

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group
January 18, 2006
Minutes
Town Centre Hotel

Attendance: refer to attached sheet
Quorum noted
6:04pm: Meeting called to order

Safety Review

Facilitator welcomed everyone and wished all a Happy New Year. 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.

Introductions

Chair welcomed and introduced guests.

- Don Allan – Powell River Regional Economic Development Society
- Dave Gabelhouse – Community Futures
- Colin Palmer – Chair - Regional District

Members introduced themselves around the table.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was reviewed and accepted with additions.

Operational Information Map Update

Steve Chaplin

Map was posted. Information sheet was provided.

Steve noted that map and information was provided monthly as part of commitment in FSP. Information that is made available gives people an opportunity to address concerns before harvesting begins. It was noted that there is not a lot of activity in January, but road construction has been ongoing, and there are a few cutting permit approved areas.

Current Activities

Harvesting – GI-098, WL-909, FH-027A, ST-149A, TM-300, ST-155A
Road Construction - ST-331, PD-453A, ST-259, ST-317
Engineering – ST-184, TM-181B, BT-650, LL-064

What's New on the Map

New Blocks: – None

New Roads – TM-224B Spur and setting Road

Cutting Permit Approved Areas – PD-241, EL-665R, EL-665H, GI-053, GI-100B, FH-027A, ST-257, ST-259, TM-300, ST-102

Map Updates

Logging Complete – EL-665, TM-191, ST-048

Road Construction Complete – PD-241, GL-014, FH-027A

Engineered Blocks – ST-155A

Engineered Roads – TM-224B Spur and setting Road

Question – New block on south side of the valley, Is it on the south side?

Answer – Has just has the permit approved and meets current zoning

Question - only one pass?

Answer – Block is on the opposite side of the valley and is only two small heli-blocks maybe 1200 cubic metres.

Question – Has the zoning been checked?

Answer – Harvest plan checklist is checked re -zoning and harvest plan checklist is reviewed and signed off by Walt before harvesting.

Question – If permit is exceeded in an area, what are the consequences?

Answer – If exceeded, they are subject to penalties, still under the Stillwater FSP.

Facilitator noted that there are Ministry of Forests and Environment audits (10 annual) for blocks and roads. Members of the public, CAG are involved in audit.

Question – OGMA in Billy Goat Main- please explain the process for OGMA to be considered for harvesting- is there any requirement to tell CAG?

Answer – OGMA's are areas identified for old growth management- company may find that they want to shift to build a road or replace an OGMA with a similar stand elsewhere. Someone has been hired to see if a road can be put in. There may be another stand in the High Falls area. Company will come to CAG with proposal.

Comment – Members noted that OGMA was put there for a reason – goat habitat considerations. Goats are living on the bluff

Member noted that the goat/old growth polygon was set aside but timber is the first consideration for company and goats come second.

Member noted that they were pleased to see Cascadia doing conventional logging in the area (Billy Goat) as opposed to heli-logging.

Company Updates

Steve Chaplin

1. CSA – MIR (Medical Incident Rate) is at zero for Stillwater employees. At January 30 it will be four years without an incident.
2. Contractor had a serious accident with helicopter blade. Person was flown to Vancouver with head injury- is now back in Powell River and recovering well.
3. FSP status- still under review by senior management.
4. Western Forest Products- there is no news on sale of Cascadia. WFP has also purchased some Canfor (Nimkish) on Vancouver Island and will be completing that sale first.

Question – Member asked about a map showing Canfor and Cascadia holdings up in the Port McNeil area.

Answer – Copy may be available at the office (see Rudi)

Walt noted that there was part of the upper Lois valley that was held by Canfor- There are about 20,000 cubic metres for heli-logging left.

Question- Might it (map) be included in e-mail?

ACTION – Check with Rudi regarding map of Canfor/Western Forest Products holdings.

Steve noted that no specific details are known regarding Canfor/Western Forest Products- but one operation would make sense.

Question- Where Canfor has holdings in upper Lois valley- were they part of the TFL?

Answer – They are going back to BCTS.

Question – When logging in Dianne Valley is done- access will have to be repaired?

Answer – There is still some timber left, the bulk of the wood is on the west side of the river, but will find out more information.

ACTION – Walt will find out more information regarding access to Dianne Valley.

Recreation update

Paul Kutz

1. Canoe Route – Project for this year is now complete- \$52,000 has been spent on maintenance and upgrades. Report from Georgia Coombs is ready and will be available for CAG.

ACTION - Canoe Route report to be forwarded to CAG by e-mail by Paul Kutz.

2. FIA funding available for E-branch mechanical brusher will be used to provide better access to cabin.
3. A-branch will be partially brushed.
4. Ministry of Forests will be upgrading mapping for Lois, Nanton, Dodd and Khartoum.
5. There is a contract for upgrading campsites.

Question- Are there proposals for FIA funding for next year?

Answer – Yes

Question – What scale will the new maps be?

Answer – 1-2000, GPS work is complete. Campsite really needs work.

Question – What about Khartoum Lake road upgrade?

Answer – Road is engineered to a 10% grade, and is tagged in. Next step is for Ministry (Barry Miller) to try to get funding.

Member noted that as of January 1st 2006, Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts will be taking over the recreation sites from the Ministry of Forests. Paul Tataryn will be responsible for the Sunshine Coast and the lower Vancouver Island area. It was noted that a new person will be hired to look after the recreation sites.

Suggestion was made for CAG to ask the Ministry to have the Recreation Officer based in Powell River.

Question- Does Cascadia put its own money into recreation site maintenance and improvements?

Answer- Yes, e.g. \$8,000 was spent on upgrading of Nanton Lake road.

Question- The Dickson Road gravel pit has been expanded, and crown land on the TFL has been logged across the Sunshine Coast Trail, A large chunk has been taken out since Christmas.

Barry Miller at the Ministry of Forests is looking into the problem.

Walt noted that the company (Lang Bay Aggregates) applied to expand and that process removes it from the TFL.

ACTION- Follow up with Barry Miller regarding Lang Bay Aggregates area logging across Sunshine Coast Trail.

Plutonic Power

Open House – January 19 2006

Members were informed of an Open House on January 19th. Two projects are planned. Toba-Montrose Creek will be the first. Public has 30-days to respond.

Member noted that 10,000 hectares of productive forestland will be lost in the long term.

Concerns were noted – location of power lines - visual impacts etc.

Question - How many jobs does that represent?

Answer – For approximately for every 2,500 cubic metres there is one job.

Don Allan of PRREDS noted that there will be 200 jobs created over the five-year construction period.

Member noted concerns that 10,000 hectares of sustainable forestry will be lost annually.

Question- Has Plutonic consulted with Cascadia?

Answer – Yes they came to see company for maps etc. It looks like the Montrose project has an 80% chance of being approved, and the Freda portion 50%- there are some concerns regarding flows for fish stocks.

Question- If operating under an FSP- is Plutonic bound by restraints?

Answer- We haven't got all the answers yet, but they would have to operate under the riparian zone regulations. See press release from Plutonic and links to government website.

Member noted that there are no management strategies in the document, and members should look to see how it will affect the work that has been done.

Walt noted that the operational information maps that were provided for Plutonic Power showed goats, deer and marbled murrelet areas.

Question- Are there any allowances for OGMA'S? Are they aware of the Stillwater Pilot Project?

Answer- Yes, they are aware of OGMA's and the Pilot Project.

Member noted that he had asked about vegetation management, and was given verbal assurance that no herbicides will be used.

Member noted that there would be some short term /long terms benefits to the community.

Member noted that the construction jobs will be non-union type jobs.

Question- Has anyone looked at road access to the Eldred etc. Will they maintain bridges etc. from time of construction? It's possible that increased access would be an economic benefit to the community

Answer- Can't see them building roads up there.

Facilitator asked members to write down any questions for Plutonic as they may be invited back to CAG. Note- Plutonic Open house January 19, 2006.

Member noted that Plutonic noted that they would put up gates and block roads (during construction).

Members noted that they would not be allowed to block access to the public on crown land.

Question- Does Tourism Powell River have a position?

Answer – PR Tourism can't really oppose power lines, but there are concerns regarding appearance and visual impact for tourists.

Member suggested striking a committee to review the Plutonic Power proposal.

ACTION- Members to form a breakout committee to review Plutonic Power proposal

Don Allan

Powell River Economic Development

Facilitator introduced Don Allan and noted that CAG was formed six years ago to ensure CSA standards for certification. It was noted that the company is managing the forest in a sustainable manner. One of CAG's values is the level of employment in the town. Framework of values was created by members including:

1. Viability – local business
2. Better forest management resources
3. Even level of local employment
4. Projected tourism and recreation opportunities
5. Specific recreation facilities
6. Agreement for 20,000 cubic metres of wood available locally
7. Economic growth – re forestry

Don noted that a workshop on forestry was held a year ago with a diverse group from the forestry sector.

Goal was to see how the industry can be assisted, and to create an environment to improve:

1. Job creation
2. Economic diversification
3. Business retention
4. New Investment attraction

Economic development that is sustainable that provides net gains to the community.

Don noted that last year the Economic Development Society spent \$300,000 on projects for Arts, Culture, Education and Forestry.

Labour - –The #1 issue is labour. It was noted that there is a need for a well-trained, skilled labour force.

Salaries in the forestry sector – It was noted that the average salary in the forestry sector in Powell River area was \$60,000 in 2002. Average salary for the province was \$51,000.

Aging labour force – It was noted that the labour force is aging. Companies are looking ahead 5-10 years. Young people are not looking at forestry. Companies will only invest in the area if there is a skilled labour force.

Strategic Priorities

1. Access to training/labour force development
2. Access to research and development-infrastructure
3. Access to financing – (a good labour force helps)
4. Access to markets
5. Foster an innovative culture
6. Improved business environment for innovation – (access to fibre has improved recently, Contact lists made available)
7. Promote the development of a value added cluster

Action Plan

- Education - More forestry training
- Transport and shipping
- Hemlock- value-added opportunities?
- Local job creation
- Export club
- Business planning seminars – 30 people attended last time
- Marketing- PR branding
- Window display on Marine promotes local businesses
- Business directory for forestry companies
- More forestry analysis planned

Chair noted that forestry education has begun in the high school. Forestry teacher is a CAG member and youth member is interested in a career in forestry.

Community Futures

Dave Gabelhouse

Dave noted that Community Futures has partnered with PRREDS to support programs that include loans and training opportunities. Community Futures is also a supporter of the newly created Community Forest.

Regional District Chair

Colin Palmer

Colin noted that two or three years ago, the Regional District passed a policy that referrals from CAG would be looked at.

It was noted that some forestry areas have been set aside for wildlife and recreation. Some new residents to Powell River say that the forest should be only for recreation and don't want to see logging. Newcomers don't know what's going on in the "farm". If the forest industry is to be preserved, the public has to be educated, especially newcomers to town.

Harvesting near community watersheds is always an issue that comes to the Regional Board, but the Board does not have the authority to deal with the issues. There is pressure in the forest industry these days - a lot of people don't want logging in the area at all. An example is the harvesting by Cascadia on Powell Lake that was part of the company's five-year plan. Cabin owners opposed the plan when it was started.

Member noted that the demographics are changing, there are new people moving into town, and there is continual discussion around forestry. Also, there has been a big change in players; CAG has been the advisory group for Weyerhaeuser, Cascadia and soon to be Western Forest Products. The operational information map has been shrinking, and now BCTS has a chunk of the forest.

Question-Has there been any contact between PRREDS and BCTS?

Answer – Don noted that there have been huge policy changes since the buy back. Greg Hemphill sits on the seminars that have been held. There has been an impact on the community. Community Forests are a positive thing for the community. There are a huge amount of mills closing in BC. There is some investment coming to the coast, and real opportunities do exist here. When mills closed in the lower mainland, big box stores moved in and towns now get more tax dollars.

Member noted that when companies prosper, communities prosper.

Question- During forestry discussions, was there any reference to other forestry values – salal, mushrooms etc.?

Answer- Don noted that those values were on the agenda for workshops. There is a lot of work to be done on the non-timber side of the forest. There are issues related to the non-timber values. It's not easy to regulate mushroom pickers etc.

Community Benefits - Plutonic Power

Dave Gabelhouse noted that the previously discussed Plutonic Power Corp is part of the future economic benefit to the community. Take backs that have occurred – 5% and then 20%, have impacted the community. The new Community Forest will provide 25,000 cubic metres of timber, jobs, education and value added opportunities. Community will need "clean energy" and this could spur on the economy. Tourism and recreation, Sunshine Coast Trail, all can be viable economic benefits.

Question – How many metres were taken out for the Sunshine Coast Trail?

Answer – Maybe about 600 cubic metres. Platonic’s plan is for a longer, wider section. The SSCT was located where there was no impact on logging, riparian zones or OGMAs. Some of the trail is on ridges where there are no trees.

Member noted that the AAC is down to about 450,000 cubic metres from 600,000.

Question – Is there a mandate to consider CAG services to other organizations?

Answer – Facilitator noted that BCTS has been contacted but they are not ready to talk yet. They are meeting with the North Vancouver Island group soon.

Question- Is it true that one of the pillars of the economy is tourism?

Answer – Don noted that yes; marketing is done by the Tourism Bureau. There is an interest in the infrastructure, tourism, arts, culture, and the opera school. PRREDS is encouraging investment in the area. It is encouraging to hear the interest in tourism/forestry sector. PRREDS tries to sell the community on a lifestyle. The community can attract companies for recreation features etc.

Member noted that Powell River Tourism reported that \$26 million came into the community last year. Benefits to the community are not just resource extraction; other uses of the forest are benefits too.

LRMP

Member asked whether there is a possibility of an LRMP for the area. Local MLA is making recommendations to government. Funding could be an issue. There are some issues in the Sechelt area. If it happens it would include all of the Sunshine Coast -there are some things to consider:

1. Time consuming- takes 6 years or more to complete
2. Large umbrella - covers a lot
3. Small details can be addressed
4. All values are considered
5. Would minimize conflict in the future
6. Most are in favour of an LRMP in principle

Questions and comments from public

– Logging is important to the area, recreation is too. There needs to more communication between public and companies. Old growth and recreation areas have been set aside. There are multiple uses for the forest. Lang Bay aggregates allowed trees to be cut, it is not very balanced. (private land).

Comments from Goat Lake Forest Products

Safety

- Finding a skilled labour force is a problem for sawmills.
- Safety training is needed

- 42 fatalities in the forest industry last year
- 105 injuries in sawmills

Value added clusters

- 3 kilns are now available in Powell River
- molder is now available at Goat Lake
- outdoor furniture can be made
- burial and other items etc
- kiln-dried wood available for others to use
- networking through community

Member asked for a copy of the Forestry report from PRREDS. It will help to broaden CAG concepts.

ACTION - Provide members with a copy of PRREDS report on forestry,

Member noted that it is great to attract new businesses to Powell River, but small contract loggers are unemployed as a result of recent changes in the industry.

Question - Can PRREDS find retraining opportunities for these unemployed forest workers?

Answer – Don noted that 80% of the budgeting resources is spent within the community. Money is spent on the growth and well being of existing companies and only 20% outside.

Primary strategy is to provide within-town help.

What PRREDS and Community Futures is doing to help:

1. provide opportunities for retraining
2. help those who have lost jobs
3. help start new businesses
4. identify labour market opportunities
5. ask college to train people

Successful programs were started in Prince Rupert when mill closed.

BCTS – concerns

Member noted that BCTS came to CAG and gave some information.

Member noted that

1. there is no consideration for the local community
2. BCTS is run for profit only
3. BCTS is putting the “little guys” out of business

Value – added community needs

Member noted that a small committee looked at small millers and visited five or six small businesses to see what their needs were.

Committee learned that-

1. Cascadia was responsive to needs
2. Some businesses got fibre from Goat Lake Forest Products
3. Found that they need old growth attributes
4. It could be that clustering would be a strategy to enhance small businesses in purchasing fibre etc.
5. Small local forest based businesses individually are financially unable to bid on BCTS contracts, only the big operators are able to do so. Member noted that BCTS does not make small amounts of wood Available to small businesses. Small businesses can't bid on large quantities. There is no provision to buy locally with BCTS. As more wood goes to BCTS, small guys are losing.

Access to Alpine areas- trails etc.

Member noted that some corrections were needed regarding trails on maps.

Member noted that eco-tourism requires wilderness areas, alpine climbing areas for mountaineers and information on access. Bridges that are removed and roads that are blocked are not what tourists come to see.

Access to Eldred Valley

Don noted that last year the military asked for a package of information to go up the Eldred Valley for training purposes. The military was looking for something more permanent. Member noted that last year they were tuning people away.

BCTS AGM – Jan 25 2006

Member noted that BCTS is now the third largest logging operation in BC. Member suggested that they should hear from committees.

It was noted that BCTS is an arm of the government, a crown corporation that answers to the ministry of Forests. It was noted that 50% of the take-back went to BCTS.

Question – Who is buying wood from BCTS?

Wood coming from north of Lund-where does the wood go?

Answer – Timber is towed down to Vancouver log market.

Demographics- labour

It was noted by Colin Palmer that the demographics of Powell River and the regional district shows an aging population.

- There are only 1,300 children from 0-6
- Several schools have closed in recent years
- There are not a lot of young people in the area
- Forest industry is losing people and there are not enough new young people to replace them

Member noted that there are brochures at school that show career in forestry.

Don noted that the requirements for employment at Powell River's Catalyst paper mill - Grade 12 is required along with 2 years post-secondary education.

Member noted that some youth don't have the mechanical aptitude and need to be trained. Co-op programs are good. Grade 12 is still required for sawmill work.

Member suggested that some of the unemployed forest workers could be helped through PRREDS to find work at local mill. (Goat Lake)

Dave Gabelhouse noted that forestry is a dying industry. Parents direct kids to higher education at university, and the trades have suffered. Now the mill has just started hiring apprentices again. Youth should be encouraged to look at the trades for future employment. Most leave town and don't come back.

It was also noted that American universities are also taking Canadian teachers to teach trade skills.

Member noted that there are also some good opportunities in the field of Outdoor adventure tourism.

Value added opportunities are also a possibility as noted earlier.

Suggestion was made that small operators could have a co-op for buying wood. Don noted that it already happens informally, through PR Wood.

Facilitator noted that high schools are planning to offer programs for skilled trades. Boys will take the training but many will leave for better opportunities in Alberta.

Colin noted that if more industry and businesses come to a town, the population grows. PRREDS sells Powell River on the basis of "lifestyle".

Member noted that there are some families with children in school moving into town.

Thanks to Colin Palmer – Regional District

Thanks to Dave Gabelhouse- Community Futures

Thanks to Don Allan – PRREDS

Chair thanked guests for attending and answering questions.

Don thanked members for the invitation and remained optimistic for the future.

Terms of Ref – tabled

Discussion on Terms of Reference was tabled until next business meeting due to the absence of breakout committee member. Member asked for information to be e-mailed ahead of meeting.

ACTION – Terms of Reference info to be sent out before next meeting. Pam/

Review of Minutes of December 14, 2005

Minutes from December 14th were reviewed and accepted.

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence were provided and reviewed.

1. Thanks to Tony Smith
2. Thanks to Jeff Mah
3. Thanks to Dave Gabelhouse
4. Letter to Mayor Alsgard - Ted Byng will be new representative for city
5. E-mail from Diane Medves noted regarding Island Timberlands

Island Timberlands

Bill Waugh was scheduled to attend Jan 11 but was unable to accommodate our change of meeting date to Jan. 18. We have invited Island to attend our Feb 8 meeting.

Planned harvesting by Island Timberlands will take place in:

1. Canoe Main
2. Stillwater Main
3. Horseshoe Lake
4. Lot 450 (a significant amount of wood to be taken out this year)

Membership List

Facilitator noted that the alternate member for the Education seat is no longer a school board trustee. Member for education was asked whether she had anyone in mind or suggested that request could be sent to the School Board for a new alternate. Member agreed to sending request for new alternate.

ACTION – Letter to be sent to School Board requesting an alternate member for education seat.

Attendance

Member suggested that “absent” members names who rarely attend meetings should be removed from the attendance list at the end of the minutes.

ACTION - Member noted that old names who have not attended meetings in months or moved away should be removed from membership list.

ACTION LIST

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

SFM Plan

Steve noted that work is still ongoing with the annual report and it will be distributed as soon as it is complete.

FSP

Question- Who signs off on FSP?

Answer – Steve Chambers of Cascadia signs off along with Stan Coleman, Nanaimo manager. Once signed formally, the feel that it meets the intent of FRPA regulations

Advertisement in the paper is the first day of the 60-day review period.

Will be probably next week.

FSP Approval process – Once done, Greg Hemphill will review plan with advisors and staff to make sure it meets legal requirements. Comments from the public will also be reviewed,

Question- Is this new plan replacing the Stillwater Pilot Project?

Answer – It will be replacing the FSP.

Access

Member noted that there is no potential for a trail for safe access to the west wall. Climbers' access has approval but there is no potential. Maybe a cable bridge across! Existing access trail should not have been shown on map.

Recreation Officer

Members agreed to send letter to Paul Tataryn, Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts.

ACTION – Letter to be sent to Ministry requesting that new Recreation Officer be based in Powell River

Next regular CAG meeting – February 8, 2006

Extra meeting for FSP review – maybe Feb 1 or 15, 2006

FSP Summary

Steve noted that someone has been hired to summarize the FSP. It will summarize a 115-page document into an easier to read 24 pages. Steve suggested members could wait for a copy of the summary before discussions.

Eco-Tourism information

Member provided copies of letter from Terracentric Adventures, showing the impact of eco-tourism in Powell River.

Chair closed the meeting and thanked members and guests.

Meeting adjourned 9:03pm

**Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group
January 18, 2006
Attendance**

Name	Position	Member Seat
PRESENT		
Jane Cameron – Chair	Primary	Member at large
Eagle Walz	Primary	Recreation
Monty Tyrwhitt-Drake	Alternate	Recreation
Michael Conway Brown	Primary	Environment/Access
Mark Forsyth	Alternate	Environment/Access
Patrick Brabazon	Primary	Local Govt. (Regional)
Dave Rees- 2nd Vice Chair	Primary	Tourism
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
Kathy Kirk	Primary	Education
Debby Waslewski	Primary	Citizens
Dan Waslewski	Alternate	Citizens
Andy Davis	Alternate	Citizens
Erika Hein	Primary	Youth
10 Seats represented		
ABSENT		
Ken Jackson – Vice-Chair	Primary	Recreation
Jack McClinchey	Primary	Motorized Recreation
Don Krompocker	Primary	Labour
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Environment
Paul Goodwin	Primary	Forest Dependent
George Ferreira	Alternate	Local Business
Bernie Angel	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
Kevin McKamey	Alternate	Contractors
PRESENT		
Resource – others		
Guests		
Don Allan	PRREDS	
Dave Gabelhouse	Community Futures	
Colin Palmer	Regional District of PR	
Two guests (Public)		
Stephen Chaplin	Cascadia Forest Products Ltd.	
Paul Kutz	Cascadia Forest Products Ltd.	
Walt Cowlard	Cascadia Forest Products Ltd.	
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	