

# Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

Aug 13th 2003

## Minutes

Weyerhaeuser Office

Attendance:

Rod Tysdal – Stillwater Timberlands

Neil Hughes – Stillwater Timberlands

Eagle Walz – Community Advisory Group Chair

Ken Jackson – Community Advisory Group Vice-Chair

Jane Cameron – CAG member, Recreation

George Ferreira - CAG member, Local Business

Andrew Pinch – CAG member, Tourism

Kathleen O’Neil – CAG member, Education

7:00pm

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Rod thanked everyone for coming out during the summer recess. The purpose of the information meeting was explained. Changes in legislation have been made, requiring licensees to replace the old method of applying for Pesticide Use Permits (PUP’s). Handouts explaining the new procedures were provided. New Pest Management Plans (PMP’s) will be made for the areas of operations near Powell River, including TFL39, block 1, on the upper Sunshine Coast including TFL39, block 5 and on the lower Sunshine Coast. Rod noted that the new PMP would be designed to ensure that pesticides are only used in the context of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. One of the items listed was – *Reducing pest populations to*

*acceptable levels using strategies that may include a combination of mechanical, chemical, behavioral, biological, physical and cultural controls.* Neil noted that professional foresters will access the sites and

make decisions on new plantings, fertilizers, brushings etc.

*Question* – In what way will public input be changed? Appeals etc can be time consuming; will there be opportunities for public input?

*Answer* – Pesticide Management Plans will be similar to Forest Development Plans will be for a five year period. Consultations will be held with the public and First Nations community. Company has to advertise every year.

*Question* – When announcements are made - are they subject to appeal?

*Answer* – No. Notifications are posted only. In some zones there may be limited restrictions in the use of herbicides. There could be zones where the Ministry of Environment would want to do an assessment.

CAG member noted that CAG has voted against the use of herbicides.

Neil pointed out that public consultations would get in touch with stakeholders and company will find out where water supplies could be affected; also outdoors people will be consulted as well as the general public. Separate consultations will take place between the company and First Nations for input into zones. Discussions have taken place between the Weyerhaeuser and the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry noted that consultation with CAG is not enough; broader consultations, and open house displays etc. must be used.

*Question* – What will be the nature of consultations?

*Answer* – Process will be similar to Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP). Some ideas will be company will be listening to what the public says. Pesticide branch will make the final decisions.

### **Listed Areas**

Neil noted that Stillwater is starting to apply for three Pesticide Management Plans (PMP's). Also for the alder forest license areas (outlying timber license areas of Sechelt)

Lower Sunshine Coast – Jervis Inlet

Powell River

Upper – Islands from Bute to Phillips Arm.

Rod noted that CAG would be consulted for Blocks 1 and 5, and there will be zoning for the whole Sunshine Coast. Areas of concern for CAG would include Haslam Watershed, Lang Creek, Riparian area, back end of Daniels, Old Growth zones and High Falls. Wildlife areas for goats and grizzlies would be no pesticide zones. Cultural zones would also be considered.

*Question* – What type of pests are targeted - pine beetles?

*Answer* – Plan covers all pests (both vegetation, disease and insects) and root rot etc.

*Question* – Will all pests be identified?

*Answer* – Yes, all will be listed. 80% of costs deal with established new plantations.

*Question* – Who decides damage threshold and what kind of criteria is used?

*Answer* – Foresters survey sites and decisions are made according to how serious the brush problems are – in a mixed alder stand salmonberry grows in at a large %. Foresters will make judgment calls on how to manage sites.

*Question* – Will plan have strategy for reducing herbicide use?

*Answer* – Bioherbicide use will be built into the plan. Field trial will begin this summer.

Integrated Pest Management Plans will focus on how to get plantations to grow as quickly as possible. It was noted that cost for chainsaw brushing was \$800 per hectare. Costs for herbicide and pesticide use are considerably lower. Site preparation, slash burning for cleaner sites and some herbicide use all help trees grow faster.

*Question* – 90% of spraying is for the health of new plantings?

*Answer* – Yes - we don't have huge problems here but root rot is a problem for Douglas fir.

Neil explained that company has to meet government obligations for herbicide use whenever used.

*Question* – If plans are good for five years, can public appeal plan after approval?

Member noted that it cost the government \$millions last year for appeals.

*Answer* – Plans are good for five years but annual public consultation is required.

Neil noted that herbicides are federally approved and the company is allowed to use them. Although it is legal to use Vision in watersheds, some zones will be no-use zones because of public concerns and other sensitive reasons. Example – Creek runs through private properties in the Southview Road area and company does not anticipate using pesticides in that area. Company is aware of water supply issues. Additional buffers will be used on streams. Feedback from the public is important.

*Question* – Does the government specify areas of no-use for herbicides?

*Answer* – Government says it is legal to use but industry chooses not to use in watersheds due to public concerns. Sensitive areas around fish and areas such as the intake for Haslam Lake are respected. Buffer zones will be set up around streams.

*Question* – Who does the testing for herbicides?

*Answer* – Federal government tests and approves use of glyphosate (Vision). Not approved for use in watersheds or grizzly habitats. Provincial government sets standards. Municipal governments don't have legal authority.

Member noted that the Regional District appeals all pesticide applications.

Member requested that the word "plantations" be eliminated from presentations in futures.

*Question* – Member asked whether more or less herbicide use is planned for the future.

*Answer* – Plan states that there is no endorsement to increase use, and shows a better picture- solution is using fewer applications- there is a need to use more alternatives.

*Question* – Is company strategy to reduce use and find alternate ways?

*Answer – Yes.*

*Question – Over the last fifty years, what has changed as far as use of chain saws, brush saws, etc.?*

*Answer - Use of cones is new, larger stock used that is fertilized at time of planting. Company is committed to research and is involved with the Canadian Forest Service and BC Hydro. Advances have been made in the use of herbicides – twenty years ago DDT was used.*

Neil noted that the use of chain saws can be dangerous – and cited an incident in Sechelt where a worker was overcome by fumes while using a chain saw. Integrated Pest Management program will come up with the best strategies.

*Question – What about re-planting areas with alders?*

*Answer - 500 hectares has been planted over the last five years – company is looking for approval to manage for alder – now a valuable timber.*

*Question – What about strategies for elk and deer?*

*Answer – Management of species (cedar) difficult sometimes due to the presence of elk. Elk don't like Douglas Fir- Fencing out sometimes works.*

Member noted that elk is indigenous, salmonberry is a pest – who decides?

*Question – Two or three years into plan, what happens if a new, unknown pest (mountain pine beetle, sawflies, gypsy moths) shows up?*

*Answer – Company would have to advertise (revised) plan again.*

*Question – Would Weyerhaeuser consider working with CAG on a detailed level?*

*Answer – Yes- would like to get meaningful feedback. Company wants to have Open House to hear from all public sectors regarding plans.*

Member noted that CAG would continue to *agree to disagree* regarding the use of herbicides but will continue dialogue with the company.

*Question – What about slash burning in Douglas fir stands?*

*Answer – Great tool, but can't use as smoke index is too high. In the 80's burning was badly done. After 2-3 years area grows up. Last time done was 1996. Concerns are real on how a broadcast burn would affect community.*

*Question – IMP's will they be easy for lay person to understand?*

*Answer-* Yes. Contents will be thorough and will be easy to follow so lay person can see how decisions are made. Company will develop a working paper to present to CAG and the public. CAG members can discuss and make comments.

Neil noted that the company has formally applied to prepare Pest Management Plans for all species in the area. First stage draft will be ready shortly and consultation with stakeholders, First Nations and general public will take place. Input on zoning will be required. Advertisement will appear in the Peak shortly inviting public input. There will be a time period of forty-five days to address issues raised and submit to the Ministry of Environment.

*Question -* Will comments be accepted outside of the forty-five days?

*Answer –* Yes, company will be soliciting input and plan will include consultation report and all details of input and letter from public as required by government.

Neil noted that Open House consultation would give the company contact with the public and a chance to let people know what is planned.

### **Operating Zones**

It was noted that the Ministry of Environment came up with four operating zones. A brief summary of operating zones was provided (attached)

It was noted that ten PMP's have been approved so far under the new system, 98% of lands fall into categories 2 and 4.

*Question –* Explain Old Growth zone 2 (OZ2) as described in Zone 2 –  
*"stakeholders may be consulted"*

*Answer –* Plan will define consultation.

Member noted that CAG's defined interest will be in TFL39 Blocks 1 and 5 and good ideas are needed. There is some recognition by government that weed species are not weeds. Alder could be replaced with alder in some settings and the use of herbicides will possibly be diminished. Alders have fewer problems and die off after sixty years. It was noted that alders are limited in range and don't grow everywhere, only about 7% of the land base is suitable.

Member requested a presentation for CAG on the new system for Pest Management Plans

Neil stated that they hope to give CAG members a reasonable understanding of the situation. When presentation is ready it will be brought to CAG meeting. Maps showing zones for Blocks 1 and 5 will be provided. Pictures showing pine beetles destruction will be shown.

Members suggested a detailed discussion should take place with all CAG members, and ongoing dialogue should continue.

### **Operational Information Map**

Update for August 12<sup>th</sup> was provided for members.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:45pm**