

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group
November 16, 2005
Minutes
Marine Inn

Attendance: refer to attached sheet
Quorum noted
6:02pm: Meeting called to order

Safety Review

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

Code of Conduct

Facilitator noted code of conduct.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was reviewed and accepted with additions.

Review of Minutes of October 24, 2005

Minutes from October 24th were reviewed and accepted.
It was noted that minutes can be reviewed and amended at any time.

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence were provided and reviewed.

1. Thanks to Don Benn
2. Thanks to Barry Miller
3. Reply to Alan Whitehead
4. E-mail correspondence “The Draft FSP - A Cautionary Tale” from Chair to members regarding confidentiality

Breach of Confidentiality

There was a discussion on confidential documents and what is acceptable to be distributed to the public and constituents at large. There was also a conversation about trying to control the distribution of emails, and that there should be a confidentiality disclaimer at the bottom of all emails. Not all members were in agreement.

Members agreed to ask the Terms of Reference breakout committee to review the issue of confidentiality.

ACTION - Breakout committee for the Terms of Reference will address the issue of confidentiality and will include anyone else who wants to participate in discussion.

Action List

Action list was reviewed. Some items are ongoing and some completed.

Access

Member reported that the film crew that was filming climbers' access had finished. Access to Dianne Valley next year may be a problem. BC Outdoors is also interested in featuring the area for climbing.

Break – 6:50 – 6:58pm

Welcome to Guests

Facilitator welcomed two members of the public as guests.
Code of Conduct and Safety review was noted.

BEC Presentation

Paul Kutz

Paul provided handouts and PowerPoint presentation.

Question - What is a "BEC"?

Answer - Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification.

Map showing biogeoclimatic zones of British Columbia

- Alpine Tundra
- Spruce – Willow-Birch
- Boreal White and Black Spruce
- Sub-Boreal Pine-Spruce
- Sub-Boreal Spruce
- Mountain Hemlock
- Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir
- Montane Spruce
- Bunchgrass
- Ponderosa Pine
- Interior Douglas-fir
- Coastal Douglas-fir
- Interior Cedar-Hemlock
- Coastal Western Hemlock

Map showing Powell River BEC zones

Major Classifications –

- Climate
- Site
- Vegetation

Naming Biogeoclimatic Units-

Precipitation	Code	Temperature	Code
Very dry	X	Hypermaritime	H
Dry	D	Maritime	M
Moist	M	Submaritime	S
Very Wet	V	Warm	W

Question – What would be an example of “hypermaritime”?

Answer – Queen Charlottes’ area

Sites

- Site Association- group of related sites
- Site Series- moisture/nutrients
- Site Type – soil texture, depth, topography, aspect

Vegetation

- Tree layer – e.g. Cedar, Fir, Hemlock
- Shrub layer – Blueberry, Salal, Salmonberry, devils club
- Herb layer – Sword fern, 5-Leaf bramble, skunk cabbage
- Moss layer – Step moss, Lichen, lanky moss

Paul noted that the “Red Book” – *A Field Guide for the Identification and Interpretation for the Vancouver Forest Region* is the government guidebook that is used by foresters.

It was noted that the Stillwater area is ecologically suitable for Douglas fir and Cedar – (75% Fir and 25% Cedar)

Question – Is access considered in anthropogenic zones?

Answer – Not considered - should be

Question - Are community values and public areas considered?

Answer – What is suitable for the site is considered if they make good economic sense, with cedar along edge of lake etc.

Question – When planning retention – what percentage of BEC is to be retained?

Answer – BEC zones relate to LLP (Landscape Level Plan). CWH % determines % required for old growth attributes and wildlife tree patches. Blocks are designed with these in mind- (10% for wildlife tree patches)- depending on location.

Question – What about natural reproduction of what was originally there?

Answer – In typical zonal sites – management strategy in lower elevations is to replant - at higher elevations, small natural regeneration if ecologically suitable.

Question – What about the overlap of boundaries?

Answer - Range and aspect can make a difference, but there is a transition area of between 100 and 200 metres.

Question – After classifying – whose decision is it on how to manage site? Also, what about fire factor? When brushed out does hemlock and balsam grow in?

Answer - Douglas fir is naturally occurring. Decision is based on number of factors and what is ecologically suitable. It was noted that if left alone, hemlock will grow in, but fir is exceeding hemlock. Natural regeneration is not economically suitable. Company is legislated to regenerate tree species based on what is ecologically suitable.

Question - It looks like plantation forests are being made?

Answer - Paul noted that Government legislates to plant fir.

Question – When is it a renewable resource? Do you plant what fits the landscape? What about renewing sites for old growth? Sixty years from now we may be saying maybe we should have left more old growth. What about the recreational factor?

Answer – In TFL39 Block 1, there is an AAC that can be cut. It identifies areas that are not to be cut- wildlife tree patches, old growth etc. They are retaining a percentage of the forest under the Forest Practices Code. There are riparian setbacks, portage trails - lots of “net-downs”.

Question – Does someone have a say with buffers along trail? What about vistas, who on staff decides on visual impacts? Do they consult with recreation people?

Answer – No, but all factors are considered. Visuals – RPF’s work under a code of ethics they have a duty to the public. Professional foresters have a duty to consider the values of the public.

Question – Is there a chart for visual impacts?

Answer – There are visual landscape inventories. Maps will show how landscapes are classified

Facilitator noted that the SFMP (Sustainable Forest Management Plan) contains recreation features requirements. Also, Operational information map and plans are shown to CAG monthly.

Thanks to Paul for presentation.

December Election

Chair noted that there will be a seat vacancy in December for a second vice chair. Members were asked to “throw names into hat” if interested in the position. Election will take place on December 14, 2005.

Island Timberlands

Chair noted that on November 7th, she had a conversation with Diane Medves from Island Timberlands. Island Timberlands is planning to log in the Stillwater area in 2006. By the end of the month they will have selected the contractors for the work.

Member requested a map showing Island Timberlands' private lands.

ACTION – Map to be provided for CAG, showing Island Timberlands' private lands in the Stillwater Timberlands area.

Question – How much timber will be logged?

Answer – Around 140,000 cubic metres?

Question – Will they be using VR?

Answer – They are here to make dollars. They share CSA certification with Cascadia until December 2005.

Company Updates

SFMP report on Indicators

Indicators that are removed will not be reported on for the audit in May 2006. There was no disagreement from CAG members.

BCTS update –

BCTS has settled with Cascadia, land is out of Cascadia's hands. Allocation is between Government and First Nations.

Operational Information Map

Steve noted that harvesting is winding down. Some areas are snowy (Eldred). Company is getting ready with plans for next year. Whiskey II Bridge is now removed for the season from the Eldred.

Current Activities

Harvesting – EL-668, ST-048, WL-909, TM-191, ST-149A, HB-170

Road Construction - PD-241, PD-453, FH-027A

Engineering – EL-669, ST-331, WL-926A, PD-246, GI-111, GI-113, PD-456

Salvage Areas – Lewis Lake Area, Goat Island, Giavanno Lake Area

What's New on the Map

New Blocks: – HB-117, HB-118, HB-119, ST-321, ST-323

New Roads – Falls Main

Cutting Permit Approved Areas – None

New Salvage Areas – None

Map Updates

Logging Complete – GI-025B, ST-008 Con, ST-290 Heli

Road Construction Complete – None

Engineered Blocks – EL-669, EL-665R, WL-929A

Engineered Roads – None

The following questions are related to the referral sent to agencies and the Regional District regarding the proposed new log dump at Henderson Bay.

Question – Cabin owners on Powell Lake have concerns – will there be logging up to the lake?

Answer – There are three cutblocks – road network has been started.

Question – Is there a 30-metre buffer- or will roads be close to cabins?

Answer – Layout has just been done – more information may be available at the office.

Member requested more information.

ACTION – More information to be provided regarding harvesting around cabins on Powell Lake (Henderson Bay log dump)

Misc. Questions

Question – Is logging planned for the area along the highway between Palm Beach and Saltery Bay?

Answer – That area is part of BCTS. Ask to see development plans and map at the Forest Service office. (Noel Poulin).

Question – When pulling out of Diane Valley in the next week, will they be blocking access?

Answer – They will be removing the bridge at Whiskey Creek once logging is complete this year. There was a gate as well in the summer due to vandalism concerns.(Note- as of November 23,2005 the bridge has been removed)

Member noted that keys in unlocked cabs have been noticed in the area in the past – not a good idea if there are concerns about vandalism.

Company Updates

CSA – Steve noted that he has been working on the SFM plan.

FSP – Public Review and Comment for the Cascadia FSP is planned for sometime in December. Cascadia is proceeding with plans regardless of changes.

Sale to Western Forest Products

Steve noted that there is not much information to share. Sale will become effective in the first quarter of 2006.

Brascan changed name to Brookfield. Brookfield has an indirect share and 48% interest in Tricap. Tricap fund holds 20% interest in Western Forest Products.

Hugh Sutcliffe will continue as chief restructuring officer.

Mr. Reynold Hert is CEO based in the Duncan office of Western Forest Products.

Restructuring Plans will include mills.

Question – Does Western have any tenure in this area?

Answer – They had tenure in Haslam but gave up as part of the 20% takeback.

Question – Will Cascadia cease to exist?

Answer – Yes, it will cease to exist. Western will purchase the whole Cascadia company.

Question – Does Western have much private land?

Answer – Some private land in Port McNeil.

Question – Did they give up 5%?

Answer – With some changes to legislation, companies are no longer required to give up 5% of their tenure when they are sold to another corporation.

Question – Will Cascadia's FSP still be valid?

Answer – We intend to move forward with the Cascadia plan, there may be some amendments. Western Forest Products had an approved FSP for Zeballos.

Government requires company to have operational plans with FRPA.

Question – Regarding the FSP public viewing time in December, there are Christmas holidays etc. it is not a convenient time.

Answer – Until it is signed and ready we are not certain exactly when the FSP will be going to public review and comment. The current plan is early December - there have been many push backs - it may be pushed back further. December is the best guess at this time.

Question – Is Western Forest Products CSA certified?

Answer – Only aware of one operation – in Pt. McNeil, there may be others.

Facilitator noted that the Vancouver Island North Advisory Group (VINAG) in Pt McNeil was shared between Cascadia and Western Forest Products.

Plutonic Power Corporation update

Member reported on a presentation that was held at the Regional District office, regarding application for tenure on part of Freda Creek and adjacent land and tributaries. Two staff members from Cascadia attended as well as the Regional Director at the CAG table, the facilitator, and another CAG member.

- Lack of proper answers were a concern
- Questions about penstock – buried or surface mounted on the hillside?
- Concerns about fish were noted - Changes in water temperature etc.
- Visual requirements around Canoe route were discussed
- Environmental concerns were glossed over
- There will have to be a one-year flow study done on the creek

Member noted that Plutonic promises not to use herbicides. This will be closely watched if the project goes ahead. Plutonic is just beginning, forecast for construction is in 2007; further public consultation will take place (open houses etc.)

CSA Indicators

Facilitator and members will meet (with Steve) on Friday at Stillwater office to review indicators and compare 2004 with 2005.

Henderson Bay cutblock

Question – Member asked about cutblock at Henderson Bay and location of the log dump, which is now between two cabins.

Answer – Paul Kutz noted that there are two cutblocks; the best dump location was decided with cabin owners and public feedback. Issue was resolved with the Regional District. Cascadia is getting close to resolving visual concerns. Dump was in another location; this will have the lowest environmental impact.

Mike Dunn has more information at Stillwater office

Member noted that the quality of digital imaging is a problem - they look like photos, and cabins do not exist on images. Cabin owners were looking for the cabins.

Question – Is this a temporary dump?

Answer – Application was for 20-years. Will work in winter around recreation restraints.

Question – Is this a heli-option?

Answer – No.

Next Meeting – December 14, 2005.

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm.

**Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group
November 16, 2005**

Attendance

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

