

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

June 26th, 2002

Minutes

Recording Secretary: Pam Dowding

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:00pm: Dinner

6:17 pm

Agenda

Acceptance of agenda and additions: -

Access discussion

Update of Community Forest report

Minutes

Minutes from June 12th reviewed and accepted

Minutes from June 5th were discussed. Minutes to be re-worded to emphasize the wording "**in rare circumstances**" regarding changes to variable retention plans in future years. It was noted that the above item would be put on the Action list to be re-visited in the fall. (ACTION)

Correspondence

FSC regulation standards have been put through this week – e-mail sent to members. No other correspondence received this week.

Action List

Outstanding items from the Action list were discussed and several items were cleared up.

Recreation Maps – were supposed to be available in May – Status of maps was questioned – Maps have not yet gone to the printers but are close to being ready- some changes and additions that will be useful have been done to maps.

ACTION – Check on status of maps and find out when available from the printer.

Dry Land Sort – Member gave update on recent dry land sort purchases and noted some inconsistencies and inconvenient delays (six days) for prices.

ACTION- Two members will follow through on whether commitment to small local businesses is working efficiently at the dry land sort.

Request for copy of letter from Neil Hughes

Review of Action item showed that copy of letter from Neil Hughes had not been received – second request for follow-up was made by CAG - Walt will look into.

ACTION – CAG's request for copy of letter from Neil Hughes to Lori Kemp to be followed up.

Draft report from Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Member noted that the report was not ready yet – maybe could be obtained from Greg Hemphill when ready

ACTION – Member will track down report when ready and distribute to members.

BIOSOLIDS

It was noted that a meeting was scheduled for July 10th to discuss the Biosolids issue. Mike Van Ham (Sylvis Environmental) and Sisto Bosa (M o E) are scheduled to attend. It was noted that two public open houses have already been held – the second meeting was well attended (150 people). CAG meeting will be open to anyone who wants to attend. Possible speaker from Sierra legal could attend if available on that date – member will check. Members noted that they hoped to learn from the information session so that an opinion could be formed and response to Weyerhaeuser prepared after the meeting. It was noted that there was a limited time for input – (September 2002) and a "level playing field " was needed so members could form an opinion as soon as possible. Agenda for July 10th could include questions for CAG – It was suggested that e-mail voting could take place if necessary after the information session.

Summer Committee

Concerns regarding a two-month break from CAG meetings were addressed. Member suggested that a small committee could keep in touch with what's

happening regarding the removal of trails by government and other issues that may affect local recreational areas. It was noted that since the group would be meeting on July 10th and again on August 10th for the Phillip's Arm trip and could keep on track with any issues on those dates.

Access update

Member noted that access was possible, since heli-logging was taking place, and the advertisements in the paper stating closures were not accurate. It was noted that the 24-hour hotline (604-485-3132) was now in place and the ads in the paper would run until the end of the month.

ACTION – Member will check on status of ads in local paper and talk to local outdoor shops to ensure they have the correct information at all times regarding access.

Sunshine Coast Trail Access

Members noted that the re-routing of the Sunshine Coast Trail around cutblocks was a concern. It was noted that the re-routing has to be in place with signs for tourists and assurance that the public can travel through without any problems. Member requested that Weyerhaeuser look after the re-routing as previously agreed so that no one gets lost and tourists aren't alienated.

Areas of concern to be looked after would include:

Re-routing part of the Sunshine Coast Trail on Eagle River Section from Mile 4 on Goat Main to Eagle River ford.

Spring Lake Main back of Lewis Lake where road crosses up to Lac Godeau area

area – 30 m area - difficult to get across because of log jumble

Beartooth – 7km washed out / E-100 branch

ACTION – Walt will check and get back to members on status of trails

BREAK 7:25 – 7:38PM

Presentation – Forest Watch BC

Power Point Presentation

Aron O'Carroll, LLB.

Aron O'Carroll, Executive Director of Forest Watch BC was introduced to members. Members introduced themselves and gave brief outline of their background.

Aron began by congratulating the Community Advisory Group for their hard work and input into the processes that they have been involved in so far. It was noted that CAG's involvement with the CSA certification process was successful and quite unique.

Aron noted that public input into the recently published report on Results based Code proposed was due Friday (June 28th) Submissions can be made directly to the website or by mail, fax or e-mail.

Overview of presentation

Forest Watch of British Columbia

Context

Current Code

Other Non-Results Based Code Changes

General Concerns

Citizen Participation

Operational Planning

Recommendations

It was noted that copies of the presentation would be made available to the group and will be posted on the website with the minutes of the meeting.

Questions were answered regarding the following:

Streams –

Difference in S4 stream requirements were noted - recommended for retention but not legally required. Member noted that most class 4 streams are intermittent.

Issues around guidelines in the biodiversity guidebook were discussed. It was noted that many items have not been implemented that were promised seven years ago.

Significant non-compliances-

It was noted that enforcement would likely be more difficult, expensive and uncertain. Ministry of Forest staff (BCGEU) agree that compliance monitoring at present is inadequate.

Examples – Auditors are finding:

Signs –several non-conformances noted

90% of bridges have been found to be non-compliant

failure to clean culverts is a concern

repeat of non-compliant events found

It was noted that there is a general trend to try to improve the company management of these areas.

RCMP Forest Crime Division-

Incidents of timber and shake block theft on the coast, grade- setting etc were discussed. Stumpage report requirements etc. How many cases so far charged – only one violation reported against forester causing harm to the environment since the Code took effect and Weyerhaeuser won the case. Member asked whether reported – on website for public review?

Staff Cuts-

It was noted that 20 offices would close – member asked how will supervision take place when staff is cut?

Members noted concerns that it doesn't seem possible to have more enforcement with fewer staff. Currently only 13 people work in compliance.

LRMP's-

Members asked about the status of the LRMP's that were planned – will industry most likely be setting goals for itself in higher level plans? What about obligations to consult with the community and First Nations involvement.

All LRMP's will be eliminated and replaced with Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management Plans that must be consistent with the old LRMP's. Since the core review process 70% covered by higher level plans.

Public Participation-

New plans that are area-based will be still subject to a 60-day public review period.

New **Resource Development Permits** will be issued and will replace all existing plans- they will consist of a geo-referenced map with no "*specific location of any particular timber harvesting and/or road construction activity*"

Strategic plans that include Grizzly bear management, regular land use and resource- use plans will be made and the office of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource management will look after these.

Member noted that there was always a disappointing turnout for public reviews of plans in the past and that probably would not change.

It was noted that Forest development plans became standard practice in the 1990's and were required to delineate roads, cutblocks and operating areas on a recent satellite image. It was noted that the Brazilian government has recently just made it law to provide a recent satellite image on website for forest plans.

It was noted that progressive companies such as Slocam.com and Gormanbros.com have excellent Internet access available to the public.

Stand Level Plans –

Weyerhaeuser believes that stand level plans should be required.

Certifications – ISO, CSA, FSC etc. –

Member asked where the certifications processes fit in – are they replacing public comments and do they compliment the situation.

Certification structures are designed to be based on a minimum set of legal standards and have to have a baseline set of rules – there should be legal compliance *plus*.

Again the difficulty of assessing *compliance* was raised.

Permits issued once every five years with no amendments-

Member expressed concern that no amendments would be allowed under the new system. If changes required for streams, roads or corridors or other items, there would be no degree of flexibility, no amendments would be allowed and plan would have to be re-done.

First Nations Involvement-

It was noted that First Nation's consultation was still required and was taking place in the form of field outings and consultation regarding special sites etc

Obligation to consult where a First Nation has a "good claim"

Obligation is on the crown and the logging company

Crown and logging company may be liable for damages for failure to adequately consult

Public Participation-

Member noted that clearly defined public review periods should be advertised and held

Public should have the right of appeal

Need role for citizens to provide adequate enforcement

Training program by Forest Watch BC-

Aron described citizens' training program that has been successful in training over 200 volunteers in the last two years.

Member asked whether program could be made available in Powell River-

Minimum of 12 people required for two-day workshop

Suggestion that CAG could host and provide location

ACTION – Member volunteered to organize Forest Watch BC Citizen's training program to be held locally

Question regarding prosecutions under the Forest Practices Code – why would prosecutions be made under the criminal code and not the Forest Practices Code – or Fisheries Act?

Answer – Don't believe Ministry of Forests has any directions to see prosecutions enforced. Mechanisms challenging re illegal logging and fishery violations. RCMP Forest Crimes Division get involved.

Question – Do companies see penalty –based system (fines) as the cost of doing business?

Answer- Penalty-based system seems to be the most efficient- Companies are responsible to shareholders and economic costs have to be reported.

Note: Some feel fines are too low- Example was given of company that was fined \$7000 for causing a landslide, but cost for fixing the damage was actually \$75,000.

Walt noted that there are changes and improvements being made and that Weyerhaeuser is way out in front, and the company has a low tolerance for non-compliance.

9:10pm –

Chair noted that although the meeting was running late, it was important to continue discussion, get questions answered and to prepare comments before Friday.

Members agreed.

Short break

Phillips Arm Trip – Details to be distributed to members that are planning the trip on August 10th

Open House Committee will be formed in the fall

Community Forest Update – postponed until next time

Continuation and Review of points discussed

Concerns included:

Biodiversity guidebooks – rules not implemented

Identify wildlife management strategic plans

Identify Forest dependent species in BC

Impact on timber supply more than 1%?

What about the Pilot project? CSA certification?

Industry and environmentalists need more time

Requirements stem from Weyerhaeuser's pursuit of certification CSA and ISO voluntarily undertaken by Weyerhaeuser make them more viable in the marketplace

Suggestion that maybe government may give certified licensees a 'break' – or credit since certification auditing enforcement agencies would show that they are meeting their

requirements

Minimum standards are required to be met – government may do audit of a company that was certified. Quality of the certification process important- strict criteria for auditors needed for uniformity of audits.

Inadequate enforcement if government defers auditing

Question- Re 46% signs in non-compliances - whose numbers?

Answer – Forest Practices Board

Question –Are penalties really inadequate?

Answer – Total fines are not real costs of cleanup etc – fines to non-compliant forest companies totaled the same as the total of all the overdue book fines at Vancouver library in a year. (Actual \$ figure not available)

Question – Sustainable Resource Management Permit will have good reference maps?

Road constructions should be shown.

Answer- There should be content requirements

Walt – not clear what's happening – public should have right of appeal

Members noted –

Right of Appeal – public should have the right to resolve disputes

Public should have review of adequate government plans with content requirements and be provided with the same consultation process as First Nations.

Weyerhaeuser wants to require that plans respond to market demands

The need to make amendments is lacking

Results based code proposes lots of flexibility but not enough to manage misdeeds

Members noted it was important to-

Have a clear plan

Achieve results

Achieve certification obligations

Assess results and compliance to certification

Plans to draft a letter before Friday deadline were made –members will be e-mailed. The importance of comments from CAG was stressed. It was noted that CAG’s invitation to the committee of visiting MLA’s and Rod Visser had not been accepted, member suggested that maybe CAG letter could extend the invitation again.

Chair thanked Aron O’Carroll for the presentation and discussion.

Citizens Training program

Members should let their names be known if interested in participating in the program.

AAC up 20% this year –sustainability - Member noted that the AAC was up 20% this year and that sustainability was now around 40 year old trees.

Next meeting July 10th - Coast Hotel - 6:00pm –

Biosolids information session

Meeting Adjourned 9:50pm.

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Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group		
June 26th 2002		
Attendance		
Name	Position	Member Seat
<u>PRESENT</u>		
Eagle Walz Chair	Primary	Recreation
Jane Cameron	Alternate	Recreation
Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair	Primary	Recreation

Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
Michael Conway-Brown	Primary	Recreation
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business
David Gabelhouse	Primary	Local Govt
John Passek	Primary	Motorized Recreation
Jack McLinchey	Alternate	Motorized Recreation
Bill Duff	Primary	Citizens
Karen Duff	Alternate	Citizens
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Taylor Holbrook	Alternate	Youth
Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependent
<u>ABSENT</u>		
Sonny Rioux	Primary	IWA
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors
Kathleen O'Neil	Primary	Education/Planning
Andrew Pinch	Primary	Tourism
Ian Fleming	Alternate	Local Business
Doug Fugge	Primary	Youth

<i>9 seats in attendance</i>		
Resource – other		
Walt Cowlard	Weyerhaeuser	Stillwater
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	