

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

October 9th, 2002

Minutes

Recording Secretary: Pam Dowding

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

Quorum noted

5:30PM New members' orientation

6:00pm: Dinner

6:20pm: Facilitator welcomed new members. Safety Procedures were outlined by facilitator.

Introductions

Chair welcomed new members and introductions were made around the table.

Acceptance of Agenda and additions

Agenda was accepted and addition made.

Review of Minutes of September 25th

Minutes from September 25^h were reviewed and accepted. Amendments noted.

Member asked about the procedure for introduction of new alternates to the advisory group. Reference was made to the Terms of Reference. It was noted that the Terms of Reference are reviewed once a year and amendments made by a sub-committee. Members vote to accept changes and accept Terms of Reference

Correspondence

Letter of response from Weyerhaeuser –(*Subject: Leave trees and Patches associated with variable retention*) to CAG’s letter of June 5th regarding variable retention.

Background information for new members

Facilitator explained briefly CAG’s standing on variable retention and the fact that they wished for trees that were left to remain in perpetuity.

It was noted that a signed copy would be provided when signed by all foresters involved. Comments to Rod regarding the above letter of response. Further discussions to take place at next meeting.

Letter of response from Weyerhaeuser – (*Subject: Sustainable Old growth Species*) to CAG’s concerns regarding Sustainable Old Growth.

It was noted that the next Strategic planning meeting for Weyerhaeuser was scheduled for October 10th.

CAG’s concerns regarding Old Growth will be brought forward at the meeting.
Question from Weyerhaeuser regarding CAG’s suggestion for a hundred year perpetuity plan and a 30% setback.

Member asked whether interested member was invited. Member will be invited to future meeting but not to the first meeting.

It was noted that Weyerhaeuser is committed to address issues brought forward by the advisory group and to find solutions.

Question - regarding harvesting in Phillips Arm – is there a market for old growth or 2nd growth?

Answer - harvesting will be done next year to satisfy market demand – production planning takes place in Nanaimo and mills have said they need more old growth to keep running. Stillwater Timberlands needs to cut 40-50,000 cubic meters to try to balance cut Block I has been overcut and Block 5 has been undercut in the last two years and company needs to cut in Phillips Arm –Block 5 next year (year three) to balance out.

It was noted that –

Mills need old growth and/or second growth to keep to keep going

Stillwater needs to keep employees employed

Question – How many cut blocks in block 1 and 5?

Answer – Total AAC is for the TFL in the five-year period - 180,000 hectares in block 1 and 80,000 in block 5.

Question – Does government ever say cut anyway – not just for profit?

Answer – Decisions are made locally by managers- government doesn't decide when and where to cut – just says how much within five years according to the law. Mills determine what they want, and companies like Stillwater Timberlands try to minimize losses and make plans to make a profit.

ACTION LIST

Action list from September 25th was reviewed and most items completed.

Variable Retention Audit

It was noted that there will be two trips-

Five people can go on first trip by vehicle

Three people can go on boat up Powell Lake to Goat Island

Member asked for times of trip.

Vehicles and boat will leave around 7 am and return around 5pm.

Community Forest Update

Member asked whether members wanted to spend time at CAG meetings getting updates. Members replied that since it was a community value, information on proposed community forest was needed.

Brochures were distributed – made by Shearwater services. It was noted that four letters have been sent to the Ministry of Forests, and no response received. It was discovered that letters had not been received. It was noted that since the Ministry of Forests had been busy with other important issues, they were trying to rescue a failing industry, trying to resolve the softwood lumber problem, and

trying to re-vamp the Forest Practices Code. Advice from deputy minister was to keep on trying.

Question - Member asked whether Sliammon had been consulted.

Answer - Not consulted.

It was noted that Sliammon was also asking for a community forest. It was suggested that the lead person in charge in Victoria will come to Powell River if invited. It was noted that PREDS (Powell River Economic Development Society) was involved and another meeting will be held soon, input from other interested parties welcome. It was noted that PREDS paid for the work that Shearwater Services did on the proposal.

Question from member - whether the Regional District was interested in getting involved in a community forest.

Answer – Not interested but wish to be informed.

It was noted that more community support and more money were needed, also a huge time commitment for the PREDS community forest committee.

Member suggested that someone from the school district should be on the committee.

Question - Members asked about the 5% clawback and how it will be allocated. Airport reserve lands a possibility? Mostly in Block 1?

Answer - Some in block 1 and some in block 5.

Possible partnerships with Sliammon were suggested.

It was noted that two parties are interested in a Community Forest in the Powell River area- First nations and the community.

Millennium park update

Members asked if any news on the proposed Millennium Park. No news – waiting for the Provincial government to make a decision.

First Nations involvement and Community Advisory groups

It was noted that First Nations are very busy with other meetings but could possibly set aside some time to attend CAG meetings. May attend but not every meeting.

It was noted that invitations had been sent out in September to attend CAG meetings.

Action List

Action list from September 25th was reviewed.

Government Recreation Sites and Trails

Divestiture: Requests for Proposals.

Member reported the results of a meeting that had taken place in Powell River recently. Over 50 different groups attended a meeting that was held to inform the public and volunteer groups of the possibility of taking over the maintenance of the recreation sites and trails that were previously maintained by the Ministry of Forests. Groups asked whether the government would provide liability insurance.

Government said it would not then maybe it would. It was noted that the government form: Request for Proposals was very long and detailed and required many answers such as what would group do in case of fire at a site – Plans would have to be in place in the event of an emergency such as fire or blowdown. More people who attended meeting were not interested in getting involved if there was a possibility they could be sued for liability. Member noted that using a chainsaw to clear debris would require WCB coverage and a first aid attendant on site. It was noted that most volunteer groups don't have funds for such resources. It was noted that if the government can't find non-profit (volunteer) groups to take over, they will offer the jobs to profit making groups such as small businesses.

Member noted that the wellbeing of the community depended on recreation sites and trails, and the government was passing over their responsibility to others, and tax dollars are being spent elsewhere. It was noted that the program cost the government \$5million and \$1million was recouped from the sale of permits.

It was noted that a letter regarding liability had been sent to the government with a petition.

Suggestion that CAG write a letter to the Premier of BC to state their view on this matter.

ACTION – Letter to be sent to Premier Gordon Campbell: re: liability insurance.

Questions from Weyerhaeuser regarding the Canoe Route and Weyerhaeuser taking over the maintenance – under what circumstances do they take over and what insurance do they have and are FIA funds available for maintenance?

Ministry of Forests to answer questions.

BREAK 7:45PM – 7:55PM

Steve Gordon – Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Phillips Arm

Presentation on Landscape Unit Planning

Phillips Arm – Landscape Unit Plan not yet legally established but will be done soon.

Grizzly Bear, Mountain Goats, Northern Goshawk, Marbled Murrelet

Photos showed grizzly bear habitat, bedding grounds. Mossy platforms for Marbled Murrelet. Connectivity was shown from Alpine to valley bottoms. Mountain Goat winter ranges shown.

Biodiversity –

Create OGMA's - reserved- can't harvest

Wild Life Tree Patches – when approved

Effects of heli-logging on habitat were studied - it was noted that some heli-logging and some yarding will be done in Phillips Arm next year. Member noted that stumpage fees are lower for heli-logging because of the high costs involved.

It was noted that 72% of trees will be left, but the nicest trees will be harvested to make a viable operation.

Allowances for planting same species will be made.

Question – Phillips protected grizzlies- what about goat protection?

Answer – Three grizzly bear habitat areas have been established that are key feeding areas. Mountain goats like the bluffs - have identified 20 or more goat winter ranges- estimated around 30 – 50 goat population there now. It was noted that there was some hunting activity in the 70's and 80's.

Value to recognize those areas.

Question – seems to some overlap in habitats?

Answer – Yes there will be since different species use the same habitat sometimes.

Spruce Flats that is protected for Grizzly Bears is also home to Coho salmon, Roosevelt Elk, and Marbled Murrelets use the mossy platforms in the area. Area is useful for more than one thing.

It was noted that the Phillips Arm area has been identified as a "small coastal gem" for Grizzlies.

Question – What effects of heli-logging on Mountain goats?

Answer – So far three have had kids and seem to be doing ok. Sometimes are spooked by helicopters.

Member asked whether Steve had done his research alone –

Volunteer research assistant was helping last year and this year got funding to hire someone.

Terms of Reference

Members were asked whether they would object to another group using the CAG Terms of Reference as a model for another organization. There were no objections.

Operational Information Map

Doug McCormick

Electronic presentation of operational information map was shown. New feature of map showed boxes to highlight new features. Handouts showed current activities re harvesting, road construction, road rehabilitation, FIA Projects and engineering.

Road re-hab - Dianne lake Main complete to timber edge, done for this year.

FIA Projects – Goat 1 and Goat 11 complete, culverts will be pulled over the next month for seasonal deactivation, 4 wheel drive access will be maintained.

New on Map – PD-201 and ST-290 Roads. Block added near Inland Lake for engineering in January 2003.

Dry Land Sort

Member was concerned that loss of jobs would result from the recent sale of the dry land sort by Weyerhaeuser. Noted that loss of jobs would be bad for the community and CSA certification.

It was noted that no jobs have been lost, the dry land sort may be expanding and creating more jobs in the future.

Interfor move across the border

Member expressed concern that a large forestry company has decided to move operations across the border. Value added cedar will be moved across the border because of duties. It was noted that mall businesses could fill the void that will be left.

Terms of Reference committee were asked to stay for short meeting after adjournment

Adjourn 9:12PM

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group		
October 9th 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	Environment
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business
David Gabelhouse	Primary	Local Govt
Kathleen O'Neil	Primary	Education/Planning

Jack McClinchey	Alternate	Motorized Recreation
John Passek	Primary	Motorized Recreation
Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependent
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
Dave Rees	Alternate	Tourism
<i>9 seats in attendance</i>		
<u>ABSENT</u>		
Sonny Rioux	Primary	IWA
Andrew Pinch	Primary	Tourism
George Ferreira	Alternate	Local Business
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
Dana McKamey	Alternate	Contractors
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors
Resource – other		
Doug McCormick	Weyerhaeuser	Stillwater
Rod Tysdal	Weyerhaeuser	Stillwater
Steve Gordon	Ministry of Sustainable Resources	
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	