

**CSA Community Advisory Group  
to Stillwater Timberlands - Western Forest Products Inc.  
September 13, 2006  
Minutes  
Town Centre Hotel**

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:02pm: Meeting called to order  
Quorum noted

**Welcome and introductions**

Chair welcomed everyone and introductions were made:

1. Stuart Glen, Forester Stillwater Timberlands Western Forest Products, sharing the certification position with-
2. Paul Kutz, Forester, Stillwater Timberlands
3. Martin Buchanan, Forester from Campbell River office of Western Forest products. Martin has picked up the “Plutonic file” from Walt Cowlard
4. Don Turner, Powell River Regional District planner
5. Bill Waugh, Forester, Island Timberlands

Advisory group members introduced themselves around the table. Seats represented were: Local business, recreation, contractors, environment, local governments, DFA workers, tourism, forest dependent and member at large.

**Safety Review**

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

**Meetings are tape-recorded**

Facilitator noted that meetings are tape-recorded.

**Code of Conduct**

Code of Conduct from Community Advisory Group was posted and noted.

**Review and Acceptance of Agenda**

Chair asked for approval of the agenda. Agenda was accepted with time changes as some attendees had to leave early to catch the ferry.

**Review and Acceptance of Minutes**

Minutes from June 14<sup>th</sup> were reviewed and accepted with one amendment.

**Correspondence**

Copies of recent copies were provided and reviewed.

1. Reply from Western Forest Products re: proposed FSP
2. Correspondence from Powell River Salmon Society
3. Reply from Powell River School Board regarding forestry course cancellation-(it was noted that a joint trades training program with forestry may attract more students)
4. Notice of Sliammon application for commercial recreation tenures
5. E-mail message from webmaster regarding missing minutes etc, from the CAG website – it was noted that work is ongoing with the webmaster to solve problems
6. Note- Outreach folder for all correspondence between the public and CAG will be kept on the CAG library bookshelf

Also provided for members;

- New WFP phone directory list.
- Local Sales for Stillwater – 2005
- Operational Information for July, August and September 2006

**Island Timberlands**

**Bill Waugh**

See separate minutes

**Break – 7:10-7:25pm**

**Plutonic Power**

**Introductions**

Chair welcomed and introduced:

1. Bob Poore, Director of Corporate Affairs, Plutonic Power
2. Scott Randolph, Powell River Regional Economic Development Society
3. Keith Ainsley, Project Engineer, Knight Piesold
4. Chris Roddan, Shearwater Services– Forestry Consultants
5. Sam Mottram, Knight Piesold, Project Manager and Specialist Hydropower engineer
6. Oscar Gustafson, Knight Piesold – Senior environmental consultant and biologist

Members introduced themselves around the table.

Stuart suggested that the meeting would be a good opportunity for members to ask questions about the Plutonic power project.

**Code of Conduct**

Facilitator reminded everyone of the groups' Code of Conduct that was posted on the wall.

**Safety Review**

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

Bob Poore gave a brief history of the project from the beginning. BC Hydro called for tenders and awarded the project to Plutonic Power for the project from East Toba River to Montrose Creek. There are 38 other projects. This will be a significant piece of generation for the province, demand keeps going up. BC needs 10 – 15% more power. Plutonic project will provide 10% of hydro needed for the province.

*Question* – Facilitator asked about where in the application process is Plutonic now?

*Answer* –

- Water application was made in 2003
- Environmental assessment process has taken two and a half years
- Terms of reference meetings have taken place
- Terms of reference have been approved
- Application report – January 2006
- Project is being reviewed by government agencies
- Public comment period has been held
- Assessment report will be wrapped up in two-three months
- Anticipate decision in the next one or two months
- Expect certificate to come through
- Legal process takes 180 days but can be expanded
- First Nations had some issues and hired consultants and are reviewing consultants' reports

*Question*- Has the water license been granted?

*Answer* – No. The legislative process within the environmental assessment office says that no water licenses can be granted until land act is approved and are part of the concurrent review, then environmental assessment permits are granted and have conditions attached to them.

*Question* – Is it possible to get a conditional certificate for general site?

*Answer* – At front end of project we submit a project description that includes all project components. When they submit the assessment report to the Minister for a decision, Ministers has to make a decision on the full scope of the project, not just components of it. Inevitably the certificate will have conditions attached to it. Environmental assessment office considers all project components issues such as issues with the DFO, more detailed engineering design, details of road, issues on

the transmission line are addressed in the certificate in the conditions of the certificate. It is important to remember it is all conditional, water license and the land act is all part of it.

Environmental assessment certificate application includes details from various community groups and companies, including the Community Advisory group, First Nations, DFO etc., as noted in the Knight Piesold Ltd. letter of response to Brian Smart's concerns. Letter is posted on the Plutonic Power website.

Member noted that some of the power generation sites are outside the groups' DFA, but focus of concern is on the transmission line. It was noted that there are a number of concerns:

1. the amount of productive forest that will be lost
2. planned transmission line goes across the DFA
3. there will be job losses in the community over the next rotation

*Answer* – Keith noted a response has been prepared regarding the same concerns that were noted in letter from Cascadia.

Response noted that more jobs will come and there will be revenue to government, agreed that there will be loss of forest.

It was noted that maps were provided by Walt Cowlard - Plutonic is trying to avoid certain areas, and is aware of visual quality concerns.

*Question* – Will the transmission line from Toba to Sallery Bay be big enough? Will there be a sub-station at the Freda project?

*Answer* – Transmission line will go through from East Toba River – Montrose Creek to Sallery Bay. There will be a total capacity of 400 megawatts. It can handle it.

*Question* – Are the transmission lines crossing any private lands?

*Answer* – I don't believe so. No- we tried to avoid going through them.

*Question* – Is there a finalized transmission line location?

*Answer* – Yes. Several alternative transmission line routes were assessed during the feasibility stage. To satisfy Cascadia's request, six alternative routes were re-assessed. (letter of May 3, 2006) We said we would work with Western. Just had Environmental assessment done.

Member noted that there is an analysis on impact of viewsapes (power line through the valley etc.), a 2% hit on the AAC, (43 jobs a year), loss of volume to customers. Impacts need to be a low as possible.

*Question* – Has any serious consideration been given to putting a power line down Powell Lake?

*Answer* – No – it is just not viable.

*Question* – This is the first project of this type in the province. I would suggest you do it right the first time – if you want to supply power to the province. Would burying the line be ten times the cost?

*Answer* – Yes

Member noted that there are two viable industries - one supplying power to BC and one supplying timber.

*Question* – Do you expect to receive a certificate even though you haven't laid down the final line and showing a one-km right of way and showing where it's going to go?

*Answer* – We have nailed down the line and we have to study it. If there are any significant changes to the alignment before they actually start any construction on these projects, they have to get leave to construct/cut first.

*Question* – What is the height of the wire above the ground?

*Answer* – 23 feet minimum clearance based on CSA standards.

*Question* – Can't put a yarder under that height. How much importance is attached to Walt's comments? Plutonic says 7-metres; Western says 20-metres are needed.

*Answer* – Yes – Plutonic says 7 – metres, Western says 20- metres. These are **the** sort of issues that we will be dealing with Western.

*Question* – (Paul Kutz) Visuals have been established, When cut blocks are planned, Western has to have an analysis when harvesting the area, 7% rule has to be followed, have any analyses been done?

*Answer* – No - we have none of that information

Paul Kutz noted that if Plutonic does not have any visual quality objectives information, they need to get some.

Martin Buchanan noted that the right of way is a 2% hit to the TFL. That includes isolated timber as well.

Plutonic is not planning to meet Ministry of Forest's visual quality objectives but will meet community objectives.

### **Visual Quality Objectives**

Chair noted that Walt Cowlard's letter noted concerns:

Severely impacted visual landscapes that will not meet established government Visual Quality Objectives and will further restrict operations on the remaining timber.

*Response from Plutonic* noted that the visual quality objectives that are mentioned in Cascadia's letter are set out by the Ministry of Forests and Range for the harvesting of timber. These rules are not applicable to transmission lines;

however, Plutonic is committed to working with the Stillwater Advisory group to minimize visual impacts along the proposed transmission corridor.

Chair noted that if transmission line uses up all the allowable 7% alteration – that leaves nothing left for logging.

Chair noted concerns about representing CAG's role as stated in the above response. Consultation to date has not entered into that area. (VQO's)

Plutonic noted that as a result of some consultation with Western, the location of the transmission line above Lois Lake has changed.

*Question* – What about the width of the transmission line – is it all wood?

*Answer* – No – there will be some metal with heli-construction. Where there is road access, there will be a 40-metre wide clearing with up to 60-80 feet in height.

Member noted that in a previous meeting it was stated that metal poles may impede the marbled murrelet? Height of wire would impede flight path?

*Question* – What is the cost difference between wood and metal poles?

*Answer* - Steel poles are more expensive. Cedar poles last 40 years. For taller poles, treated Douglas fir can be used.

*Question* – Are you going to have an access road that goes all the way along?

*Answer* – No. Some areas are accessible only by helicopter – where is no road.

*Question* – Who has the rights to the timber?

*Answer* – DFA **tenure holder?**

*Question* – With a project of this size, how do overall costs compare to hydro?

*Answer* – Old facilities were built 40 years ago and now cost \$65 million to re-fit.

*Question* – What is this whole project costing?

*Answer* - New project cost will be approx. \$450 million.

*Question* – What is the payback time?

*Answer* – We won't know until we get the fixed price for cost of construction (estimate 32-45 yrs).

*Question* – What is the life of the plan?

*Answer* – 50 years but they generally last 80 years

Bob Poore (Plutonic) noted that the equipment is simple and with proper maintenance it can go to 100 years.

*Question* – With 40 meters for power lines, how much will there be for buffers on either side? Walt's letter noted concerns.

*Answer* – Buffers on the side if danger trees are close to wires, 40-metres is the width and danger trees are removed.

*Question* – Would you be wind-firming the trees?

*Answer*- Yes - there will be opportunities for line clearing and monitoring and assessment. There will also be other employment opportunities over time

*Comment - Plutonic* - Group seems to focus on lost opportunities. Project has a cost of \$500 million to build. Local community can get 15% of this.

Chair noted that the group would like to think positively but according to Walt's letter and comments, it was noted that 43 (direct and indirect) jobs would be lost immediately and approximately 3000 man years over 80 years. (43 jobs estimate is based on 4.3 jobs per 1000 cubic metres). Project means 600 man years over the next 3 to 5 years.

*Comment/ Question*- As for harvesting over the future – there will be no full crop.

*Answer* - For the community there will be lots of opportunities for the community for 4-5 years. There is a study in which they are trying to increase the 15% coming to the community for service providers etc. It will be a \$1 million a month over the next three to five years. It may be more when the study is complete. Original cost was \$330 million, now it's up to \$450million – It causes company (Plutonic) to sharpen pencils!

*Question* – What are the long-term economic benefits to the community and spin-offs to Powell River?

*Answer* – Plutonic has 7 – 9 projects. Also, the 150 km corridor needs to be maintained.

*Question* – How will they be doing the brushing? Do you have application in to use herbicide?

*Answer* – We have been meeting with local companies (Adept Silviculture) and First Nations

Facilitator noted that the group is in its 7<sup>th</sup> season and in the last 7 years, dealing with different tenure holders; the area has been impacted significantly in losing its land-base.

Member noted that where lines are hanging over the valley, heli-logging is needed in those areas and will be difficult and illegal when transmission lines are a physical barrier. (Walt noted that 1.8% will be affected.)

Martin noted that he will see that those points are addressed.

*Question* – Are there plans to raise the lines each time road access is required?

*Answer* – No. Once the lines are installed, there are no plans to increase the height to enable access.

There are roads all along into some areas. No matter which side we put the line in, the line the whole way along will be high enough to allow access underneath.

*Question* – Has anyone completed an in-depth analysis of impacts, and will there be a visual viewscape analysis?

*Answer* – It is included in current harvesting - Martin Buchanan has taken over file from Walt. AutoCAD drawings (on viewscales) will be sent. Province has to approve plans. Environmental assessment officers have to include all information and make recommendation. Ministry will make decision. I think here there was discussion about the photo analysis but don't know its technical term.

### **VQO concerns**

Member noted that it seems very late in the day to be having discussion – but the economic benefits and the economic losses to the town are important points.

There is one other very important point - and that is VQO's (visual quality objectives). Member noted that once the public catches on to the net effects of visual quality of the power lines, it will hurt – there will be serious consequences. Two problems, Plutonic has to make the economic case, and Plutonic was urged to look and think about VQO's.

Member noted that after the fifth meeting with Plutonic, some questions are still unanswered.

*Question* – Is a meeting with CAG and Plutonic considered a public consultation?

*Answer* – Yes.

*Question* – Any changes made due to public input?

*Answer* – Yes line re-routed due to climbers' camp – also changes around the canoe route and across the Sunshine Coast trail.

*Question* – What was the motivation for the change?

*Answer* – Visual aspects. Sam did mock-ups and satellite imagery

*Question* – Could computer images of canoe route be sent to CAG?

*Answer* – (Sam) Yes. There are also images of Toba Inlet - Steel poles were a concern.

**ACTION** - Computer images of Canoe route, Toba Inlet and any other areas of concern regarding route of the transmission line be sent to CAG.

### **Serious VQO concerns**

Member noted that it's not what exactly what looks like - if a chunk of hillside is allowed 7% alteration in a particular viewscape, and Plutonic takes up 2% for the

power line it leaves only 5% for the forestry company. This harvest reduction is a serious concern.

Bob noted that the study is still ongoing.

Member noted that there are real concerns regarding the impact of this project on an industry that has been in this town for more than 100 years.

Member noted concerns around the Freda-Eldred and Lois Lake area, and suggested that Plutonic may have to talk to forest companies.

Chair thanked everyone for their input and for taking the time to answer questions.

Bob (Plutonic) noted that all up to date information is available on the website

### **Community Forest update**

#### **Ted Byng**

Map of new Powell River community forest was provided and shown to members. Map showed four blocks – Duck Lake, upside of Haslam Lake and two small blocks near Hammill Lake. Powell River municipality is the 100% owner. Board of directors for the community forest was listed:

1. Bob Astrope
2. Ted Byng
3. Janet May
4. Rob Stewart
5. Rod Tysdal
6. Vern Kinley Sr.
7. Ron Fuller
8. Chuck MacBey
9. First Nations

Ted noted that a press release is due on Friday - Sept 15, 2006.

25 cubic metres will be available over 5-years. Committee is meeting weekly.

*Question-* Who engineered the block?

*Answer-* Western.

*Question* – Is the city tendering the engineering out?

*Answer* – There is a consultant on a daily rate. There are different rules; we don't need appraisals or sub-crews.

*Question* – How will they pay the sub-contractors?

*Answer* – On a per cubic metre rate- they are now on a daily rate.

There will be public meeting. We are presently looking for office space and an accountant.

*Question* – What are the local spin-offs to the community? How will you sell competitively? Will they be looking at local community needs?

*Answer*- Yes, there is only 25,000 cubic metres a year for five years.

*Question* – Were there lots of applicants for the board?

*Answer* – Yes, 25-30 applicants came forward, and a select committee chose 9 members. The philosophy is on sustainable forest management.

*Question* – Has the board considered community values?

*Answer* – Yes. The board has only been granted a 5 year license and will have to show it is managing the tenure in a fashion which reflects community values. - The Board will be entering into discussions with PRPAWS as some of the community forest areas are imposing on the trails.

*Question* – What is the legislation for riparian management?

*Answer* – We have to meet FRPA regs.

Chair thanked Ted for the update on the Community Forest.

### **Operational Information Map Update (TFL39 Block 1**

#### **Paul Kutz**

Map was posted and Paul gave an update of road construction and planned harvesting:

#### **Current Activities**

**Harvesting** – GI-053, GI-054, GI-100B, LL-064, LL-066, PD-453, PD-453A, ST-007, ST-008, ST-013, ST-019, ST-331, UL-801, WL-926A

**Heli Falling for:** LL-027SS, PD-203, PD-208, PD-304A, PD-304SS, ST-008SS, ST-252B LL-027 WL-909, WL-910

**Road Construction** - BT-650, EL-669, HE-516, LL-067, LL-068, ST-262A

**Engineering** – BT-650, EL-693, GI-111, GI-113, PD-242, PD-440

#### **What's New on the Map**

**New Blocks** – EL-693

**New Roads** – ST-208, ST-233

**Cutting Permit Approved Areas** – LL-027, ST-334, EL-669A (June 2006), LL-064 (June 2006)

#### **Map Updates**

**Logging Complete** – GL-014

**Road Construction Complete** – GI-111, PD-246, ST-262

**Engineered Blocks** – PD-166, ST-062, ST-208, ST-233

Correction: ST-018 (from CP Approved to Engineered)

**Engineered Roads** – PD-166, ST-062

Paul Kutz noted that the Sunshine Coast trail and information will be a regular feature of the monthly operational information map.

*Question* – Are there landslides in the Theodosia River area? There could be environmental concerns.

*Answer* – Member noted that Island Timberlands is in that area. They are digging out tracts and putting in shot-rock.

*Question* – How is the heli-logging going?

*Answer* – Heli flew for two cycles and broke down for 7-days. Back in operation.

### **Safety Concerns**

Member noted some serious safety issues and with the hauling of heli wood all weekend without a pilot car. Paul noted that the active status of the road was posted on the telephone hotline as well as signs were posted at the start of the road to inform road users. The helicopter flying made in necessary to haul on K-branch for this particular time period.

*Question* – Will they be doing it again?

*Answer* – Maybe this weekend. It will likely be necessary while the helicopter is flying. Signs are posted and the road hotline is kept up to date.

### **National Forestry week – September 24 – 30 2006**

First available weekend is October 14<sup>th</sup> for the community tour. Advertisement will go in the local newspaper. Paul noted that the company is also interested in a tour for the CAG. Members are also welcome to participate in the community tour.

*Question* –What type of activities are planned?

*Answer*- To go out and look at what's going on – road construction, cutblocks that impact trails etc.

### **FSP Update**

Stuart noted that the new FSP has been submitted. Ministry of Forests provided comments to different sections. Plan is currently being reviewed, changed, and the Company is replying to the Ministry.

### **ACTION LIST**

Action list was reviewed and discussed. Some items have been completed and some are still outstanding.

#### **Complete:**

- Retention data for Eldred cutblocks was provided:  
EL-669A 28.3%  
EL-665H 32.5%  
EL-669 26.8%  
EL-669R 36%

- 2005 Sales report provided
- Map of community forest provided

**Outstanding items:**

- Forestry trip – is planned for Oct 2006 (Community event)
- Members who wish to visit forestry operations – wait until further notice of FSP audits
- Recreation features map is still in the works – coming soon
- Plans for St. Vincent's Bay – info coming soon
- Final QMI auditors' report is requested
- Update and discussion needed re: Indicator #26 = (14,000 cubic metres for local business)

**Change of meeting Night**

Members discussed a change from Wednesday to another night for meetings. It was agreed to keep the second Wednesday as the regular meeting night.

**Local Sales Contact Info.**

It was noted that Wade Jensen's replacement for local sales will be Mark Wyatt and John Akers.

**ACTION** – Name and phone numbers to be provided for new local sales contacts.

**Eagle River Estuary update**

**Salmon Society concerns**

Stuart noted that 24 man days were spent on stream cleaning. They used a "conveyor belt system" to remove deposited material by hand from the side pool. The type of material deposited ranged from fine sediment and leaves to small branches and more woody type pieces. The location of the cleaning was in a side pool where material naturally gets deposited out as the water velocity is lower. Member noted that at a Salmon Society meeting concerns were raised about debris coming from the dry land sort. A member commented that low water levels in the lake may be a problem and when the water rises, PR Energy may flush out. Stuart noted that WFP has been in contact with Fisheries and Oceans and there are a range of procedures in place to minimize debris at the DLS. Environmental Management Systems (EMS) standards are also in place at the DLS. Member noted that the lake is down 50 feet. There has been no rain. Maybe the lake is no longer getting flushed. Stuart noted that WFP has been in contact with the Salmon Society as well as Fisheries and Oceans.

**ACTION** – Eagle River estuary – Stuart can provide an update as more information becomes available.

**Meeting adjourned 9:25pm**

**CSA Community Advisory Group to Stillwater Timberlands  
Western Forest Products Inc.  
September 13, 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>Patrick Brabazon</b>	Primary	Local Governments
Ted Byng	Alternate	Local Governments
<b>Rory Maitland</b>	Primary	Contractor
<b>Doug Fuller</b>	Primary	DFA Worker
<b>Wayne Borgfjord</b>	Primary	Forest Dependent
Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Dependent
<b>Nancy Hollmann</b>	Primary	Environment
<b>Mark Hassett</b>	Primary	Local Business
Andrew Pinch	Alternate	Tourism
George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Brent Rothwell	Alternate	Contractor
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Local Business
<b>9 Seats represented</b>		
<b>Absent members</b>		
Kathy Kirk	Alternate	Member at Large
Ron Fuller	Alternate	DFA Worker
<b>Dave Rees- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair</b>	Primary	Tourism
Jack McClinchey	Alternate	Recreation
<b>PRESENT</b>		
<b>Resource – others</b>		
<b>Stuart Glen</b>	Western Forest Products Inc	
<b>Paul Kutz</b>	Western Forest Products Inc.	
<b>Martin Buchanan</b>	Western Forest Products Inc.	
<b>Bill Waugh</b>	Island Timberlands	
<b>Guests</b>		
<b>Scott Randolph</b>	Powell River Economic Dev	
<b>Bob Poore</b>	Plutonic Power Corp	
<b>Chris Roddan</b>	Shearwater Services	
<b>Sam Mottram</b>	Knight Piesold Consulting Ltd	
<b>Oscar Gustafson</b>	Knight Piesold Consulting Ltd	
<b>Keith Ainsley</b>	Knight Piesold Consulting Ltd	
<b>Don Turner</b>	Regional District of PR	
<b>Cathy Bartfai</b>	Facilitator	
<b>Pam Dowding</b>	Secretary	