

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

Sept 24th 2003

Minutes

Westview Pizza

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:00pm: Dinner

6:01pm: Meeting called to order

Quorum noted

Welcome and Introductions

The chairman opened the meeting and introduced guests Paul Goodwin and Rudi vanZwaaij. Members introduced themselves.

Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted with additions.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from September 10th were reviewed and adopted as revised. Member noted that the Wildwood Ratepayers and Norske Canada were **not** happy with the brushing report that stated "good results at Gibson's Beach".

Shaw Cable coverage – Open House

Members discussed Shaw Cable coverage of Open House that was

held in June. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Shaw cable, noting members' disappointment regarding coverage that did not include every sector.

ACTION – Letter to be sent to Shaw Cable regarding coverage of Open House.

Open House 2004 – Planning Committee

Members were asked to form a sub-committee to start planning Open House for 2004. It was noted that speakers have to be booked early in order to confirm dates. Two members volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

Local Sales at the Dry Land Sort

Member noted that some good logs were available at the sort. It was noted that the policy for local log sales is in the process of being revised and improved. On-site pricing will be a priority.

Break – 6:30pm – 6:45pm

Pesticide Planning Management

Neil Hughes and Rudi vanZwaaij from Weyerhaeuser provided handouts (*Pest Management Plan 2004 – 2008 – draft 5*), provided information and answered questions on the new process. Handouts gave an overview of forest vegetation management for three areas:

Tree Farm License #39, Block 1

FL A47927, Sunshine Coast TSA

MFU 19

Question - Member asked whether Lot 450 was included.

Answer – Lot 450 is not included – Weyerhaeuser is not currently managing for forestry in lot 450 that is owned by Norske.

Question – Where is MFU19?

Answer – Managed forest lands that Weyerhaeuser owns e.g. Paradise Valley, Haslam Street, Cortez Island.

Question – Does this include land up Lois way?

Answer – No, that is MFU21, private land within TFL 39 block 1

Question – Where is Lot 450 in the plan?

Answer – Not in the plan, as Weyerhaeuser is not currently managing Lot 450 for forestry.

Question – Is re-planting going on in Lot 450?

Answer – Yes, in some parts. Norske owns parts of Lot 450.

Question – What is the new legislation called?

Answer – Amendment to the Pesticide Control Act - section 6

Question – What about appeals?

Answer – There's not much change – there will be 30-45 days to appeal plan.

Question – What about the five-year plan; will it be amended if conditions change?

Answer – Yes- it will be advertised and there will be an appeal period. If a new area that was not identified came up it would be advertised. Company is trying to get away from block by block system. There will be zones identified for using pesticides and zones for no-use.

Question – Will plan create zones for vegetation management?

Answer – Zones will be created for vegetation management.

Question – Are there any requirements to notify public what specific areas are to be treated?

Answer – Monthly operational information map will give details of where pesticide use is taking place.

Question – Will there be postings in the woods?

Answer – Weyerhaeuser has always had an open door policy – they notify cabin owners and neighbours re logging, spraying etc.

Members reviewed that handout. It was noted that there were some incomplete sections, since the plan was still only in draft form. Neil noted that the five-year term included the use of:

Vision – glyphosate- used for foliar species – salmonberry, thimbleberry, bracken etc.

Release – triclopyr – used for hardwoods control (big leaf maple and red alder).

Brush weeding – also used for competing vegetation.

Forza and Vantage (containing the active ingredient glyphosate) may also be used

Neil noted that alder is now more of a commercial species. It was noted that the company and the Ministry of Forests hopes to adopt a strategy to minimize the use of herbicides.

Table of Brushing and Weeding History – TFL39 Block1 from 1998 – 2002

It was noted that the use of herbicide use on TFL 39 Block 1 has been decreasing, but remains an important tool for brush control. Company is looking for alternate ways, and manual brushing is still carried out in areas of wildlife and fish habitats.

Consultation Process

It was noted that consultation with First Nations was undertaken.

Consultation with stakeholders and public consultations – notice in the Peak, meeting with CAG, letters sent to PRREDS and Powell River Regional District, Open House Sept 4, 2003.

Integrated Pest Management Program

Prevention

Monitoring

Treatment

Evaluation

Monitoring

Table showing silviculture prescription or plan, planting prescription, survival, regeneration, brushing, free growing and post treatment evaluation.

Treatment Thresholds

The treatment threshold is the point where vegetation begins to limit the growth potential of the crop tree. Vegetation management treatments should be done to ensure the tree grows at or near its maximum capacity.

Operating Zones

It was noted that input would be needed from CAG for the creation of zones. Zones will be as follows:

OZ-1 – Areas with minimal specific concerns that may be treated with herbicides following the annual advertising of the Notice of Intent to Treat.

OZ-2 – Areas with some or specific constraints regarding herbicide use, that may be treated with herbicides following the annual advertising of the Notice of Intent to Treat

OZ-2a – Grizzly habitat – important areas to recognize – Powell Daniels, Eldred and Phillips Arm

OZ-2b – Areas of specific public concern – Residential water concerns that exist within 200m from the treatment area. All adjacent homeowners and anyone with a registered domestic water intake within 200m from the treatment area will be notified of any planned herbicide applications.

OZ-3 – Wildlife polygons

OZ-4 – Areas where non – herbicide controls will be used – manual brushing and bio-herbicides. Community watersheds identified in the plan are included in zone OZ-4.

Greer Community watershed

Sliammon Lake watershed

Haslam Lang Community watershed

Jefferd Creek Community watershed

Community Creek Community watershed

Silver Community watershed

Also included in OZ-4 are:

OGMA's defined in the FSP for TFL 39, Block1.

Old Growth Zones

Wildlife polygons

Riparian and Lake reserve zones

Reserve zones established for recreation trails

MFU 19 – Private forest land on Malaspina Road in Okeover and off Southview Road.

Chemical Vegetation Management Options

Chart showed three treatment options and costs per treatment.

Bioherbicides

Research into fungus is ongoing but not yet registered for use in Western Canada. Field trials have been conducted and are currently being monitored.

Deer, Elk and Grouse

Deer, elk and grouse were noted as other types of pests. Repellent is used to deter deer and elk. Sheep and goat trials have also been conducted in the past.

Post Treatment Evaluation

It was noted that all brushing treatments are evaluated one to two years following treatment to assess the following:

Effectiveness of the treatment relative to the prescription objective

Unintended impacts; e.g. herbicide damage to crop trees or cut seedlings

Need for further treatment

Is the stand free growing?

Environmental Protection

Community Watershed and Water Intakes

Fish and Wildlife Resources and Riparian Areas

Plants Requiring Protection

Biodiversity Considerations

Operational Practices

Qualification of Personnel – trained in the safe application of pesticides

Pesticide Handling Practices

Pesticide Transportation

Pesticide Storage

Mixing and Loading of Pesticides

Container and Unused Pesticide Disposal

Spill Response Plan

Equipment Maintenance and Calibration

Weather Monitoring

Pesticide Application Procedure

Implementing the PMP

Map Requirements for Detailed Site Assessments

Notices of Intent to Treat (NIT's) – First Nations etc.

Advertising Treatment Areas

Annual Reporting

Method and area of non-herbicide vegetation management (optional)

Conditions for Pesticide Use

Examples of what conditions may look like. Conditions and standards are being modified at this time to meet current requirements.

Public Consultation

Neil noted that public consultations had taken place in the form of an Open House in Powell River on September 3rd, and in Sechelt and Campbell River. It was noted that only two persons attended the Powell River Open House and that attendance was poor at the other locations. It was also noted that a meeting with CAG was held on August 13th.

Member noted that chain saw brushing can kill red alder with 90% success rate.

Neil replied that chain saw brushing doesn't kill salmonberry etc.

***Question* – How soon does the company expect feedback from CAG?**

***Answer* – Within the next two weeks. Information will be collected – input invited as to where use is appropriate or not is needed.**

Chair thanked Neil and Rudi for the presentation and information, but emphasized that *CAG is opposed to the use of herbicides.*

***Question* – What provisions are there for well users – what guarantees are there that water does not contain herbicides?**

***Answer* – Conditions of use include 30-meter buffer around domestic water supplies. Soil and water studies have been done. Herbicides are not leaching into the water supply. Federal government has approved the use of herbicides and they are not a problem when used outside the 30-meter buffer. Consultations with the public show most people are satisfied.**

***Question* – Did Operating Zones originate with CAG?**

Answer – Yes

Question - How many people attended Open House on September 3rd 2003?

Answer – Two in Powell River, none in Campbell River and three in Sechelt. No one usually shows up. It was noted that two years ago an open house was held with speakers and it was also poorly attended in spite of good advertising.

Question – Protection of rare plants – is company only checking the website once a year?

Answer – Site plans are drawn up and someone will be on-site to identify rare species. Main strategy is to manage wildlife tree patches when identified.

Question – When is a detailed site assessment done? Is it an annual requirement? Are areas of treatment shown?

Answer – Under the FSP silviculture treatments are shown on operational map and website will be updated.

Question – Will CAG be advised on a monthly basis?

Answer – Annual plans will be shown early in the year, there may not be monthly updates.

Question – Can individuals come into Weyerhaeuser's office to view plans if they don't have website access?

Answer – Information will be available at the Stillwater office and also at the Ministry of Land Air and Water protection office in Surrey.

Question – There have been problems in the past with pesticide management plans/permits – where is the "attached consultation report" that is referred to in the draft?

Answer – Plan not completed yet – only a draft. Consultation report will be added to final document.

ACTION – Consultation report to be provided for Pest Management Plan

Member questioned the use of Forza in the Okeover area- initial research for red alder with M & B showed 90% brushing success, but not followed through.

ACTION – Request to submit copies of DSA’s (Detailed Site Assessments) to CAG.

Timing of Public Consultation Period

Members noted that the timing of the consultation period was inconvenient due to summer vacations and the start of school on September 3rd. Suggestion was made for another Open House to be held with notices posted in the paper. It was noted that the public needs specific site information and needs to know details before spraying takes place. It was noted that a public consultation report is a legal requirement.

It was noted that alder is being chemically brushed since manual brushing was not successful.

Audits

Members asked about audits –

Question - Who will audit sites?

Answer – Ministry of Land Water and Air protection will initiate audits.

Wells

Question - Member asked about the registration of wells – some are registered with municipality, some are not. Whose responsibility is it?

Answer – Company has many opportunities to use herbicides but don’t. They talk to locals and cabin owners. Engineers have to identify water supplies, Weyerhaeuser has obligation while harvesting to talk to locals about water concerns.

Question – What about Powell Lake and community watershed area

Answer – Haslam IWMP – no herbicides are used within 1 km of water, and company is not proposing to use. Powell Lake does not have official watershed.

Question –What about area around water intake for Wildwood?

Answer – Not affected by plan.

Question – Regarding fungus spray – (Bioherbicide) would there be more information from Doctors?

Answer – Maybe more information after studies are in.

Question – What about penalties for non- compliance?

Answer – Not aware of any fines so far under the new Act. Penalties for improper use would be \$200,000 for the first offence and double for the next. Some companies are considering not using at all.

Question – Is the fungus application safer?

Answer – It is naturally occurring.

Question – Where is the Malaspina zone?

Answer – MFU 19 – fibre plan no herbicide use.

Question – How much policing will there be? Who checks for silt in wells etc?

Answer – Ministry of Environment historically sent a person (consultant) out before, during and after spraying. Company has to tell them when done.

Company was audited yesterday (Sept 23). Qualified monitors are used and compliance is being beefed up.

Question – Is there a website for the fungus?

Answer – Maybe – Paul Kutz has information on that subject.

Comment– As far as notifying people, two weeks before the event is too late.

Question -What should Wildwood ratepayers do since their watershed is not in the documents?

Answer – Contact the Ministry of Land Water and Air Protection.

Question – Do other operators such as Powell River Energy log under Weyerhaeuser's PMP or do they have to have their own?

Answer – They have to have their own PMP. BC Hydro, Terasen Gas etc. are all applying for PMP's.

Question – Could a few smaller companies get together and apply?

Answer – Some small operators have a big plan in the Fraser Valley.

Question – Are the years stated as "free to grow" flexible?

Answer – Free to grow is usually reached by year 9. Without pesticides they would struggle to grow.

Question – What steps are taken to notify the public?

Answer – Company has to erect a sign seven days post spraying at entrance to area.

Question – Are the signs dated?

Answer – Yes – Provincial standards say *seven* days.

Question – What about interaction with herbicides and edible berries that people harvest? How long does it stay in the soil?

Answer – Two or three days.

Comment – Accept that brushing doesn't always work

Question – Who will spills be reported to?

Answer – see Appendix 7 – Herbicide spill Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is under development. This item could be an addition to values and goals. Quarterly reports will be implemented.

Comment from member – Good to see that rare vascular plants include poison oak!

Concerns regarding pesticide use – would Weyerhaeuser raise standards set out in Appendix 3?

Answer – There is a high % of trained personnel in the crew. Use will be monitored closely.

Question- Will amounts used be monitored? Heard of excess herbicide being dumped in creeks in the past.

Answer – Will be monitored – qualified personnel will be used.

Question – What about WCB and worker safety issues?

Answer – Focus will be on worker safety.

Question – Would any WCB complaints be registered against Weyerhaeuser or the contractors?

Answer – Contractors.

Question – Why not use larger seedlings?

Answer – Company does plant larger seedlings and fertilizer is used.

Question – In zone 4 – Can Bioherbicides be used?

Answer – Not registered for use yet – testing is going on now - hope to use in the future.

Chair suggested that any further comments/questions could be e-mailed and a written response to Weyerhaeuser will be submitted before October 10th.

It was again stated that CAG's position is that they oppose the use of herbicides in this area.

ACTION – Written comments and questions regarding PMP to be submitted to Weyerhaeuser before October 10th.

Motion – Member requested an extension of the public consultation period and further advertisement of plans.

Members were all in favour of an extension and agreed that the public consultation period should be extended to the end of October, with another open house at CAG meeting on October 22nd. It was noted that this would give the Advisory Group an opportunity to invite other members of the public, and to provide further comments.

Neil and Rudi agreed to an extension of the public consultation period.

Motion – Reconfirming that CAG's position is to oppose the use of pesticide in this area.

Eight in favour, two opposed.

Chair thanked Neil and Rudi for presentation on difficult subject with opposing views.

Annual Report – FSP

Members were asked to comment on the FSP annual report, and comments received will be forwarded to Doug McCormick.

Comments received:

Just about everything is working

Access to value added fibre much improved, and policy is being modified

Satisfaction gained in working with Weyerhaeuser on many issues

Honesty from Doug McCormick

No information has been withheld from CAG – the process works well

Good support for recreation

Agreed to disagree on some issues (1m vs. 3m green-up)

Concessions re buffers – 100m buffer was changed to 200m

Process has worked beyond all expectations!

Dry Land sort problems – improvements have been made

Members are still prepared to work on committee after three years!

Good discussions are still on-going

CAG has been fortunate to be able to protect zones – there are recreation zones in this area that others don't have.

Old Growth sustainability over 30 years has been stretched to 40 years (ongoing discussions)

Public access to Crown land – no complaints, hunters are no longer being blocked as in the past

Win-Win situation for Weyerhaeuser – CAG helped identify values

Recommendation in Annual report – to take procedures out –

Members disagreed with the suggestion that procedures should be taken out and felt that it was important that they are left in the FSP. It was noted that proper procedures were an important part of the results.

Members agreed to send a letter to Doug with comments.

ACTION – Letter to drafted to Doug including comments on the FSP annual report.

It was suggested that members could e-mail further comments.

Rod noted that CAG's response will be attached to the Annual Report.

FIA Funding

Member expressed concerns that FIA funding had been held up for two proposed projects – the brushing of two roads –D210 branch to Centre Lakes Trail, and B-branch to Emma Lake cabin. It was noted that a contractor was hired, and ready to go but Ministry of Forests suggested that Section 102 approval was required. Member noted that the roads are user-maintained and brushing is needed on roads since they get a lot of use. Recreation values were also noted – berry picking, bird watching, 4x4 vehicles, hiking, hunting, salal picking etc. Member suggested that CAG write a letter of support for funding to brush the above roads.

Members agreed.

ACTION – Letter to be written in support of the application for FIA funding for road brushing (D210 and B-branch)

Windsor Lake – Proposed Recreation Facilities

Rod provided a written reply from Weyerhaeuser in response to a request for recreation facilities at Windsor Lake. It was noted that Stillwater has agreed to provide the following:

A firm base for the site with a finer surfacing applied on top – late fall 2003

Hydro-seeding will occur in the Spring of 2004

Picnic table and rock fire ring will be installed prior to May 2004

Placement of large rocks to enable public access to the lake

Also, Stillwater will explore the potential for out-house facilities that would be suitable for the site for installation for the 2004 season. (MoF approval may be required)

Millennium Park

Discussion on the proposed Millennium Park continued. It was noted that the Forestry Museum and the BOMB Squad is planning to build/restore the first wooden trestle bridge in 70 years.

***Question* – Does Norske own the land along the Willingdon Beach trail?**

***Answer* – Yes**

***Question* – Are there logging plans? Some flagging has been done.**

***Answer* – It is a variable retention area – 10 meters either side - there are ribbons around but planning is not finished yet.**

***Comment* – Loggers that will be logging want boundaries set.**

***Question*- What's holding up the Millennium Park?**

***Answer* – Four- way involvement – Norske, Municipality, Weyerhaeuser and the Province. Weyerhaeuser wishes land trades with a reasonable return.**

Next Meeting – October 8th 2003

Facilitator noted that the next meeting will be held at the new location – Brooks School. RSVP's required.

Homework

Study Summary of Indicators - Values and Goals – bring to next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:40pm



Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group

Sept 24th 2003 - Attendance

Name - Present	Position	Member Seat
Eagle Walz Chair	Primary	Recreation
Jane Cameron	Alternate	Recreation
Michael Conway-Brown	Primary	Environment/Access
Russell Storry	Primary	Local Govt (Mun)
Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair	Primary	Recreation
Jack McClinchey	Primary	Motorized Rec.
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
Debby Waslewski	Primary	Citizens
Joanne Cameron-Norwell	Primary	Local Business
Paul Goodwin	Guest	
<i>10 seats represented</i>		
<u>ABSENT</u>		
David Gabelhouse	Alternate	Local Govt (Mun)

Patrick Brabazon	Primary	Local Govt (Reg.)
Sonny Rioux	Primary	IWA
John Passek	Alternate	Motorized Rec.
Dave Rees	Alternate	Tourism
Andrew Pinch	Primary	Tourism
Les Falk	Alternate	Reg. District
Dave Perrin	Alternate	IWA
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
Dianne Mason	Alternate	Education
Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependent
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens
Jason Lennox	Alternate	Tourism
Christine Hollmann	Alternate	Environment
Resource – other-present		
Rod Tysdal	Stillwater	Timberlands
Doug McCormick	Stillwater	Timberlands
Neil Hughes	Stillwater	Timberlands
Rudi vanZwaaij	Stillwater	Timberlands
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	