

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

October 22nd 2003

Minutes

Brooks School

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:00pm: Dinner

6:03pm: Meeting called to order

Quorum noted

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman opened the meeting and introduced guest Chris Godsall of Triton Logging. Members introduced themselves.

Lecture at Ecole Cote du Soleil

– Monday Oct 27 – 9:00am

Facilitator noted an item that may be of interest to members. Short presentation will take place about bugs in the redwood forest.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from October 8th were reviewed and accepted. No amendments.

Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted with additions.

Correspondence

Letter from Weyerhaeuser in response to CAG's letter of Oct 7

regarding extension to the review period for PMP.

Letter from member regarding concerns and suggested new indicators.

Members agreed to discuss contents of letter at the next meeting

ACTION – Members will table discussion of new indicators and members concerns until next meeting

Field Trip

Members were notified of a change of date from October 25th to November 1st for the next field trip to view Triton Logging operations at Lois Lake.

Analysis of Woodflow in the Coast Forest Region

Item of interest to members - handout from member was provided – Final report – August 27th 2003 presented to the BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management.

Action List

Members were asked to review action list and complete actions if their name was attached.

Triton Logging presentation

Chris Godsall

Chris gave an interesting presentation and described the new operations at Lois Lake.

Company is involved in underwater logging of flooded standing timber.
Opportunity for flooded standing timber - 20 million flooded trees in BC – an untapped \$50 billion global resource.

85% of trees are 60 feet below water. Machine that uses airbags, was launched in Powell Lake in March 2003, is capable of cutting 38 trees per dive. Machine is remote controlled and safety features are in place.

Company consists of

Engineering

Marketing

Technology – sawfish machine

Advantages include – no roads to build, no insect controls, no fires, removes hazards, certifiable.

Chris extended an invitation to members to visit the site on November 1st.

Question – How long will the operation be there at Lois Lake?

Answer – Difficult to say- depends how much timber is in the lake – could be viable logging operation for several years. Company has an engineering presence here in Powell River.

Question – Will Triton Logging be hiring local workers?

Answer – Yes, position will be advertised this coming Friday.

Question – Who will customers be?

Answer – Trying to sell to markets locally – small inventory so far. Company may have to look elsewhere for customers if not sold locally.

Question – Can underwater logs be made into lumber?

Answer – Yes, it can be made into lumber.

Question – Is the timber old growth?

Answer – Yes, old growth as well as second growth. Fire history in 1859, then area was flooded.

Question – How long does one dive last?

Answer – Can last three hours, sawfish machine can cut one tree in ten minutes.

Question – Can you expand on fibre allocation for value added business, and how will company work with value added businesses in the community? Also, what about offshore markets?

Answer- Company is contracting local users to attract attention. Hope to be able to distribute locally. e.g. Rick Hopper Country Woodworks is interested in doing a

line in salvaged material, it would be a unique item. Salvaged material can be used for furniture and flooring. It has environmental benefits, and company is doing logging in a responsible way. Company has a few international contacts. Local businesses will have to make it happen.

Question – What about safety? How does the operator control the distance of the fall?

Answer – There is 400 feet of tether used and air bag forces tree up. Barge has to be a safe distance from machine.

Question – What prevents tree falling on machine?

Answer – Machines are armoured to take impacts and are modified with air bags. Sawfish holds tree and airbags lift tree out of the water. Some trees in Lois Lake are under 80 feet of water. Most problems can be dealt with.

Question – How many cubic meters are available?

Answer – 150-200 cubic meters a day can be logged.

Question – What will this type of logging do to underwater life, and what effect will it have on the Canoe Route?

Answer – Canoe route people are curious about operation. Don't know whether it is beneficial to tourism or not. Hazardous areas are being marked. There were maybe a dozen visitors in the summer. Ministry of Forest has protocol for wildlife trees and compliance officer enforces rules. Not allowed to cut if there are osprey nests etc. Machine doesn't have to touch the floor of the lake so leaves a "light footprint" in deeper water there is even less impact. Water tests are done and reported to the Ministry of Forests.

Question – What about oils spills?

Answer – Hydraulic oil that is used is vegetable based and is environmentally friendly.

Question – How far below the surface do you have to go to determine if logs are salvageable?

Answer – If air bag pulls out – tree is rotten, but most so far have been solid.

Chair thanked Chris for the presentation and wished him good luck with the venture.

Indicators Draft

Members were provided with copies of the indicators draft.

ACTION – Copy of indicators draft to be sent electronically to members.

Facilitator noted that the suggestions from the contractors seat would be written into the document.

Suggested changes and additions to indicators were discussed:

Spills – spill reports - chainsaw oil spills etc. – Discussion regarding vegetable oils – environmentally friendly oils sometime used.

Requirements to report on alternative – *added*

Watersheds – *addition* – Identified unrecognized watersheds to be treated under the same regulations as recognized ones. Identification and tracking of company activities within these watersheds.

Ministry of Environment to be *changed* to Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Addition – (24a) Number and type of applications for variance, and their resolutions made regarding zoning and commitments made in the FSP.

Heli-logging – Concerns from member regarding the increasing use of heli-logging where conventional logging could be used. e.g. Powell Lake – loss of jobs is a concern. Indicator needed to protect local labour and to maintain or increase employment. Members were invited to send in comments and suggestions for the wording of this indicator.

ACTION – Members to send in comments and suggestions for indicator regarding helilogging and loss of local employment concerns

Member suggested discussion on how to deal with technology advances within the community. Item to be on the agenda at next meeting

ACTION – Agenda item – Discussion on technology advances within the community.

Add – Using community resources, gather data on economic impact of Weyerhaeuser operations. Agenda item for next meeting

ACTION – Discussion on - Using community resources gather data on economic impact of Weyerhaeuser operations. Agenda item for next meeting

Members noted that figures are available in the annual report. It was noted that the forest sector (pulp mill and logging) contributes 34% to the community. Member asked whether pick up trucks at Weyerhaeuser's office were all bought locally.

Improved road, recreation and interpretive signs that are maintained and visible – Ongoing assessment and improvement of signs in TFL39 Blocks 1 and 5. Member noted that more safety signs were needed on the one-way loop.

Indicator #62 – The Company meets its commitment to the construction of the Emma Lake Trail from A800a trail to Mt. Alfred and Glacier. Rod noted that there is no FIA funding for this project.

24/7 days a week access for public from Tinhatch Junction to Dodd Lake and Khartoum Lake campsites. – Stillwater Timberlands will continue to pursue funding through the Ministry of Forests to complete this improvement.

Add – Company encourages dialogue between Corporate and community partners regarding the enhancement of local value-added industries. i.e. ultramodern sawmill, composite wood product development.

Add – 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.

Change wording - Achievement and maintenance of CSA, FSC and ISO certifications and continuing exploration into FSC certification.

Add – indicators from contractors seat.

- Percent of blowdown recovered (species mix), percentage of blowdown left (species mix)
- Percent of unrecovered blowdown which was inside OGMA's
- Contractor stability, production volume per month compared to year over year balance.
- # of new or different contractors (including silviculture) compared to year over year balance.
- Total percent variable retention after block is morgued (final harvest activity has taken place)

Final draft of indicators document will be e-mailed for review by members.

Access

Question - What is the status of D Branch trail building – is anyone aware of the condition of the road?

Answer – FIA may fund opening. Engineering crew went out and is developing an estimate.

Question – Is there a time frame?

Answer – We would like to get the job done quickly so we don't get snowed out. Derek Ferguson is on top of trying to get funding.

CAG Website

It was noted that the website server has had some problems and the site crashed. Efforts are ongoing to put back the data that was there before the problem. Website should be restored before too long.

7:53pm Break

8:03pm - Open to the Public

Pest Management Plan

Rudi van Zwaaij and Neil Hughes

Rudi introduced himself and Neil Hughes from Northwest Hardwoods. Explanation of the way permits are now given, and the changes that the government is planning for Pest Management Plans (PMP's). Members were provided with copies of the *Pest Management Plan 2004-2008 #110-407-04/08 Powell River - Draft #5* for Forest Vegetation Management on TFL 39 Block1, FL A47927, Sunshine Coast TSA and MFU 19.

Zones

Maps were posted for input into the zoning process. Map for Powell River TFL 39 Block1 and also map for Philips Arm Block 5 were shown.

Four zones were described as shown on the maps.

Zone 1 – Little or no constraints

Zone 2 – No use

Zone 3 – Wildlife – goat and deer habitats

Zone 4 – All major community watersheds – no herbicide use

Sub-zones –

Grizzly Bear habitat - Daniels River, Powell Daniels and Eldred maintained for Grizzly Bear according to ministry of Water Land and Air protection.

Domestic Water Intakes – criteria is set and company will consult with owners of licenses and adjacent neighbours within 200 meters.

Rudi asked whether there were any other features on the landscape that were important

It was noted that the Philips Arm maps showed high wildlife and fisheries

values. It was also noted that a different colour was used for zones on each map.

CAG members and two members of the public were invited to take a few minutes to look at the maps and make comments.

Boundary line on map was clarified – (black boundary lines).

Watersheds

Neil noted that the plan details show community watersheds. Community watersheds identified in the plan are:

Greer Community watershed

Sliammon lake community Watershed

Haslam Lang Community Watershed

Jefferd Creek Community Watershed

Community Creek Community Watershed

Silver Community Watershed

Member requested that Wildwood ratepayers would like their watershed at One Mile Bay to be recognized (in Operating Zone 4 – pesticide free zone) Residents request a pesticide free zone within 2 km of the intake.

Question – In zone 4 what are the non-herbicide methods described on page 15 of the plan?

Answer – Non-herbicide methods could include fungal treatments.

Question – Consultation process – for the Regional District, plan states, "In preparation of this PMP, Stillwater Timberlands carried out the following activities to consult with the public and other activities" – what does "consult" mean?

Answer - Weyerhaeuser would contact people within 200 meters and see whether there are any concerns. Company usually comes to terms with what's acceptable and what's not. For other reasons, when there are treaty negotiations, we can't tell what happens when there is an impasse. Weyerhaeuser has the prerogative to go ahead and use based on the terms of the permit. They have the legal authority to do so.

Question – To put into a larger context – recent changes regarding the pesticide appeal board – if registered by Canada, products are assumed safe?

Answer - Don't have means to access to data. There is no longer an appeal process.

Question- Comment – Zones - Page 15 of the plan states zone 4 will include reserve zones established in the FSP for TFL39, Block 1. Reserve zones of 10 meters could be management zones? 100 feet from recreation with 50% removal?

Throw in trail to Mt. Alfred?

Member noted that reserves around the Sunshine Coast Trail are 10/20.

Answer – Where harvesting has taken place we have to regenerate – if there is a case where needed, company will use. (herbicides)

ACTION - Member will put concerns/comments above in writing.

Question – Which species are a problem

Answer – Salmonberry, thimbleberry, bracken fern, hardwoods-maple, alder, cherry

Member noted that it was a shame to chop down maple, as it is a super wood.

Neil agreed, would love to harvest hardwoods but explained that the company has an obligation to re-forest back to Douglas fir, Hemlock and Cedar.

Member noted that maple could be controlled mechanically with chainsaws.

Neil agreed, but noted that they have to be cut two or three times, and with "Release" just one treatment is needed.

Rudi noted that they would love to save the maples but the government says you must grow conifers. Company is trying to promote hardwood strategy and if approved will be allowed to grow hardwoods.

Member commented that Indicator #44 regarding "ongoing consultation" did not appear to have been fulfilled re the PMP. - Seems to be a "hot potato" – maybe Weyerhaeuser should have brought the PMP forward sooner? It was noted that CAG is a working group and there is some discomfort at the speed that things are going- why is the process so fast?

Neil noted that Bill 53 had first reading in May 2003. PMP's have been around for about three years, and were designed four or five years ago and used in Prince George as a Pilot project. Amendments to legislation for Pesticide Control Act will be going through and all companies will be using PMP's in future.

Question – Where does the BC government get its information regarding maple?

Answer – Don't really understand why BC is behind the rest of Canada. Good furniture is being made in Washington and Oregon. For the last twenty years more volume means more stumpage for the government. Until there is a hardwood industry in place then they can charge stumpage. Hardwoods are treated as a weed species at present.

It was noted that it is costly for the company to manage for conifers. Mixed stands are important too – there is a lot more Douglas fir.

Question – Legislation of current regulations still ongoing - We are still in an either/or situation at this time - what generated current implementation? Was it a corporate decision or what's driving the change?

Answer – Ministry of Water Land and Air is stating that although the regulation says that they can still use pesticide use permits, they won't issue permits anymore. They have been pushing all the licensees for change for about three years now. Timberwest was the first company to get PMP approved two years ago. It took eighteen months to get approval. Each year they have given out less permits. They have made it clear to us that last year when permits were given they were only for one-year plans. The Ministry wants everyone on PMP's and are not dealing with permits anymore.

Question – What about detailed site assessments – do they identify S4, 5 and 6 streams on the map? How are they defined?

Answer – Any watercourse in a cutblock that is being reforested has to have a pesticide-free zone along the banks- no different than the pesticide use permit. Whether it's an S4, S5 or S6 -if it has flowing water in it, it has to have a pesticide free zone along the banks. We can treat up to the banks of S6 streams (if dry) with Vision for foliar treatment. There is a 10-meter pesticide-free zone for Release.

Question – S6 seasonal dependent stream could be sprayed up to the banks with pesticides in September?

Answer – Yes

Suggestion from chair that CAG could write a letter to the government in support of using hardwoods as a means of controlling pests. Alders and maple could be used to control salmonberry, and since Weyerhaeuser is in a position where they would like to use less or a minimum of pesticides, CAG could be helpful in helping the company reach that goal. CAG is a community advisory group and would members consider writing a letter in support of that goal?

Member noted that more background information was required before a letter could be written on behalf of the group.

Rod noted that all the technical expertise was available.

It was noted that there would be a meeting with the regional manager next Thursday in Nanaimo to ask again about mixed stands for TFL39 Block 1. Stillwater has been trying for four or five years to get permission. Rudi and Neil agreed that a letter of support from CAG would be a good idea. Alder is a pioneer species and as it stands now they can't let it stay and it is removed for road building – company would like to keep it there.

Question – Is alder and maple growing on private lands?

Answer – M & B had no interest in managing alder until recently. Six or seven mills in Washington and Oregon have been replanting for alder. If site were suitable, Weyerhaeuser would manage for alder on private or crown land.

Facilitator reminded members that they need to continue discussion on PMP as comments end on October 31, 2003.

Suggestion – Maybe when re-visiting indicators, members could add hardwood management? Note- with girdling you get 100% control with alder.

Rudi noted that they do girdle where they can.

Question – How much alder is exported from Weyerhaeuser?

Answer – None- Delta mill gets all alder logs and buys lots of wood (50%) on the open market. Some mills are shut down because they don't have enough logs.

Neil noted that as far as he is aware, the only alder that leaves the country comes from IR.

Question – If there is no change in the PMP for five years – it seems harsh for us (CAG) but isn't it hard for the company - what if plans change and what if markets change (e.g. may be huge demands from Japan etc)? Why no change for five years?

Answer – Plans can be amended at any time. If there is an explanation then it can be amended, and advertised to the public.

Question – Could CAG come to Weyerhaeuser and ask for change?

Answer - Yes, we are professional foresters and are managing the forest on behalf of the public. We always have to listen to the public. Once amendment is approved there would be another forty-five day period.

Question – There is only this forty-five day consultation period?

Answer – Yes, this is the initial forty-five day period for the approval of this plan. Once approved then it can be appealed.

Question – What about a letter of support for growing hardwoods for vegetation management?

Answer – Need more background information. Maybe just a draft?

Rod noted that Neil is the person to develop policy for hardwoods.

Question – Is there a study on the economics of growing red alder?

Answer – There's a lot from difficult areas –could take some productive areas closer to town and closer to the mill with easier road access etc.

Question – The economics of growing alder – is it a high return and quicker rotation- more viable?

Answer – The best fir sites are also the best alder sites. It is costly to stock fir stands, do brushing etc. Alder grows faster and has better returns for sawmills. It has to be managed and pruned. Alder has twenty-five year rotation compared to fifty. Neil noted that every year the company goes through the same problems.

Weyerhaeuser would like to have the option from the government to grow hardwoods. So far they have done a good job of killing alder.

Member expressed concerns about the word "plantations" and wondered about "cash-cropping"

Comment from member of the public – it seems like the company is doing well with low stumpage rates and high prices, but we would also like to see some fir around.

Member noted that ecological values should also be considered. Root rot could be fixed.

Rudi noted that the Ministry of Forests would make exceptions and allow a rotation of alder in root rot areas.

Chair asked members whether they were in favour of drafting a letter of support for a hardwood management plan.

Some were uncomfortable with the idea and need more information.

Question – How much time is needed for letter of support?

Answer – Company would need answer from the Ministry by the end of the year.

Rod noted that they could present Weyerhaeuser's hardwood plan by the second week in November.

Pest Management Plan - Deadline for comments

It was noted that the time period for comments on the PMP ends on October 31st 2003.

Members were asked to look over the plan and write comments on behalf of themselves and on behalf of their constituents.

Notice of Wildwood Ratepayers meeting

Wednesday October 29th – 7:00pm

Discussion on Biosolids

James Thomson School

All welcome

Field Trip – November 1 2003

Details will be sent out by e-mail as soon as they are available.

Meeting adjourned 9:15pm

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group		
October 22nd 2003		
Attendance		
Name	Position	Member Seat
<u>PRESENT</u>		
Eagle Walz Chair	Primary	Recreation
Michael Conway-Brown	Primary	Environment
Patrick Brabazon	Primary	Local Govt (Regional)
Russell Storry	Primary	Local Govt (Municipal)
Jane Cameron	Alternate	Recreation
Debby Waslewski	Primary	Citizens
Jack McClinchey	Primary	Motorized Rec.
Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependent
Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Kathleen O'Neil	Primary	Education
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Environment

Sonny Rioux	Primary	IWA
Dave Rees	Alternate	Tourism
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors
Kevin McKamey	Alternate	Contractors
<i>12 seats represented</i>		
<u>ABSENT</u>		
George Ferreira	Alternate	Local Business
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
John Passek	Alternate	Motorized Rec.
Dianne Mason	Alternate	Education
David Gabelhouse	Alternate	Local Govt (Municipal)
Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair	Primary	Recreation
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Andrew Pinch	Primary	Tourism
Les Falk	Alternate	Local Govt (Regional)
Christine Hollmann	Alternate	Environment
Resource – other		
Rod Tysdal	Stillwater	Timberlands

Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	