

**Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group  
Special FSP Meeting  
Brooks School**

**February 22, 2006**

**Minutes**

Attendance: refer to attached sheet  
Quorum noted  
6:31pm: Meeting called to order

**Safety Review**

Facilitator welcomed everyone. Safety rules were noted – also fire exits and first aid attendants in case of emergency.

**Code of Conduct**

Code of Conduct was posted and noted.

**Welcome to new member**

Ted Byng was introduced and welcomed. Members introduced themselves around the table

Facilitator suggested that when introductions are made, members could include organizations that they belong to.

**Letter to Ministry of Forests**

Members discussed whether a letter to M o F (Action list from Feb 1 FSP meeting) was still necessary now that a summary of the new plan has been provided. Draft of the letter to Greg Hemphill was read out to members. Members agreed that the letter should be sent and noted that-

- *“Proposed FSP and its summary is not easily understood”*
- *“Current FSP is comprehensible”*
- *“Public has trouble understanding document”*
- *“Document should be written in layman’s terms”- it is not “user-friendly”*
- *“Summary is flawed and can’t be read by the general public”*
- *“Public review process is flawed if document is not readable and uninterpretable”*
- *“Document does not fulfill mandate for public consultation if general public can’t understand it”*
- *“The whole plan should be re-written”*

**ACTION** – Draft of letter to M O F will be sent out by e-mail for review and comment tomorrow.

Member suggested that a copy of the letter should be sent to the Chair of the Forest Practices Board. (Bruce Fraser), to let them know of the problem. Member noted that the Forest Practices Board is looking at 400 FSPs that are to be in place by the end of the year. There are some serious concerns about the framework of FSPs.

**ACTION** – A letter to be sent to the Chair of the Forest Practices Board regarding framework of new FSP.

### **Basic Framework for response to Cascadia**

Chair noted that at the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting members agreed that the following items should be included in the response-

1. Riparian buffers on lakes
2. Access
3. VR
4. Old growth
5. Sunshine Coast Trail

### **Access**

Member suggested that the Access management plan could be included in the FSP.

### **VR**

Members want VR incorporated into the plan.

### **Old Growth**

Old growth strategy and values to be included.

### **Sunshine Coast Trail**

It was noted that the Sunshine Coast Trail is part of the recreation inventory- facilitator asked whether members wanted it managed under CSA or in the FSP. It was noted that with CSA, changes can be made every year.

Member noted that West Coast Environmental law has made a small grant to the Sunshine Coast Conservancy looking at the Interfor plan for the lower Sunshine Coast. FSP is the same framework as Cascadia's. Information from the WCEL review of the lower Sunshine Coast FSP could be useful to CAG.

Member noted that the North and West Vancouver Island has more old growth retention than this area. Member suggested that CAG could ask for what's important (community values) in the Stillwater Pilot to be carried over to the new FSP. Member noted that in the absence of an LRMP, the Stillwater Pilot served as a higher-level plan.

## **LUPs and LRMPs**

*Question* – What is an LUP?

*Answer* – Landscape Unit Plan – In this area there are five –

1. Lois
2. Bunster
3. Powell Daniels
4. Powell Lake
5. Haslam – to be completed soon

*Question* – What is an LRMP?

*Answer* – Landscape and Resource Management Plan – that is the top plan.

Information was pulled from LUP's for the FSP. LUPs don't cover everything.

## **LRMP for the Sunshine Coast**

Member noted that the Regional District of Powell River and the Sunshine Coast are in favour of an LRMP for this area and will ask the provincial government to start an LRMP, but noted that work could take five years or more.

*Question* – What does an LRMP do?

*Answer* – If things were in the proper order, LRMP is first and the LUPs would have to conform to higher plans. If mountain goats are mentioned, etc they have to be included in the LUP.

Member noted that there has been some chaos in the logging industry in the past especially on Vancouver Island. When the Pilot project got under way, it saved some civil action in this area and there has been peace in the bush since that time.

Member noted that there has been a moratorium on logging in the Roberts Creek area of the Sunshine Coast. Negotiations are ongoing but there are no guidelines to follow.

## **Employment**

Member noted that the logging issues in the lower Sunshine Coast (Roberts Creek and Chapman Creek) affect employment. Having something (harvesting plan) that freezes is not good - people need to work.

*Suggestion* – Member noted that no one wants to freeze operations in the forest. Loggers, tourism operators, recreation and wildcrafters are all affected. Maybe CAG could request to government to continue to keep the Stillwater Pilot project in effect until an LRMP and new FSP is approved. Maybe the Pilot project should continue until we have an LRMP.

Maps – members noted that there are 22 maps in the new FSP. The new plan includes big areas.

Member noted that the FSP and LRMP are under different ministries (Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Agriculture and Lands), serve a different purpose and can't be tied together.

It was noted that most areas have no LUP's so we are fortunate to have them.

### **Response to Cascadia**

Facilitator asked whether any seats were in objection to sending a response to Cascadia. No one objected. It was noted that if any member does not agree they are free to write their own response as individuals or on behalf of the organization that they represent.

*Question* - Member noted some confusion and asked whether sending two letters was correct – one in response and one saying the FSP was unreadable.

*Answer* – Member responded by noting that CAG has had six years experience and has a concept of what it is about. There is no contradiction in telling the Ministry of Forests that the general public finds the FSP difficult to understand.

### **West Coast Environmental Law**

Member noted that the Sunshine Coast Conservancy has a lawyer from WCEL looking into an FSP by Interfor – it would be good to know what their comments are. Maybe CAG could use the advice coming from the lower Sunshine Coast.

### **Letter to Government**

Members agreed that letter should refer specifically to TFL39, Block 1. Letter should include members' concerns as noted above, readability of the FSP, and a request for definitions such as *moderate, partial, VQO, max, mod etc.* It was noted that there are no measurables, as percentages are not used in the new plan as they were in the Pilot project.

### **Letter of response to Cascadia**

#### **1. Riparian Buffers**

Members noted that there are no requirements for buffers on larger lakes over 1000 hectares in size. Discussion followed whether 30 metre reserves or 10 metre reserve and 20 metre management zones would be preferred.

Members noted that –

- CAG could ask for all lakes to be covered.
- a 30-metre buffer could include a huge volume of timber and could create a hardship re- employment.
- there are now five different classifications for lakes.
- Previously Powell Lake was excluded apart from a water intake portion.
- Lois Lake is now part BCTS, part Island Timberlands and part is still Block 1.
- the lakes on the Canoe Route are protected - they had 30-metre buffers before.

- that from a contractor's point of view, volumes of harvest lost would have to be looked into.
- that some of the areas around large lakes have already been logged so there is no loss of harvest there.
- Good idea to keep the 30-metre buffers on the Canoe Route – Lewis, Frogpond Lake etc.
- Larger lakes are more resilient and 10-20metre request is a good compromise
- Some suggested asking for 30-metre on all lakes
- When pristine riparian areas are gone, they are gone
- Lakes are also used for Ecotourism and recreation that bring dollars to the community

Facilitator noted that every response has to be replied to by Cascadia, and Greg Hemphill will make final decision.

Member noted the example of 1-metre vs. 3-metre green-up. Company did 3-metre where visible and 1-metre in the backwoods where not visible.

*Question* – What is Cascadia doing now or riparian buffers?

*Answer* – 10-metre buffers and management zones.

Member noted that the Crown land is public land and trees are public property. They are irreplaceable. Government is only leasing to the company for harvesting.

Member referred to the FPPR- Section 49-

LIA - Large lakes over 1000 hectares – 0 buffers

LIB – under 1000 hectares - 10-metre reserve

L2 – 10-metre reserve and 20 metre management zone

Small lakes – 30 metre management areas

*Question* – What are management zones, can they be logged?

*Answer* – yes, it varies from no cut to 30%

Member suggested asking for an amendment from 30-metre management zones with 50% no cut, and for 10-metre reserve zone with no cut.

After discussion on three options, members voted with a show of hands.

1. 30-metre reserve zone – **4 votes**
2. 10 reserve-20 metre management - **4 votes**
3. LIA 10-20, All others, 10-20, Canoe Route – Lewis Lake, Frog Pond Lake, Goat Lake Narrows and Goat Lake- 30-metres – **6 votes**

**Access**

Member suggested asking Cascadia to write Access Management plan into the FSP. Members agreed.

### **Alpine Trails**

Member noted that protection for Alpine Trails has been left out of the new plan.

Member noted that in new FSP it states that trails can be re-routed anytime – we need more protection.

Facilitator noted that trails are now rolled into the CSA framework. (Appendix A) CSA is reviewed annually.

### **Break – 8:15-8:20pm**

### **Variable Retention**

Member noted that VR was included in the Pilot project. Company practiced under the old forest project. VR is mainly for biodiversity. Some retention strategies are mentioned in the wildlife section of new plan. Company is still experimenting and should be encouraged to continue with best practices and move forward to new FSP.

Member noted that there was a disagreement between Weyerhaeuser and CAG regarding retention patches and how long they were going to be left. A letter of confirmation was given to CAG.

*Suggestion* – Ask for VR as is currently practiced without adding too much detail. Attach copy of VR letter to letter to Cascadia.

*Question* – Under LUP's, wildlife, BECs and visuals- are they retained?

*Answer* – Yes

*Question* – Why were marbled murrelets, grizzly bear and elk polygons left out?

*Answer* – They were forgotten, but they are putting them in now.

*Question* – BEC, wildlife tree retention, are they protected for more than one rotation?

*Answer* – Wildlife tree retention protection is not as great – see page 37. Wildlife trees can be cut down, but whole block has to be mature, seral stage.

*Question* – What is mature seral stage?

*Answer* – 45-year rotation

Members agreed that they want to protect VR and it will be included in the letter.

### **Old growth**

Member noted that old growth zones were included in the Pilot but are not in the FSP. Benefits of old growth zones encompass 2,600 hectares. Half is truly old growth and half is recruitment.

*Suggestion* – Propose a goal to bring in 1,300 hectares – no harvesting but ok for salvagers

Remaining 1,300 hectares- only occasional harvesting for local business.

Member noted that access to old growth is what value added producers need. If it is harvested, it should be for local use. Reasons for maintaining old growth and OGMA's are numerous.

*Question* – What age is old growth?

*Answer* – 250 years or older.

Member noted that if keeping a portion of old growth, we should define what we do with the resource.

Member noted that some recruitment old growth at Fairview Bay has been lost to BCTS-

Member noted that government, recreation, tourism and First Nations groups recently accepted the mid-coast LRMP. Numerous retention patches are achieved by setting aside 30%-35%.

Member noted that BC could be a leader in forestry- (BC News link) will be sent to members.

Member noted that old growth zones were intended for biodiversity and wildlife habitats, not for doing away with spatial boundaries.

Some old growth areas have been lost. Troubridge was a large area. High Falls is still left (81% is old growth) but they are proposing to take away the 100% retention. Dianne Lake – 25% remaining. They are proposing to take away Billy Goat Main.

*Suggestion* - We are losing old growth areas- CAG should ask for more.

Member noted that harvesters should have access to old growth, value added producers need the timber. If it is harvested, it should be for local use.

Member noted that in new FSP, the Vancouver Island LUP is noted-

*Suggestion* – Propose in letter that old growth zones are carried over from the Stillwater Pilot project.

Member noted that the old growth forest is protected for our recreational use, but we are not considering the people who make a living in logging. Old growth timber can be used by local millers and value added producers.

Member noted that OGMA's were preserved so trees could get older and for biodiversity. Jumping frogs, toads and marbled murrelets can be made extinct. They have to stay in one place, not be moved all over as proposed.

*Suggestion* - Member suggested writing in retention of old growth in as an objective.

Member noted that it is agreeable that the company can harvest, but not to give up irreplaceable old growth. Industry is necessary for survival. There should be some preservation of things that are irreplaceable.

*Question* – How much old growth was removed from Troubridge?

*Answer* – not known

Member noted that some old growth zones are for harvesting. 2,600 hectares were set aside for biodiversity and wildlife habitats.

Member noted that the Stillwater Plot is not like an LRMP.

Facilitator suggested not referencing to the Pilot project, as it will end soon. Member noted that all the community values were included in the Pilot project.

*Suggestion* - Member suggested using “as defined in the Pilot project” would be the correct term to use.

Members were asked to define old growth, to think about old growth areas and to bring back further suggestions.

Still to be discussed-

5. Sunshine Coast Trail
6. Alpine Trails
7. Ungulate, marbled murrelets and grizzly habitats
8. Rotation level
9. Wildlife

**Next FSP - CAG meeting – Mar 1 2006 RSVP**

**Meeting adjourned 9:01pm**

**Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group**  
**February 22, 2006**  
**Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Member Seat</b>
<b>PRESENT</b>		
<b>Jane Cameron – Chair</b>	Primary	Member at large
<b>Ken Jackson – Vice-Chair</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Dave Rees- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair</b>	Primary	Tourism
<b>Eagle Walz</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Monty Tyrwhitt-Drake</b>	Alternate	Recreation
<b>Michael Conway Brown</b>	Primary	Environment/Access
<b>Mark Forsyth</b>	Alternate	Environment/Access
<b>Patrick Brabazon</b>	Primary	Local Govt. (Regional)
<b>Bill Maitland</b>	Alternate	Contractors
<b>Kathy Kirk</b>	Primary	Education
<b>Dan Waslewski</b>	Alternate	Citizens
<b>Andy Davis</b>	Alternate	Citizens
<b>Jack McClinchey</b>	Primary	Motorized Recreation
<b>Nancy Hollmann</b>	Primary	Environment
<b>Paul Goodwin</b>	Primary	Forest Dependent
<b>Joanne Cameron-Nordell</b>	Primary	Local Business
<b>Ted Byng</b>	Primary	Local Govt. (Municipal)
<b>14 Seats represented</b>		
<b>ABSENT</b>		
<b>Erika Hein</b>	Primary	Youth
<b>Don Krompocker</b>	Primary	Labour
<b>Rory Maitland</b>	Primary	Contractors
<b>George Ferreira</b>	Alternate	Local Business
<b>Bernie Angel</b>	Alternate	Local Business
<b>Paul Holbrook</b>	Alternate	Forest Dependent
<b>Les Falk</b>	Alternate	Local Govt. (Regional)
<b>John Passek</b>	Alternate	Motorized Recreation
<b>Andrew Pinch</b>	Alternate	Tourism
<b>Kevin McKamey</b>	Alternate	Contractors
<b>Debby Waslewski</b>	Primary	Citizens
<b>PRESENT</b>		
<b>Resource – others</b>		
<b>Cathy Bartfai</b>	Facilitator	
<b>Pam Dowding</b>	Secretary	