

# **Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group**

**November 12th 2003**

## **Minutes**

### **Brooks School**

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6.14pm

Meeting called to order

Quorum noted

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed guests. Members introduced themselves.

### **Acceptance of Agenda**

Agenda was accepted with additions.

### **Review of Minutes**

Minutes from October 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 30<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup> were reviewed and accepted as amended.

*Question* – Regarding the statement in the October 30<sup>th</sup> minutes – would Weyerhaeuser agree to add a commitment statement to the PMP as suggested?

*Answer* – Yes

*Question* – Have boat and cabin owners contacted Weyerhaeuser regarding the PMP?

*Answer* – Rod noted that he had spoken to Real Segouin and heard that some of the Powell Lake cabin owners were under the impression that there was a plan to use more herbicides on the lake than in the past. Rod explained the situation and invited cabin and boat owners to a meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>. None attended.

### **Request for small maps**

Member asked about the 11x14 maps of the TFL that were requested and Rod noted that they were not ready yet.

### **Recreation Update**

Section of the Sunshine Coast Trail from Saltery Bay to Fairview Bay and up to Rainy Day Lake was almost completed; a couple of switchbacks are still needed. Member noted that Randy Moore of Adept Silviculture had done an excellent job, except for the lacking switchbacks in the steep section.

*Question* - Member asked about switchbacks – how would they be addressed?

*Answer* – There is a section of the trail that is steep and dangerous. They re-located a section of the trail. Some danger trees had to be avoided or removed? (WCB). Work will be done in the spring.

Bomb Squad member reported that they have done work on D branch and built two and three-quarter bridges - snow is flying now so work will be finished in May.

### **Letter from Ministry of Forests re FIA funding**

Member asked for copy of the letter received from the Ministry of Forests regarding FIA funding and Section 102 status.

**ACTION** – Copies of letter from MoF will be provided at next meeting.

Bomb Squad member asked whether the process for application for FIA funding for D-branch could be started earlier, since there is now heavy frost and work has to wait until Spring. Area is dangerous for older people at present.

Rod noted that there was no formal Section 102 status and they had to wait until it was approved.

### **Powell Lake Cabin owners**

Member asked whether all cabin owners around Powell Lake and adjacent areas were notified of the PMP.

Rod noted that all residents within 200 meters would be notified as they were in the past.

### **Operational Information Map**

#### **Doug McCormick**

Operational Information Map was shown. Member asked about a grid for the map and names and numbers to be shown.

**ACTION** – Names and a grid to be included in operational information map.

Current activities, harvesting, road construction and engineering blocks were shown. New blocks and new roads were shown.

#### ***Powell Daniels***

Heli-logging completed in two Powell Daniels blocks.

Map update showed bridge pulled out at Jim Brown Creek.

*Question* - Member asked the reason why bridge was pulled.

*Answer* - Bridge was used somewhere else.

***Eldred to Diane Lake*** - Road building up to 400m, halfway to switchback.

*Question* – Is road open?

*Answer* – Contractors are still working – road is blocked for safety.

*Question* – When will logging begin?

*Answer* – Next year

### ***Heather***

Road construction almost complete in Heather (HE-519) and (HE-517)

*Question* – Is that near the steam donkey?

*Answer* – Same general area

### ***Windsor Lake***

Engineered blocks at WL-909 and WL-910

### ***Useless Lake***

UL-801

### ***Haywire Bay***

Engineered blocks at HB-171 and HB-172

Member requested harvest plans to be made available to CAG for HB-171, HB-172 and UL-801

**ACTION** - Harvest plans to be made available to CAG for HB-171, HB-172 and UL-801

*Question* – Member asked whether more roads are being built now compared to a few years ago

*Answer* – About the same amount – 65-80 km per year have been built. This year, (2004) will be down to 55km

*Question* – Is there an inventory of road building each year?

*Answer* – Yes –company builds ahead for future year

Member noted that the roads that are built today are much better than they were fifteen years ago and will last longer.

### ***Phillips Arm***

*Question* – Logging activity in Phillips Arm – will there be an operational information map for Phillips Arm?

*Answer* – Activity in Phillips Arm is winding down – it is snowing there this week. Road construction is almost done for the year. It is not currently on the FSP for Phillips Arm, and not the same mapping process. Updates could be given to CAG.

**ACTION** – Updates on activity in Phillips Arm to be provided for CAG

*Question* – What about heli-logging vs. traditional logging? Are roads still needed?

*Answer* – Some roads are still needed

*Question* - We are looking for measurables to determine the amount of employment for heli-logging. How many km of road area built vs. amount of fibre harvested?

*Answer* – It is simple to look at heli-logging and conventional volumes. Heli-logging not done as much as five or six years ago. Wood is sometimes more valuable but costs are \$40-\$50 more per cubic meter than conventional.

*Question* – Are roads built ahead for the following year?

*Answer* - Yes – road are built with plans for following years in mind.

*Question* – Who is measuring costs?

*Answer* – Weyerhaeuser sets targets as to \$ amounts.

### **Correspondence**

Contractor's letter of concern

It was noted that contractors sent out a letter to other contractors and some responded. It was noted that contractors had compiled a list of concerns and suggestions.

1. Concerns regarding set aside areas and the effect on jobs e.g. CAG's demands for timber at 7-mile to be set aside. Contractors are not against recreation but a socio-economic analysis should be done when requests are made for areas to be set aside

2. CAG meeting schedule is hectic – other issues are discussed as well as the regular business
3. Herbicide use – although CAG has adopted the position that they are against any use of herbicide on TFL 39, Some contractors derive their revenues from applying herbicides
4. Additional indicators were suggested and it was noted that new indicators could be brought forward at any time.

Member noted that one meeting per month was supposed to be an informational meeting, and one for business. It was noted that there has been a lot of business meetings and not a lot of informational meetings.

Rod noted that there have been a lot of growing pains and work on indicators for Phillips Arm was required etc. It was noted that sometimes issues that were not directly related to Weyerhaeuser (TFL39 block 1) have been taken on and discussed by members. e.g. Triton Logging, block 109 at Inland Lake and Lot 450 etc.

Member noted that since the AAC hasn't been reduced, logging and salvage jobs from blowdown shouldn't change? Members discussed indicator as suggested by contractor's letter regarding blowdown.

*Suggested Indicator– Percent of blowdown recovered (species mix), percentage of blowdown left (Species mix). (Attempt to get Weyerhaeuser and government to work out differences on stumpage to make salvage of hemlock viable)*

It was noted that some huge trees were left after a blowdown in a cutblock east of Mt. Troubridge, above Rainy Day Lake near the trail – it was suggested to the Forest Service that the timber – which was on the edge of the cutblock, and would have been easy to get out by conventional means, could be salvaged. It was noted that there was some regulation that prevented this from happening.

Rod noted that there were 16,000 – 18,000 cubic meters salvaged last year.

There are financial reasons for not recovering all the blowdown – Company has to get an agreement with the Forest Service and rate is set depending on the grade – rates starts to climb, and everyone agree that it's just not economical. Company will try again to get agreement.

AAC impacts of the FSP –Doug estimated that trail buffers, grizzly zones etc. will probably impact the AAC about 4%. It has not affected the AAC yet.

*Question-* Is salvage included?

*Answer -* Yes, salvage is included in the AAC. Long run sustainable yield (LRSY) over the next fifteen or twenty years shows AAC could have increased if nothing was done. 5% less is allowed. Now with the 20% clawback company will wait until it is in effect before looking at AAC again. Area is getting smaller and smaller.

*Comment* on letter – regarding the comparison to other community advisory groups on the Island-who only meet once a month, member noted that they didn't have a Pilot Project and didn't have an FSP to work on, and seemed not to keep up to speed with infrequent meetings.

*Suggested Indicator* regarding blowdown – Percent of unrecovered blowdown which was inside OGMA's. (If 4% loss from 450,000, lost jobs would range from .4 to .6 per 1000 cubic meters).

Member wondered why there is no reduction in stumpage for local use?

Member commented on functionality –

1. Agreed with small business concerns as stated in the letter
2. Direct jobs are not only the issue – members should look at the larger financial contribution to the community

Member commented on the diversity of the group and the fact that the contractors' letter deemed to be critical of the process. Member noted that CAG was still looking for solutions and there will always be items that some do not agree on. It was noted that there are some confusing issues and still a lot to be learned.

Rod noted that the cutblock mentioned at Rainy Day Lake was a Timber Sale license, not a Weyerhaeuser block. It was noted that the company is trying to balance competing uses. They are growing trees and also noted that there are important recreational uses – trails etc. Items in the letter including VR patches and contractor stability are all valid concerns as they affect the work life of the community.

## **Terms of Reference –**

### 4.4 Re-visiting issues –

It was noted that the contractors had done what was required in the Terms of Reference and brought forward their concerns in writing. Chair noted that there is a lot of goodwill at the table and the group will try to accommodate each other's needs.

*Suggestion* – Rod suggested that maybe more sub-committees could be formed to look at other issues such as Forest Education. Rod noted that he would always be available for meetings with small groups for more productive meetings.

## **Safety Procedures**

Facilitator noted the safety procedures, fire exits and first aid information for the building.

## **Indicators Draft**

Members were provided with copies of the indicators draft. Suggested changes and additions to the indicators were discussed.

- 1. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection replaces the Ministry of Environment.*
- 2. Addition - new indicator – Number and type of applications for variance, and their resolution (of applications), made in the FSP.*
- 3. Addition – Number of Foresters at Stillwater Timberlands Weyerhaeuser that have received recent formal education on Identification of rare plants and endangered plant communities.*
- 4. Addition - # and extent of non-compliances with the Pest Management Plan*
- 5. Addition – Identified unrecognized watersheds to be treated under the same regulations as recognized ones. Identification and tracking of company activities within these watersheds. It was noted that re-wording of this indicator is needed.*

6. *Addition – Amount of glyphosate and triclopyr found in water quality tests for the Wildwood Water System.*

Member asked about the above water testing for Wildwood Ratepayers.

Rod noted that Weyerhaeuser will pay only for *initial* tests to establish a baseline

*Question* - Does BC Hydro use herbicides?

*Answer* - Not in this area, or almost none.

*Question* – What about BC Hydro use of Bioherbicides?

*Answer* – Not known

7. *Addition - Volume of exported timber to international and provincial markets from TFL39 Block 1 and 5 vs. volume which stays in the local market. Members want breakdown*
8. *Addition – Develop a strategy to ensure old growth timber is available to local small business in perpetuity. Sub-committee will form and Weyerhaeuser intends to address.*
9. *Discussion on job levels to continue next time.*
10. *Ongoing consultation process with CAG – Discuss **early** consultation*
11. *CAG presented annually with Stillwater Timberlands Weyerhaeuser's Notice of Intent to Treat prior to it being submitted to the pest Control Board for comment and review. Are First Nations consulted?*
12. *Addition – Company encourages dialogue between Corporate and community partners regarding the enhancement of local value-added industries. I.e. ultramodern sawmill, composite wood product development*
13. *Addition – Allocation of resources to the development and implementation of non-herbicide and non-pesticide alternatives specific to current herbicide and pesticide uses as reported quarterly to CAG.*

## **FSP – Goat Management Polygons**

Doug noted that Weyerhaeuser has been contacted by the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection to see if we would be interested in formalizing our Goat Winter Range polygons as Ungulate Winter Ranges under the Forest Practices Code. Providing that wording of the order can be agreed upon, it is likely that Weyerhaeuser will proceed with UWR designation. Polygon boundaries and management objectives in the FSP will remain the same.

**7:57 – 8:05pm -BREAK**

## **Code of Conduct**

Facilitator noted the Code of Conduct that was posted

## **Other Business**

### **Rainy Day Lake Fish Farm proposal**

It was noted that Land and Water BC had not approved the proposal due to scientific information that was studied and due to the size of Rainy Day Lake (too small).

## **Access – Mt. Alfred Trail**

Member noted that the largest fir tree in the area is 30feet 10 inches in circumference.

Member noted that there is a class 5 trail – very steep – reflective markers all the way up and spectacular views, glacier and ice falls.

## **Pest Management Plan**

Hand outs – info on Pest Management Plan was provided by member.

Facilitator read draft letter to Weyerhaeuser, copies were provided for members and discussed.

Rod noted that Weyerhaeuser would test initially for herbicides in the water.

*Question* – When NIT's are brought forward – what effect will we (CAG) have?

*Answer* – Chair noted that they are only an **advisory** group and the company is not obligated to do anything.

Doug noted that whatever is in the letter, Weyerhaeuser will respond, and the Ministry will decide whether the plan is approved.

*Question* – Whom should comments be addressed to?

*Answer* – Rod or Neil at Weyerhaeuser.

*Question/Comment* – The question that was asked three years ago – what about ecological relations where herbicides and pesticide are used. No one seems to know the answer about monoculture and co-ecological forces. If it's spayed on potato and wheat fields, is it safe?

How can we be educated in an unknown field?

### ***Red and Blue listed species***

Member noted that work has been done in sensitive ecosystems, the knowledge is there but data is not available yet. Websites that are checked annually (page 22 – 5.3) – not acceptable.

### ***Clarification of Thresholds***

Member offered to provide more information on thresholds.

### ***Umbrella terms for herbicides and pesticides and bio-herbicides***

Member asked whether one term could be used for all herbicides, pesticides and bio-herbicides?

Answer – When people talk about herbicides it's usually glyphosate and triclopyr that they are referring to. *Pesticides* is the broad category that includes all. Member requested more precise definitions for herbicides and pesticides in the glossary.

*Question* - What about bio-herbicides?

*Answer* – They are under trial now, and will be used if they work. Maybe there will be another section under bio-herbicides.

### ***Buffers on Trails and Management Zones***

Member noted that only the Sunshine Coast trail was noted in the draft letter, when other trails that have reserves should have some status in the FSP.

*Member's comments:*

Speaking about the Sunshine Coast Trail alone at this point but others could be included as mentioned in the FSP – what happens with the 10/20? The 10m-reserve zone doesn't get touched at all and the 20m-management zone has a one-time – one pass harvesting opportunity with 50% taken out. After that 50% is taken out there is no more harvesting after that. So in effect there is no need to be operating in the 20m-management section. From personal observations on the trail, forest cover with 50% retention won't allow any growth of brush. There are instances of as little as 5-meters buffers where shade is provided.

*Answer* – Doug noted that for the management zone – once harvested at 50% there is nothing in the plan to say it's a one-time entry. It doesn't say we can't go in again 50 years from now. Commitment is to retain 50%.

Member disagreed with this interpretation, as it did not agree with his recollection of earlier discussions.

Member also noted that it doesn't state either that Weyerhaeuser could go in again and harvest a second time..

*Suggestion-* Add in *all recognized trails* and canoe route to OZ4 in the letter of comment.

Rod noted that the Canoe Route has 10-meters on each side and the Sunshine Coast Trail has 10-20, others have 30-7 etc. Members suggested removing the numbers from letter. It was noted that reserve zones established in the FSP are covered in the plan on page 15 – item 6 of the PMP draft.

*Question* – Is there a reason why management zones are not in the plan?

*Answer* – Rod noted that Riparian areas and reserve zones are in the plan. The commitment to leave 50% in a 30m management zone - they could leave a 15-meter wide strip with 100% retention, and then take all the trees out of that adjacent strip if there were brush problems in that situation.

Doug noted that in the management zone on the trail and 70-meter reserve they leave 30% of 100-meters. The FSP says dispersed retention (with consultation with CAG). It was noted that CAG would have to agree to any variation to the harvesting in the zones.

Members agreed to add request to letter: that “Management Zones” be added to item 6 on page 15 and receive the same OZ-4 (pesticide-free) designation as the reserve zones which were established in the FSP for TFL39 –Block1.

Member recommended that the same designation would be good for all trails – 90% don't have Section 102 approval and should have maximum protection.

*Question* - Olsen Lake and Friel River watershed are OZ4? – is there no herbicide use in Theodosia River watershed?

*Answer-* Not now

*Question* - With diversion will plan have changes to accommodate and be flexible to accommodate changes?

*Answer* - Yes it does now

***Phillips Arm – Block 5 PMP***

*Question* – There is no PMP for Phillips Arm – will it be brought to CAG? We were shown a map showing zoning at the first meeting - will that be described as “public consultation”? How can we comment when we haven’t even seen a draft for Phillips Arm? Member requested a draft of the PMP for Phillips Arm. Comment period ends on Friday.

*Answer* – Draft for Block 5 – Phillips Arms will be available at next meeting.

**ACTION** – Draft of PMP for block 5 to be made available to CAG.

*Comment* - Member noted that the map appeared to be more for the protection for the valley bottoms and grizzly bears – the bears seem to get more protection than the people of Powell River.

*Answer* – Green zones (OZ4) are for grizzly bears. Special spot treatment applications are used for the habitat.

*Question* – Is that the government legislation for managing for the protection of grizzly bears?

*Answer* – Spot treatment is used for the habitat

*Comment* – Member suggested taking A800 out of the reserve

***Consultation with First Nations***

Consultation with First Nations is required – Can Weyerhaeuser give CAG the same respect and consult with the community at large?

Facilitator noted that the company has to submit the NIT annually, that would be the logical time to have discussion. Broader consultation with the community was suggested.

### ***Powell Lake and Wildwood watershed area concerns***

Chair showed area on map – lower end of Powell Lake and Goat Island, end of Inland Lake Park and across to above Hole in the Wall. Discussion was that these areas should be OZ4 - the same as Haslam Lake. All along Powell Lake shores to have buffer with no pesticides ranging from a minimum of 10m to a maximum of 100m. Townsite and Westview and Sliammon all have clean water and Wildwood should have the same. 30 or 50 meters was suggested and discussed.

*Question* – What are the logging requirements around Powell Lake - do they have to leave a buffer?

*Answer* – No requirements – could log right up to the edge of the lake but Weyerhaeuser voluntarily has buffers for visual quality around the lake.

Member noted that stream buffers were 10-meters, and water from streams runs into lake – why would a large buffer around the lake be requested?

Member asked for company's opinion on this subject-

It was noted that if ground foliar spray is used the 10-meter buffer would be untouched as well as another 10-meters so lake would be 20-meters away from any spraying. When trees are treated with the hack and squirt method, there is no need for a 10-meter pesticide-free buffer zone around streams.

Member asked for clarification on operating zones

*Question* - In OZ2 zones which one is which?

2a) Grizzly bears – there will be no broadcast application

2b) Consultation – all residential dwellings within 200meters of the treatment area will be consulted

Chair noted that whatever number they end up with, the group is generally opposed to pesticides but not opposed to brush control, but manual treatment is preferred since it creates more jobs. It was noted that “erring on the side of caution” was a good idea.

Member argued against the larger buffers on the watersheds wondered how they came up with 30 or 50 meters, since no information is available to show that it is necessary. It was also noted that Weyerhaeuser is not increasing the use of pesticides. Member suggested that 10-meters was adequate protection. Millions of gallons of water are coming into the lake and a very small amount of glyphosate is being used. (3 liters per hectare)

Member noted that they were looking at prevention. It was noted that there will be a new water officer in the area in January – no one has tested the water for pesticides yet.

#### ***Concerns about exposure to workers***

Member noted concerns about workers who at an acute risk of herbicide exposure, and also noted that safety gear is not always used.

#### ***Concerns regarding 200-meter consultation rule***

Member noted that the item regarding consulting residents within 200-meters did not seem to have a lot of clarity.

#### ***Rare plants***

Members noted that more scientific knowledge was needed regarding rare plant species.

#### ***Equity with other watersheds***

Member noted that there should be some equity for the Wildwood water intake. Sliammon, Townsite and Westview have protection, and Wildwood should have the same status.

### ***Concerns about Insects and Birds and other critters***

Member noted that there conflicting ideas and not enough information to set any kind of distance for buffers. It was noted that some insects and birds are just not around anymore. It was noted that not enough is known about what happens. Member also noted concerns about what happens to the soil when pesticides are used.

### ***Powell Lake Strategic Plan***

Member noted that there have been studies around Powell Lake and 30- meter minimum buffers of have been established for outhouses, septic tanks and pit toilets.

### ***Vote by members***

Chair noted that because there are unknown answers, that is not a reason to do nothing. It was noted that since there may be some danger to the health and safety of residents, there is a need to err on the side of caution. Members were asked to decide and vote on 10, 30 or 50 meter buffer. It would be irresponsible not to do anything to provide protection for Wildwood drinking water.

Guest noted that after sixty-three years experience of Powell Lake, he had noticed that eagles, red throated loons, blue herons and wildlife have come back to the area, but the fish population has gone down. It was noted that Powell River Energy raises and lowers the levels of the lake.

*Question* – All in favour of establishing an OZ4 zone in the lower end of Powell Lake as described.

Nine in favour one opposed

*Question* – 10, 30 or 50 meters buffer?

10-meters – 1 vote

30-meters – 5 votes

50-meters – 4 votes

CAG will recommend a 30-meter buffer. Letter to be delivered to Weyerhaeuser by Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> with all comments that have been discussed.

Members were invited to submit any further comments before the deadline.

Wildwood Ratepayers member thanked CAG for their help.

Member asked questions about the resiliency of the ecosystem and will put together questions in writing for the next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned 9:20pm**

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**Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group**

**November 12<sup>th</sup> 2003**

**Attendance**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Member Seat</b>
<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>		
<b>Eagle Walz Chair</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Debby Waslewski</b>	Primary	Citizens
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens
<b>Nancy Hollmann</b>	Primary	Environment
George Ferreira	Alternate	Local Business
<b>Joanne Cameron-Nordell</b>	Primary	Local Business
Kevin McKamey	Alternate	Contractors
Jane Cameron	Alternate	Recreation
<b>Michael Conway-Brown</b>	Primary	Environment
<b>Patrick Brabazon</b>	Primary	Local Govt (Regional)
<b>Jack McClinchey</b>	Primary	Motorized Rec.

Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
<b>Peter Ranger</b>	Primary	Forest Dependent
Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Dependent
<b>Kathleen O'Neil</b>	Primary	Education
<i>10 seats represented</i>		
<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>		
<b>Russell Storry</b>	Primary	Local Govt
		(Municipal)
Dave Rees	Alternate	Tourism
John Passek	Alternate	Motorized Rec.
Dianne Mason	Alternate	Education
David Gabelhouse	Alternate	Local Govt (Municipal)
<b>Sonny Rioux</b>	Primary	IWA
<b>Ken Jackson – Vice-Chair</b>	Primary	Recreation
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
<b>Rory Maitland</b>	Primary	Contractors
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
<b>Andrew Pinch</b>	Primary	Tourism
Christine Hollmann	Alternate	Environment
Les Falk	Alternate	Local Govt.
		(Regional)
<b><u>PRESENT - Guests</u></b>		
<b>Bob Astrope</b>	Bomb Squad	
<b>Frank D'Angio</b>	Bomb Squad	
<b>Denise Reinhart</b>		
<b>Roger Taylor</b>		
<b>Resource – other</b>		
<b>Rod Tysdal</b>	Stillwater Timberlands	
<b>Doug McCormick</b>	Stillwater Timberlands	
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	

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