

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

October 30th 2003

Minutes

Weyerhaeuser Office

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

7:06pm: Meeting called to order

Quorum noted

Welcome, Introductions and Thanks

Chair opened the meeting and thanked members for attending an extra meeting and for volunteering their time. It was noted that the meeting was called in order to get more information and knowledge on the new Pest Management Plan. Chair introduced guest Terry Peters, alternate member for Wildwood Ratepayers. It was noted that Wildwood ratepayers had some concerns and wished to present a letter to Weyerhaeuser.

Discussion and concerns regarding the proposed Pest Management Plan

It was noted that the deadline for comments was October 31st.

Questions and Concerns –

Wording in the document needs improvement

Member noted that the wording in the draft document was loose and

vague in some parts and not clear. e.g. Page 15 Operating Zone 4 "the attempt is to "try" to manage community watersheds herbicide-free. No notification of consultation requirements. – What does that mean? Member asked for clearer wording and re-wording of some sections.

Rod noted that the plan was for the next five years and that

the company will try to manage without the use of herbicides in some areas i.e. (community watersheds) In the Haslam Lake area – herbicides are allowed to be used under the Haslam Lake watershed plan; company will try to manage without them but don't want to make a commitment that they will never be used – situation will be re-evaluated after the five year period.

Question –What does it mean when it says – if legal obligations cannot be met?

How will they know whether things are working?

Answer – Can make the answer clearer and explain more clearly what that means.

Question - How will the public know when changes/amendments are made to the

plan?

Answer – If there are any amendments they will be brought to CAG and public consultation process will be done.

Question – Does commitment apply to all watersheds?

Answer – All legal community water sheds

Question – Water licenses?

Answer - All registered water licenses are included in the plan as shown on the map.

Facilitator compared the wording in the FSP to the PMP and noted that the wording in the FSP was more precise and easier to understand.

Short Time frame for public consultation – request for more time.

Members noted that they were feeling pressured by the short time period, and the Wildwood ratepayers seat noted that a meeting had been held and there were many unanswered questions – cabin owners on Powell Lake need to be consulted and the timeframe in which to consult and evaluate the draft was short.

Members would like more time to reply in more detail after consultation with cabin owners around Powell Lake.

Rod noted that all community groups should read the newspapers and take responsibility to get the information on when public meetings are held. Weyerhaeuser has met its obligations to advertise plan and only a few people showed up. It would be difficult for the company to customize all notifications for each group in the community.

Amendments and commitment statement

It was noted that the plan is not locked in and is a living document;

anyone can come in to comment and ask for changes at any time. Chair noted that there would be less anxiety about the document if the public knew that things could be changed. Can document state what it says in the legislation regarding changes?

Members asked for a commitment statement from the company stating that the document is open to amendments at any time. Facilitator made reference to Weyerhaeuser's original commitment statement to CAG and how much trust it built, and how a similar commitment statement in the PMP might be helpful.

Member reconfirmed that the question asked – is the document fixed and final, and the answer – no- open to amendments.

Question – What triggers an amendment? – could be -a) Weyerhaeuser steps outside the plan or -b) the plan becomes unacceptable to Weyerhaeuser- but how does an outsider get Weyerhaeuser to trigger an event and get Weyerhaeuser to do something?

Answer – Public can come forward and talk to the company. Amendments have to be initiated through Weyerhaeuser.

Question – Is there a way to get the Ministry to look at plan if not satisfied.

Answer – Yes. e.g. Water testing – Ministry would test and come to company with results. Weyerhaeuser has been working for three years to build a level of confidence with the community. People have to trust the

company. If not satisfied, people could go to the Pesticide Control branch and ask for better safeguards.

Question – How is testing for water done in an area that is so huge?

Answer – Testing is done where herbicides have been applied.

Statement of Intent

Suggestion – Maybe a statement of intent could be added to the plan. That statement would say that the company will work in cooperation with the community to solve problems. Statement written into the plan would help to alleviate fears in the community.

Rod noted that certain commitments have been made as far as

consultations are concerned; there is a legal commitment to consult with First Nations. If anyone wants to appeal, they can go to the Pest Management branch.

Statement about consulting with the community at large

Statement about consulting with the community at large could also be put into the plan as per member's request.

Facilitator noted that the above statements would help build more trust between the community and Weyerhaeuser.

Treatment thresholds – should be more clearly defined

Member noted that more clearly defined thresholds were needed. Who determines how much of a problem there is before treatment – do they have local knowledge and experience? When permits were used, thresholds were clearly defined.

Answer – Ministry of Water land and Air Protection audits the work and Weyerhaeuser has to submit the areas that are planned each year – company doesn't have carte blanche to use anywhere. Company can't use herbicides beyond what the recommendations are.

Copies of annual areas planned to be provided for CAG

Member requested that CAG could be provided with copies annually.

Question – Seems now use is not site-specific and more out of government hands

Answer - Page 27 7.1 of the Plan shows detailed site assessment requirements for each block.

Cost Assessments and rationale

Question – Why is there no cost assessment and rationale? Does plan include costs?

Answer – A recent appeal was based on the cost of alternatives. People appealed a permit based on the fact that there was no evaluation of the cost of alternatives. Company has to determine whether to use and evaluate the costs of doing things another way.

Question - Is company willing to add more thresholds? Can company justify herbicide treatments when there are alternative treatments based on scientific facts?

Answer – Forest service decides when stands are free growing and sometimes they declare a small patch of alder as a patch that has to be treated.

Question – There seems to be a big variance in standards according to who goes out to access stands – aren't there some standards in place?

Answer – Yes - determination on free to grow made by professional forester.

Forty-five day period – members feel pressured and rushed

Chair noted that the first invitation on July 25th to the meeting that was held on August 13th did not indicate when the forty-five day period began. Other groups need to be consulted and the time period has been too short.

Member noted that cabin and boat owners are not really informed, and in the summer months most groups take a break and do not meet. Norske and Weyerhaeuser have been very good at coming to ratepayers meetings but the PMP was not mentioned until very recently. The public is suspicious and member asked, "Why the rush?"

Rod noted that the permits that they have will end next year, and plan needs to be in place before then. Plan takes a long time to be approved. It

was suggested that people can come into the office and discuss the plan more thoroughly, and Weyerhaeuser will listen to what they have to say.

Question – After plan is approved, then there is another forty-five day period to appeal?

Answer – Yes. The document is a live document. To initiate an amendment is the company's choice.

Member noted that it would seem to be more difficult to get things changed after the plan is passed by government.

Rod noted that if Weyerhaeuser put off the plan for two months, then it would be June or July before things could be sent in.

Chair noted that two extra weeks would be all that was needed, that would give everyone the time to be informed, and contact with other groups could be made.

ACTION – Contact with other groups will be made regarding the proposed PMP.

Rod extended the time to November 15th and noted that he would be available anytime at the office to answer any questions from everyone.

Thanks from members.

Education for identification of rare vascular species and rare plant communities

Plants requiring protection – Page 22 5.3

Member raised concerns that the document states that the MWLAP website list of vascular plants and rare natural plant communities will be checked once a year. Is this adequate and who will be doing the checking? Are they trained?

Answer – Bill Boese had done this already for this plan and there will be training for other foresters.

Member recommended that the document could be re-worded to reflect Weyerhaeuser's commitment to training foresters in the identification of rare vascular species and rare plant communities, with some assurances that this ground truthing will happen.

Also, on Page 22 5.3 the paragraph dealing with public consultation regarding plants that requires special considerations – states that there were "no special concerns from the public" – member noted that the consultation period is still ongoing.

Question – If a component of a rare plant community is found elsewhere, in an area not slated for harvest, is it ok if only one is left in the harvested area and does that mean all or only one plant is protected?

Answer – Will check and get answer on that question. Weyerhaeuser is also asking the same question.

Rod referred to the list of indicators regarding rare ecosystems.

Question – Plan describes TFL 39 Block 1, what about Block 5? Should CAG see the plan for Block 5?

Answer – Draft 5 so far for TFL 39 Block 1, FL A 47927, Sunshine Coast TSA and MFU 19 – none for Block 5 Phillips Arm at this time.

Question – Will they look to CAG for comments on Block 5? Will there be further consultation with CAG? Should we see a draft for Block 5?

Answer – No more work has been done yet – not sure when Block 5 plan will be ready. Staff have been very busy burning slash piles etc. and will have to get plan done in November. Document can't be finalized until all the public comments are in.

Appendices incomplete or missing from draft

Facilitator asked whether Appendix 1 (Map) Appendix 3 (incomplete) and Appendix 7 (missing) would be provided since they are not in draft 5.

Member asked for clarification on the legislation. Law for PMP's does not yet exist.

Rod explained that the current legislation accepts PUP's or PMPs, but the pesticide control branch has been pushing for PMP's for the last few years. Weyerhaeuser has held off preparing plans but now no more permits will be issued.

Question – What stage is the legislation at?

Answer – First reading - it has taken a long time to get this plan through.

Question -What is Weyerhaeuser operating under right now?

Answer - Permits can still be used and are valid for another one or two years, need either a permit or PMP.

Question – Is this a corporate decision (to prepare plan) or legal requirement?

Answer - Legal requirement

More research, development and implementation of alternatives required

Member noted that it was an efficient practice to girdle roadside alder, and that several alternatives were available e.g. slurry of fertilizer for maple stumps, brush saws and mushroom starters. Bioherbicides can be used for salmonberry, and there could be more great ideas that haven't been tried yet. Member would like to see more enthusiasm and efforts to develop and implement alternatives.

Members agreed that there were differences of opinions regarding herbicide use. Members would like a commitment from Weyerhaeuser for research and development for reduced herbicide use in the future.

Question -Member asked again why the plan was not brought forward sooner.

Answer - Decision to go ahead was just made in the summer. As soon as decision was made we got in contact with CAG.

Members thanked Rod for the two-week extension.

To reiterate, Rod noted that the document is a living document and can be changed. If changes are to be made the company will go ahead and make changes. Goal is to reduce herbicide use in the future. In future, if we don't have to plant conifers on alder sites, there will be need for less herbicide use. There are better quality stock and faster growing seedlings available now and they are being used. It was noted that seedlings planted on Vancouver Island in the spring have grown to over one meter tall.

Safety concerns

Rod noted that some of the other methods for brushing have caused severe injuries in the past. Other methods are more dangerous than herbicides. Member noted that it is difficult to track health problems from thirty years ago related to the use of dioxins and herbicides. Rod noted again that the goal is to reduce the use of herbicides in the future.

Question – What about alternative species growth?

Answer – It is not allowed in the TFL, but company is making a presentation to the forest service – hope to get an answer before the end of the year. CAG may wish to send a letter of support. Chair noted that the group would like to receive more information on this subject before sending letter of support.

Next meeting

Chair proposed that the regular meeting on November 12th could be a public meeting that would be advertised. Members agreed that this would give other groups an opportunity to ask questions and comment before the November 15th deadline. Chair suggested delaying the drawing of the lines on Powell Lake until the cabin owners could be consulted.

Chair suggested another short meeting next week on Wednesday or Thursday November 5th or 6th. Members voted in favour of Wednesday November 5th at 7:00pm. Member suggested that previous guests from October 22nd meeting should be invited.

Notifications sent other groups

Members discussed whether other groups and organizations had received notification from Weyerhaeuser regarding the PMP. Rod noted that no letters had come in from outside groups so far.

Municipality seat noted that they had received notice and filed letter

Regional District seat noted that they had a problem with the process, did respond. They plan to contact the Ministry and Weyerhaeuser.

Cabin owners were invited but didn't show up to any meetings so far.

Chair noted that cabin owners will be alerted they are welcome to meet with Rod any time next week or any time.

Next meeting to continue discussion

Wednesday, November 5th at 7:00pm.

Meeting adjourned – 8:45pm

Summary of Recommendations and Comments

Wording in the document needs improvement

Short Time frame for public consultation – request for more time

Amendments clarification and commitment statement requested

Treatment thresholds need to be more clearly defined

Statement of Intent – statement could say that the company will work

in cooperation with the community to solve problems.

Statement about consulting with the community at large

Copies of annual areas planned to be provided for CAG

Cost Assessments and rationale for alternate methods should be included in the plan

Forty-five day period – members felt pressured and rushed

Education for identification of rare vascular species needed

Appendices incomplete or missing from the draft – request for copies of appendices that are missing or not complete

More research, development and implementation of alternatives requested

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group

October 30th 2003 - Attendance

Name - Present	Position	Member Seat
Eagle Walz Chair	Primary	Recreation
Jane Cameron	Alternate	Recreation
Michael Conway-Brown	Primary	Environment/Access
Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair	Primary	Recreation
Jack McClinchey	Primary	Motorized Rec.
Debby Waslewski	Primary	Citizens
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business
David Gabelhouse	Alternate	Local Govt (Mun)
Patrick Brabazon	Primary	Local Govt (Reg.)
John Passek	Alternate	Motorized Rec.
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens
Dave Rees	Alternate	Tourism
<i>10 seats represented</i>		
<u>ABSENT</u>		
Russell Storry	Primary	Local Govt (Mun)

Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Business
Kevin McKamey	Alternate	Contractors
Kathleen O'Neil	Primary	Education
George Ferreira	Alternate	Local Business
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Environment
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Sonny Rioux	Primary	IWA
Andrew Pinch	Primary	Tourism
Les Falk	Alternate	Reg. District
Dave Perrin	Alternate	IWA
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors
Dianne Mason	Alternate	Education
Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependent
Jason Lennox	Alternate	Tourism
Christine Hollmann	Alternate	Environment
Resource – other-present		
Rod Tysdal	Stillwater	Timberlands
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	