

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

November 5th 2003

Minutes

Weyerhaeuser Office

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

7.05pm

Meeting called to order

No quorum

Correspondence

Chair noted a letter from the acting District Manager for the Ministry of Forests regarding FIA funding applications. Letter clarified the situation regarding Section 102 status for D-branch to Mt. Alfred Trail (approved September 16th, 2003). It was noted that the company would re-apply for funding. Letter noted that Section 102 application for B-branch to Emma Lake has not yet been received or approved. Rod noted that work will be done in the slide area near D-branch this month. Trail will be put in place. Member noted that motorized recreation access would be requested for around the slide area. Rod noted that it is not the same slide that is under discussion.

Recreation Update

Rod noted that the work on the Sunshine Coast Trail from Saltery Bay to Fairview bay and up to Rainy Day Lake will be done by the end of the week. Bomb squad has finished the work on D-branch trail and has been very busy building four bridges and fixing trails. Next week work will begin at Nanton Lake and picnic tables will be built.

Introductions

Chair introduced guest and resource person, Richard Stogre, manager of engineering services for the municipality.

Pest Management Plan

Discussion continued – Rod noted that the document would be re-worded to make some items clearer in the final draft.

Facilitator asked whether the document was similar to North Island's- Rod noted that the structure was similar.

Chair read a draft letter that had been prepared by facilitator outlining the items of concern in the PMP so far:

Thanks to Weyerhaeuser for extending the deadline twice

CAG's commitment to the process

Consultation process should have begun earlier, as in the FSP process

Request for a commitment statement from Weyerhaeuser to consult on an annual basis. Statement will state that the company will work in cooperation with the community at large

Request for copies of annual Notice of Intent to Treat (NIT)

Rare vascular plants and natural plant communities – commitment for more education for foresters

Re-wording of document – removing the word "try" etc.

Treatment thresholds – more concise definitions and levels requested in document.

Request for a strong commitment from Weyerhaeuser to develop alternatives to herbicide and pesticide use.

Chair asked for comments on the items brought forward so far.

Discussion regarding the forty-five day period – after approval of process.
Comments go to the Pesticide Control branch.

Appendixes missing and incomplete – Rod noted that the document is only a draft.

Water – streams etc.

Comments regarding classification of S3-S6 streams and whether they are protected. If water is there, they will be protected. Not sure what the final conditions will state regarding streams. (Some are seasonal). Request to clarify concerns regarding streams. It was noted that conditions could change after site assessment and after harvesting.

Question – Are applicators trained to identify streams?

Answer – They have on the job training and one in four has government training. Every applicator doesn't have certification.

Question – Who would be responsible for a miss-application, if there was damage to well water for example?

Answer – Weyerhaeuser would be responsible. Work is done under Weyerhaeuser's permit. If contractors made errors, damages would be against Weyerhaeuser. Public should have confidence in the company.

Re-wording of appendix 3 - page 2 (Restrictions – General Water quality) was suggested.

Question – How long before chemical becomes inert?

Answer – It globs onto whatever it makes contact with – maybe thirty days

Question – How are creeks assessed – before logging or after logging? How does it impact the creeks and soils?

Answer – No specific answer – it varies with every site. At time of application, if they come across wet streams they will not be sprayed. Don't usually find vision transported from sites. Glyphosate globs on to soil.

Question – Definitions on Page 31 – streams, watersheds, wetlands and community watersheds - are they definitions from Weyerhaeuser or from the legislation?

Answer – Will check where those definitions came from.

Question – Appendix 3 - is that Weyerhaeuser's – some definitions are not consistent.

Answer – They are similar to what we have now, standard restrictions. Agree, they are not consistent. Two types of pesticide free zones- one on the landscape level and one on the site level.

Question – Appendix 3 – Operational practices – are they set out by MWLAP?

Answer – Some are but not all, some are Stillwater’s definitions.

Comment – Weyerhaeuser still has to fine-tooth comb the PMP before sending it off.

Question – Who signs off on the site plans? Plan defines site preparation but not site planning. Could there be a reference to site plans in the glossary?

Answer – Yes – could put site plan in glossary. Silviculture prescription tries to identify sites – then areas are brushed from prescription with herbicides or other methods. Area looks a lot different when trees are gone, then brushing is done.

Question – Can silviculture prescriptions be amended?

Answer – No not usually– brushing plans can be fine-tuned after harvesting

Question – Area treated is in notice of intent to treat?

Answer - Can amend – would make application for pesticide use for larger area, but not always needed for all the areas. Maybe a third of the area applied for is actually treated with herbicides. If more area needed, would have to amend notice of intent to treat.

Question – Is amended NIT posted publicly?

Answer - No - they (Pesticide Control branch) have the discretion to do that. Amendments up to 10% are allowed if needed without a problem.

Site Plans and Silviculture Prescriptions

Member noted clarification of Site plans and silviculture prescriptions is described on Page 19. Wording in silviculture prescriptions are legally binding documents – but Company does not have to submit for approval under the FSP. If company makes a poor silviculture prescription, they are responsible. Changes to the law now involve what has to be approved by the Ministry of Forests.

Cutblock – on page 9 of the document, facilitator and members asked whether that word should be used in the document since it is not done anymore. Rod agreed to take out but noted that some sites that were clear-cut in the past are still being brushed.

Letter from Wildwood ratepayers to Municipality

Member noted that a letter has been forwarded to the Mayor and municipality regarding concerns about protection from herbicides and pesticides for the watershed area at One Mile Bay, (Powell Lake) since it is not deemed a

community watershed. Wildwood ratepayers have requested support from the municipality to protect the water supply and the drinking water for thousands of residents. Member wondered what the municipality had decided after reviewing the letter from Wildwood Ratepayers regarding the PMP.

Member noted that there are two motions that recommend –

A request from the municipality to Weyerhaeuser to co-operate with CDPR to provide protection for Powell Lake in the PMP for the Wildwood water supply. Weyerhaeuser to work with the municipality to protect the watershed area around Powell Lake,

To approach the province to have integrated water management plan for Powell Lake.

Rod noted that integrated water management plans take a long time to plan. Integrated water management plan for Haslam took about five years. Rates of cut and potential impacts from harvesting were studied – hydrologist was consulted and it was a long involved process.

Member noted that OZ-4 (pesticide-free zone that includes community watersheds) does not include Wildwood.

Member asked about Okanagan Lake – is there any plan in place in that area? Larger lakes are not considered a watershed, just small and mid-size lakes.

Member noted that municipality are the purveyors of the water system and have the responsibility to provide water that is not a health risk and to have adequate treatment facilities.

Province is not responsible for the quality of water that comes from the intake, but municipality is responsible for the drinking water quality. Municipality issues boil water advisory if needed

Question – What tests are done and where is the water taken from – from taps or intake?

Answer – Water is tested inside the chamber at intake as it comes through.

Question – Residents have been satisfied in the past about the way water has been tested. How do Wildwood ratepayers get assurance that testing for pesticide and herbicides will be done?

Answer – Municipality will do testing with Weyerhaeuser.

Question – What happened to notice of PMP that was sent to the municipality and when did they decide to discuss it?

Answer – Committee of the whole discussed yesterday.

Question – Would it be simple to just add Powell Lake?

Answer – Rod - Suggest that Powell Lake should be listed in general terms and sections of the Lake would be in different zones. E.g. pesticide-free zone OZ-4 around intake at One Mile Bay for Wildwood.

Question - Would it be unreasonable to ask for all of Powell Lake to be pesticide free?

Answer – Yes, it is a very large area. Millions of gallons of water flow into Powell Lake from the Daniels River would not be using pesticides there. It would be asking too much to be pesticide free all over.

Question – Cabin owners have concerns also and will contact Weyerhaeuser before November 15th. Has Coast Garibaldi contacted Weyerhaeuser?

Answer – Bob Weston expressed concerns and has been in contact

Concerns regarding health problems from pesticide use

Member noted that reports from the US Environmental Protection Agency, the House of Commons and the American Cancer Institute report on the use of pesticides and noted that certain pesticides such as glyphosate can be carcinogenic to humans, particularly young children. Member noted that fish, birds, small mammals and other wildlife could also be affected.

Rod noted that the World Health organization did not agree with claims that glyphosate is carcinogenic. Symposium on herbicides showed both sides of the subject.

Protection for Powell Lake

Municipality is looking for language to protect Powell Lake.

Rod noted that Weyerhaeuser would establish some sort of a pesticide free zone around Powell Lake for the Wildwood water intake and also a general section about Powell Lake would be included. If there is an IWMP for Powell Lake, then Weyerhaeuser will be part of it. Member noted that the process is expensive and it may be cheaper to run a pipe to Haslam Lake, which has great water. Municipality has to find out what the risks are and be able to identify them. Until then they will err on the side of caution.

Contractors concerns

Member noted that contractors would be concerned if all of Powell Lake was zoned OZ-4. It was noted that there were contradictory guidelines for wells (30-meters) with 200-meter area for public consultation for well owners and noted that contractors would not support a pesticide free zone for the whole area.

Member noted that Haslam Lake and other watershed areas have legal designation and Powell Lake does not – how do other lakes deal with the same problem. What about previously unidentified watersheds?

Rod noted that in the event that happened, the company would listen to concerns and would amend plan if needed.

Question – Would whole area watershed be protected as opposed to a 30-meter buffer? Well owners have to have protection. Areas such as Okeover Arm were used as an example.

Answer – Less distance for protection, but they are safe. Some will have other points of view.

Suggestion

Facilitator suggested a new indicator to deal with unidentified watersheds in future.

Question – Where is the science that says 10-meters from well is a safe distance?

How does that apply to the lake as a whole? –Will there be regular testing? Need answers and need testing.

Answer – Costs \$150 for testing for pesticides. Testing will be done weekly or monthly.

Question - Riparian buffer zones - can they be used for this document?

Answer – No –too big.

Powell Lake Cabin Owners – water pollution concerns

Question – Do they work with the municipality?

Answer – No- They work with the provincial government.

Question – Are there concerns about pollution from boats - oil, sewage etc?

Answer- Member noted that there are new technologies to deal with sewage, and MLA Harold Long's cabin was offered to be used as a test site. It was noted that septic tanks are not allowed on the water, some pit toilets are allowed. It was noted that some cabins have been moved because of coliform levels.

Hydrologist Brian Carsen had concerns about elk pollution around Haslam Lake

Member noted that maybe all water bodies should be considered to be contaminated and would need to be treated.

Member noted that wells are not permitted within 100 feet of a septic field, and a 30-meter buffer for pesticides does not seem to be that much.

Rock and Ice

Member noted that an area on the map at the top of the TFL showed a large green area that consists mostly of rock and ice and gives the wrong impression. Member noted that the pesticide-free zones of the productive forest should be shown on the map. Rod agreed that this was a good suggestion but map still needs to show what is rock and ice. Facilitator noted that it could be included in the letter.

Buffers around Lake

Member proposed that a plan to include a 30-meter buffer south of Goat Island and south of Chippewa Bay could be established where no pesticide applications would be done. Member noted that it would be reasonable to say that the people living on the lake and in Wildwood expect the same quality of water as Townsite, Westview and Sliammon. Also the Sunshine Coast Trail, which has a 10-meter reserve and 20-meter management zone, were there is 50% retention of trees, should be pesticide free. People use the trail and pick mushrooms, berries etc.

Rod noted that they are voluntarily putting buffers along the lake. There is a 10-meter pesticide free zone and a 10-meter buffer now.

Question - Member asked what would be reasonable for buffers?

Answer – Not right up to the lake with herbicides – health-wise don't think there is a risk to the general population, just public perception.

Question – Public consultation – does it include hot spots such as Okeover ratepayers and Malaspina Oyster growers? Have they been consulted?

Answer – Those groups are aware of plan and company has been in contact with them

Facilitator noted that other groups in the community such as Texada and Brew Bay residents may have concerns and will be invited to final meeting.

Motion – Member put forward a motion to request that there be a pesticide free zone of 30 or 50 meters in the whole south end of the lake from Goat Island and below Hole-in-the-Wall south. North of there should be a pesticide free zone of 50-meters or 30-meters to the north end of Powell Lake and including Goat Lake. It was noted that there is a steep shoreline and there is not a lot of brushing needed.

Discussion – Reasoning behind a 50-meter buffer around lake and only 10-meters on creeks?

Member disagreed with the proposal for 30 or 50-meter buffer because of impact on the AAC and jobs.

Member noted that brushing and weeding are expensive in alder sites.

Member noted that jobs have already been lost in the Queen Charlottes and office shut down.

Question – If 50-meter buffer, would that affect harvesting plans?

Member noted that more jobs could be created if manual brushing was used.

Member noted that some areas have no pesticide use

Member noted that because impacts are not known, they should err on the side of caution.

Members discussed whether 30,50 or 100 meters was to be requested

Suggestion - Facilitator suggested an indicator to get record of water samples –

Member noted that they have to err on the side of caution and assume there will be variations. CAG should ask for a buffer.

Member asked for source documents on pesticides and a request for sampling.

Member noted that water quality has to be the number one concern – some wells are full of arsenic- creek buffers have huge impacts on quality of water

Facilitator asked whether the Notice of Intent (NIT) could be brought to CAG

Members continued discussion about buffers and noted that Sliammon, Westview and Townsite have pesticide-free water.

Question – Do we want to have pesticide free zones and buffers as shown on the map? 50 meters above Goat Island and Goat Lake and lower end of the lake below Chippewa Bay.

Discussion -

Member asked why a 50- meter buffer around lake when only 10-meters is used on streams. Member was not comfortable with proposal, as it did not seem to be consistent.

Three members were in favour of requesting a 50-meter buffer.

It was suggested that a final vote would be held next week at the November 12th meeting when more information might be available.

Member asked how guidelines for 10-meters were written.

Member suggested that other cabin owners north of 2nd narrows and Henderson Bay might wonder why the difference – It was noted that they still have an opportunity to make comments.

Member noted that water quality concerns are very high on the list

Discussion to be carried forward to next meeting

Meeting adjourned 9:30pm

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group		
November 5th 2003		
Attendance		
Name	Position	Member Seat
<u>PRESENT</u>		
Eagle Walz Chair	Primary	Recreation
Russell Storry	Primary	Local Govt (Municipal)
Debby Waslewski	Primary	Citizens
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens

Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Environment
Dave Rees	Alternate	Tourism
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business
George Ferreira	Alternate	Local Business
Kevin McKamey	Alternate	Contractors
<i>7 seats represented</i>		
<u>ABSENT</u>		
Jane Cameron	Alternate	Recreation
Michael Conway-Brown	Primary	Environment
Patrick Brabazon	Primary	Local Govt (Regional)
Jack McClinchey	Primary	Motorized Rec.
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependent
Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Kathleen O'Neil	Primary	Education
John Passek	Alternate	Motorized Rec.
Dianne Mason	Alternate	Education
David Gabelhouse	Alternate	Local Govt (Municipal)
Sonny Rioux	Primary	IWA
Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair	Primary	Recreation
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Andrew Pinch	Primary	Tourism

Christine Hollmann	Alternate	Environment
Les Falk	Alternate	Local Govt. (Regional)
<u>PRESENT</u>		
Guest	Richard Stogre	Municipal Engineering Manager
Resource – other		
Rod Tysdal	Stillwater Timberlands	
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	