

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

June 5th, 2002

Minutes

Recording Secretary: Pam Dowding

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:00pm: Dinner

Agenda – Informal

Forest Practices Code Changes - Discussion

Facilitator opened the meeting and noted that the reason for the (extra) meeting was to discuss the proposed changes and recent discussion paper for public review and comment – *A Results-based Forest and Range Practices Regime for British Columbia*. It was noted that a request had been made for the travelling forum of MLA's to visit Powell River. It was noted that local MLA was trying to arrange a meeting with Rod Visser, MLA for North Island and CAG.

Handouts containing information from websites were distributed and members were asked to review the Discussion paper and make a note of comments and questions.

Members were divided into two groups for the meeting.

Member noted that a book of interest to members – *Forest Land Owner's handbook of best forest practices in BC* was available for viewing.

Following items were noted for next meeting agenda – June 12th 2002

Access - Committee met June 3rd – report next week- Weyerhaeuser (Rod) noted that a phone is on order for 24-hour Access information.

Terms of Reference Committee – Final copy of revised Terms of Reference will be ready next week

Greg Hemphill will attend next week meeting to answer questions on recreation changes in BC.

Chris Roddan from Shearwater Consultants will attend next meeting – re: Community Forest support

Indicators – Summary on 111 indicators for the SFM Plan will be available next week

Report from Nanaimo forum on Results Based Forest Practices Changes-

Doug McCormick

Operational review of Results Based Forest Practices Regime for BC – presentation was shown. Doug reported on Stillwater Timberlands' presentation at the forum held in Nanaimo on May 29th.

Weyerhaeuser's Presentation included:

Overview of the Stillwater Timberlands Pilot Project – Objectives

Project Involvement – Community Advisory Group involvement was described

Maps showing zones – Habitat, old growth, recreation/tourism and timber zones

Objectives of Results Based Forest practices Regime

Reduce transactional and operational costs to industry –

Fewer stand level plans requiring approval or amendments

Increased # of agencies and centralized

Apparent lack of coordination between agencies

Multiple plans for multiple agencies

Downloading of costs and responsibilities to licensees

Suggested improvements –

Combine three ministries

Single approval document

Single agency approval

Maintain agency representation at the district level

Good working relationships, not process, is the key to sustainable forest management

Reduce the Code's Complexity - reduce the number of rules

Provide the forest industry "freedom to manage" in delivery of defined results

Areas of Constraint

Maintains the Code's High Environmental Standards – Focus should be on results not rules

Continues to Balance Social, Environmental and economic interests

Maintains and Enhances the level of Public Acceptance of Forest Management

Consistent with Resource Capacity of Government

Strengthens the Compliance and Enforcement Regime- Code needs to recognize and reward good performers

Key Shortfalls

Too many agencies

Increase in number of landscape level plans

Still tied to the "picture" rather than resource values

Focus should be on forest values rather than management regimes

First Nations sign-off at RDP stage highly unlikely

Timber not recognized as a priority value

Heavily rules based

One size fits all – not effective - some good performers, some are not good

Downloading costs to licensees

Creating Effective Change

How the changes are brought about is as important as the changes themselves

Designed from implementation

Working relationships are critical

The process for change must be transparent and inclusive

It was noted that some aspects of the previous plan worked well – amendments could be made when necessary – new rules do not allow for any amendments.

It was noted that only one question was asked at the forum due to time constraints.

Question that was asked was concerning CAG and the zoning that was achieved for the Pilot Project.

General complaint that was heard was that no consultation had taken place with forest industry and woodlot owners.

Member asked how the term "*results based*" could be used when the plan is new and has not had time to be tested.

Agreed - it was noted that the Forest Stewardship Plan was based on goals that were set up and results weren't in yet.

It was noted that goals are not clearly defined in the proposed code, and some are unattainable.

Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management will proceed with zoning on its own and zoning should involve a public process.

The importance of community involvement was discussed and the accomplishments of CAG were noted.

It was agreed that three ministries with three plans would be expensive, unwieldy and unworkable.

Member noted that there could be an advantage in the involvement of three different ministries - would provide more checks and values, and one decision-maker could make mistakes.

Member noted that everyone should be aware of what's going on and it was impossible if ministries don't consult with each other.

Question - Regarding clarification of "better for the environment"

Answer – Professional forester may make decisions at planning stage and possibly find a better way to manage five years later. Changes if made – under new rules- no amendments allowed. Possible that Weyerhaeuser may wish to change plans to develop plans with objectives for wildlife, water, soil and recreation that may not have been known, maybe would put in roads in different place from proposed plan. If this happened a whole new plan would have to be submitted.

Discussion regarding the role of the professional forester in the planning stages and in the overview of the plans

It was noted that the Profession foresters' presentation to the MLA forum may be available on line

ACTION – will provide website address if available on line.

BREAK - 7:55pm – 8:05pm

New CAG phone number

Facilitator noted new phone number for the public to access CAG.

(604-414-4687)

Member suggested that message should also include CAG website information.

Introductions

New members for motorized recreation were introduced. Jack McLinchey will be the primary member and John Passek the alternate.

Guest Vicki Tysdal was introduced.

Recommended Reading

Paper by Caroline Findlay – Council of Forest Industries

Report from Nanaimo forum on Results Based Forest Practices Changes-

Doug McCormick - continued

First Nations

Weyerhaeuser's presentation included references to First Nation's involvement. First Nations people present at the forum commended Weyerhaeuser on the fact that they had included First Nations references in the presentation, and noted

that no one else had mentioned First Nations at the other meeting locations. Weyerhaeuser noted that the law requires First Nations to sign off on the whole block in the Stewardship Plan. It was noted that local First nations are reimbursed to walk each block and that Weyerhaeuser builds good relationships and provides job opportunities. It was noted that the new legislation leaves out First Nations, who need to be involved at cutting permit level.

It was noted that First Nations have a right to go to the District Manager regarding traditional rights and title to old growth.

It was noted that the new plan:

lacks opportunity for community involvement

provides no process for continual improvement

no local representation – moving offices to Surrey

Softwood Lumber

Discussion regarding costs downloaded to industry – must be recognized in revision to stumpage policy. It was noted that high quality Canadian timber is subject to new tariffs. Tenure system was discussed- who gets to bid and buy.

Member asked whether a new stumpage system could be built.

Member suggested that new rules could:

Identify specific elements from the One Plan Pilot Project such as:

Zoning

Goal statements

Stand level plans have disappeared - could be same as Pilot project

Member noted that the Pilot Project had a five-year time frame, and there hasn't been enough time lapsed to see if it has worked. The Pilot project has not been tested yet. New rules that state one plan fits all will probably not be successful- some good performers and some not.

It was noted that these days are tough in forestry, and people are not working, so the government is trying to make changes. Three major shortfalls were emphasized

Timber values not recognized,

Values for soils and roads not recognized

First Nations regulation requirements need to be changed

No local people involved in proposed arrangements – should be working relationships between ministries with transparency

Weyerhaeuser noted that the MLA's asked how the zoning was achieved between CAG and Stillwater, and whether it could be achieved in other parts of the province. The concept of the Community Advisory Group was explained to the MLA's and they were very impressed with the group's achievements so far.

Member noted that there were still some unresolved issues and asked about a "conflict resolution process" when there are differences of opinion between Weyerhaeuser and CAG. Weyerhaeuser noted that there have been some issues that CAG and the company have agreed to disagree on. (Green up and the use of pesticides) The District Manager, Greg Hemphill, will make the final decision. It was noted that the District Manager receives notice of all unresolved issues and takes them into consideration when making his decisions for five-year plans. It was noted that the comments from the public and the concerns of the new owners of Rainbow Lodge were also sent to the District Manager's attention. It was noted that the District Manager could force Weyerhaeuser to make another plan and to re-advertise if necessary.

Members asked about the appeal process for pesticides and it was noted that the District Manager has no authority on herbicides, but the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection makes the final decisions for pesticide permits.

Question from member – If individuals weren't satisfied with decisions would they have to resign and voice concerns as an individual.

Answer – Anyone has a right to go as an individual to the District Manager.

Members discussed recent court case regarding District Manager and Sunshine Coast Conservation Group re: Marbled Murrelet habitat and the decision that was made regarding harvesting in that area.

ACTION – Copy of court case will be obtained as per member's request.

More information can be acquired from Greg Hemphill who is scheduled to attend next meeting on June 12th.

IWA viewpoint on reviewing changes to Forest Practices Code

Member stated the following viewpoints from the IWA sector:

New rules would need independent auditors

Commitment from government for funding audits

Access at operations level- can go in anytime

Less emphasis on codes by some companies further from town –operations and dry land sorts don't see auditors- auditors should be in all operations

Who will be responsible to sign off on silviculture prescriptions? - Manager or Company?

Forester signs off as a good plan – IWA opposed

IWA does support changes necessary for streamlining

Too many ministries – one would be preferred

9. Monitored by independent auditors- that would do auditing?

Ministry of Forests – Resource Development Plan

Ministry of Water, Land and Air protection – Sustainable Resource Management Plan – enforcing audits and writing guide books

Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management – Planning

Less Ministry people in Powell River and more in Victoria – Ecosystem Specialists for the whole province will be down to five people

Chair advised members to take written information home and revise. If Rod Visser comes to Powell River, prepare questions and comments ahead of time.

Note from Doug – Panel will ask questions and CAG will have an opportunity to present their views.

ACTION – Members to e-mail questions, comments and ideas to facilitator and secretary for presentation to MLA's

ACTION – Presentation to be prepared re CAG's views on proposed changes - Results Based Forest Practices Code.

Maps showing new Marbled Murrelet habitats in TFL39 Block 1 were available for viewing.

Next meeting June 12th 2002 – AGM

Meeting adjourned 9:20pm

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group

June 5th 2002

Attendance

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

Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors
Taylor Holbrook	Alternate	Youth
<u>ABSENT</u>		
Karen Duff	Alternate	Citizens
Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependent
Ian Fleming	Alternate	Local Business
Doug Fugge	Primary	Youth
<i>12 seats in attendance</i>		
Resource – other		
Rod Tysdal	Weyerhaeuser	Stillwater
Doug McCormick	Weyerhaeuser	Stillwater
Vicki Tysdal	Guest	
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	