

## **Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group**

**February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2001**

### **Minutes**

Recording Secretary: Pam Dowding

Facilitator: Cathy Bartfai

Knights of Columbus Hall

6:10pm

#### **Youth Seat**

Discussion regarding the vacant seat for Youth. The age of the prospective member was discussed, and it was decided that a high school age (Grade 11 or 12) student would be the most suitable. The rationale was that they would be more in touch with the local youth population. It is hoped that someone with a fresh outlook would be an advantage to the group. Recruiting a new member through the school board was suggested. The suggested lunch for students from Max and Brooks would be an ideal opportunity for them to learn more about the position. Weyerhaeuser and the Ministry of Forests will host the lunch and members of CAG could participate. It was suggested that interested students could write a letter introducing themselves and the group could decide which candidate was the most suitable. Concerns regarding the environmental slant were raised. Balance within the group would be the objective.

#### **Acceptance of Agenda and Review of Minutes**

Agenda was accepted. Minutes from February 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> were reviewed and amendments made. The amended minutes will be posted to the website ([www.cagstw.org](http://www.cagstw.org))

Minutes are sent electronically. Members were asked if they were receiving all communications, and are reminded to use a virus scanner if not already doing so. Advice was given to use the free McAfee virus scanner from the Internet.

### **Tigh Na Mara - workshop**

Members were reminded about the workshop at Tigh Na Mara on March 29-30<sup>th</sup>. Copies of an agenda for the workshop were available so that members could be prepared. Some good reading on indicators will be e-mailed to members. Members not attending were advised to get someone to gather information for them. Round table discussions will take place at the workshop. There is still time to book if anyone else is interested.

### **Michael Conway Brown - Access Issues**

Michael reported that the Goat Lake main line at mile 24 is closed. There was a report of someone getting stuck up there at 4am in the morning. The road will be closed for approximately six weeks, but will be open on weekends. If anyone is planning on going up there, the advice was to call ahead and make arrangements with the Forest service.

It was reported that the Mt. Diadem recreation area six-mile road, which used to be a great road, now requires 11 km more hiking to get into the area. A number of problems were brought to the group's attention:

- Bridge not being available for small vehicle use continues to be an issue.
- Contractors blocking roads continues to be a concern.
- The incident of a climber's camp being trashed (last year) by a contractor
- Machines being left on the bridge
- Logs left across the roads
- It was suggested that another letter be drafted and sent by the group, to ask contractors to stop blocking the roads and trails
- The group was asked whether they thought a letter to contractors was the appropriate action in this case

It was noted that Weyerhaeuser has already put up signs to warn of active logging and road closures.

*Question* was asked whether the contractors were taking on the blocking of roads themselves, or were they directed to do so by the company

*Response from Contractors seat* – It's not fair to blame the contractors, if not blocking the roads maliciously. It was suggested that a letter should be directed to the Forest service. It was noted that contractors do only what is prescribed to them by the company.

It was suggested that if a letter was to be sent, it should be sent to the FRBC, Forest Service, Geofor and Weyerhaeuser.

*Objection to the above suggestion*- It was suggested that the group was becoming a political group trying to deal with changes not within the group's mandate.

*Group's Mandate*

*To provide input to the development, implementation and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management of Stillwater Timberlands Weyerhaeuser.  
To improve communication and understanding between community sectors.*

Michael stated that his preference would be letter from CAG to Weyerhaeuser stating the concerns re access.

The members were asked to vote on whether a letter should be sent from the group to the contractors. Discussion continued and some members felt strongly that they should not be interfering with what Weyerhaeuser's contractors were doing. It was noted that CAG's position was clear on access and the group had communicated their wishes for access to the company.

It was noted that "tank traps" and cross ditches were put in to stop erosion, and not to deter hikers, some of the bridges were rotting, and there was a high cost in maintaining them.

It was decided that if access issues continue to be a problem, a letter should be sent again to Weyerhaeuser, since it was the company's responsibility to contact the contractors.

Weyerhaeuser stated that the policy was that unless there were any environmental risks in keeping a road in, they would keep it activated. Depending on the prescription, some bridges and culverts would be taken out. The decision on whether to deactivate roads is made by Weyerhaeuser at the time of planning.

It was suggested and agreed that a sub-committee be struck to write a letter to Weyerhaeuser with cc to FRBC, regarding access to the backcountry.

### **Contractor's letter to Peter Kofoed**

Letter to Peter Kofoed from the local contractors was read to the group. It was noted that the (contractors) letter had not yet been sent (copy on file).

### **Review of draft Letter from CAG to Peter Kofoed**

Member noted that Weyerhaeuser had a responsibility firstly to shareholders, secondly to employees and thirdly to communicate with the communities. It was noted that the implementation of CSA would be helpful for the local community needs.

It was noted that the local business community's need for specific timber should be covered under the values and goals already being written.

*Question* was asked whether availability of timber had improved since first discussions on the subject. It was noted that someone had had problems at the Stillwater dry land sort

*Response from Weyerhaeuser* was that there had been some further problems at the local dry land sort, and the problem had been dealt with. Weyerhaeuser will have timber for local value added businesses for sale at market price. It was also noted that there is a separate area at Stillwater for the selection of old growth.

*Question* whether there would be a discount for transportation costs

*Response from Weyerhaeuser*, Yes there was no charge for transportation locally

Draft of letter to Peter Kofoed was read to the group.

Comments from the group were invited.

- It was noted that there were assumptions in the letter that could change in the future.
- Some members disagreed with the letter as written
- It was noted that the community would never agree on all issues
- Access to old growth, and whether biodiversity was actually affected was discussed

Weyerhaeuser noted that old growth will be grown for lots of reasons, 10% set aside at stand level, creating old growth conditions. It was noted that some old growth timber eventually dies and rots, Cathedral Grove was given as an example.

*Question* on whether a continuing supply would be available if more value added businesses came to Powell River.

*Response from Weyerhaeuser* was that there was a dwindling supply of old growth fir and old growth red cedar. Old growth yellow cedar is expensive but still available, and supplies of hemlock and balsam are available.

*Questions* on whether the subsidized old growth farming for one particular market was economically viable for businesses, and whether Weyerhaeuser loses money on old growth

*Response* from Weyerhaeuser was that the government generates the revenue from the forest, and if rotation gets extended, Weyerhaeuser's volume cut would go down and impact on jobs for the future.

- The rising cost of architectural standard grade fir (from \$2.50 to \$5.40) was noted, and it was suggested that other materials would be used if the price were too high.
- The need for a community forest was again suggested

**Break 7:50PM – 8:00PM**

### **Notice of Meetings**

The group was reminded of the dates and locations for the next few meetings.

**Feb 28<sup>th</sup> Coast Hotel – Values and Goals - Criteria #4 and revisit 5c**

**Mar 14<sup>th</sup> Coast Hotel**

**Mar 21<sup>st</sup> Knights of Columbus (Chinese food)**

**March 28<sup>th</sup> Parksville workshop**

**Continued Review of Letter – Management Plan #8**

Members of the CAG agreed that the drafted letter did not reflect the view of the whole group.

- Suggestion was made for CAG members to send a general letter of thanks to Peter Kofoed.
- It was noted that taking out 1000 hectares might decrease the jobs in the forest
- It was noted that asking for a community forest at this point was inappropriate and not a reasonable request

Advice from Weyerhaeuser was to shorten the letter, and to make the point of the letter to provide the input from CAG that concerns the group.

Assured supply of old growth timber to be set aside for the value added businesses

Concerns about the maintenance of the present and future jobs in the forest

Individual letters to Peter Kofoed were encouraged from members.

Weyerhaeuser noted that a clause might be put into the next management plan as a result of the group's input to Management Plan #8.

**Pilot Project**

**Weyerhaeuser's responses to Public Comments – Doug McCormick**

Letters from members of the public, with Weyerhaeuser's responses were distributed to the group. It was noted that copies of another (forty-page) letter was available on request from a member of the public (Patricia Keays)

**Pilot Project**

**Weyerhaeuser's response to CAG - Doug McCormick**

**Daniels River**

The discussions with CAG continued.

Revisiting the Daniels River, the previous discussion regarding the 20,000 cubic meters in the Daniels small business block. It was reported that the Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser had continued to negotiate regarding this block. Weyerhaeuser had been asked to replace the 20,000 hectares with a "cutting permit approved" block. This was not acceptable. However, an agreement was made to replace with a "Category A" block, one which had been through the advertising period and was approved on the development plan. Continuing discussions are taking place on the question of who will pay for the engineering on the block. A list of three candidate blocks is to be given to the Forest service for consideration in the next few days.

### **High Falls and Dianne Lake**

Further to the discussions at the last meeting, it was reported that Weyerhaeuser is *not* willing to make High Falls Old Growth zone 100% reserved (as per CAG's wishes). Weyerhaeuser proposes 66% with openings of no more than one hectare in size within the 66%. It was noted that the intention of the zone was not to create parks, and that four areas of Block one have been reserved already with 100% retention (Heather, Elephant Lakes, Goat Island and Daniels Lake Old Growth Zone). Weyerhaeuser's proposal would provide 73% reserved in this area (High Falls). The remaining 27% would be harvested with openings less than one hectare. Only Growth timber would be harvested, and would most likely be the biggest trees. It was noted that there would be no road access to High Falls area, and that it would be logged by helicopter.

*Comments* from the group – CAG had already decided that 100% was what they had hoped for, and reserved further comments for later.

*Question* how many cubic meters per hectare would be taken out of the area?

*Response* from Weyerhaeuser was average 800 cubic meters

Weyerhaeuser noted that Cabinet could possibly approve the proposal as it stands. However, there is a chance that it could not be approved, and the issue would have to be resolved. Government advisors would then look at the position and decide.

*Question* on whether the group could get a look at the area.

*Response* was that it could only be viewed by helicopter.

## **Review of CAG response to Weyerhaeuser**

Letter from the group was distributed and reviewed, outlining the CAG position.

CAG accepts Weyerhaeuser's proposal for 25% retention in the Diane Valley habitat zone. CAG appreciates the Daniels headwater and High Falls Lake proposal for 100%, (changed from original 66%)

CAG appreciates the 30 meter reserve along all Canoe Routes lakes and portages.

CAG is not in agreement with the Suicide Pass /historical railroad area and wishes further discussion

CAG is not in agreement with the proposal for Lewis Lake to Lac Godeau area

CAG has agreed with the proposal for the Saltery Bay Trail (formerly known as Marquis Road)

CAG wants 100% in the High Falls Lake old growth zone, not 66%

Michael Conway Brown offered to provide some aerial photographs of the area around Dianne Lake. Discussion regarding gates and access followed. Regarding the management of an area for wildlife and recreation, it was noted that the Forest Development Plan states that wherever the road goes, a trail will be roughed out on top. It was noted that this item was not covered in Weyerhaeuser's response and will be added.

*Question* regarding how much value in the timber in the High Falls area?

*Response* from Weyerhaeuser was that there is between 500,000 and 700,000 cubic meters, at \$100 per cubic meter, around \$50,000,000 to \$70,000,000. However, 200,000 cubic meters would be harvested, and the rest would stay.

*Question* of what's in the proposal for Powell River

*Response* from Weyerhaeuser Jobs and money spent in the industry

The group was hoping to finish the discussion at this meeting. It was noted that someone else would make the decision if the group and Weyerhaeuser could not come to an agreement. February 28<sup>th</sup> was the final day for moving ahead with the process.

Weyerhaeuser discussed the issue of the High Falls proposal (unresolved with CAG). The possibility of Powell River creating a precedent where 100% old growth zones were concerned was mentioned. It was also noted that the LRMP process was going on, and that there were no more parks likely to be created in that plan. It was stated that Weyerhaeuser is not in the business of making parks. The impact on logging in a Grizzly Bear habitat was discussed, and Weyerhaeuser would manage around the Grizzly Bear. It was noted that the Grizzly Bears would get a better food source for at least fifteen years. The company manages the habitat and provides cover for the Grizzly Bear population.

*Question* of how the Marbled Murrelet habitat is managed.

*Response* was that there is no harvesting around the Marbled Murrelet areas. The Old Growth trees are needed for nesting. (Large trees with large limbs)

Rationale and motivation for having pristine area was again emphasized.

Weyerhaeuser pointed out that there are already four reserved areas – Heather, Powell Daniels, and tip of Goat Island and part of the Elephants Lakes.

The member for the environment was not present at this meeting, and it was agreed that more time should be allocated to discuss the present problem (High Falls). It was noted that the area means a lot to some members of the group.

The group stated their position and requested another meeting with other members present at Weyerhaeuser's office (Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM)

Final Note from Weyerhaeuser - It was noted that the Pilot Project regulation says 66%, and should say 100%. The District Manager will approve the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP). The suggestion was made that this point is written into the regulation and it should say 100%. The letter from CAG should include this point, (amending 66% to 100%).

**Meeting Adjourned 9:30PM**

## **Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group**

### **Workshop**

**Feb 21st, 2001**

**Attendance**

## Present

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Member Seat</b>
<b>Ken Jackson*</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Eagle Walz*</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>George Ferreira</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Peter Ranger</b>	Primary	Forest Dependent
<b>Joanne Cameron- Nordell</b>	Primary	Local Business
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
<b>Linda Scheiber</b>	Primary	Tourism
<b>Michael Conway Brown</b>	Primary	Environment
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
<b>Rory Maitland</b>	Primary	Contractor
<i>*Co- Chair</i>		

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## Absent

<b>Bill Duff</b>	Primary	Citizens
<b>Janet May</b>	Primary	Environment
<b>Kathleen O'Neil</b>	Primary	Education/Training

<b>David Gabelhouse</b>	Primary	Local Govt.
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractor
Rita Rasmussen	Alternate	Environment
Jim Stutt	Alternate	Recreation
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens
Ian Fleming	Alternate	Local Business
<b>Sonny Rioux</b>	Primary	IWA
Sally Keays	Alternate	Environment
Mark Desnoyers	Alternate	Tourism
Bob Baxter	Alternate	Recreation

**8- seats in attendance, 5 - absent**

**Resource /Other:**

**Rod Tysdal – Weyerhaeuser**

**Doug McCormick - Weyerhaeuser**

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

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