

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

January 7th, 2002

Forest Dependent Business Sub Committee Meeting - Minutes

Weyerhaeuser office

Recording Secretary: Pam Dowding

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

5:08pm: Vice Chairperson of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

Review of minutes of Dec 12th meeting

Overview of meeting of December 12th between CAG Forest Dependent sub-committee members and local small business owners. It was noted that several opinions, ideas and suggestions had been gathered from the December 12th meeting.

Fallers or independent contractors to go out and get custom wood for small businesses.

Fallers could be provided with list of required specialty timber

Have local person at the Dry Land sort to do the deals

Separate area of Dry Land Sort to do business with local business owners

Quoted prices should be the price, no changing after quotes given

Small orders could be dropped off at businesses ordering the wood

Internet shopping options

Policy should be written to reflect the community's needs

Discussion

Co-ops in other areas and other ways of handling local wood supply from Dry Land sorts were discussed.

ACTION – More information on co-ops and will be obtained by e-mail and phone from other communities (Kelowna, Castlegar). Cathy and Ray will follow up.

Discussion followed:

regarding the need for specific grades

need to develop a system that works for the local businesses

Co-op maybe the solution for this area

Logs from other companies besides Weyerhaeuser would be available

It was noted that a shared use facility is being developed in Gibsons, and more information will be available from Peter Moonen on January 23rd when CAG holds a Forest Dependent evening meeting.

Question from CAG- Does the 20,000 cubic meters quoted in the SFMP include salvage?

Answer from Weyerhaeuser – No

Question from CAG - Does the 20,000 cubic meters include Goat Lake Forest products?

Answer from Weyerhaeuser – Yes – Goat Lake used 9500 cu meters last year

Question from CAG – How will prices be agreed upon if the prices are set from Nanaimo?

Answer from Weyerhaeuser- By phone – Weyerhaeuser person in Nanaimo has the knowledge of the range of prices.

Question from CAG – Could the person from Nanaimo come over on any given day on a regular basis?

Answer from Weyerhaeuser - Possibility that it could be arranged.

It was noted that custom cutting by Weyerhaeuser has taken place on private land for specific orders.

It was noted that the Pilot Project states that Weyerhaeuser will "*make it a priority to develop a system which ensures a sustainable log supply from Stillwater*

Timberland's production of appropriate grade timber is available, in a timely manner, at fair market price, for purchase by local small business." The CSA - SFM Plan states that *Stillwater Timberlands will make available 20,000 cubic metres of logs for local sale.* It was noted that the amount is set for the first year at 20,000 cubic meters, and the amount will be reviewed annually. Forecast of amount sold will depend on local demand.

Question from CAG - What about the future of the Dry Land sort at Stillwater? Will logs be sorted in the bush and by-pass the Dry Land Sort?

Answer from Weyerhaeuser – Logs will be weigh-scaled but logs will still pass through the sort.

Question from CAG – What about custom lengths- when 18ft logs are needed, can they be found?

Answer - Logs have been cut to order in the past.

Question – Is there an "order file" set up for small local business?

Answer from Weyerhaeuser - Not yet.

It was noted that the community support from Weyerhaeuser was needed, due to the recent downsizing of the mill. It was hoped that one hundred new jobs could result if the company worked together with new small businesses. It was agreed that a procedure should be developed where timber will be made available "at fair market value."

Suggestion that available timber could be posted with prices on the company website.

Economic Development in Powell River

Suggestion that some money could be available to develop policies and may be used to help develop a central pool for local businesses.

Develop a good buyer/seller relationship

It was noted that there are not a lot of problems with supply, but some costs are involved when special orders are required, which have to be passed along to the customer. Local log homebuilder has acquired special lengths of timber from Weyerhaeuser in the past

If co-op was created, it could be well organized and cost-efficient. It would be easier for small businesses to fill orders and get established if better system of access to timber was created. Example was shown of enquiry from India for floors requiring 15,000 square feet of western red cedar, and difficulty getting information on availability. For custom specialty orders, it was explained how logs are presently sorted at the Dry Land Sort.

Question – Could buyer go into forest and choose special trees for falling?

Answer – Can be done but more costly to do special orders.

Question – If locals need common grade, could they order a bundle without phone calls to Nanaimo, waiting for prices?

Answer – Dry Land Sort is more geared up to deal with boom buyers, and to move logs quickly through the sort at the rate of 10,000 to 12,000 cubic metres per week.

Open House meeting – Jan 23rd January

Invitations have sent out for January 23rd. Discussions on whether another meeting was needed on 14th January. It was decided that it would be more beneficial to meet after the meeting on the 23rd. Follow up meeting will be scheduled for January 30th.

ACTION – Pam to make phone calls to cancel meeting that was scheduled for January 14th.

Plans for open house meeting on 23rd will include panel discussions and brainstorming between Weyerhaeuser, small business operators and CAG members and guests.

Suggested Questions for meeting on January 23rd:

How can Weyerhaeuser make things better for the customers without costing (the company) more money?

What have been the obstacles in the past for small businesses?

How can we find out what is working in other parts of the province?

How can the local system be improved?

Species and grade lists to be available?

ACTION - Weyerhaeuser (Doug) will provide copies of FSP and Pilot Project items concerning Forest dependent small businesses at Jan 23rd meeting.

Next meeting – Jan 30th 2002

Meeting adjourned 6:47pm

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group Forest Dependent Business Sub Committee Meeting January 7th, 2002 Attendance		
Name	Position	Member Seat
Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair	Primary	Recreation
Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependent
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business
Ray Balogh	Weyerhaeuser	

Doug McCormick	Weyerhaeuser	
Rod Tysdal	Weyerhaeuser	
Walt Cowlard	Weyerhaeuser	
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	