

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group
October 24, 2005
Minutes
Marine Inn

Attendance: refer to attached sheet
Quorum noted
6:04pm: 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.

Meetings are recorded

Facilitator requested that members speak up, so that voices can be heard on tape.

Introductions

Guests were welcomed and introduced.
Steve introduced John Hackett and Clint Williams from Sliammon.
Chair introduced three new prospective members, Don Krompocker (Labour), Bernie Angel (Local Business) and Kathy Kirk (Education).
Members introduced themselves to new comers.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was reviewed and accepted with additions. Members agreed to a fifteen minute “in camera” session at the end of meeting.

Review of Minutes of September 12 and 26, 2005

Minutes from September 12 and 26th were reviewed and accepted with amendment. It was noted that minutes can be reviewed and amended at any time. *Question* regarding the 7% wildlife tree retention recorded in the minutes of September 26th. Paul confirmed that wildlife tree retention areas are to be a minimum of 7% of the total area harvested.

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence were provided and reviewed.

1. E-mail reply from Steve regarding the status of ST-232, which appears on the map within a portion of the Sunshine Coast Trail.
2. E-mail request for input from Alan Whitehead, Whitehead Environmental Consultants, regarding Haslam Lake Watershed.

Members discussed request -a reply will be sent from CAG members.

ACTION – E-mail Whitehead Environmental Consultants and let them know that a letter will be sent before October 28th.

It was also noted that other community groups had also received the same request. Others may respond if they have knowledge of the watershed.

Water Systems

Barry Miller noted that changes in government policies and downsizing has affected staffing levels at the local level, and a number of things have been turned over to local government (Regional District, City of Powell River) for administration. It was noted that the local health officer is involved with the water management strategy. It was noted that the IWMP (Integrated Water Management Plan) for the area is a good example, and is featured on the Environment Canada website.

Member noted that the consultants are trying to get local input and ideas on what the water system is like, so that they can put together plans for the future.

Access

Member reported a slide at 3rd Lake road, back from the Diadem Bridge. Paul Kutz noted that they are aware of this incident.

Facilitator noted (for the benefit of new members and guests) that CAG members bring access problems or information to the table, and problems are usually resolved.

Company Policies

Members were provided with copies of three new policies that have been created by Cascadia.

1. Sustainable Forest Management Policy
2. Environmental Policy
3. Health and Safety Policy

Terms of Reference

Members were provided with copies of the revised Terms of Reference.

Government websites

Steve provided website addresses for useful and interesting websites.

FSP discussion report

Summary was provided.

Meeting Nights

Members discussed meeting nights for future meetings and decided that the 2nd Wednesday of the month would work well for most members.

For the month of November, it was agreed that the meeting will be held on the 16th (3rd Wed), and the December meeting will be held on December 14th.

Company Updates

Steve Chaplin

Steve noted that effective September 30, 2005, due to company restructuring, Phillips Arm is no longer part of the Powell River operations. Phillips Arm will become part of the Campbell River district operations (North Island). Stillwater's operation now consists of TFL39 Block 1 with an annual cut of about 400,000 m³, and various Timber Licenses totalling an annual cut of about 100,000 m³.

Operational Information Map

TFL 39 Block 1

Current map was reviewed with information provided.

Current Activities

Harvesting – PD-201, (*just finished*) LL-162H, (*finished*) ST-290H, (*finished*) EL-668, (*still active*) ST-048, WL-909, (*still active*) TM-191, (*still active*) HB-170, (*still active*)

Road Construction - GI-100B, BG-453, GL-014

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

Salvage Areas – Chippewa, Lewis Lake @ 4 mile, UL-806, K Branch, Beaver Main

What's New on the Map

New Blocks: – PD-280, PD-242, PD-248, PD-411, PD-414, PD-413, PD-456, EL-669, BT-630, BT-632, GI-111, GI-053, GI-113, HB-116

New Roads – None

Cutting Permit Approved Areas – None

New Salvage Areas – PD-120A, South Main Area in Pow/Dan, JB10 Area, Old "A" Branch, Goat Lake Main @ 19 mile, Giovanni Main.

Map Updates

Logging Complete – PD-454, OL-558, ST-260, LL-162A, ST-102

Road Construction Complete – None

Engineered Blocks – WL-027

Engineered Roads – None

Question – Is Kents Beach out of the BCTS area?

Answer – Yes? Harvesting in ST-48 will be completed by Cascadia by the end of the year.

Question – Is the Beartooth trail affected by logging?

Answer – Two blocks, BT-630 and BT-632 are on the other side of the lake. Trail is on the north side.

Changes with Contractors

Member asked for some information on changing situation with contractors working for Cascadia.

Steve explained that the Forestry Revitalization project – (Bill 28) provides options to buy out some Bill 13 contractor rights. The change is due to the 20% less AAC that is now allocated. There are three companies: Pacific Thinning, Powell Daniels and A.G.G.

There will be a vote among TFL39 and TFL44 contractors who have to accept or reject the proposal.

Question – What happens to the Powell Daniels' employees?

Answer – Government gives company owners compensation, employees get 10 days severance pay for every year worked. Company gets profits from sale of equipment etc.

Question – Locally, how many will be unemployed?

Answer – Can't say, but there is a compensation package from government.

Member noted that contractors were prepared to take 20%, but Stillwater is taking a big hit (more than 20%).

Question – If above named companies are still in the game, can they bid on other contracts out there?

Answer – Yes, they can work for others, and employees will still get compensation.

Ministry of Forests –

Barry Miller

Hardwood Management – Alder and Maple

Barry noted that alder is not the preferred species. Coast Mountain Hardwoods made a presentation to the Ministry and requested 120,000 cubic metres a year. An analysis was done, and Coast Mountain got a license for 95,000 cubic metres AAC in the Stillwater area. Weyerhaeuser bought company and North West Hardwoods. Alder from the TFL went through Weyerhaeuser mills.

Ministry would rather see coniferous harvested.

Red Alder Management Strategy and Red Alder Management

1. *Red alder stands were included in the previously approved Timber Supply Review (TSR) and the stocking standards and projected area of alder reforestation are consistent with the management assumptions; or*
2. *Alder reforestation was not included in the management assumptions from the last TSR; however, the licensee has submitted or has been requested to submit to the district manager satisfactory rationale for including the alder stocking standards. [Section 26 (5) of Forest Planning and Practices Regulation].*
3. *Red alder is to be used to manage root rot centres --- as a short rotation interim crop, as part of a strategy to use alternate resistant species.*

Red alder stocking standards and spacing commitment

The regional red alder reference stocking standards were developed to produce a sawlog over a short rotation. Managing for a red alder sawlog product on a short rotation requires intensive management or artificial regeneration with high planting densities (1500-1700 sph) and spacing to 600-900 sph at about 8-15 years to maintain at least a 40% live crown (target is to leave a 50% live crown).

Barry noted that the Ministry will accept 400 hectares of pure alder in each area. There are three areas that are approved by the regional director:

1. Port McNeil
2. Stillwater
3. West Coast of Vancouver Island

Question – Are the 400 hectares within the TSA?

Answer – Yes- they are included in the TFL39, TFL44 and the TSA.

It was noted that the Forest Service prefers Douglas Fir, as it is financially lucrative. Sites below 300 m. are cooler, and good for alder growth. Historically there has been mixed woods management for hemlock etc. of up to 100 hectares. The Ministry is looking more to alder as a viable species. Ministry is waiting to see Cascadia's new FSP. There maybe areas where herbicides are precluded. Forest Service insists that stands reach free to grow stage in an accepted time frame.

Question – Does the Ministry say anything about maple?

Answer – (Barry) If it (maple) occurs and is harvested the Ministry wants to see it utilized. Policy is that species has to be free to grow if it is a competing species.

Question – For maple coppices- suggest leaving one thickness- is permission needed? Would Forest Service accommodate maple in a mixed stand?

Answer – (Paul K) Any blocks where maple occurs and any areas where herbicides are used, for every foot of stump – they leave coppices. Where maple coppices interfere with free growing, one maple impacts 15 trees. Ministry requirement is for 500 free growing trees.

Question – Are there any pure stands of alder in place?

Answer – There are some 80% stands of alder.

Question -Are they spaced?

Answer - They are spaced. Managing for a red alder sawlog product on a short rotation requires intensive management or artificial regeneration with high planting densities (1500-1700 sph) and spacing to 600-900 sph at about 8-15 years to maintain at least a 40% live crown (target is to leave a 50% live crown).

Question – Is there a difference in stumpage to the Crown for alder?

Answer – Alder remains at a low stumpage rate. That is good for the company but not for government.

Question – Does return to the Crown (stumpage) depend on market value?

Answer – Not sure of the answer to that question.

Question – What is the management strategy in pesticide- free zones?

Answer – For the last ten years Ministry has enforcement of free to grow. Annual free growing declaration is required. Ministry looks at areas that are “clumped”. There is a requirement to treat areas.

Question – Is company treating for encouragement of conifers?

Answer – Yes- they are required to treat areas where they are clumped. Forest Service and company will fly over and identify areas that have too much alder. A new alder strategy plan has just been approved (June 2005); Peter Kofoed is working on plan.

Question – What will be the management policy for alder on BCTS lands?

Answer – It depends whether BCTS submits an alder management strategy.

Chair thanked Barry for the presentation and for answering many questions.

Break – 7:45pm-7: 55pm

Don Benn – Independent Environmental Consultant
Recreation and Visual Inventory Updates

Don noted that current updates of the Stillwater area were needed.

Brief history – Late 1970’s, Forest Service looked at concepts for visual quality.

Visual quality objectives were implemented and are enforceable. It is up to the licensee to achieve objectives.

Visual Landscape Inventory

– Total update – re-do inventory – existing inventory is 12 years old and was carried out to an old standard.

- Establish viewing corridors
- Identify visible areas – modeling maps – go out and look at areas
- Map visual units (similar visual conditions) - for each polygon there is a list of 50 attributes
- Fill out check list; describe and rate –
 - Existing visual condition
 - Visual absorption capability
 - Biophysical rating
 - Viewing condition
 - Viewer rating
 - Visual sensitivity class
- Recommend visual quality classes

Analysis and Management

District Manager specifies Established Visual Quality Objectives
Operator manages TFL to meet Visual Quality Objectives.

Question - What is meant by “landscape”?

Answer - Visual quality.

Question - For Upper Lois – does the viewing corridor include Khartoum?

Answer - Yes – past Khartoum.

Question - Do visual quality regulations apply to private land?

Answer - Not normally – no regs for private land. If doing inventory, may take into account legal boundaries for TFL's.

Question - Do visual qualities change over time?

Answer - Yes, if logged, visual qualities may disappear or change.

Question - How frequently is recreation inventory done?

Answer - It should be done every five years. Changes in government have resulted in cutbacks. Ideal would be 8-10 years.

Question - Are the biggest changes are in the Stillwater area? Cascadia logs immediately adjacent to the Main Line – there are more vistas now.

Answer - Yes, alders come up and in five years, vistas have changed. On Island Highway and Sayward, Vancouver Island, some say opening up vistas to show logging is good for tourism.

Question - Is there justification for mapping visuals? Is it to hide things?

Answer - Not really, we are trying to manage visuals better than in the past. Also there is wildlife access etc.

Recreation Features Inventory

Brief history – First recreation inventory was done in Ontario (cottage country), and then all across the country. The Environmental Land Use Committee did BC Land Inventory, under the NDP in 1998.

Map was shown from 2000 inventory.

Four classes shown.

Recreation sites and features that are important to the area. Areas of scarcity and sensitivity. It was noted that there has not been much follow up since 1998.

Recreation features

–Update review/revise inventory – existing inventory is 5 years old and was done to the current standard.

Don noted that CAG helped with the last recreation features inventory.

Members could help by reviewing existing recreation features inventory and By providing comment, input and information regarding Recreation and also Visual resources.

For updating, the following needs to be done:

Inventory

- *Map polygons*
- *Identify and list features*
- *Identify and list activities*
- *Feature significant rating*
- *Feature sensitivity*

Management

Use inventory as a guide for zoning specific areas re level of harvest, access, road location etc.

Question - In Powell Daniels, it's not accessible, no one goes there, only loggers, does it count?

Answer - It's not a great system, but ideally, it is a resource potential if accessed. When user groups are using, they reflect interest in classification.

Question - from facilitator – How can CAG help?

Answer - Project has been divided into two phases. Working on Recreation inventory through the winter. Members can get back to Don Benn. Recreation update requires talking to people. Trails need to be defined. Don noted that he could meet with individuals or small groups.

Chair requested that Don let CAG know what changes have been found.

ACTION – Get information on changes to recreation inventory from Don Benn.

Chair thanked Don for taking time to come to speak to CAG members.

Action List

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

Indicators

CSA – 2002 standards

Steve noted that some items have been dropped from the revised set of indicators. Are members in agreement for Steve not to report on the dropped items?

Question - Are members ok with this and what are the auditors' thoughts?

Answer - Auditors are ok with that and suggested some indicators could be combined or dropped.

It was noted that indicators have dropped from 77 last year to 56 this year. Steve will write 2005 SFMP reporting on 2002 standards.

Question - Are you all finished with indicators?

Answer - Some red-highlighted items still require discussion – 3 or 4 items for Steve to bring back for discussion

Question - Is it possible to get a list of “dropped” indicators? Regarding the retaining of community values in the new FSP- Company has offered to include community values in CSA indicators.

Answer - Yes- will see if it fits into CSA indicators.

ACTION - E-mail list of community values to facilitator.

ACTION - List of dropped indicators to be e-mailed to members for review.

Next Meeting – November 16, 2005.

Facilitator noted that next meeting agenda would include time for discussions on indicators.

Chair thanked guests.

Meeting adjourned 8:50pm.

9:00pm - In camera session.

**Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group
October 24, 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
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors
David Gabelhouse	Alternate	Local Govt. (Municipal)
Paul Goodwin	Primary	Forest Dependent
12 Seats represented		
ABSENT		
Andy Davis	Alternate	Citizens
Jeff Mah	Primary	Local Govt. (Municipal)
Debby Waslewski	Primary	Citizens
Dan Waslewski	Alternate	Citizens
George Ferreira	Alternate	Local Business
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Les Falk	Alternate	Local Govt. (Regional)
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
John Passek	Alternate	Motorized Recreation
Andrew Pinch	Alternate	Tourism
Dianne Mason	Alternate	Education
Kevin McKamey	Alternate	Contractors
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business
Jack McClinchey	Primary	Motorized Recreation
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
Resource – others		
Stephen Chaplin	Cascadia Forest Products Ltd.	
Paul Kutz	Cascadia Forest Products Ltd.	
Barry Miller	Ministry of Forests	
Don Benn	Juan de Fuca Environmental Consultants	
John Hackett	Sliammon	
Clint Williams	Sliammon	
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	