

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

April 9th 2003

Minutes

Town Centre Hotel

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

Quorum noted

6:00pm: Dinner

6:17pm: Meeting called to order

Quorum noted

Introductions

Guest Walt Cowlard, Superintendent for Forestry and Engineering, was welcomed to meeting and introduced to new members. CAG members introduced themselves.

Acceptance of Agenda and additions

Agenda was reviewed; changes and additions were made. Agenda accepted as amended.

Review of Minutes

Minutes of April 2nd were reviewed and accepted. No amendments.

Heli-logging Discussion

Walt provided charts showing heli-logging activities in TFL39 Block 1 since 1989. Map was also shown and areas where heli-logging has taken place were pointed out. It was noted that 2003 has been a large year so far for heli-logging.

Question – Are there areas that have been heli-logged that could have been conventionally logged?

Answer- Up until last year only areas that were inaccessible by road were heli-logged. This year – Powell Lake (BT-633) could have been logged off the lake. Also Goat Island block GT-69 could have been roaded, but after review with the Ministry of Forests, it was decided that heli-logging would cost less than building a road and bridge.

Walt noted that up until last year, only old growth was heli-logged, this year second growth from inaccessible areas will be available for heli-logging. AAC has increased in Management Plan 7 and in order to log the profile, reclassification has taken place. Trends will be up and down depending on the market. (\$110-\$115 for old growth and \$95-\$100 for second growth at present)

Member noted that heli-logging is increasing all over the province, and voiced concerns about loss of work for the community when areas that could be conventionally logged are heli-logged. Concerns were also raised about out-of town crews and pilots that are used for heli-logging.

Question - Member asked how second growth was accessed the first time –

Answer - Second growth that is available now in inaccessible areas is due to fire history at the turn of the century.

Member noted that the excuse of higher costs for conventional methods was not acceptable. Harvesting that could have been done with grapple yarder and crew have been heli-logged.

Walt noted that the company was starting to build a road into the heli-landing at K-branch west of Freda Lake, so some logging in that area will be conventional, and a small amount will have to be heli-logged.

Question - How much second growth is post fire history?

Answer - 300,000 cubic meters.

Walt noted that the cost of dumps is high, and in the past engineers believed that feller bunchers could operate on ground

up to a 30% slope. Recent advances in technology now allow more machines to operate in areas up to a 50% slope.

Member voiced concerns about safety and noted that machines could roll over if used on steeper ground.

Regarding safety concerns, Rod noted that employee safety and contractor safety has been a big issue and the emphasis has been on safety for the past few years. Another reason for heli-logging in the Goat Island area was concern for the cabin owners' high recreation use and the visual effect of a road and log dump – could be unsightly.

Member noted that there were two openings that could have been used to put logs into the lake instead of using helicopters.

Single stem logging that is also done by helicopters was discussed; it was noted that helicopters going in and removing a single tree proved to be better environmentally. Walt noted that logging in the Powell Daniels block was done by 40% of the stand being removed by single stemming and 60% of the timber was left standing. Member noted that the biggest and best cedars can be obtained by single stemming. A good example of recent single stem logging was noted in the Princess Louisa inlet.

Question – Does stumpage vary by method used?

Answer – Yes – Stumpage is cheaper for heli-logging. Forest Service looks at economic cost analysis for heli-logging before approval.

Question - How much input does IWA have prior to plans being made and what influence does IWA have when the community is losing jobs?

Answer - Company is always driven by economics, as well as practicing good forestry.

Question - Are IWA involved in any way in the planning stage?

Answer - No – but can be involved as in the Community Advisory Group

Member again voiced concerns about the economic state of the

community where people have been losing jobs and homes due to outside labour and out of town helicopter crews being used.

Walt noted that the Powell River area is fortunate that logging will be maintained and there will still be mechanical falling taking place.

Question - When conditions are equitable, is there more economic advantage for conventional logging over heli-logging?

Answer - Varies – company would look block by block to see which was the best option. Cost by helicopter and cost by road would be compared. Usually conventional (road) is cheaper, but there is an advantage on crown land due to the difference in stumpage rates.

Member noted that there is more wood this year due to the increased AAC that will be harvested by both methods.

Facilitator suggested that members revisit the values and goals and social indicators. It was suggested that a value that addresses the concerns of the IWA could be added so that they could get more involved in the planning.

Facilitator noted that further questions from members could be submitted to the question box.

Chair thanked Walt for the information provided and an invitation was issued for a return visit at a future date.

Review of FSP Operational Information Map

Rod Tysdal

Operational information map was shown. Handouts showed current activities re harvesting and road construction and engineering. Maps showed new block (TM-182, Old growth logging). It was noted that a new road, PD-208 was not shown on the map. Road will be added next time.

Question regarding HB-109 in the Haywire Bay area, what's happening where Haywire Bay trail crosses the road?

ACTION – Rod will find out what the plans are for HB-109 at the Haywire Bay trail location.

It was noted that the cedar salvage area has been expanded at the head of Goat Lake.

One-Way Loop

Map was provided and Rod reported that the road work is almost finished. New one-way loop will start at the end of Dixon Road and will hook up left to 4-mile on Goat Lake Mainline to Goat main from 4 mile up to Tin hat junction. One way loop will be open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Rod noted that many new signs will go up at the kiosk at Tin Hat junction, and all along the route. Map will also be displayed at the kiosk. It was noted that the radio frequency used on the new road will be the Stillwater Timberlands frequency for the whole loop. Tin Hat junction road will be two-way traffic and the company would like to widen that section where the Sunshine Coast trail comes out for parking in future. It was noted that Goat Main will maintain regular hours but members would like to see 24/7 access in future. Member requested an 8 ½ x11-size map of the one way loop.

ACTION – Rod will provide small map of the one-way loop for members.

Member asked whether a digital camera could be obtained to take photos of the new signs

ACTION – Rod will take photos of new signs for one-way loop.

Break – 7:30pm – 7:45pm

Rainy Day Lake Fish farm proposal

Members were provided with copies of handout by PRPAWS regarding the application for proposed fish farm on Rainy Day Lake. Several reasons were cited for denial of applications.

Lake size – too small

Inadequate flushing of the lake exacerbates its miniscule size.

Not clear how many millions of fish would be raised in a year

No conclusive evidence provided to prove that no fish live in the lake

No approved facility for disposal of dead fish in Powell River or the regional district

Plan for disposal of fish excrement and left over food is not complete

Community places a high value on this lake for recreation/tourism and also for retention of the forest around it.

Discussion followed and members agreed that the area was used by hikers, fishermen, hunters and campers. Member noted that he had fished and caught brown trout in the lake. Member noted that the group had created a protected area with a 30-meter buffer zone around the lake when zoning was completed for the FSP. Responses to the Ministry of Forests from Weyerhaeuser and other groups will make note of this important feature. Member noted that the applicant may not be aware of the buffer around the lake. An open house will be advertised and a website link will be available for comments. Member noted that the Regional District plan to discuss the application at the April 17th meeting.

Member asked whether the applicant was the same person that was recently turned down for Powell Lake – It was noted that a different person is the applicant for Rainy Day Lake fish farm.

It was noted that since CAG had established values and goals to protect lakes and trails, and the buffers were already written into legislation, they should be honored. Members agreed that they should stick to what they agreed to with the Pilot Project zoning. New member asked for zoning map to be made available at next discussion. (April 23rd)

ACTION – Zoning map to be available for April 23rd meeting.

Member asked whether any studies had been done on what kind of impact a fish farm has on a fresh water lake. It was noted that there is a fish farm operating on Lois Lake already. Member also noted that jobs are needed in the community and maybe using the buffer as an excuse was not the right way to go. It was suggested that maybe the fish farm would do well in a larger lake where CAG has no recreational interests. Member agreed that CAG would not oppose any development in the TFL, and social values are important. The size of the lake (25 hectares) and depth (48meters in the middle, shallow at the edges) and space taken up by facilities was discussed. It was agreed to continue discussion at a future meeting. Questions can be directed to PRPAWS by e-mail or phone.

Draw for books and map

Members drew for a few copies of the publication

"1931-2002 Lumber Worker" and maps.

2002 Brushing by Method Summary

As requested, Rod provided the first quarterly summary showing statistics on herbicide use compared to other methods. Summary included Block 1 and Block 5 and showed manual methods (girdling of alder stems, brush saws, power saws and other mechanical means) and herbicide methods (Release and Vision) statistics. Information on the amount of active ingredients used was also listed. Member asked about surfactants in the solutions used, and questioned whether the labeling on chemical products was always correct. It was suggested that chemical companies don't always list every ingredient on labeling.

Member noted that one of the groups' values and goals is zero use of herbicides. It was noted that the area near Inland Lake has recently been sprayed with Vision – signs are up warning the public. Rod noted that the area is safe to go into, and no remnants of vision spraying remain.

Member stated that he would like to see none used. Sub-committee will meet and discuss further.

ACTION – Sub-committee on herbicide/pesticide use to meet and discuss issues.

Member offered help with alternate methods being developed. Research into naturally occurring fungi in salmonberry has been ongoing. Rod noted that the next report will be issued before the summer break. Whatever statistics CAG wants to see will be in the report. It was suggested that the report be part of the minutes.

Community Forest

Member noted that as a result of the new proposed Forest revitalization plan, 20% more timber will be available from TFL's that have more than 200,000 cubic meters per year. It was noted that 50% would go to small business and 50% to First Nations, small community tenures and woodlots. Member noted that the municipality of Powell River has taken on the job of trying to get a community forest for Powell River. In view of the new changes, it looks more positive for Powell River. Member moved that CAG support the municipality's application for a community forest. Seconded. Member stated that IWA would not support the idea of a community forest, if it took away employment. It would only support the idea but not at the expense of taking away jobs from loggers. He noted that a community forest would only provide short-term employment. Member asked who would award the contract for cutting in a community forest – the municipality

would award the contract. Member commented that if there is 20% taken from the AAC for small business, that should hopefully create more jobs. Rod noted that Weyerhaeuser would possibly lose some jobs. Value added businesses could submit proposals and government would make decisions based on proposals. Member noted that the municipality had received a thank you letter from the government, and they have prepared a booklet on community forests. It was noted that a community forest for Powell River could create many opportunities and create permanent jobs. Spin-offs would include fibre supply for local wood processors, educational opportunities and work experience for Powell River students. Community Forest would be a way of generating revenue for the municipality and funds could be used for much needed hospital services etc. member asked whether the municipality would apply for CSA or FSC certification

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The municipality would apply for certification – would make easier to sell the wood. Province would invite the municipality of Powell River to apply for a community forest. Member asked who would pay if the community forest created a loss instead of a profit. All factors would be considered and other areas surveyed before decision made to go ahead. Hopefully it would provide jobs and revenue. It was noted that the airport reserve lands owned by the municipality have been logged and 7000 cubic meters of timber logged in the first year from 94 hectares. Planning was done by Shearwater Consulting. Member commented that it is one of the best sites in BC.

Members agreed that they need more time to study the documents before commenting. Discussion on community forest was tabled until future meeting.
(May 21st)

Terms of Reference

Chair of the sub-committee for the Terms of Reference invited members to review the Terms of Reference and to e-mail with comments or suggested changes. It was noted that CAG members will have to agree to any changes or additions.

Access

Member noted that an audited site at Dodd Lake had been cleaned up, but there is a 30-ft wide strip that may need hydro seeding.

ACTION - Rod will look into what is needed in the Dodd Lake area.

Member reported some problems at 32-mile with another contractor – Andy Byrne.

no flag person

blocking B-branch

falsely advertising

Rod apologized for the contractor. Signs will be put up, advertisement will be put in the paper and access information will be posted on the hotline.

Open House

Sub-committee reported that Open House would be held in June, not May as originally planned. Members were invited to submit ideas for booths and door prizes. Advertisement will be placed in the newspaper and invitations issued as in the past.

ACTION – Members to get ideas and door prizes for Open House.

Next Meeting – April 23rd

Working Forest discussion paper to be discussed. Members were asked to review the Working Forest handout provided before the next meeting.

Code of Conduct

Members were reminded of the Code of Conduct that is posted at each meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:22pm

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group		
April 9th 2003		
Attendance		
Name	Position	Member Seat
<u>PRESENT</u>		
Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair	Primary	Recreation
Eagle Walz Chair	Primary	Recreation

Jane Cameron	Alternate	Recreation
Michael Conway-Brown	Primary	Environment
Patrick Brabazon	Primary	Local Govt (Reg)
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Environment
David Gabelhouse	Alternate	Local Govt (Muni)
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business
Debby Waslewski	Primary	Citizens
Jack McClinchey	Primary	Motorized Rec.
Dave Rees	Alternate	Tourism
Dave Perrin	Alternate	IWA
Sonny Rioux	Primary	IWA
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
John Passek	Alternate	Motorized Rec.
Kevin McKamey	Alternate	Contractors
<i>12 seats represented</i>		
<u>ABSENT</u>		
Russell Storry	Primary	Local Govt
Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependent
Dianne Mason	Alternate	Education
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens
George Ferreira	Alternate	Local Business

Kathleen O’Neil	Primary	Education
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Andrew Pinch	Primary	Tourism
Jason Lennox	Alternate	Tourism
Christine Hollmann	Alternate	Environment
Resource – other		
Rod Tysdal	Stillwater Timberlands	Weyerhaeuser
Walt Cowlard	Guest – Superintendent Forestry&Eng.	Stillwater Timberlands Weyerhaeuser
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	