

# Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002

## Minutes

Recording Secretary: Pam Dowding

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:00pm: Dinner

**6:15pm**

**Introductions**

**Facilitator noted Safety procedures**

**Agenda**

Agenda was accepted –

Two additions –

Add- FDP – 1 year extension re: advertisement in local paper?

Add-DLS – Discussion of local sales

**Minutes**

Minutes from June 26<sup>th</sup> reviewed and accepted

**Variable Retention – discussion re: changes to the wording**

**Of FSP**

Changes to the wording on page 15 of the (final) FSP were noted. The handout notes were discussed. In regards to variable retention noted in the final version of the FSP - "The intention is that the patches are permanent unless" has been removed- it

was noted that this is not acceptable and could achieve the opposite results.

**ACTION** – Doug will get back to Brian Kukulis re: changed words. CAG would like to see clarification of the wording - Variable retention "in perpetuity" as discussed on the field trip.

**ACTION** – Copies of final FSP with all correspondence will be provided for members.

### **Correspondence**

Facilitator noted that e-mail correspondence from Harold Long's office had been received. Apologies were relayed from Al Drummond, assistant, for tardiness of reply. Mr. Long's office still in touch with Mr. Visser re: travelling forum. No reply to previous correspondence from CAG received. Facilitator has requested reply in writing from Harold Long's office regarding various items that were submitted.

### **FDP Extention**

Member asked for clarification regarding the advertisement in the paper regarding extension of the FDP. Some delays were due to Sechelt band approval and other smaller details. It was noted that approval by Ministry of Water, Land and Air protection has been given, and Ministry of Forest's approval will be done by Friday (July12).

### **Dry Land Sort**

Update on 24 hour pricing problem that occurred recently at the Dry Land Sort- Incident was checked into by Ray Balogh and improvements will be made. It was noted that the delay was due to the specialized nature and higher end pricing of the purchase, and there would normally not be such a delay. It was noted that 27 purchases have been made since January and only one problem reported so far.

### **Blowdown at Tony Lake campsite**

Doug noted that the problem at Tony Lake has been fixed. Member also asked for update on the Beartooth trail area.

**ACTION-** Beartooth area to be checked out by member - report

back to Weyerhaeuser on status.

### **Request for copy of letter from Neil Hughes**

In response to CAG's request, a copy of letter to Lori Kemp will be available and will be distributed - It was noted that Weyerhaeuser will not be doing anything in that area (Atrevida Loop) in the near future since it is tied up with First Nations – and is low priority.

### **1-meter Green-up**

*Question* regarding 1-metre green – up referred to in the FSP.

Doug noted the explanation of intentions regarding green-up was requested from District Manager – It was noted that 1-m green up would be applied to no more than 50% of the whole area in a calendar year. Table showing stewardship zones and minimum openings and adjacencies are included in the plan. When 1-meter green-up is used, Weyerhaeuser will take CAG members out to show how it looks, and members could get back to the District Manager if not happy with the results.

### **Handouts**

BC Professional Foresters magazine and information from Western Canada Wilderness Committee was provided and will be kept on the CAG bookshelf.

Member noted that changes in the law would hold foresters responsible for the implementation and supervision of plans in future.

### **Coastal Group Meeting**

Facilitator noted that North Island and West Island groups were interested in another meeting that would include CAG. Meeting could be held on the island for one day only to avoid extra overnight costs. Members agreed that they would like a workshop meeting to take place, possibly in October or November. Facilitator will talk to other groups again to confirm CAG's interest in another meeting.

### **Sunshine Coast Trail Boundaries**

Member noted that:

On Spring Lake main at 11k where the Sunshine Coast Trail crosses - the FSP calls for boundaries that are not shown in full. Below the road should be 100-meters and above 30-meters full retention plus 30-meters with 50% retention – It was also noted that there is a scientific study taking place in the area on the effects of logging on streams.

**ACTION** – Weyerhaeuser (Doug) will check into what's happening in the area.

Falling off Dixon Road – lower side. Plan requested the re-location of the trail, PRPAWS agreed to move part of the SCT to the bluffs. In re-locating the trail the falling boundaries were ignored to some extent, some have only 5-meter buffers instead of the regular 10-20 as agreed. Member noted that guidelines should be followed when plans are agreed to.

**ACTION** - Weyerhaeuser will check on above falling boundaries around the re-routing of the SCT and report back to members.

**Break – 7:00pm – 7:15pm**

## **BIOSOLIDS**

### **Introduction**

Councilor Russell Storry introduced Michael Van Ham and gave brief background information on speaker.

### **Powell River Biosolids Recycling: Forest Fertilization Demonstration**

#### **Mike Van Ham**

#### **Presentation Objectives**

#### **Background on Biosolids and use**

#### **Powell River Biosolids Forest fertilization demonstration project**

#### **Specific concerns**

#### **Questions and Answers**

## Biosolids Concerns

*Question* - regarding sludge-waste- does it smell?

*Answer*- it has an earthy, peat moss smell like ammonia

*Question* – Biosolids concerns/ what about mercury, aluminum, selenium etc.

*Answer*- strictly measured and safe levels found in Powell River sludge already tested

## Biosolids Use Philosophy

### Biosolids Use regulations

BC – Organic matter recycling regulation (OMRR)

USA – PEA 503 regulations

### Biosolids Use Options

Product Development

Disturbed Land reclamation

Agricultural fertilization

Forest fertilization

### Product Development

Fabricated Top soil

Soil Amendments

Fertilizers

### Disturbed Land Reclamation

Landfill covers

Forestry Roads and landings

Road right of ways

Mineral and gravel mines

Parks

### Agricultural Fertilization

Orchard crops

Dry Land & Irrigated cropland

Native range

### Forest Fertilization

Natural "Native" Forests

Agroforestry

### Powell River Biosolids- Forest Fertilization

Powell River Biosolids

Why forest fertilization

Stakeholder input

The Demonstration project

### Demonstration Objectives

Evaluate forest fertilization options  
Cost effectiveness

Environmental benefit

Social benefit

### One year time frame (2003)

### Opportunity for ongoing recycling

## Powell River Biosolids Forest Fertilization

Two forest "types"  
Norske Canada Poplar Plantation

Weyerhaeuser TFL

### Poplar Fertilization

Biosolids stored and applied to soil

Application in Spring/Summer

Use simple agricultural technology

Required access improvements

Less expensive?

### Natural Forest Fertilization

Biosolids stored and applied to soil

Surface applied

Specialized equipment

More expensive?

### Why Biosolids Storage?

Further Biosolids treatment

Cost effective applications

Contingency

Other recycling opportunities?

### Biosolids Storage Options

Wildwood Lagoon?

Airport reserve lands?

DL 5127 (off Duncan Street)

Transfer Station?

### Demonstration Stages

Assess Biosolids quality

Identify and characterize potential sites

Stakeholder Input

Prepare Land Application Plan (LAP)

And MoWLAP approval

Demonstrate Applications 2003

Biosolids Quality Research

Monitoring and reporting

Future?

Presentation showed a variety of examples where Biosolids have been safely used for agricultural uses, golf courses (Point Grey), vegetables, and kids playgrounds. Soil products were also noted as useful by-products of Biosolids.

### Class A or Class B?

Difference between class A and Class B was explained. Class A better than classB?

Class A contains less metal concentrations

Class B considered safer

Pathogens - Fecal coliform resilient

Question- are antibiotics and other pharmaceutical products measured?

Answer – they are measured

Question – are Biosolids used for fuel?

Answer – Biosolids are 30-70% water and hard to burn

### **Powell River Treatment plant**

It was noted that the Powell River Treatment plant was unique and produces class B Biosolids. Costs involved in trucking elsewhere are high. \$1,000,000 would be needed to upgrade the Westview Treatment Plant to produce Class A Biosolids

### **Disturbed land Reclamation:**

Examples shown where Biosolids have been used –

Prince George

Barnet Highway

High Valley Copper Mines

Princeton

Gravel Pit, Sechelt – Nutrifor from Sechelt/Gibsons

Green areas on Sechelt peninsula

Aldergrove lake and Park

Sumas/Abbotsford - Concert Bowl, Canoe Lake

### **Agri-fertilizer products – makes trees grow faster**

Orchards

Croplands

Native ranges

Forest fertilizers – Snoholmie Tree farm – used for 25 years

Area near Malaspina College, Nanaimo

**Visual improvements were shown where Biosolids were used in different areas such as corridors along I-90.**

Agro Forestry trials have taken place in Fraser Valley – (Scott Paper) and Valley near New Westminster.

How applied?

Machines that cost \$750,000 are used – spreader box sprays into bush. Nutrifor has bigger machines.

Members noted that the cost that Powell River pays to haul away waste is \$140 a ton.

Most agreed that it would be ideal to have a fertilizer program to use for the growth of trees in this area. It was noted that most people want to do it in a safe and environmentally sound way.

Mr. Bert Bailey, guest, was introduced. Guest noted that since Powell River was isolated, costs for removal would always be higher than other places.

Members noted that two Open houses had been held, and Wildwood residents were concerned about children playing near sprayed areas. Survey results from Open House meetings showed 93% residents are concerned about health and environmental issues.

Question: Class A or B - what are the cost issues and differences?

Answers: Westview treatment plant needs more room – there are ways to work around problems but all solutions have to be done under authorization from the government.

Councilor Storry pointed out that \$1,000,000 capitol costs are needed for upgrades to Westview Treatment Plant, and pointed out that it costs \$133,000 a year to take loads of sludge to the island. Local Biosolids forest fertilization would eliminate transportation costs to the island.

Mr. Van Ham noted that if Powell River had liquid waste management plan for Class A Biosolids they could produce some of the finest fertilizer that could be used in gardens and sold locally. Multiple benefits to the economics of the community – jobs etc.

Question: What about signs where Biosolids are sprayed- would they be used?

Answer: Do not enter signs would be posted explaining risks

Question: If implemented, what savings to the municipality and taxpayers of Powell River?

Answer: Councilor Storry – Savings over one year would occur - down from \$200,000 to about \$60,000. Savings would be put back into general revenues and used for better technology and upgrades to Westview plant (One million - \$1,000,000-needed to upgrade). It was noted that the cost to build a new sewage treatment central plant would be in the region of ten million - \$10,000,000.

Member suggested maybe Class B could be used to begin and then Class A later.

Members noted concerns about backpackers and tourists going into the forest and walking through sludge and also asked about the effect on the bird population and small earthworms, which are eaten by the birds.

Mike noted that efforts are being made to reduce toxic metals - everyone wants to recycle and education is ongoing.

Question: Has anyone analyzed Powell River's Biosolids? Seems to be some conflicting scientific evidence as far as protecting health?

Answer: Better to err on the side of caution. UBC and UVic studies and regulations on metals have been studied. Powell River Biosolids have the second lowest parts per trillion concentrations of metals second to Whistler.

Member disputed some studies as they have been found to be flawed in the past. EPA studies on food, dioxin concentrations from chicken food, clay mines and fillers in food should be looked at.

Human health risks seems to be the main concern of all members. Members again noted concerns regarding risks to recreation sites and animals such as elk and deer that are in the forest.

Member noted that the area in Wildwood (Poplar plantation) that was a possible site for Biosolids spraying was close to a populated area and recreational values should be considered. This area would be the least expensive as it is close to the road.

Member suggested that other areas should also be considered.

Storage area at the Wildwood Lagoon was discussed. 26 acres of Private land – access to the beach - road in a state of disrepair.

It was noted that only 5 hectares were being considered for the trial, which would last 15 months.

**Sites to be considered for storage:**

Wildwood Lagoon – ratepayers say NO

Airport Reserve Lands

DL 5127 (off Duncan Street)

Transfer Station

Norske Canada – sludge stored there now - full

**Sites to be considered for using Biosolids for fertilization:**

Goat Lake Main – looking for areas where there is not a lot of water, high road maybe  
Tin Hat road – small area.

Area known as Opening 3

**Question: How long for storage?**

**Answer: Minimum three months**

**Question: Storage capacity now?**

**Answer: Full- aqing for preparation for potential application next Spring –  
area is signed and gated.**

**Member pointed out that the sign is misleading as it states "Biosolids" –  
not Biosolids yet – still sludge.**

**Demonstration stages**

**Ideal Wildwood location – ratepayers say NO**

**Open Houses – one in January one in July**

**Questions and comments from public**

**Detailed plans shown**

**If authorization is given, for 15-month trail, spraying that was scheduled for  
fall, could be postponed and begun in the spring.**

**Question: What about buffers?**

Answer: 30-meter around creeks and streams

Water quality standards will be monitored closely

Member noted that once demo project is passed, and stakeholder input process begins again, the approval form Ministry of Environment is also required.

Question: quest – What about pharmaceuticals? City of Calgary recycles about 2 tons a year – educate the public and maybe the same program could happen here. Also putting wood waste with sludge when stored- wood waste immobilizes nitrogen – since program has gone part way – why not just finish?

Answer: Could compost Class B – new industry could be developed

Composting operator – can't store for more than half a year

Member noted that if safe to put in the bush – as is being done in other areas, fences and gates and signs should warn the public.

Question: Member asked what about rural properties that rely on well systems for water- if Biosolids thrown into the forest will they make their way into residential water system?

Answer: Areas around Whistler has been used around bike trails and parks with no adverse effects so far.

Councilor Storry noted that it has taken 5 years to get to this point and the key is to get started on something for Powell River (maybe the 15-month trial) as is happening in other communities.

Question: Now that the spring application may happen is there enough time for a response from CAG?

Answer: Not sure of the cut off for comments – application goes in to the Ministry of Environment and other possible locations to be considered

Question: When is the application being sent in?

Answer: Next week

Member noted that after Ministry receives application, public could still submit comments.

Question: Councilor Storry asked for clarification on whether comments would be community comments or Community Advisory group members' comments

Answer: Comments would come from Community Advisory Group

Question: When is approval expected from government?

Answer: Anywhere from one month to two years

Question: How long would the substance stick to trees and stink? Would it be noticeable if you walked by?

Answer: A musty, earthy, peaty smell would be noticed. Two hectares would be sprayed in two days.

Question: Regarding the option of "Opening 3" on Spring Lake Main forest near Tin Hat Main- personally wouldn't like to see it on main recreational roads that are traveled by people- what about inside the cutblocks where it wouldn't show?

Member for municipality noted two potential sites now being considered - Poplar Farm for fall application. It was noted that Norske would store sludge only until October.

Question: Would maybe better to wait until spring then do natural forest fertilization?

Would company do both sites?

Answer: Yes

Question: What benefits to Weyerhaeuser?

Answer: Better growth rate of trees-measurable growth and yield

Question: How often would application be made to sites?

Answer: Once every 8-10 years

Question: More information on buffers on streams – how often monitored by Ministry of Environment?

Answer: Quarterly – Ministry comes in and checks before and after application, immediately after rainfall and spring then fall

**More information needed about the technology of the wastewater treatment plant –**

**The addition of lime for pasteurization was mentioned.**

**Chair thanked Mike for the presentation and opportunity to get answers to questions.**

**Member noted that the motion that was tabled at the last meeting was still outstanding –**

**Chair suggested that members wait until September when a second opinion could be heard. Councilor Storry would like to be invited when second speaker (Mr.Waring) is invited to CAG meeting.**

**ACTION- Invite Councilor Storry to meeting in fall.**

**Member suggested that if program went ahead, CAG should ask Weyerhaeuser not to use Tin Hat Main line site. Suggestion that CAG should let Weyerhaeuser know soon of their opinion.**

**Members discussed whether application should be hidden in a side spur or inside a cutblock, as it may appear that it was something to hide. Maybe better to have out in the open so there is no question of hiding the application from the public**

**Member noted that he looked at storage sites and the smell was not offensive.**

**Member noted that not enough evidence or resources have been provided, and who would be responsible for clean –up if anything goes wrong?**

**Member noted that a 15 month trial would not have a lot of impact – if there was a downside, could not be used on TFL if opposed. Could be used on private land instead.**

**Facilitator asked around the table for opinions on the Biosolids issue**

Put Biosolids on Tin Hat main where people can see it – sludge goes over to Comox now and Island Farms can stop if it turns out to not a good solution

If problems are found they will be in the dioxins and food chain

Wood burning people put more dioxins into the atmosphere- have to accept plans if cost effective. Can Powell River afford \$10,000,000 for new treatment plant? Good if Powell

River can spend \$60,000 instead of \$200,000 per year.

In favour of plantation sites on private land gated and signed. If thrown off Tin Hat Mountain site – no watercourse – good.

OK with sites – how evaluated – larger tree growth? In 15 months there won't be data to properly assess impact. Would like to hear what Mr. Waring has to say.

CAG doesn't have a lot of pull when it comes to site selection for 15 months trial next spring- CAG needs to be open, honest and up-front

CAG can only make recommendations for happenings on Weyerhaeuser sites

Once permit is applied for it could happen fairly quickly – public should be aware of what's happening

City will make application and would have to choose site. Weyerhaeuser doesn't own Poplar site – Norske does. TFL land is Crown land

### **Phillips Arm**

**Members were reminded of the Phillips Arm trip- Itinerary will be sent out shortly.**

### **Operational information Map**

**Map will be kept for CAG and regular updates posted with map**

### **Recreational Maps**

**Will be available next week**

### **Forestry Museum**

**Members were asked if they would like to have a booth at the Forestry Museum for Seafair weekend. CAG member can e-mail secretary with opinion on booth and whether interested in helping out.**

**Meeting adjourned 9:35PM**

**Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Attendance**

Name	Position	Member Seat
<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>		
<b>Eagle Walz Chair</b>	Primary	Recreation
Jane Cameron	Alternate	Recreation
<b>Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Michael Conway-Brown</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Joanne Cameron-Nordell</b>	Primary	Local Business
<b>David Gabelhouse</b>	Primary	Local Govt
<b>John Passek</b>	Primary	Motorized Recreation
<b>Jack McLinchey</b>	Alternate	Motorized Recreation
<b>Bill Duff</b>	Primary	Citizens
Karen Duff	Alternate	Citizens
<b>Peter Ranger</b>	Primary	Forest Dependent
<b>Kathleen O'Neil</b>	Primary	Education/Planning
<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>		
<b>Sonny Rioux</b>	Primary	IWA
<b>Bill Maitland</b>	Alternate	Contractors
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation

<b>Paul Holbrook</b>	Alternate	Forest Dependent
<b>Taylor Holbrook</b>	Alternate	Youth
<b>Rory Maitland</b>	Primary	Contractors
<b>Andrew Pinch</b>	Primary	Tourism
Ian Fleming	Alternate	Local Business
<b>Doug Fugge</b>	Primary	Youth
<i>9 seats in attendance</i>		
<b>Resource – other</b>		
Doug McCormick	Weyerhaeuser	Stillwater
Mike Van Ham	Sylvis Environmental	Vancouver
Russell Storry	Municipal Councilor	Powell River
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	