt positive about their input and representation of the public. The purpose of the group was explained and it was noted that they were a dedicated one and had given up many personal hours to be part of the advisory group. It was pointed out that Weyerhaeuser would be audited for CSA certification, and procedures regarding the group's involvement and advice given would be closely scrutinized.

Weyerhaeuser asked for input from the group. Everyone at the table was asked whether they thought the group was working for them. Some very positive responses were received. Attendance was noted as a good sign that the group was a successful one and that the process was working well.

Website

The facilitator noted that the minutes of all meetings and up-to date information would be available on the website by the end of the month (www.prcn.org/CAGSTW)

Meeting adjourned 9:30pm

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Attendance

Present

Name	Position	Member Seat
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
Eagle Walz*	Primary	Recreation
Ken Jackson**	Primary	Recreation

Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
George Ferreira	Primary	Recreation
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business
Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependent
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
David Gabelhouse	Primary	Local Govt
Janet May	Primary	Environment
Michael Conway Brown	Primary	Environment
Linda Scheiber	Primary	Tourism
Jim Stutt	Alternate	Recreation
Sonny Rioux	Primary	IWA
Sally Keays	Alternate	Environment
Rita Rasmussen	Alternate	Environment
Kathleen O'Neil	Primary	Education/Training
<i>** Chair</i>		
<i>* Vice - Chair</i>		

Absent

Ian Fleming	Alternate	Local Business
Bob Baxter	Alternate	Recreation
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractor
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens

Bill Duff	Primary	Citizens
Leni Goggins	Primary	Youth
Caila Holbrook	Alternate	Youth
Mark Desnoyers	Alternate	Tourism

12 - seats in attendance, 2 - absent

Resource /Other:

Rod Tysdal - Weyerhaeuser

Doug McCormick - Weyerhaeuser

Guest – Don Benn – Juan de Fuca Environmental Consulting

Public Observers

Facilitator - **Cathy Bartfai** - chamber@prcn.org

Secretary - **Pam Dowding** – pamdowding@home.com