

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

January 24th, 2001

Minutes

Recording Secretary: Pam Dowding

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:00pm: Dinner

6:30pm: The chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed all members.

Presentation of Agenda

The agenda was presented and approved. An addition was made to include discussion of the letter to Weyerhaeuser.

Review of minutes from January 10th

The minutes from January 10th were reviewed, and accepted. A couple of questions were raised regarding items from the January 10th meeting.

Regarding the request for copies of the review "*Summary of 2nd year critique workshop on the Weyerhaeuser BC Coastal Forest Project July 12-14 2000*" for the library. Electronic copies are now available and can be obtained by e-mail from the secretary by request. A copy will be placed in the group's resource library.

Request for copies of *Recreation Management Plan*. Another request will be made to the Ministry of Forests to obtain this. It was noted that it might not be completed yet, since the Ministry was still advertising for community input to this document.

Visioning Exercise – Kathleen O'Neil

Kathleen presented an overview and summary of the visioning exercise, which took place at the last meeting. Members discussed the results and focused mainly on the category "Sustainable Practices"

Introduction of Colin Koszman

Rod Tysdal introduced Colin, who is training as a forestry engineer (RPF), and is working at Stillwater Timberlands Weyerhaeuser office. Colin was invited to attend the meeting to gain valuable experience in dealing with local policy.

Management Plan #8 – Peter Kofoed

Peter Kofoed , the author of Management Plan #8, presented a slide show. He talked about the Management Plan and its structure, and the rationale behind some of the items in the plan. The slide show was informative and interesting.

Preservation Structure

Overview of Management Plan

Description of Analysis

Harvest Strategy for TFL 39 Block 1

Summary of Rationale for recommended Block 1 Harvest level

Timelines and Targets

The Public Review period has been taking place since December, 2000. Open houses and notices in the local paper have made the public aware of the Plan. It was noted that this area had one of the first higher level plans on the coast (Bunster Hills area)

The report will be ready and submitted to the regional manager by February 28th. The proposed management plan should be submitted to the ministry by March 31st. The target date for approval of the Management Plan #8 and AAC determination is June 30th, 2001. April and May will be another review period when the Deputy Chief Forester will look at the AAC determination. This will be the harvest level for the next five years. It was noted that the long- term harvest level would also be determined in the next analysis.

Questions of Sustainability

Local economic conditions, environmental concerns and variable retention forests were discussed. It was noted that many species and age groups are in the TFL39 Block 1. There are lots of stands to choose from.

It was noted that a harvest level that is the same as the growth rate of the forest would be ideal. Questions and concerns regarding the age at which trees are harvested were raised.

Question of which age is most valuable. Concerns regarding old timber and its availability for the future.

It was pointed out that on Page 62 appendix 2a) of the Management Plan #8 shows a chart of all the age classes available at this time. Several charts and graphs of harvest levels were shown on the slides, and Block 2, Sayward was compared and percentages of areas available for harvesting were shown. Questions on total Inventory of Block 1 – 78,000 hectares. Harvest history of Block I was discussed, (fire etc.)

Comparisons of Management Plan #7 and Management Plan #8 were shown. It was noted that the timber harvesting land base for Management Plan #7 contained 78,000 hectares, and Management Plan #8 contains 70,100 hectares, showing a decrease of 10%.

Timber Supply Analysis

Charts were shown examining alternative timber supply strategies by projecting forest growth and timber harvest over 250 years. Financial investment was discussed and compared to forest growth. Economic conditions in the future were discussed. The growth and management of old growth, which is being set aside for social values was noted. Silviculture plans do not include the strategy for growing old growth trees for timber production. Old growth is being reserved and fostered for social and wildlife reasons. *Question* was asked regarding whether the predictions included the impact of genetically altered seedlings* , and fertilizer. The answer was that they weren't included. Another analysis will follow shortly. *Question* regarding the public viewing which took place, and the AAC that is being determined. It was noted that the amount of the AAC was *not* mentioned in the public display. This was noted as an unfortunate omission. It was shown that there was 445,000 in plan 7, and that an increase was anticipated for Plan #8. It was noted that the public display had shown that since the area will be reduced by 10%, and the AAC will determined on this area, shortening the harvest cycle based on at that time and the use of fertilizers *would* play a part in the estimate. The decreased amount of land and the increased level of harvesting were the main issues that the CAG had to deal with. *Question* on whether the 5% reduction in the amount that Weyerhaeuser cuts, and goes to small business. It was noted that there was a provision in the act to get the 5% back. The creation of the Millennium Park was mentioned. *Question* what was the intent of the 5% rule? *Question* on the legal requirement on transfer of land, and the reasons behind the 5% .The 5% could also be included in treaty settlements with First Nations. *Questions* regarding the use of fertilizer, and its effect on the water system. The answer was that some fertilizer evaporates into

the air, before it goes into the ground. Tests had been done on the impact on water from fertilization at the time of planting in the Nanaimo Watershed area, and no leaching problems had been found.

Questions regarding analysis on projections into the future, whether any predictions for the future of Powell River have been made regarding employment etc. It was noted that this subject hadn't been dealt with in the plan. It was noted that in Powell River, there had been Job Creation and Weyerhaeuser employed more engineers and more foresters at this time. Since 1981 staff had doubled at the Stillwater office. It was noted that a report of direct jobs was provided for the group, and around 270 direct jobs were listed. It was noted that the job analysis could be obtained from Weyerhaeuser directly.

Spatial 20-year feasibility

Harvest projections for the 20-year period 2001-2020 were shown. Concerns regarding the age of the timber were expressed.

Harvest Strategy

Age classes and species were shown. *Question* whether variable retention would affect the growth of Douglas Fir. Concerns were again mentioned regarding the age of the trees being harvested. *Question* on the average age of trees being cut. Peter Kofoed said several times that the average harvest age in Block 1 would be around 80 years. It was noted that the average harvest age was highest in Block 1 (compared to other areas).

Question on whether the yield could be brought down to 40-60 years for higher returns on investment. It was noted that a sustainable harvest level over time was the main objective. The recommendation in plan #8 is for a biological rotation, not a financial rotation. *Questions* on the Deciduous Harvest were asked. Approximately 30,000 were assigned, to be added to the 490,000 to make 520,000 total for 2001-2005. *Question* on how many cubic metres per truckload – 35 cubic metres approximately.

Questions regarding the rationale for increasing the AAC and the reasons why it should be increased. Analysis that has been done show that it would be ok to increase the cut. This is based on an expected average growth rate of 9 cubic metres a year. With these figures, it comes to about 600,000, with the age class distribution, here would be no shortfall in inventory. Estimated levels could reach 668,000 cu metres per year. The plan is to start stepping up the harvest level toward the long-term sustained yield level. Block 1 has been historically undercut

compared to the long-term sustained yield. If different analysis came up with different answers, then there would be another recommendation to the Chief Forester, but it will normally be reviewed every five years. *Question* on how 9 cubic metre per year was determined. *Answer* -Estimates of site productivity were studied and how tall trees were at a certain age. Charts of growth curves were shown to illustrate this. *Question* was asked on how many sites were checked to get these answers. Along the coast there are many sites. All Douglas Fir sites had data collected. For all species, there are over 2000 growth and yield plots established in total on the coast from the M&B days. It was noted that some are growing faster than estimated. Checks on these estimates will have to be done, and it was noted that more of this type of information would have to be gathered the next five years. Increased growth and increased fire hazards were also noted. *Question* on whether an increase in temperature of 2 degrees would affect predictions of growth. *Question* on whether increased revenues would result in more money being spent on research and development. Weyerhaeuser (Rod) noted that he had been out on a field trip with a birder to study the impacts on the bird population. It was noted that a group of people who are involved in adaptive management from the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Environment had been involved in monitoring and observing changes that have been made in the bird and slug population. Also, there is an extensive long-term monitoring program associated with Variable Retention harvesting and its impacts that is creating research jobs. *Question* was asked whether there would possibly be an increase in the amount of employment in this area (research and development). More information can be obtained from Weyerhaeuser on this subject.

Two questions, which were unanswered, were:

How much old growth will we have left in 40-50 years?

How many growth and yield plot sites were actually used in Block I to gather data?

The Chair thanked Peter Kofoed for the informative presentation. A further meeting could possibly be arranged if requested by the group. A sub committee (Peter Ranger, Paul Holbrook and Eagle Walz) was struck, and assigned the task of composing a letter from CAG stating their views regarding Management Plan #8. The deadline for comments on this plan is February 15th, 2001.

CAG letter to Doug McCormick

It was suggested that members of the group who had the most input into the letter which is to be presented to Weyerhaeuser, get together to finish the letter. This will be completed before the deadline for public comment. (February 10th).

Saturday Workshop – Values and Goals - February 10th – 9:30am

It was agreed that the Knights of Columbus Hall would be used for this workshop. Members were requested to inform the secretary if unable to attend.

Parksville (Tigh Na Mara) Workshop – March 29-30th

Information on the workshop to be held at Tigh Na Mara was available as a handout. Members wishing to attend were advised to make reservations by phone, and to mention when booking that they will be attending the Weyerhaeuser Community Advisory Groups' workshop.

Annual Report from the Chair

Copies of the annual report from the Chair were distributed. It was noted that this report was required according to the Terms of Reference.

Meeting adjourned 9:13pm

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group

Jan 24th, 2001

Attendance

Present

Name	Position	Member Seat
Ken Jackson**	Primary	Recreation
Janet May	Primary	Environment
Eagle Walz*	Primary	Recreation
George Ferreira	Primary	Recreation
Bill Duff	Primary	Citizens
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation

Jim Stutt	Alternate	Recreation
Kathleen O'Neil	Primary	Education/Training
Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependent
David Gabelhouse	Primary	Local Govt
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractor
<i>** Chair</i>		
<i>* Vice - Chair</i>		

Absent

Michael Conway Brown	Primary	Environment
Linda Scheiber	Primary	Tourism
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens
Rita Rasmussen		
Ian Fleming	Alternate	Local Business
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
Sonny Rioux	Primary	IWA
Sally Keays	Alternate	Environment
Mark Desnoyers	Alternate	Tourism
Bob Baxter	Alternate	Recreation

9- seats in attendance, 4 - absent

Resource /Other:

Dennis Fitzgerald – Weyerhaeuser

Rod Tysdal – Weyerhaeuser

Colin Koszman - Weyerhaeuser

Chair – Ken Jackson Secretary - Pam Dowding - pamdowding@home.com