

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group
February 23rd 2005
Minutes
Brooks School

Attendance: refer to attached sheet
Quorum noted

6:04pm: Meeting called to order

Welcome

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members.

Safety Review

Facilitator noted safety rules – fire exits and first aid attendants in case of emergency.

Code of Conduct

Facilitator noted code of conduct.

Communication and commitment to the process

Members were reminded that they need to be respectful of others during discussions. It was noted that CAG has changed since its beginning five years ago. Member noted that there is a commitment to CSA, and noted that the process should go on.

Questions

- Why are we here?
- Are we negative?
- Are some members unwilling to speak up?

Suggestions

- Do the homework
- Make contribution to meetings
- Get back on track

Steve noted the same concerns from Weyerhaeuser's perspective and noted commitment to the process
Everyone has the freedom to speak freely without retribution

Member noted that if anyone has concerns, they should deal with it out in the open, speak their mind and let opinions be heard.

Facilitator noted that there is a chance for a new beginning, with changes going on all the time – new company etc.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was reviewed and accepted with additions.

Review of Minutes of February 9th

Minutes from February 9th were reviewed, and accepted with one amendment.

Correspondence

1. Letter of resignation from Christine
2. Press release – Weyerhaeuser sale to Brascan
3. Questions and Answers sheet – re sale to Brascan

Action List

Action list was reviewed and discussed. Some items are still ongoing, and others have been completed.

Access

Member reported that the snow pack is low, with little avalanche hazard.

Company Updates – Stephen Chaplin

1. EMS / Certification Updates
 - QMI Audit has been re-scheduled for April 13, 14, and 15th.
2. BC Coastal One FSP Update.
 - BC Coastal One Plan FSP currently on hold until approved by Brascan. (*Tom Holmes, Diane Medves and Steve Chambers will talk to new owners*)
3. Brascan Purchase of BC Coastal
 - Purchase includes all of BC Coastal, Timberlands and Manufacturing.
 - Alder Team and Forest License will stay with Weyerhaeuser
 - Private land will be managed and operated as a separate business from the crown land operations. The private land assets will be separated at the close of the sale.
 - Brascan does not consider the crown lands timberlands and manufacturing facilities as a strategic fit for their long-term investment strategy.
 - Brascan intends to sell the crown lands and sawmills. Western Forest Products is named as the likely candidate to acquire the crown assets. (*not certain*)
 - Brascan owns 18% of Western.

4. Stillwater information

- 2005 Harvest Plan includes;
 - 490,000m³ Crown Volume
 - 110,000m³ Alder Forest License Volume
 - for 100,000m³ Private Volume
- Total Net Productive Land Base Hectares includes;
 - 92,029ha Block 1 Crown
 - 14,793ha Block 5 Crown
 - 2,500ha Private Land (approx) within the TFL Boundaries (*Sechelt, Cortez Island and Reid Island*)

5. Environmental Investigations

- MOF has completed their investigation of LL-162.
- Stillwater is preparing a written and oral submission to the MOF.
- An (OTBH) Opportunity to Be Heard is planned early May. (*Mini-hearing will be held – government and Weyerhaeuser will present written and oral submissions to District Manager- maximum fine \$100,000*)

Ray Balogh arrived to answer questions on the sale to Brascan

Ray noted that the press release states that Brascan is interested in the private lands. Private lands on the Island are located around Port Alberni, Shawnigan Lake and Iron River. Weyerhaeuser has approximately 15% private and 85% public land within the TFL. Steve noted that Weyerhaeuser will continue to log to meet the plan until the end of May. Brascan does not intend to hang on to Crown land. Weyerhaeuser cannot make any major changes to the plan without consultation with Brascan and First Nations (government responsibility)

Question – What about the 5 % clawback?

Answer – The 5% has been eliminated

Question – Tricap Investment Corp – owns 18% of Western Forest Products?

Answer – Yes - they can sell assets on to another company if they wish.

Question – Will the sale to Brascan cause any job loss in the community?

Answer – Not in the short-term, but there are a lot of “unknowns” at present

Question – If private lands and crown lands are split, what is the future for the proposed Millennium Park and Lot 450?

Answer – Future is unknown, but Weyerhaeuser will begin replanting Lombardy Street next week.

Question – Private lands within TFL are small, it doesn't seem to make sense to separate them

Answer – Yes they are small, but can't speak for Brascan.

Question – Is Western Forest Products CSA and ISO - certified?

Answer – Shannon Janzen could answer all questions on certification. She works for Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI) and represents all the member companies. Invitation has been sent to Shannon to attend a future meeting.

Ray noted that Western Forest Products is only a possibility, not for sure yet.

Question – Converting plants such as Island Phoenix – will they shut down and then logs will be exportable?

Answer – Intent is not to shut down all mills, but there are already too many mills trying to cut old growth. There has to be some rationalization for shutdowns. New Westminster is a good mill. Brascan has stated that all 2,300 Weyerhaeuser employees will be hired on the coast.

Question – What is the viability of the dry land sort?

Answer – Dry land sort is on private land – it doesn't make sense to let it go.

Question – Olympic sort – is it on Weyerhaeuser's private land within the TFL?

Answer – Yes - it is leased to Olympic on a five-year contract

Question – What kind of “marriage” is there between Brascan and Great Lakes Power?

Answer – PR Energy/Brascan owns 49% - other 51%

Question – Will Brascan follow through with commitment already made regarding trails etc?

Answer – We expect that they will carry through with commitments.

Question – Will Weyerhaeuser ask purchasers to commit to VR?

Answer – Provincial government will get a say on that requirement.

Question – Would there be any benefit in lobbying the government to have VR retained?

Answer – Yes

ACTION – Letter to be sent to government regarding commitment to VR.

Question – When M & B was sold to Weyerhaeuser - was there community consultation?

Answer – Yes - it is a requirement of the province.

Question – Whoever gets to cut block 1, has to have an FSP of their own. If new company writes their own FSP, and there are changes, could CAG have some

influence with re-writing? Will there be the same public viewing process as before?

Answer – According to the Ministry of Forests (Greg Hemphill) new company just can't make changes without consultation, and they will have to get an FSP before the end of 2006. Old Pilot could end, but a new one could begin.

Question – There has to be rationale to make changes?

Answer – Yes

Facilitator noted that if Weyerhaeuser put forward a new FSP, CAG could send comments in point form. For example, if the Sunshine Coast Trail were not protected, company would have to provide rationale.

Question – What does anyone know about Brascan? Are they certified? What would their attitude be towards advisory groups such as CAG?

Answer – Brascan has not had any certified timberlands in BC in the past. Western Forest Products in Port McNeil is CSA certified, and the company website notes that they are proud of their association with the community advisory group.

Question – Is First Nations trying to stop the private/crown land split?

Answer – With private land, there is no obligation to consult with anyone.

Question – How much private land is there in the Charlottes?

Answer – A large portion – maybe 30,000-40,000 cubic metres.

FRPA Training

Member requested another place for second CAG member to join the FRPA training session in Nanaimo on March 2nd. It was noted that accommodation could be a problem, but something could be worked out.

QMI Audit

Audit will take place on April 13 2005.

Business as usual

Weyerhaeuser will carry on as usual with the audit

Further updates will be communicated to CAG as they become available
-re Brascan sale

Question – When Brascan takes over – what is the future of Lot 450 and Millennium Park?

Answer – Logging will go on as planned until the end of May.

Question – Article in the newspaper noted that Reid Carter (manager for private lands) would be coming to communities – should CAG send an invitation to come to Powell River?

Answer - Steve suggested that it might be better to wait – and see if Brascan comes to Powell River, then CAG should definitely meet with them.

Old Growth sub-committee report

Member noted that the sub-committee met on February 15th-

- Minutes were provided more questions than answers at this time
- Meeting was extremely productive
- Progress is being made
- Three years have been working with some erroneous information
- Narrow focus of value added –
- Change direction and talk to a larger group of local business owners
- Prepared set of 10-12 questions to ask operators
- Some information is confidential – discretion is required
- Conclusion – there is a lot more timber out there that will suit the needs of local operators
- Second growth fir and hemlock with old growth attributes can also be used
- Some logs are time-sensitive and buyers now have access to a schedule to know when they will be available
- Continuous source of fibre is needed for value added community

Member suggested that – Maybe the committee should be re-named “Fibre for Value added business”- not just “Old growth committee”

Comment – On the graph that was shown – *40 years of old growth left* – how could that be extended to 100 years? It is good that the value added businesses are using second growth for their products, and are adapting to market conditions. Maybe old growth and rare products should reflect cost for value attached to rare item (select old growth).

Member noted that many value added businesses rely on the salvagers to Weyerhaeuser for old growth, not the dry land sort. Old growth needs are being met. Salvagers can supply at \$350 per cubic metre, and cost is \$550-\$600 from the sort. Salvagers are using heli-logging to get old growth. Value added businesses are also buying old growth privately.

Question – What is the difference between old growth and second growth?

Answer – Old growth characteristics have tighter, closer grain. It is used for flooring, siding and doors. There is a housing boom (Whistler etc) and a demand for these products.

Question – What is the big picture, and why is CAG involved in old growth supply problems?

Answer – Wood was not available in the past. One of CAG’s values (CSA Criteria) - “Socio economic well-being in the community”. CAG has an obligation to assist local businesses within the TFL. CAG created an agreement

with Weyerhaeuser (Fibre Sale agreement) that has worked very well and improved communications between buyers and the sort.

Break 7:35 – 7:50pm

Facilitator's new position

It was noted that the facilitator would communicate by cell phone and e-mail as usual. Members wished her success in her new position in Port McNeil.

FSP / changes /Brascan

Five CAG members attended a meeting with Greg Hemphill and Al Shaw at the Ministry of Forests office on February 18th.

Items of concern were discussed and the outcome was positive.

- No sudden changes expected with potential sale to Brascan
- There will be some continuity
- CSA is a great value to company
- Brascan is interested in looking after community values
- Trails, buffers, VR - no concerns at this time
- CAG will still participate in new developments
- When something comes through the ministry with CAG's approval, it speeds up the process for Weyerhaeuser
- Members can call on Ministry of Forests personnel whenever they have questions or need clarification
- Sunshine Coast Trail – legislative process may not be the way to go-
- Squamish has problems with recreational land being legislated under Ministry of Water Land and Air. Four or five vested interests are in the same area
- Member suggested writing a letter in support of the old FSP
- New members may not know what the FSP really means to CAG

Stillwater Pilot Project: Community Benefits

Member provided a list of community benefits, and noted that members could add to the list if necessary.

FSP

- *Provided involvement early in the planning process*
- *Provided an opportunity for early and ongoing public participation*
- *Identified existing recreation and tourism features*
- *Company will investigate alternatives to pesticides, and non-herbicide methods will be favored where results and costs are comparable*
- *Biodiversity commitments – FSP zoning, OGMAs, wildlife habitat areas, wildlife tree retention, stand level retention requirements,*
- *Old Growth Zones – 66% reserve requirement*
 - *Specific areas identified if features such as drainage basins and old growth timber exist*
- *Creation of 7 Recreation and Tourism zones*

- *1 meter green-up within the timber zone will only apply to up to 50% of the harvested area within a calendar year*
- *Variable Retention commitments – as of 2003 all of Block 1 area harvested will use variable retention systems*
- *Access and access quality (i.e. 2 wheel drive or 4 wheel drive)*
- *Access management plan developed*
- *Annual display of Access management plan*
- *Input to 24/7 loop*
- *Operational Information Map presented to CAG once a month*
- *Agreement to manage an extensive network of lake and trail buffers for recreations and tourism opportunities*
- *Commitment that the management zone is in place to protect the reserve zone*
- *Canoe Route*
 - *Portage trails will have 30 m reserve zone on crown land portions where they don't follow built roads*
 - *Portage trails on private Weyerhaeuser land have a 30m no harvest zone on both sides of the trail*
 - *30m wide riparian reserves around Little Horseshoe, Nanton, Ireland, Windsor, Beaver, Dodd, Big Horseshoe, Khartoum, Louis Lake and Goat Narrows*
 - *Nanton Lake wetlands protected also*
- *Sunshine Coast Trail – detailed reserve and management zones for each portion of the trail, generally a 10m reserve zone and a minimum 20m management zone with 50% retention on either side of the trail, but more in the Old Growth zones, such as 100m either side, etc.*
- *Other recreation trails in the mountains also received 10/20s.*
- *Creation of a fiber supply for local small business agreement*
- *Public participation in audits*
- *Cultural Heritage strategy is to identify and document archaeological and historic sites with cultural significance to First Nation and non-Native groups, and where appropriate, to protect those sites*
- *Botanical forests products*

Informally

- *24 hour phone line created for information on road conditions*

Member's comments:

1. Good list!
2. Five other trails should be named on list
2. Signage was one benefit that has been provided
3. Tourism kiosks have been added.
4. List would show Brascan that no where else in BC that there is a world class logging operation as we have here

5. Original mandate was to identify areas and community values in the forest
6. Socio economic gains – company benefits with less regulatory manner overall
7. Company puts back into the community
8. Steve noted that faster approval of blocks is now possible – (Heather Main was done in 30-days)
9. Economically viable TFL benefits the community as a whole
10. Steve noted that a comparison chart between FRPA and Stillwater Pilot project FSP has been started
11. Company can be profitable by getting things done faster than before
12. FRPA says 3-metre green-up
13. FRPA cover cultural heritage act
14. Most principles and approaches are the same

Review of Indicators

Members reviewed indicators and discussed data collected.

Indicators that were discussed were –

The diversity of habitat across the DFA (suggested value)

1. Age class distribution summary, by landscape unit and by BEC variant

***Objective-** A cross section of ecosystems and seral stage representations is present, as recommended in the Forest Practices Code Biodiversity Guidebook.*

***Indicator** – Age class distribution summary, by Landscape Unit and by BEC variant*

***Target** – Maintain ecosystem and seral stage representation as per the FPC biodiversity guidebook as defined by BEC variant and Landscape*

***Indicator** – Stand level retention in all cutblocks as % of total cutblocks area, by Stewardship zone.(Facilitator will check origin of this indicator)*

***Target** – Meet the Forest Stewardship zoning retention levels*

***Indicator** – Forest patches > 500 ha that are connected and are >80 years of age, as a % of patches>500 ha in the DFA*

***Target** – Maintain habitat connectivity between large patches of timber >than 80 years old*

***Objective** – A broad and diverse range of habitat is maintained across the DFA over time (remove “over time).*

***Indicator** – The % of each ecosystem type in each landscape unit of the DFA that is in each of the three seral stages (early, mature, old)*

***Target** – The % of each ecosystem type in each landscape units of the DFA that is in each of the three seral stages is within levels recommended in the Biodiversity guidebook (1995) by ??(date) (Steve will provide date)*

Questions and Discussion- Members agreed that more information is needed – Steve will talk to biologist.

3.Forest Connectivity

Suggested Value – The connectivity between large patches of forest of at least 80 years of age in the DFA

Objective – Connectivity is maintained throughout the landscape units

Indicator – Forest patches >500 ha that are connected and are > 80 years of age as a % of patches >500ha in the DFA

(Steve will talk to biologist to get more information)

Target – Maintain habitat connectivity between patches of timber >80 years old

Objective – new - The connectivity between large patches of forest of at least 80 years of age in the DFA is maintained.

Indicator -Preserve biodiversity between large patches

The % of the forest patches that are at least 500 ha in size and 80 years of age that are connected (suggested)

Target – new -The % of the forest patches that are at least 500 ha in size and 80 years of age that are connected and is maintained.

Questions and Discussion:

Members asked for ore details and clarification on the meaning of “connectivity”. Discussion will continue next meeting.

Code of Conduct

Member noted that the code of conduct that CAG created was used at another meeting with great success. Member noted that it was well written, and it works.

Avoidable Waste

Member asked question about chart showing Weyerhaeuser’s “avoidable waste for 2003/2004. Steve will find out more information

ACTION – More information on amount of avoidable waste to be provided.

Wilderness Watch

Member noted that a new Wilderness Watch has been formed. Rod and Gun Club is paying the costs. Seven organizations are involved. They are not an enforcement group.

Contractors Seat - attendance

Member suggested that another contractor could attend meetings, as the present seat holders seem to be too busy.

Letter to Government

Members suggested that a letter to the Minister of Forests would be a good idea to suggest retention of VR and other issues surrounding sale to Brascan.

ACTION – Letter to be written to Minister of Forests with CAG’s suggestions on conditions of sale.

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm

**Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group
February 23rd 2005**

Attendance

Name	Position	Member Seat
PRESENT		
Eagle Walz - Chair	Primary	Recreation
Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair	Primary	Recreation
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business
Jane Cameron - 2nd Vice-Chair	Primary	Member at large
Debby Waslewski	Primary	Citizens
Dan Waslewski	Alternate	Citizens
Michael Conway Brown	Primary	Environment/Access
Dave Rees	Alternate	Tourism
Jack McClinchey	Primary	Motorized Recreation
Tony Smith	Primary	Education
Fran Ferguson	Alternate	Recreation
Patrick Brabazon	Primary	Local Govt. (Regional)
Jeff Mah	Primary	Local Govt. (Municipal)
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Environment
Andy Davis	Alternate	Citizens
Erika Hein	Primary	Youth
13 Seats represented		
ABSENT		
Paul Goodwin	Primary	Forest Dependent
George Ferreira	Alternate	Local Business
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors
David Gabelhouse	Alternate	Local Govt. (Municipal)
Les Falk	Alternate	Local Govt. (Regional)
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
John Passek	Alternate	Motorized Recreation
Andrew Pinch	Primary	Tourism
Dianne Mason	Alternate	Education
Kevin McKamey	Alternate	Contractors
Resource – others		
Stephen Chaplin	Stillwater	Weyerhaeuser
Ray Balogh	Stillwater	Weyerhaeuser
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	