

# Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group

Sept 28th, 2000

## Minutes

Recording Secretary: Pam Dowding

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

Dinner - 6:00pm

6:30pm – The facilitator opened the meeting and welcomed all members and guests. No business or minutes were on the agenda for this meeting. Announcement of Weyerhaeuser's Open House Public Symposium on Reforestation and Brush Management was made. (Friday and Saturday, Sept 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>). The Community Advisory group will have a table and the new website will be available for pre-viewing at the open house.

The four presenters for tonight's meeting were introduced:

Milo Mihajlovich – Consulting Forester

Caroline Cox – Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides

Michael Conway-Brown – Panelist and local resource member for the Environment

Dr. Frank Dost – Toxicologist

### **Milo Mihajlovich**

Milo gave a brief outline of his career and experience in the vegetation management field in both Canada and Australia. Milo shared his thoughts on how vegetation management fits into the scheme of things. Management of populations of plants, and shifting balance in systems to favour desirable species of plants over unwanted plants was explained. The subject of fire as a tool for management of the native forests was discussed. It was noted that fire was taken out of the system in North America. Two levels of fire were described, the catastrophic fires that sweep through and re-start the forest, and the little fires that burn the understory, but not the trees. Mechanical site preparation and a variety of vegetation management tools were described. The main focus was not on herbicides, but on an *integrated* approach to weed management. A thoughtful,

considerate approach to managing the forest was the main issue. A good understanding of the system was required, and timely, incremental adjustments needed for a successful prescription. Suitable sites for seedlings should be planned, to favour the little trees. Stock selection was another item described, and the choice of the appropriate stock for the conditions in the area. Different vegetation management methods were described: *manual clearing*, which works well for *some* annual species, but is a weak method of control. *Motor manual methods* (brush saws) are used for thinning, but can only be used in a short time period. *Girdling* is another good method, which can be used out of the motor-manual season. *Herbicides*, namely glyphosate and triclopyr are the herbicides mostly used today. Basal herbicides – (triclopyr) and foliar herbicides - (Vision - glyphosate) are the two types of herbicides most commonly used. The importance of monitoring these methods was stressed, and a very informative slide show presentation followed. The slides showed the effects of herbicide use in areas of Australia and in other forests where Calamagrostis was a problem. Another tactic which was described to maximize growth of trees was the selection of stock (larger seedlings) and the use of fertilizer. The negative effects of Calamagrostis growth in a forest with white spruce were shown. A cut block that was overrun with calamagrostis was shown. The example of using a raised micro-site was shown for raising white spruce. In conclusion, it was noted that successful integrated vegetation management depends on being pro-active, timely, careful in their application and implementation of prescriptions, and having access to the appropriate tools, and to be aware of what we are doing.

### **Michael Conway Brown**

Michael's presentation showed alternates to herbicide use. A selection of tools were shown and described. Some of the tools were invented by Michael, and have been used by Weyerhaeuser. The girdling method was described as a tool for vegetation management. Methods used before herbicides were researched and several tools were shown on a slide show, chain girdling tools and saw chains, Swedish-designed brush saws, chopping tools. A research project was carried out in the Okeover area using the brush saws as an alternate to herbicide spraying. The time window for using this method was found to be in the late summer. The importance of the correct time window was stressed. With the clearing saw used with the proper technique, good results have been obtained. It was noted that good training was required for successful results using these methods. The cultivation of mushrooms was described as a possibility on remaining stumps. Research into this project has been done in other areas, but there is no interest for this area at this time. A pilot project using alder logs for growing mushrooms has been tried but was unsuccessful due to some kind of contamination. Other species including salal, everlasting (used by wildcrafters) and Oregon grape were shown on the slides. The introduction of goats was also shown as a method of control. In conclusion, the use of alternate methods was shown to be more accepted by the public and alternate methods posed no risks from toxic chemicals.

## **BREAK 7:30 –7:50pm**

### **Dr. Frank Dost**

Dr. Dost, retired Professor of Agricultural Chemistry and Forest Toxicology. Dr. Dost explained that he had spent quite a few years working with the BC Forest service and the Ministry of the Environment with the focus on toxicology regarding herbicides. The regulation structure for the use of chemicals was mentioned, and the rules around the world (Europe, Japan) are the same. The *Industrial Biotest* scandal was mentioned, where 600 different products were tested and data was faked. An investigation was carried out and additional regulations were enforced. The code of good laboratory practice for this type of work exists. Full time quality assurance people are employed to monitor the testing. Some examples of everyday chemicals were given (coffee, alcohol, dental anaesthetic, paint fumes). Safe levels of risk were analyzed, and it was noted that some chemicals don't stay in the body for any length of time. The question of safety was discussed, and the use of chemicals and exposure to them. Dr. Dost recommended some documents for review, a series of documents from the world health organization, also available on line. Reviews on ecotoxicology on glyphosate containing products are available. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) re-registration document for triclopyr was also recommended reading material.

Dr Dost recommended several other resource people who would be happy to answer questions. The University of Guelph, Washington State University and the University of Oregon all have excellent information available to anyone who requests it. Dr. Dost offered to leave his address and e-mail for anyone who wished to contact him with questions or concerns.

### **Caroline Cox**

Caroline Cox from Eugene, Oregon, editor of the Journal of Pesticide Reform published by the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides. Caroline provided some literature for the group and gave some background information on the organization of Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides. This group is opposed to spraying and has been working with school districts, potato producers and Native Indian bands. They have been active in the promoting of labels that identify products, and implementing a law requiring people who use pesticides to report their use. Caroline spoke of the work with local government in the Pacific Northwest to protect endangered salmon species. Unfortunately the group has not been involved in any issues concerning forestry. A very informative slide show was shown to the group. Caroline gave her views on the hazards to human and environmental health caused by the use of glyphosate and triclopyr products. A variety of symptoms were mentioned, including headaches, skin

ailments, nausea, cancer and reproductive problems related to both triclopyr and glyphosate (Vision) use. Slides showing before and after photos and the effects of spraying were shown. The effects of triclopyr on the growth of mycorrhizal fungi, mosses and lichens were also mentioned. In conclusion, Caroline noted that she would be happy to answer any questions from the group. The goal to achieve sustainable forestry systems with a minimum of amount of input of pesticides was recommended by Caroline. The Community Advisory Group was commended on their work so far.

### **Notice of extra meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>**

An extra meeting scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup> was discussed. The purpose of the meeting would be to complete the mapping process and finalize a document for Weyerhaeuser. Meeting to be held at location to be announced. The first half of the meeting would be scheduled for Don Benn for continuation of the Recreation Inventory Discussion. The second half would be devoted to mapping. Discussion on whether it should be classed as an extra meeting, or a regular meeting. All active members were requested to attend. Deadline for the mapping would be before October 10<sup>th</sup>, when Weyerhaeuser plans to meet with the Ministry of Forests. The question arose whether any members of the Community Advisory Group would be able to attend the meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Weyerhaeuser will check if this is possible.

### **Invitation to attend meeting in Nanaimo on October 14<sup>th</sup>**

Notice of an invitation to an informational meeting on the Forest Stewardship Council. was e-mailed to members. It was noted that another company, (Canfor) has just got CSA certification, and are now embarking on Forest Stewardship Council membership. This meeting would provide an opportunity for members of the group to learn something about Forest Stewardship Council. The meeting will take place at the **Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 pm.**

### **Question and Answer Period**

**Question-** regarding the cost of manual brushing compared to the cost of herbicide use.

**Answer-** Dr Dost suggested the examination of risks from other methods, emissions for example from engines (carbon monoxide, benzene)

Milo suggested that the overall cost was one and a half time more for manual brushing.

Michael suggested that girdling was much better.

Caroline noted that when the US Forest service received an injunction against the use of pesticides, many affordable alternates were found.

Paul Kutz, Weyerhaeuser forester, stated that the costs per hectare were as follows:

Vision - \$450 –500 per hectare

Girdling- \$600 per hectare

Manual brushing \$800 per hectare

**Question-** Member asked what methods could be used for managing underbrush and the replanting process.

**Answer-**Caroline answered that broadcast burning is sometimes used in Oregon.

Michael noted that brush inspections after spraying showed that salmonberries come back, and can't be killed with repeated roundup sprays.

**Question-**was asked regarding DNA adducts related to glyphosate use..

**Answer-** Dr. Dost answered that there was no scientific evidence on this subject. He mentioned three papers written on this subject, and did not feel that they were good papers. He promised to put together a review of these papers for the group. Discrepancies in results of testing in this area have been widespread. Caroline mentioned a report where compounds that were fed to mice caused problems. Dr. Dost agreed with Caroline that every formulation should be on the labels, and if change were to be made it would have to be done through the government.

**Question-**was asked regarding the cost for DNA testing on frogs.

**Answer-** Dr. Dose answered that the tests were expensive. Various tests were described and maximum doses were used. Reproductive cycles were studied and a whole range of studies recorded.

**Question-** was asked regarding gastro- intestinal illness caused to humans by walking through an area that had been sprayed with glyphosate. Also, a trout - bearing stream was mentioned where all the fish died.

**Answer-**Dr Dose gave an example of an area that was oversprayed and the fish were all fine.

Caroline gave some examples of reports that chemicals that had caused problems and noted that all individuals have different reactions to exposure.

Milo noted that it made good sense to minimize exposure to pesticides. It was noted that areas that have been sprayed are usually well marked. Incidents where people had been exposed could be sometimes linked to anxiety about pesticide exposure.

**Question-**was asked in regard to the ancient forest containing 1000- year old trees, the level of knowledge that society has about Co-evolution and Ecological relationships.

**Answer-**Milo answered that Co-evolution exists where systems have functioned for so long in concert with each other. Caroline answered that we definitely have a much greater knowledge now about the ecology of old growth forests. Michael answered that it would be desirable for every community to have one valley that was put aside for the natural process to carry on. Dr. Dost mentioned an area (Kansas) where attempts had been made to have the prairie eco-system restored. The idea of a museum forest was favoured.

The chairman thanked the panel for their participation in the discussions. The Open House (Herbicide Symposium) scheduled for Sept 29 and 30<sup>th</sup> at the Coast Hotel was announced. Meeting at 7:00pm and public input invited. Members were encouraged to attend. Weyerhaeuser would be there to answer questions and respond to public concerns. The minutes from the Public Open House meeting would be available to the group.

The panel remained to answer any further questions.

**Meeting adjourned 9:20pm**

## **Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group**

**Sept 28th, 2000**

### **Attendance**

#### **Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Member Seat</b>
<b>Rory Maitland</b>	Primary	Contractor

Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractor
<b>Bill Duff</b>	Primary	Citizens
<b>Eagle Walz*</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Ken Jackson**</b>	Primary	Recreation
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
<b>George Ferreira</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Joanne Cameron-Nordell</b>	Primary	Local Business
<b>Peter Ranger</b>	Primary	Forest Dependent
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
<b>David Gabelhouse</b>	Primary	Local Govt
<b>Janet May</b>	Primary	Environment
<b>Michael Conway Brown</b>	Primary	Environment
<b>Linda Scheiber</b>	Primary	Tourism
Jim Stutt	Alternate	Recreation
Sally Keays	Alternate	Environment
Rita Rasmussen	Alternate	Environment
<b>Kathleen O'Neil</b>	Primary	Education/Training
<b>** Chair</b>		
<b>* Vice - Chair</b>		

**Absent**

Ian Fleming	Alternate	Local Business
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Bob Baxter	Alternate	Recreation
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens
Mark Desnoyers	Alternate	Tourism
<b>Sonny Rioux</b>	Primary	IWA
Vacant seat		Youth

**12 - seats in attendance, 1 - absent**

**Resource /Other:**

Rod Tysdal - Weyerhaeuser

Ray Balogh – Weyerhaeuser

Paul Kutz – Weyerhaeuser

Mark Scott – Min of Forests

**Guests** – Dr. Frank Dost, Caroline Cox, Milo Mihajlovich

Facilitator - **Cathy Bartfai** - [chamber@prcn.org](mailto:chamber@prcn.org)

Secretary - **Pam Dowding** - [pamdowding@home.com](mailto:pamdowding@home.com)