

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

Dec 5th, 2001

Minutes

Recording Secretary: Pam Dowding

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:00pm: Dinner

6:16pm: The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members.

Introductions

Mike Robinson, new alternate for the education seat was introduced. CAG members, Weyerhaeuser staff and resource people introduced themselves to new member.

Presentation of Agenda

Agenda was accepted – no additions.

Review of Action List

Action list from November 7th was reviewed and discussed.

Review of minutes from November 21st

The minutes from November 21st were reviewed, and changes noted. Amendments will be made, and the minutes will be posted to the website www.cagstw.org.

Correspondence

Reply to Patricia Keays letter from CAG

Draft of reply to letter from Patricia Keays was reviewed. Suggestions were made to improve the letter. Draft of letter with amendments will be distributed to members for final approval before mailing.

Letter from Sally Keays to CAG

Review of letter received from Sally Keays. Discussion followed and it was decided that one member would draft a letter of reply, addressing the concerns that could be addressed by CAG. It was noted that some items in the letter were not under CAG's control - (AAC) etc. Weyerhaeuser pointed out that CAG's role is that of an advisory group only, and that Weyerhaeuser's wishes were to build a good relationship between the community and the company.

Procedure for new members

It was noted that new youth members might join the group in January. Discussion followed regarding the Terms of Reference and process for consideration of new members.

2002 Meeting Schedule

Draft of 2002 meeting schedule was discussed. Some members felt that two meetings a month were necessary and others were against two meetings a month and felt that once a month would be enough. It was suggested that meetings could be held once a month for a few months, and that the situation could be reviewed in a few months time. Members noted that there were a lot of issues still to be addressed. Also, re-visiting the indicators would be required in the fall. It was also noted that Weyerhaeuser's wishes were to be certified in Block 5, the Philips Arm area, and that would require more work for CAG on values, goals and indicators for CSA certification. Most members liked the look of the proposed schedule for 2002. The first meeting of 2002 will be January 9th, and further discussions regarding frequency of meetings will take place in January. It was noted that the meeting scheduled for January 23rd was planned as a Forest Dependent Business evening, and members were asked to come prepared with questions. Suggestion was made for the public meetings with guest speakers, that 7:00pm would be a better time to start.

Survey

A draft copy of an informal survey was given to members with the handouts, and will be distributed soon by mail to forest dependent businesses. It was noted that information from the surveys would hopefully give CAG more information for the January 23rd meeting. It was noted that an article and advertisement for the January 23rd meeting would also be run in the local newspaper.

Steve Gordon

Landscape Unit Planning Presentation

Steve Gordon, from the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management provided Landscape unit planning maps for the group to review. Various areas were discussed. It was noted that the Homathko and Bunsters areas had already been done. It was noted that the Powell Daniels Landscape Unit Plan was coming to the end of the sixty-day public review period, and no public comments had yet been received. Maps showed changes to 24 different areas from Howe Sound to Bute Inlet. It was noted that stand level and landscape level areas were managed for biodiversity. Wildlife tree patches were shown at the stand level. It was noted that Powell Daniels was rated as an intermediate biodiversity area, and was managed for grizzly bears, deer and mountain goats, and that the plan met targets from the Biodiversity Guidebook. The area of the Bunsters landscape was noted as being high priority on the biodiversity scale. The reason for the higher biodiversity level rating was to accommodate the Marbled Murrelet in the Bunster area. It was noted that Landscape Unit Plans for Powell Lake and Lois areas were pending. Landscape unit planning was explained to the group, how all options are considered, and ecologically sound decisions made.

Question: Is there any old growth recruitment in the valley bottoms in the Powell Daniels area?

Answer: Hard to get at the old growth. There are no young stands. Some trees are more than 250 years old. 90% or more of the OGMA's are old growth stands, the other 10% are well over 100 years old, less than 1% are stands under 100 years.

It was noted that Tory Stevens, from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air would be continuing to monitor the plan. Patch sizes for species would be monitored to see how effective they were. It was noted that the Ministry of Environment had been split into two ministries: Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air protection.

Question: What role does the Ministry of Forests play?

Answer: District Manager signs off plans. The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (Brian Smart) makes decisions

Question: What about the Dianne Valley area and the Grizzly bear habitat?

Answer: Lots of work done in the Landscape Unit Planning stage, and Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management will continue to work with Weyerhaeuser. It was noted that no major changes had been made for the grizzly habitat near Dianne Lake. It was noted that Weyerhaeuser's plan was to investigate grizzly and access issues before harvesting. Timber impact will be minimized, and Old Growth stands will be put into management areas.

Question: Are grizzly bears expected to increase in the next few years?

Answer: No numbers – estimates only. Areas won't be logged for 20 years. No salmon run in the Powell Daniels area for grizzly to feed on. Trying to accommodate grizzly bears in the Upper Dianne Valley old growth management area. Old grizzly bear management area is now OGMA.

Question: How much old growth in the Landscape Unit Plan for Powell Daniels area?

Answer: 1600 hectares in old growth out of actual 11,500 hectares total.

Weyerhaeuser (Doug) noted that all the old growth management areas are from the productive forest, and are 100% no touch areas. Impacts have to be recognized. Goat winter ranges still exist in Weyerhaeuser's plan.

Question: How far do the grizzly bears roam?

Answer: They have a range of about 50 sq. km.

Question: What about connectivity in the old growth management zones?

Answer: Difficult to find larger patches in the Powell Daniels area. There is a shortage of larger patches in the area.

Steve Gordon pointed out that the public review period for the Powell Daniels area ends on December 14th. The plan is expected to be passed in the New Year. It was suggested that if any member had any concerns or comments on the Landscape Unit Plan, that they make them known before that date.

Next area to be planned will be the Powell Lake/Lois area. It was noted that the government wants to lump areas together, due to the shortage of staff in the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Biosolids

Member gave a presentation on the proposed use of biosolids in the TFL39 area. It was noted that there was a proposal to use biosolids from the Westview Treatment Plant in the poplar farm near Gibson's Beach. Concerns regarding the build up of heavy metals and pathogens. Residents concerns were discussed. Handouts with more information on the subject of biosolids were made available to members. Member asked about the quantity of manure to be used – Answer from Weyerhaeuser – 27 dry tons or 130 wet tons. Member's concerns included the recreation areas such as Lewis Lake and Spring Lake. It was noted that another information meeting is planned, and member will inform CAG members of the date and time.

FSP Plan Draft #9 Review – Doug McCormick

Members were provided with copies of Draft #9 for review. Doug noted that the government had requested a reduction in the size and structure of the document. It was noted that the next stage was to give the draft to a consulting firm to see if it could be condensed. It was noted that local people approved of the size of the plan, and CAG members did not feel it was too long. Members were asked to look over the draft and to comment within the next two weeks. Member asked whether any other areas had a plan. It was noted that Fort St. John had a Pilot Project with regulations approved last week.

It was noted by member that part of the Pilot Project was meant to help build better relationships with the community and Weyerhaeuser. Member felt that if the document represented CAG's work, it shouldn't be shortened.

Member asked whether CAG would be able to see the abridged version when available.

It was noted that the abridged version would be available for members.

Differences in FSP Draft #9 and previous version, Draft #7

Member noted that at first glance, the sections in draft #7 don't match up to the sections in draft #9. Three items that have been changed were pointed out to CAG members.

Gates on spur roads – dropped at CAG's request.

Length of time (3 years) agreed to negotiate - Not to harvest on Canoe Route and Fiddlehead Farm Trail. Change reflects CAG's request to extend the term to 5 years.

Fiddlehead Farm Trail

Member noted that Weyerhaeuser had previously agreed to a 30-meter wide buffer on the trail in the Fiddlehead Farm area. Member noted that since then a change of ownership of Fiddlehead Farm had taken place, and also noted that the new owner intends to clear-cut the area except for a fringe around the buildings. New plans for the rerouting of the Sunshine Coast trail in the area around Fiddlehead Farm were outlined. The trail will possibly be rerouted within the riparian reserve zone along Giovanni Creek to Giovanni Lake. Member noted that a campsite facility could be built there to hook up with the existing trail.

Weyerhaeuser stated that the new owner does not intend to run the business as a tourism destination, so the company's commitment to treat it as such has changed. Weyerhaeuser noted that they had been approached by the new owner with a request to haul timber over roads that are under permit to Stillwater Timberlands.

Green-up. – Page 27 - In old growth zones – not an issue. No harvesting for 20 years

In Habitat, recreation and tourism zones, 3 meters is what CAG suggested.

In the timber zone, Draft #9 states a height of one meter for green up height, and CAG members disagree with this item, and wish for a height of 3 meters.

Weyerhaeuser explained that 1-meter height at green up is consistent with the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan. Member noted that the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan might be inadequate (in terms of 1-meter green up).

Weyerhaeuser explained the format of the document (draft #9) and changes were pointed out to members. Discussion on some of the differences in the document: Adjacency rules – distance between openings –300 meters. Openings- how wide – Discussion on number of openings and sizes. Discussion on whether or not the number and sizes were compatible with the recreation values within the zone. It was noted that Inland Lake, Freda Mountain, Knuckleheads were changed from 40 to 30. Mount Diadem down from 40 to 20.

Knuckleheads – Member noted that the plan for the high profile recreation zone showed openings of 30 hectares, which member thought too large, and noted that 15-hectare openings would be better. It was noted that Cross-country skiing and snowmobiling uses are planned for the area, and that funding is being pursued for the building of a cabin in the area.

Members discussed visually sensitive areas. Member asked how the area of Lewis Lake would look after patches have been logged. The District Manager approves the rules for visually sensitive areas and areas near lakes would get a higher rating. Recreation, access, tourism, wildlife and visual quality were noted as important concerns to members.

Goat Lake Main A800

Weyerhaeuser noted that Goat Lake Main A800 has now been upgraded.

Meetings with First Nations

Weyerhaeuser noted that the company would be continuing to meet with First Nations (Sechelt and Sliammon). Company has already met with Sechelt and Sliammon to review draft#7, Klahoose interests in Block 1 are referred to Sliammon.

Access Planning sub-committee

It was noted that a sub-committee for access planning would continue to meet and consult with Weyerhaeuser regarding the location of trails.

Note: Member reviewed concerns with Weyerhaeuser, and agreed that the trails are located correctly on the FSP map.

Audit Report

Rod Tysdal was pleased to inform the group that Stillwater had passed the CSA audit. A formal report will list minor non-conformances and suggest improvements. It was noted that there were only seven minor non-conformances:

Bio-cell cover at the Stillwater DLS blew off in high winds.

Fix-redesign bio-cell cover to be effective.

Backhoes piling slash near two plugged culverts.

Fix- Culverts should have been cleaned out first. Discuss with operators.

Forecasts on indicator sheets – Mgmt. plan #7 and 8 – difference in meters

Agreed to disagree on "Reduce MAI tree breeding" – hard to forecast

Auditor's suggestion to put in some numbers as estimate

Value in SFM Plan not the same wording as Values and goals document.

Fix-Next one will have exact wording.

Spill report filed and not entered into information database. Original not filed.

Fix- Office will follow rules for filing of original documents.

Names of two workers who knew all training not on list.

Fix-Check list for trained personnel

Values for First Nations not on main document

Fix- Add values to main document

Weyerhaeuser has made a plan to correct the minor outstanding items. It was noted that the auditors commented on the "high level of ownership" of the Values Goals and Indicators document, that CAG members had created for the input into the SFM Plan Indicators.

FSP Review of Draft #9

Members were again reminded that the Forest Stewardship Plan drafts were to be reviewed and comments or concerns brought forward.

Meeting adjourned 9:07PM

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group		
December 5th 2001		
Attendance		
Name	Position	Member Seat
Eagle Walz Chair	Primary	Recreation
Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair	Primary	Recreation
George Ferreira	Primary	Recreation
Michael Conway-Brown	Primary	Recreation

Joanne Cameron-Brown	Primary	Local Business
David Gabelhouse	Primary	Local Govt
Jane Cameron	Alternate	Recreation
Kathleen O'Neil	Primary	Education/Planning
Mike Robinson	Alternate	Education/Planning
Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependent
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
Absent		
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
Bill Duff	Primary	Citizens
Sonny Rioux	Primary	IWA
Linda Scheiber	Primary	Tourism
Ian Fleming	Alternate	Local Business
<i>8 seats in attendance</i>	<i>4 absent</i>	
Resource - other		
Rod Tysdal	Weyerhaeuser	Stillwater
Doug McCormick	Weyerhaeuser	Stillwater
Steve Gordon	Ministry of Sustainable Resources	
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	

Pam Dowding	Secretary	
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