

# Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

June 25th 2003

## Minutes

Town Centre Hotel

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:00pm: Dinner

6:10pm: Meeting called to order

Quorum noted

### **Agenda**

Agenda was posted on the flip chart and itemized in order of priority.

### **Review and acceptance of Terms of Reference**

Terms of Reference were presented with a few changes/additions. Members accepted the changes and agreed to adopt the revised Terms of Reference. Members will receive a new copy in a binder in September.

### **Review of Minutes**

Minutes of May 28<sup>th</sup> were reviewed and adopted. No amendments.

### **Review of Action List**

Review of Action list from May 28<sup>th</sup> was held over until next meeting because of time constraints.

### **Bioherb update**

Handouts were provided and charts posted on wall, but Paul Kutz, the presenter from Weyerhaeuser office, was absent. Item

tabled until next meeting.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Blair Wriglesworth and Stephen Chaplin were introduced. CAG members introduced themselves around the table.

### **Windsor Lake – WL-909 cutblock proposal**

Blair Wriglesworth presented a plan regarding the area around Windsor Lake. Maps and photographs were displayed on the walls. Blair noted that the block was in a unique setting, and that there were some landscape level issues. The area consists of some old growth management areas (OGMAs) and has some large areas already set aside. Some OGMAs that are set aside are a skinny 10-meters along the lake. Engineers have been working on the planning of the block and have concluded that heli-logging will be the most economical method. The option of building a road in the area would go through some OGMAs and the buffer around the lake would be affected. If a road were built, the portage route for the canoe route at the south end of the lake would also be affected. If the block is heli-logged, it would be planned for winter months. Tests have shown that the lake is deep enough for the logs to be dropped. It was explained that the company needs a place to load out the logs from the lake. Photos of the area of an existing campsite were shown. Blair noted that there is a 30-meter buffer around the lake for riparian management zone (FSP). Harvesting would consist of several small blocks and since the area is visibly sensitive, all visual quality objectives would have to be met. Aerial pictures showed several blocks and it was noted that they would be well screened (by the buffer zone). It was explained that in order to create a load-out area, the campsite and boat loading area would be impacted. Approximately fifteen trees would have to be cut to facilitate the load-out. Some scarred trees would be cut and some smaller trees removed. Several big trees would be left. There is a small beach area that would be affected – the company would remove some vegetation and create a solid base for the load-out. Trees would be trimmed and topped in the field so there would be less debris at the loading site. It was noted that the campsite could be increased by at least 25% in size after harvesting has been done. After harvesting all debris would be removed and the recreational value of the site would be enhanced. Access to the other side of the lake would be needed and a barge for equipment would be used. Five locations for equipment would be needed on the other side of

the lake. This may entail small holes in the OGMAs (a few trees may be removed to get machines through). After felling by machines, 15,000-16,000lbs bundles would be picked up by helicopter and dropped into booms in the lake. Blair noted that the proposal protects some of the landscape level planning, and the amendment calls for twenty or so trees to be removed.

*Question* – How wide an entry between trees?

*Answer* – About ten to fifteen feet, just wide enough for machine - there are already some natural openings that could be used.

*Question* – What about the access road into the setting?

*Answer* – Yes, it would be low impact.

*Question* – For the five pink areas on the map - will there be five openings?

*Answer* – Correct.

Doug noted that public might not even know they are there. Pictures of setting that was logged a few years ago were shown. Example of BT633 was shown - can't see openings at all. Another setting, WL-910 – access road at the north end of the lake was noted - old trail goes all the way up to OGMAs. Option would be to walk hoe up the trail - there are no trees on the trail. In order to clarify things, it was noted that the buffers and the recreation site are official features, and they are written into the FSP zoning. If CAG supports the proposal for harvesting at Windsor Lake, there would have to be a variance to change zoning. The Ministry of Environment created OGMAs and they are in the Landscape Unit Plan. Weyerhaeuser will have to apply to the Ministry of Forests and to the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management for changes but they may say they have to put the OGMA's somewhere else.

*Question* – What is the timeline for the proposal?

*Answer* – Late 2003 - planning for October.

*Question* – How long before the area would be all cleaned up?

*Answer* – About four months – by end of February

*Question* – How much wood will be taken out?

*Answer* – 15,000 cubic meters total.

*Question* – How long would wood be in the water?

*Answer* – Two weeks – by heli-logging method.

*Question* – Where will the heli-landing be located?

*Answer* – By the old spur – would have to start earlier to get landing ready.

*Question* – If OGMA's are moved – what happens to what remains?

*Answer* – Ministry of Environment may say ok and would like to propose one at the other end of the lake.

*Question* – How old are the trees in the OGMA?

*Answer* – Eighty to one hundred and twenty years old.

Blair noted that they would only be shifting location of OGMA's. There are some wildlife tree patches on the stream and some good fishing in the area.

*Question* – What does IWA think of heli-logging proposal?

*Answer* from IWA member – They hate it – Three men (heli-logging) are doing the job of twelve conventional jobs.

*Question* – Sounds heli-logging is an economically good idea for Weyerhaeuser?

*Answer* – Yes - it would be cost effective. If a road were to be built it would be less cost effective, it would have to come in from the top end of the lake through OGMA zone.

*Question* – Maybe Weyerhaeuser could enhance the recreation potential, but it would have to be more than 25% larger.

*Answer* – Yes, 25% was just an estimate. Other programmes could possibly add a fire ring, out-house and tent sites. Also a float facility is needed for boats. Area could be enhanced by

grass seeding, and maybe sand could be brought in for the beach.

*Question* – Would there be lots of bark and debris at the site, and machines usually chew up the area at a de-watering site.

*Answer* – No, machines would not chew up the area, they would boom out and grab the logs and a bed of shot rock would be used on the ground.

*Question* – Could the campsite improvements be written into the plan?

*Answer* – Maybe

*Question* – Maybe it could tie in with the work that is done on the canoe route?

*Answer* – We are trying to find out if CAG supports the harvesting plan.

*Comment from member* – Recreation improvements would be good, on the surface it looks like this way of harvesting would have less of an impact.

*Question* – What about the economics/ Stumpage vs. the conventional way of logging?

*Answer* – Better economics for heli-logging – short flies and good productivity. Stumpage costs are less for heli-logging. The cost of a road would be high (\$100,000 per km) but could be applied to appraisal to lower stumpage rates.

Doug noted that they have to apply for a cutting permit and will apply as a heli-block. Forest Service may say build a road – but Weyerhaeuser will say the heli-logging is the best way. Company may be forced to apply as a conventional block.

*Question* – Which way is most cost effective for the public?

*Answer* – Stumpage could be less for conventional with high costs involved. Company is trying to balance economics and environmental issues. OGMAs would be spoiled if a road was built through. Forest service makes the final decision.

*Question* – Regarding the trail (old road) at the top end of the lake - important that the road remains a road and is accessible for off-roaders

*Answer* – Yes – exit is off the main line.

*Question* – Economic spin-offs for the community are important. The issues are about variances to landscape unit plans and altering some of CAG's zoning. What about single stem harvesting - has that been considered? What about flying the machinery in?

*Answer* – Could fly the machinery in – this was done last year in Powell Lake –costs are high. For this setting we would have to fly into five blocks and the cost would be prohibitive. As for single stem harvesting - we would look at that method if we couldn't bunch the wood. Bunching makes it an easier job – more bundles can be lifted by helicopter. Hoe costs \$65 per hour.

## **TM-182**

### **Stephen Chaplin**

Updated maps of Block TM182 were provided for the group. Stephen gave a brief description of the area, which is on the high side of Stillwater Main and Goat Lake Main, near 7-mile. Discussion followed on the updated map and planned areas for harvesting. Block was laid out this year. Previous conversations with CAG member had highlighted the fact that there was a patch of large older trees in the plan for harvesting. It was noted that the trees were in a timber zone, where 10% retention was required, but Weyerhaeuser planned the block with 23% retention using variable retention and taking visual impact into consideration. Patches would be .6 hectare with .25 hectare minimum size. There is one at 0.07 ha only – at the point where members would like to have it enlarged – at R15 and R14. There is an S3 stream close by that would not be impacted. Member noted that uphill there will be logging across the stream

that would not be good - there will be impact. The trees that CAG member wishes to have saved are at the northeast corner on the Stillwater Mainline. Large diameter trees are a special feature of the stand and are visible from the road. Member pointed out that they could be a tourist attraction if left and are easily accessible from town for tourists and local residents that wish to see large trees. Member noted that around sixty to a hundred cutblocks have been harvested over the past two years, and that CAG has never asked for anything to be changed. Member asked that other members look at the unique patch and decide whether they supported the idea. It was suggested that Weyerhaeuser could compromise and maybe give up patch for another wildlife tree patch elsewhere in the cutblock with no net loss. Maybe fears were that if compromise were made this time, other changes would be requested in the future. Stephen noted that visual quality and wildlife tree patches were taken into account when the cutblock was designed. One member noted that he had walked through the area and it was impressive, and suggested that it would be an ideal spot for an information kiosk. Another member noted that old growth and visual quality are important for future eco-tourism opportunities and that there should be some compromise. It was suggested that other areas in the block may not have such a high timber value.

Stephen pointed out that plans were to grapple yard and hoe the area and proposed some bigger landings. One –way loop would not be affected and access would be maintained. There would still be some big patches left and view of the lake would be a nice feature. Member pointed out that the view of the lake would still be there even if trees in question were left. Members were asked to give their views on the plan for TM-82.

*Question* –How big an area are the trees in question?

*Answer* – About one hectare – volume of block is 32.8 hectares – 24,000 cubic meters.

*Question* – Are there nine wildlife trees in one patch?

*Answer* – No- twelve different wildlife tree patches but there are nine individual dispersed wildlife trees to be left in the cut portion of the block.

Doug pointed out that Weyerhaeuser will listen to CAG, and again noted that 23% retention is being retained throughout the

block, while only 10% is required. It was also noted that there are other areas in the TFL where there are nice big trees in nice settings.

Member noted that an area of big trees close to town could be publicized and would be good for tourism.

Member requested sizes in cubic meters instead of hectares. Member noted that CAG's role is to advise Weyerhaeuser and they have made comments before and asked questions regarding operations maps but haven't really asked for any major changes.

Stephen noted that some changes were made in the Goat Island block to accommodate cabin owners.

**Break 7:55-8:05p.m.**

**TM-182 - Comments from CAG members**

Rationale for the Pilot project was flexibility

There was no flexibility before the FSP to accommodate trails

Good idea to save trees for economic benefit to the community – eco-tourism, canoe route etc. In future, area could be like Cathedral Grove.

Agree with members - eco-tourism could be economic boom for the community. Improve visual quality.

Leave trees for others to see, and let people see areas are not all like the logged blocks in Cranberry

Agree, would like to see more trees left for tourism

24-hour access is good – out of towners are intimidated by one-way roads etc. good idea to show tourists large trees in unique settings

Support idea for leaving a few trees – maybe the Junior Forest Warden camp could do something in the area?

Good opportunity for tourism – suggest a kiosk at that spot for tourists to access information on old growth etc. before going into the woods. The stand of old second

growth has its origin in 1859, possibly one of the oldest remaining second growth stands. It would be good public relations for Powell River

Tourists love big trees - there should be more accessible sites such as this one close to town

11 out of 12 members were in agreement with leaving more trees along Stillwater Main as per request

### **Windsor Lake – Comments from CAG members**

Take out the "maybes" and plan outhouses and other improvements at the campsite

Prefer road as opposed to heli-logging for economic reasons

Like the idea of improvements to recreation site

Windsor Lake looks good – it would be wise to put in float and other improvements

Support the proposal for WL-909 but take out the maybes and make improvements to recreation site

Suggest some entry be made adjacent to stream

Suggest one rustic campsite on the other side of the lake for wilderness experience, could be maintained by volunteers – perhaps near Wildlife Tree Patch between FC1 and FC15

Environmentally good plan, less impact on soil - visuals should be fine

Prefer the heli-logging plan – would like to see something written into plan for improvements to recreation site

Contractor would like to see a road – hundreds of hours work lost with heli-logging plan

Socio-economic implications – heli-logging is putting people out of work. CAG should deal with the problem

IWA can't support method of heli-logging at Windsor Lake

Company must promise to fix campsite

Like the plan for Windsor Lake – winter time frame is better

Campsites on the far side would be a good idea, some need to be away from cars

Improvements to campsites at Windsor lake are a good idea – we need to get it in writing

It was noted that a final decision will be made before the next meeting, and answers will be brought back to members on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Presidents report

Copies of the Presidents annual report were provided for the group.

### Elections

Nominations were requested for the position of Chair and Vice Chair. Chair (Eagle Walz) and Vice - Chair (Ken Jackson) were re-elected by acclamation for another term.

Members were thanked by the Chair for their support.

### Town Hall meeting –Thursday in Campbell River

Members were notified of a meeting in Campbell River on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Topic – "New Forestry Legislation – What's in store for Campbell River?"

No one could commit to attending on such short notice.

### Fall Meeting Venue

Facilitator discussed different arrangements for meetings in the fall, with other venues suggested. Brooks School and the Knights of Columbus Hall are both available. Members were asked to bring forward any other suggestions.

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### Nanaimo Conference

Summary and minutes of the Advisory Groups' Nanaimo conference was provided.

List of items for discussion was also provided.

**Report of trip to Al Hopwood's woodlot** – CAG members toured the

FSC certified woodlot before the conference and were impressed with what they saw. Member noted that the woodlot would probably not remain FSC certified in future. Members suggested a small stipend could be sent, and asked for Al Hopwood as a speaker at September meeting.

**ACTION** – Ask Weyerhaeuser to provide a stipend for the woodlot tour.

**Doug suggested that an afternoon out in the woods of Powell River might be more educational for members, and members agreed that more field trips would be beneficial. Members discussed safety concerns for field trips where hard hats, caulk boots and vests are usually required. It was noted that ankle support boots are recommended for most trips. Facilitator noted that if trips were planned, members had an obligation to show up. Member suggested that a trip to the area of old trees in TM -182 would be a good place to visit.**

**Tom Holmes, speaker at conference** – member requested that a invitation should be sent to Tom Holmes to come to Powell River to speak to members about forestry on a global scale.

**ACTION** – Invitation to be sent to Tom Holmes.

Matthew Lucas, Iisaak First Nations participant – member

suggested an invitation to be extended to Matthew Lucas. Members discussed protocol and relationships with First Nations and how they could be improved.

**ACTION** – Invitation to be sent to Matthew Lucas.

### **Sliammon draft AIP and negotiations**

**It was noted that negotiations at the provincial level are moving along. A vote will be taken in September. The next two months are important and busy time for Sliammon. Members noted that Community and First Nations may become more involved with each other, and more jobs may be the result for community independents.**

**The balance of the Nanaimo Conference list was tabled for the next meeting**

**(July 2<sup>nd</sup>)**

**Summer Barbecue at Herondell**

**All members were invited to attend a barbecue on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Afternoon will include a tour of the woods. CAG members from the Island are also invited –good opportunity for networking.**

**Annual Report from Stillwater Timberlands**

**. Facilitator noted that the report will be delayed and will be available as soon as Rod returns.**

**Operational Information Map**

**Map was displayed but time was short for discussion. Map will be available at next meeting. Three new blocks were noted: TM-230 future block, GI-95 – heli-block and PD-209 - head of Powell Lake.**

**Guest to be invited**

**Member requested permission to invite a guest to CAG in September - Guest has a new proposed business in TFL39 block1.**

**ACTION – Guest to be invited to meeting in September**

**Open House – CAG media coverage**

**Member noted that an article will appear shortly in the local Powell River Peak. Survey that was used for open house will also be published in the same issue.**

**Meeting adjourned 9:17 p.m.**

<b>Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group</b>		
<b>June 25th 2003</b>		
<b>Attendance</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Member Seat</b>
<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>		
<b>Eagle Walz Chair</b>	Primary	Recreation

Jane Cameron	Alternate	Recreation
<b>Michael Conway-Brown</b>	Primary	Environment/Access
<b>Patrick Brabazon</b>	Primary	Local Govt (Regional)
<b>Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair</b>  (left early)	Primary	Recreation
<b>Joanne Cameron Nordell</b>	Primary	Local Business
George Ferreira	Alternate	Local Business
<b>Debby Waslewski</b>	Primary	Citizens
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
Dave Perrin	Alternate	IWA
John Passek	Alternate	Motorized Rec.
<b>Nancy Hollmann</b>	Primary	Environment
<b>Peter Ranger</b>	Primary	Forest Dependent
<i>11 seats represented</i>		
<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>		
David Gabelhouse	Alternate	Local Govt (Mun)
<b>Russell Storry</b>	Primary	Local Govt (Mun)
<b>Jack McClinchey</b>	Primary	Motorized Rec.
<b>Rory Maitland</b>	Primary	Contractors
Dave Rees	Alternate	Tourism
Dianne Mason	Alternate	Education

Les Falk	Alternate	Reg District
<b>Sonny Rioux</b>	Primary	IWA
<b>Kathleen O'Neil</b>	Primary	Education
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens
Kevin McKamey	Alternate	Contractors
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
<b>Andrew Pinch</b>	Primary	Tourism
Jason Lennox	Alternate	Tourism
Christine Hollmann	Alternate	Environment
<b>Resource – others present</b>		
Doug McCormick	Stillwater	Timberlands
Blair Wriglesworth	Stillwater	Timberlands
Stephen Chaplin	Stillwater	Timberlands
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	