

# Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

June 9th, 2004

## Minutes

Artaban Centre

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Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:07pm: Meeting called to order

Quorum noted

### **Welcome**

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

### **Introductions**

Chair introduced guests Stacy Cuzzocrea, Doug Wainman, Eric Hein and Erica Hein (considering youth seat)

Members introduced themselves to guests and gave some background information.

### **Acceptance of Agenda**

Agenda was adopted as amended.

### **Safety Review**

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

## **Code of Conduct**

Facilitator noted the Code of Conduct that is posted at each meeting.

## **Review of Minutes**

Minutes from meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup> were reviewed and accepted as amended.

## **Heli-logging**

Dinner was served and a short video from Canadian Air Crane was shown.

Two types of heli logging were shown -

Single stem

Bundling

*Question – How much coarse wood y debris is left ton the forest floor after helilogging?*

*Answer – Not as much as with conventional falling.*

Facilitator noted that the evening was an educational evening for members to gain more information on heli-logging, to see whether a heli-logging indicator is needed for the values and goals of the group.

## **Doug Wainman**

### **Production Supervisor - Stillwater**

Doug noted that he had been logging since 1967 and with Stillwater since 1996. Doug gave a brief history of heli-logging activities in the area.

First heli-logging took place in Sechelt in 1983

Not much before 1995

After 1995 heli-logging increased

Doug noted that some roads have been built in steep country the past that should not have been built.

Advantages of heli-logging -

Roads are not needed

Less scarring on the hillsides

More wood can be taken out with heli-logging

Less hectares are used to get the required AAC

More value from the end product

Three types of heli-logging have been done recently in the Stillwater area –

Beartooth

Malibou

Powell Lake


There were good reasons for heli-logging up Powell Lake – A log dump would have been a scar on the lake and unacceptable for cabin community. A good buffer was left around the lake. It was noted that very few heli-settings make money for Stillwater – there are big overheads – two pilots and three engineers, fallers and boomers are all employed. However, Weyerhaeuser mills may make a profit.

*Question* – There is a big pile of debris in the Eldred River setting – the piles are so high no one can walk through. Is this secondary breakage?

*Answer* – Primary breakage has occurred on the hillside – because of steep country and boulders. Bucking and limbing is done at the landing. Fallers can't buck in steep country. (Site in question is not a Weyerhaeuser operation).

*Question* – If Weyerhaeuser is not making any money – why heli-log at all?

*Answer* – From 30 settings – 10 may be good, 10 may lose money and 10 may break even. For example – Powell Lake setting made money, Freda Lake didn't make money.



*Question* – If Weyerhaeuser knows beforehand it won't make any money, why do heli-logging?

*Answer* – If company didn't do both conventional and heli-logging, they would have to reduce the AAC. Mills want certain wood. When plans are made in August for January, some blocks are dropped and others added. Company tries to balance it all out and take the profile. If they didn't take the profile, in ten years time they would be in trouble.

Guest noted that there seems to be a lot of breakage with heli-grappling.

Doug noted that heli-logging can be successful when done in the right place.

### **Stacy Cuzzocrea**

#### **Weyerhaeuser Helicopter Logging coordinator**

Stacy thanked members for the invitation and opportunity to speak. Stacy was involved with the Pt. McNeil Advisory group before moving to Nanaimo.

#### **Presentation of Weyerhaeuser's Heli-logging program was shown**

Copies of presentation will be provided and attached to the minutes.

*Question* – Some feel that heli-logging takes employment out of the community. How many are in the heli-team?

*Answer* – Team in office and also on the ground employees in heli-stand climbers, toppers, jiggers and markers. Canadian Air Crane employs pilots and support staff on Vancouver Island.

*Question* – Is there a balance between heli and conventional logging?

*Answer* – There is definitely less man-hours per cubic metre with helicopters. Oceanview (local company) is doing heli-logging now in the area.

*Question* – What is the ration of single stem to bundles?

*Answer* – Single stem logging is 5% of 600,000 cubic metres – about 25,000 cubic metres are single stem heli-logged and 50,000 to 57,000 are bunched. The rest is conventional

*Question* – Is there heli-logging on private land?

*Answer* – Yes, grapple bunching was initiated on private land

*Question* – What is the comparison between heli-logging and mechanical processors?

*Answer* – One machine takes the place of three fallers

*Question* – What about the situation at Windsor Lake?

*Answer* – Wood will be heli-bunched, using the least cost choice.

### **Al Shaw – Ministry of Forests**

Al noted that companies could heli-log when and where they have a choice.

Presentation – Power point presentation was shown. Copies of presentation were provided for members.

### **Heli-logging vs. Conventional Logging**

#### *Stumpage Appraisal Considerations*

Market Pricing System is now used to determine stumpage rates on the coast – began February 29, 2004.

Small business is now BC Timber Sales

Any company registered in BC can apply

Using statistical analysis of the data base, 14 variables were identified to be used in equations to predict the market price of a stand of timber

Data base will be updated as more timber is auctioned

Estimated winning bid equation was explained (EWB)

Final Estimated Winning Bid equals EWB minus specified operations adjustment (SOA)

Specialized operations are unique harvesting systems such as skyline yarding, Inland water transport, tree crown modification, Clayoquot Sound operating costs, Helicopter single standing stem selection (an additive for Snap and Fly only), and Second growth adjustment

Heli-logging is a variable in the winning bid equation – there are rules regarding when heli may be included in an appraisal

Final Stumpage Rate – FEWB minus tenure obligations adjustment

Tenure obligations include planning and administration, main road development, road maintenance, basic silviculture

Appraisal policy – Coast Appraisal Manual (CAM) is approved by the Minister and must be followed

Appraisal Policy must determine stumpage rate in a manner that will produce the highest rate

Must use Manual procedures for the harvest method that produces the *highest stumpage rate* other than a method the DM states is unsuitable

Appraisal Policy – The DM, when deciding whether a harvest method is unsuitable may only consider: the physical features and terrain stability, adjacent physical features that may be affected by the harvesting or transportation of timber, Visual quality objectives and public safety

Acceptance of Heli in appraisal – acceptable if: it produces the highest rate or conventional harvest has been deemed unsuitable by the DM

Helicopter single standing stem selection (snap and fly) "must not" be combined with any other logging system within the same cutting authority

*Question – Does the Ministry check to see whether the business made any money after harvesting is completed?*

*Answer – No*

*Question – Explain what the "bonus bid" is*

*Answer – Winning bid includes bonus – ministry sets stumpage rate (upset price) and amount of the bid over that is classed as the "bonus" (extra revenue for the crown)*

*Question – Why is skyline logging not used in appraisals?*

*Answer – It could be used in appraisals but don't have a good database yet. Need data for different harvest methods*

*Question – Is there is a big allowance for skyline yarding? – stumpage could be dropped by half if helicopter used?*

*Answer – Yes - Heli-logging is more costly.*

*Question – Does the system take into account the Sunshine Coast Trail and Parks?*

*Answer – They are not in the picture – only if safety concerns are raised.*

*Question – Windsor Lake (WL-909) could be harvested conventionally*

*Answer – It will be the least cost method that is used.*

*Question –How will wildlife areas be factored into new system?*

*Answer – System will not permit harvesting in wildlife habitat and Old Growth zones.*

*Question – In Windsor Lake (WL-909) there is an OGMA with the road going through – is there an amendment process for this to allow this to happen?*

*Answer – Ministry of Forests is opposed to heli-logging this block. Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management had to be consulted, they will allow road to be built through OGMA because it is an old growth recruitment (second growth) stand but would not allow it if it was an old growth stand.*

*Snap and fly with helicopter will still be allowed.*

*Question – Is there any consideration for sale of heli-logged timber for export?*

*Answer – Sale is based on whoever bids for standing timber and whatever the market is for logs – rules are the same for everyone.*

*If timber sale values were based on exporting it would not be an even playing field. With new rules in place – people elsewhere determine rates.*

*Question – In appraisal system, are there charges for road use fees and other cost allowances?*

*Answer – Yes, small business sales are charged road use fees etc.*

*Chair thanked Stacy and Al for their presentations and contribution to the evening.*

***Break – 8:10 – 8:20pm***

***Eric Hein, Contractor***

*Eric Hein, small logging company owner noted the following opinions–*

Heli-logging took away business and employment.

Timber still has to be felled and trucked to the sort.

Fuel consumption for helicopters is very high compared to conventional methods of harvesting (650 gallons an hour to harvest 170 cubic metres)

Heli-copters cost \$19 million

Site degradation, hazardous conditions

Revenue to crown is significantly lower with heli-logging

Cable system (swing yarding) that was used in the past could still be used – why is it not in appraisal system?

Visual quality objectives for the public are important – companies go above and beyond sometimes

If swing cable systems were used there would be less roads needed and more stands retained.

*Response –*

*Al noted that companies don't use the cable system anymore – but there is an adjustment in the appraisal system for skyline logging.*

*Member noted that in Block 5 there are some areas that are steep and suitable for skylining.*

*Question – Any idea why this type is being discouraged?*

*Answer – Method was successful in the past in the late 90's – Texada Logging did some skylining. If it were viable, it would still be done.*

*Member noted that in the 90's the Ministry pushed for skylining and companies invested in equipment.*

*Doug noted that cutting permits are not usually for a heli-block only – they are mostly blended blocks. High cost of heli-logging is offset by lower stumpage rate.*

*Al noted that there is now a limit on areas that can be blended.*

*Question – Members have frequently requested a comparison of people for heli vs. conventional harvesting.*



*Doug noted that in most cases grapple yarding is used and heli is not an option. If grapple yarder can be used then conventional harvesting is done and is cheaper.*

*Member noted that the heli-logging concerns were raised by (absent) IWA member who suggested an educational evening.*

*Question – Can Weyerhaeuser provide answers to man-hour question by using Windsor Lake as an example?*

***ACTION*** – *Man-hours for conventional vs. heli-logging for WL-909 to be provided for group.*

### **Review of Minutes from May 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Minutes from May 26<sup>th</sup> were reviewed and accepted as amended.*

### **Correspondence**

*E-mail from Malaspina College – Carol Sansburn will sit on education seat for trial period beginning in September 2004*

*Letter from nominations sub-committee to all members*

*Letter of thanks from Rod Tysdal*

### **Action List**

***It was noted that the action list is long and will require more time to review. Written reports on actions were suggested for management of the action list in future.***

### **New member package**

***Draft of information package for new member was provided. Members were asked to review and suggest additions or changes.***

### **Process for Sale of Fibre to small business**

***Updated version was provided with new contact information.***

### **Terms of Reference – annual review**

***Revised draft of Terms of Reference was provided. Discussion next meeting June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Members were asked to review suggested changes.***

**Member noted that changes to reflect the fact that CAG could also be an advisory group to others were suggested. Chair suggested that one or two options could be used in document.**

**ACTION – Suggest options to Terms of Reference to allow expansion of advisory services to be provided for members to discuss.**

### **Company Updates**

#### **Paul Kutz**

PMP (Pesticide Management Plan) is not approved yet but ministry has asked Weyerhaeuser to advertise Notice of Intent to Treat (NIT)

QMI auditors have finished and audit reports were provided

EMS and Chain of custody audits are complete

Mid-Coast LRMP Process is now complete – waiting for government approval

**UL-801 – Harvest Plan Map was provided as requested**

**TM-300 – Harvest Plan Map was provided – First block to have 1-metre green-up, also, less than 200 metres buffer will be used.**

**Member asked the reason for less than 200 metre buffers**

- Logical to use in this location –

- Visual objectives will be met?

**Member requested that the group re-visit this item.**

**ACTION – Further discussion on plans for TM-300 to be scheduled for next meeting June 23 2004**

#### **Advertisement of NIT's**

**Member noted that indicator # 38 states – "CAG presented annually with Stillwater Timberlands Weyerhaeuser's Notice of Intent to Treat concurrent to it being submitted to the Pest Control Board for comment and review"**

**Paul noted that the plan may be approved by mid-July and an additional thirty days will be allowed for public comments.**

**Member noted that in future CAG should be advised of NIT before advertising.**

**Operational Information Map**

**Map was posted and Doug showed areas of interest. Handout showing current activities was provided.**

**Current Activities**

**Harvesting – New - PD-208, ST-253 and PR-003**

**Road Construction – New - ST-008**

**Engineering – New ST-151, PD-203, OL-747**

**New Blocks – HB-173, ST-260, ST-262**

**Member asked for more information on HB-173**

**New Roads – ST-262**

**Logging Complete – LL-054, LL-056**

**Road Construction – WL-910, WL-912, UL-801, ST-008 and ST-253**

**Engineered Blocks – GI-100B, WL-005, PR-011 and PR-013**

**Engineered Roads – GI-100B, WL-909, PR-011 and PR-013**

**Member asked whether logging was finished at Freda – trail open or closed?**

**Doug noted that there was only about 25-cubic metres to finish and that a message regarding the trail was on the 24-hour Access information line.**

**EMS overview**

**June 16<sup>th</sup> – for interested members. One hour meeting at 4pm**

**Members should contact Doug.**

**Next Meeting – Lund Hotel – June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Transportation from Weyerhaeuser office at 5:15**

**Meeting in Lund at 6:00pm**

**Forest Education Teacher**

**Member suggested a letter to be written to the School Board asking to make a priority to hire a Forestry education teacher for the fall so that the Forestry program can begin.**

**ACTION – Letter to be sent to School Board re: Forestry teacher for Fall 2004**

**Meeting adjourned 9:30pm**

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**Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group**

**June 9th 2004**

**Attendance**

**CAG Members**

**Present**

<b>Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Eagle Walz Chair</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Fran Ferguson</b>	Alternate	Recreation
<b>Jane Cameron</b>	Primary	Member at large
<b>Debby Waslewski</b>	Primary	Citizens
<b>Rory Maitland</b>	Primary	Contractor
<b>Tony Smith</b>	Primary	Education
<b>Paul Goodwin</b>	Primary	Forest Dependent
<b>Dave Rees</b>	Alternate	Tourism
<b>Nancy Hollmann</b>	Primary	Environment
<b>Michael Conway-Brown</b>	Primary	Environment/

Access

<b>Jack McClinchey</b>	Primary	Motorized Recreation
<b>Lorne Marr</b>	Alternate	Recreation
<b>Jeff Mah</b>	Primary	Local Govt -
<b>Absent</b>		Municipal
<b>George Ferreira</b>	Alternate	Local Business
<b>Joanne Cameron-Nordell</b>	Primary	Local Business
<b>John Passek</b>	Alternate	Motorized Recreation
<b>Les Falk</b>		Local Govt –
<b>Patrick Brabazon</b>	Primary	Regional
		Local Govt –
		Regional
<b>Christine Hollmann</b>	Alternate	Environment
<b>Kevin McKamey</b>	Alternate	Contractor
<b>Bill Maitland</b>	Alternate	Contractor
15 seats represented		
<b><u>Guests</u></b>		
<b>Stacy Cuzzocrea</b>	Heli-logging	Weyerhaeuser
<b>Doug Wainman</b>	Co-coordinator	Weyerhaeuser
<b>Al Shaw</b>	Production	
<b>Eric Hein</b>	Supervisor	
<b>Erica Hein</b>	Ministry of	

**Others**

Forests

**Doug McCormick**

**Cathy Barfai**

Stillwater

Facilitator

**Pam Dowding**

Recording  
Secretary