

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

March 10th 2004

Minutes

Brooks School

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

Quorum noted

6:06pm: Meeting called to order

Welcome

Safety procedures

Facilitator informed members of fire exits, first aid stations and attendants in the building.

Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was reviewed and accepted as amended.

Review of Minutes

Minutes of February 25th were reviewed and accepted.

Correspondence

Draft of letter to Alec Drysdale, Regional Office Manager for Land and Water BC. was reviewed and discussed. Members discussed whether they wanted CAG to be a referral agency. Member questioned whether CAG had any legal status. It was noted that they (CAG) had made a difference when it was opposed to the location of the fish farm in the Rainy Day Lake Recreation Zone. Member noted that CAG should have more dealings with the Ministry of Forest and less with Weyerhaeuser in the future. Members voted to send the letter – one opposed. Facilitator suggested that copies of the Pilot Project, FSP and

zoning map should be sent to Mr. Kevin Lee.

ACTION – Copies of the FSP, Stillwater Pilot project and zoning maps to be sent to Kevin Lee at Land and Water BC.

Letter of resignation from member for education.

ACTION – Thank you letter to be sent to member for education.

Members discussed the need to find a new member for the education seat.

ACTION – Letters to be sent to the School Board, Teachers Association and Malaspina College for new education seat member.

3. Rod noted that the Canadian Forest Service has developed a questionnaire. Request has been received for CAG to respond to national survey on public advisory groups. Members discussed and asked to see survey before committing to it.

Review of Action List

Action list from February 25th was reviewed. It was noted that some items were completed and some are still ongoing.

Company Updates – Rod Tysdal

Fern report – replies from certification organization in Europe – copies available – Rod will provide electronic copies.

ACTION – Copies of Fern report reply to be sent to members.

Rod informed members that his position with the company would end on March 31st, 2004. Cutbacks are a result of the 20% takeback. Three others from the Stillwater office will also be given early retirement. It was noted that there might be more positions ending in September. It was noted that some parts of Rod's job would be split between others in the office. No details yet.

Member asked whether there was an interim person for log sales since the new agreement for sale has been put in place. Rod will talk to the people involved.

Rod noted that the company's commitment to certification is strong. Doug McCormick is familiar with CAG and will probably be the person to take over.

Chair thanked Rod for all he done for the group for the past four years and noted that he will be missed.

Forest Service has FIA funding for the re-decking of the bridge at Dodd Lake. Work will be done by the Bomb Squad

Georgia Coombs is recovering from a bad accident at Inland Lake

Camp at Phillips Arm will be opening next week

Section 102 application

Member requested signature for Section 102 approval for the South Powell Divide trails for Emma Lake – there are no plans at present but open to forest management issues.

ACTION – Signature required on Section 102 for S. Powell Divide – trails for Emma Lake

FIA funding cuts

Member asked whether there was any truth to the rumour that FIA funding will disappear in the future.

Rod noted that there has been a reduction of 30% since last year. Company is waiting to hear about current allocations for recreation commitments for this year. It was noted that the Ministry of Forests can get FIA funding.

Operational Information Map

Operational information map was shown and it was noted that there were-

12 cutting permits approved blocks

3 future blocks

12 completed blocks

Flagged areas include D-410 -Jim Brown Creek

T-044- Theodosia

T-045- Theodosia – future block

OL-041 – Olsen – complete

OL-558 – Olsen future heli-block

BT-632 – logged

GI-25B – Goat Island engineered (blowdown)

Frog Pond – cedar salvage

WL-910 – North East Windsor Lake – (road to the north)

WL-909 – East side of Windsor Lake – road may be built – special recreation quality and formal buffers as in the FSP to be considered. It was noted that this block might not go ahead.

ACTION - Members will be kept informed of progress and plans for Windsor Lake block WL-909.

Inland Lake / Haywire Bay block – logged

Haywire Bay – HL-170 changed plan (road from the south)

Haslam/Ireland - ST-269 logging complete

ST-290 – south of Nanton Lake – cutting permit approved

East side of Dodd Lake – small business block

South of Nanton Lake – T-191 – approved

East of Stillwater Main – Alpha Lake – ST-253 Cutting

permit approved

Question – Will logging be visible from the ridge?

Answer – No, it won't be visible from the south side.

Duck Lake/Lang Bay LC-006 and ST-149 – blowdown

Alder blocks – finished

Up Goat Lake Main Line – cutting permit approved

TM-182 – Block at 7-mile – approved. Rod noted that vehicles can now drive through at 7-mile.

Lois Lake L-54 – roads are built

Block A-5828 Branch 41 area – (Jefferson Creek area)

small business license

ST-222 – Narrows between Khartoum and Lois Lakes

It was noted that 770,000 cubic metres would be harvested this year – 550,000 from TFL 39 and the rest from private lands, including lot 450.

Question – Are cuts from private land going up this year?

Answer – Yes

Blowdown will be discussed at next management meeting

No logging on Cortez

Some logging in Sechelt area

Old Growth Sub-committee

Members noted that first Old Growth sub-committee meeting was held.

Discussion and questions about Old Growth:

Where would it come from?

Would there be some Old Growth preserved forever?

What would it be used for?

Old Growth was not always affordable

Trends are towards manufactured wood

Some Old Growth will eventually fall down and rot

Old Growth quality is available for niche market

Value added market needs Old Growth for specialty items

Rod noted that there are two approaches

1. Land base – small amounts are available
2. Opportunity wood – where harvesting has been done but company has left more than was needed e.g. they sometimes left 20% where 15% was planned. Buffers where 20 metres were planned have been left at 30 metres in some cases. Some trees naturally die and could be recovered. Blowdowns could also be recovered.

Inventory of old growth has to be done and will take a while – Peter Koefed in Nanaimo will do inventory.

Question – How old is Old Growth?

Answer – 250 years and older. There are a lot of stands that are 100-140 years old. There is not a lot of older Douglas Fir, or Red Cedar. Out of 14,000 hectares of Old Growth, only 600 cubic metres are available for logging. There is Old Growth Fir at Little Horseshoe Lake that is being left for other values.

Member noted that value added mills are getting Old Growth Fir and Cedar from salvage contractors.

ACTION – CAG to be updated on availability of Old Growth – updates from company when more information is available.

Areas of Concern

Concern #1 - Member noted an item that came to light a few months ago – When zoning agreements were set out at the beginning of the process and refined over a period of months, and the numbers of passes were agreed upon, no one mentioned "per rotation", or that one pass meant one pass, then more passes later. Members were told that *one pass meant one time only, and the thinned zone would then be left intact without any future harvesting.* Concerns were raised regarding the fact that there would be very little connectivity left, and biodiversity, which was being enhanced through the establishment of recreation zones, and variable retention patches would suffer great harm.

ACTION – Look back at the minutes of the time of zoning for references to one time only passes. Revisit this item at meeting in the near future.

Concern #2 – Previous discussion regarding Old growth- ideas seem to be shifting regarding Old growth strategy, now zones around lakes that are supposed to be left intact are being looked at for "opportunity wood". Member noted that there was no mention of windthrow and blowdown before, but agreed that it should be made available for logging, especially if there is Old Growth.

It was noted that all the zoning is written into the FSP, but section on how many passes did not seem to make it into the Plan for some unknown reason.

Rod noted that in a rotation of 80 years, there could be four passes, logging a quarter each time. On portions of the Sunshine Coast Trail there are 10-metre reserves then 50% timber reserves – (1st pass would take 50% per rotation). Members who had been involved in the process from the very beginning through the discussions on number of passes per individual zones disagreed with Rod and remembered that it was supposed to be *one single pass* only. Members agreed that 20-metres and 50% retention was agreed to as they were told that the trees would be able to grow faster. Corridors of Old Growth were to be left intact and set aside. Members agreed to one-time pass logging, but *one time only forever, not per rotation.*

Member noted that when the forest is thinned, trees may appear to be "Old Growth" but they don't have the strength when used for timber.

Members agreed to continue discussion at a later date.

BREAK

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Phillips Arm

Member noted that there are no reports of any conflicts regarding access. A recreation inventory list is being drafted. Draft plans (Johnson-Bute) are being made. Stillwater is giving voluntary protection to the Phillips valley until the LRMP is done and then the area would receive official protection.

ACTION - More information to be found about the Johnson-Bute plan and LRMP for Phillips Arm.

Replanting – Change in requirements

Rod noted that the company has received directive to reduce the number of stems per hectare when re-planting. Directive is for a reduction from 1000-1400 stems to an average of 900 stems per hectare.

New Foresters' committee is being formed to discuss best management practices, so that Foresters can decide what's best when re-planting.

Question – What does it cost to plant?

Answer – From 35 cents to \$2 per stem.

Question – What does the Forest Service say about how many stems per hectare?

Answer – Forest Service don't say how many to plant. They look at the free-growing results and want to see on average 700 free-growing and where there is no brush competition, 1,100 free-growing.

Question – Does the company call for tenders for re-planting?

Answer – Yes, but they are not obligated to pick the lowest bid. Lowest bids are not always the best choice.

Member noted that Weyerhaeuser in the US is advanced in silviculture, they know how to grow Douglas Fir, and they use herbicides and lots of fertilizer.

Yes, they are intensively managing on the south Island – mostly private lands. Increased grades result when more is spent on fertilizer, and more stumpage for the Forest Service. Rod noted that someone would keep the group up to date regarding the new "Best Management Practices" special committee. There will be a representative from Stillwater on the committee.

ACTION - CAG to be kept informed of updates regarding the "Best Management practices committee.

Question – Is monoculture allowed?

Answer – Some (private) timber license areas had large cedar trees scattered in with hemlock and balsam- Hemlock and balsam came back naturally. Cedar is better value so 500 cedar were planted for the best stands in the future.

Indicators review

Three more indicators were suggested and will be added to the document.

Green-up

Access

Heli-logging (to be determined at a later date)

ACTION - Secretary will work with Rod to finalize indicators so that new SFMP plan can be finished.

Heli-logging

Members discussed heli-logging and noted that more information was required. Concerns that were raised were:

Environmental issues

Economic benefit to the community

Out of town operators

Maintenance of helicopters – (not done in Powell River)

\$\$ do not stay in the country

Employment stability in the community

Reduced stumpage means public subsidizes heli-logging

Members requested an evening on heli-logging so that they can make informed decisions in the future.

Question – Who is doing the heli-logging now? Are they providing local employment and where are they from?

Answer – Not sure whether it is a local company – will find out

ACTION – Information to be found on company that is doing the heli-logging (local or not?)

Member noted that the plan to heli-log the block at Windsor Lake was supported by CAG. Plans for that block are undecided at this time.

Access

Member noted that there is a problem at the old bridge at mile 3 – there is no ditch anymore, drainage is blocked

Rod suggested that a phone call to the office whenever something is noticed is the best way to get immediate action.

EMS feedback form will be filled out and action taken.

Member noted that two burn sites on the mainline are quite a mess; a car could not drive through at 32-38 – (heli-landing sites). Road is rough and needs a major clean up.

Alliford Bay is responsible – Rod will check with the Forest Service.

Meeting adjourned 8:44pm

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group

Mar 10th 2004

Attendance

Name	Position	Member Seat
<u>PRESENT</u>		
Eagle Walz - Chair	Primary	Recreation
Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair	Primary	Recreation
Jane Cameron	Primary	Member at large
Patrick Brabazon	Primary	Local Govt (Regional)
Michael Conway-Brown	Primary	Environment/ Access
George Ferreira	Alternate	Local Business

Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation		
Debby Waslewski	Primary	Citizens		
Paul Goodwin	Primary	Forest Dependent		
Russell Storry	Primary	Local Govt (Municipal)		
Dave Rees	Alternate	Tourism		
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors		
11 seat represented ABSENT Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens		
John Passek	Alternate	Motorized Recreation		Local Govt (Municipal)
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent		
Kevin McKamey Alternate Contractor				
Kathleen O'Neil	Primary	Education		
Andrew Pinch	Primary	Tourism		
Dianne Mason	Alternate	Education		
Sonny Rioux	Primary	IWA		
David Gabelhouse	Alternate	Local Govt. Municipal		
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Forest Dependent		
Jack McClinchey	Primary	Motorized Recreation		
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Environment		
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business		
Christine Hollmann	Alternate	Environment		

Resource – others PRESENT		
Rod Tysdal	Stillwater	Weyerhaeuser
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	