

# Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

November 10th 2004

## Minutes

Brooks Secondary School

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

Quorum noted

6:03pm: Meeting called to order

### **Welcome**

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests: Diane Medves, Environmental forester and Steve Chambers. Forester, from Nanaimo Weyerhaeuser office. Diane and Steve are the new leads for the new FSP committee, BC Coastal Group.

### **Introductions**

Members introduced themselves and gave brief outlines of the sectors that they represent. Dan Waslewski was welcomed as a guest.

### **Safety Review**

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

### **Recorded meetings**

Facilitator pointed out to new members and guests that CAG meetings are tape-recorded.

### **Review and Acceptance of Agenda**

Agenda was reviewed and accepted with additions.

### **Review of Minutes of October 27th**

Minutes from October 27th were reviewed, discussed and accepted with amendments. It was noted that any further changes can always be made if members review later and notice any amendments to be written.

### **Correspondence**

e-mail correspondence from Doug regarding CAG's response to FSP annual report. Facilitator asked for input from members by e-mail asap.

**ACTION** – Letter to be sent to Doug by Monday, Nov 15<sup>th</sup> with CAG's response to annual report.

Copy of letter that was sent to Michel deBellefeuille requesting funding for all advisory groups conference in Courtenay.

Copy of reply from Michel deBellefeuille in response to above letter.

Request was denied at this time, but a spring conference is a possibility.

Member suggested writing a letter of support for a spring conference

**ACTION** – Letter to be written in support of a spring conference for all advisory groups

Copy of reply from Diane Medves regarding CAG's request to observe

FSP project planning meetings. Diane noted that planning is only in the initial stages and hoped that all the BC Coastal CAGs will have interest and wish to participate when and where it is appropriate.

Member suggested a letter of CAG's continuing support for the application for a community forest for Powell River.

**ACTION** – Letter to be sent to the Ministry of Forests, with copies to Greg Hemphill, District Manager and Davis Gabelhouse, Chair of the Community Forest committee. (Continuing support for the community forest)

## Review of Action List

Action List was reviewed and discussed. Actions on indicators will be reviewed at a later date.

### Access

Member reported that there was a concern following up on access action

**item regarding request for full geo-tech report on the Whiskey Creek bridge crossing-Whiskey two crossing - bridge has been pulled for winter. Public can walk up but there is no vehicle access. Member noted that the geo-tech's report was requested but members were not allowed a copy be taken out of the office. Member requested a copy of the full report for CAG.**

Steve provided a partial copy of the report, with relevant sections

**photocopied. Steve noted that the geo-tech reported that the bridge had to come out. A full copy of the report was available for viewing by members.**

Member noted that the report offered two options – one that the bridge should

**be removed and one for a culvert system to be used.**

Member was disappointed that the bridge option was chosen, and noted that it

**was an inappropriate decision by Weyerhaeuser.**

**Question –Was the decision to remove the bridge a cost issue?**

**Answer – Steve noted that he would find out.**

**Question - Is the report confidential?**

**Answer – No – will provide more information and rationale.**

**ACTION – Rationale to be presented for the decision to remove bridge at Whiskey Creek.**

Member noted that he agreed with the decision to take the bridge out. Access

**is not completely cut off – can still walk around.**

Steve noted that the company is bound by the terms of the report and would

**be held liable if they did not conform.**

Facilitator suggested that members read the geo-tech report and noted that

**Steve would come back with rationale.**

**ACTION – Members to read copies of geo-tech report for more information.**

Member asked about freedom of information –

Steve noted that the full report was available (two copies).

**Company Updates – Steve Chaplin**

2005 Plan - volume is approved at 675,000 cubic metres. Company is forecasting a planned volume of 700,000 cubic metres – 600,000 for crown land and 100,000 for private

breakdown as follows:

- Crown volume in TFL -490,000 cubic metres  
Alder Forest License – 110,000 cubic metres

Private Land - 100,000 cubic metres

**BC Coastal FSP update – next FSP meeting is scheduled for Monday  
November 22<sup>nd</sup> – still in early stages.**

**Internal Management Systems Audit**

Audit is now complete

Draft copy of audit has been received by Steve

Currently working on completing the audit action items

**Hourly Crew / salary reorganization initiative**

Reorganization is now complete for all BC Coastal Operations

4- hourly employees from Stillwater will move into salary field positions, 1 has taken another position on the Island and one is coming from the Queen Charlottes

4 – hourly positions will be eliminated by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004

**MoF investigations**

still waiting for results of VQO preliminary investigations in Chippewa and BT-632.

Ministry has completed investigation into trees being harvested in a RRZ zone in LL-162. A date will be set to be heard- waiting for investigation binder.

### **Phillips Arm Camp**

Operations are now complete for the year in Phillips Arm. No further engineering or harvesting activities are planned until Spring 2005.

### **FSP Audit**

Planning for Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> for next round of blocks to be audited for

### **the FSP**

#### **- Looking for two CAG members to participate in the process**

**Member asked whether CAG could choose the blocks and asked who picked the blocks. Steve noted that the Ministry randomly picks from a list that has risk ratings of high, medium and low.**

**Member who participated in last audit noted that it was very interesting. - variable retention, visual quality and stream trials were audited in two blocks.**

**Facilitator noted that members would need caulk boots if participating in audit. Weyerhaeuser will provide hard hats and visor vests, and may be able help with caulk boots.**

**It was noted that members have learned a lot by going out on the FSP audits.**

**Members should contact facilitator if they wish to participate in the audit.**

**Member asked whether it was possible to attend for just one of the two days.**

### **8. WL-909 Windsor Lake OGMA Replacement Area**

Weyerhaeuser has submitted a letter to the Resource Branch in Victoria requesting for the WL-909 road to be built through 250m lineal metres of OGMA occupying a total area of 0.8ha. Replacement area is proposed in the general vicinity.

**Question - Member asked whether there could be a map for CAG showing leave trees and VR patches.**

**Answer – Do not have the VR map present, VR could either be in the form of patches or fallers' choice. Will provide a VR map for next meeting.**

**ACTION – Map for CAG showing leave trees and VR patches in WL-909 will be provided.**

**Question – Is the block meeting VR qualities?**

**Answer – Yes, VQO's (visual quality objectives) shown last year on maps have met requirements. (Copy is on file at the office).**

**Question – Computer maps did not include roads – what is the visual impact?**

**Answer – No visual impact - Road R/W openings should not be visible from the canoes in lake.**

**Question – Openings that are 100 metres wide are not visible fro the lake?**

**Answer – They will blend in and not be visible.**

**Paul noted that partial retention ranges from 1.5% to 7% for alteration on the landscape. V Q O report identifies what percentage is visible. If VQO retention is less than 1.5%, it is basically invisible.**

**Question – What is partial retention?**

**Answer – Partial retention - means 1.5% – 7% will be visible on the viewscape –**

Retention – should not see any impact

Modification – can have a 40-hectare cut block

Maximum modification -

**Paul explained that when trying to pick VQO's, viewpoints are picked and modeled with the worst possible scenario. Viewpoints are established from the computer.**

**Steve Chambers noted that members should not be confused with retention and variable retention – there is sometimes some confusion.**

**Question - Member asked about the notice in the paper from BC Timber Sales about a Windsor Lake block.**

**Answer – Paul described the area as near the Goat Lake road hookup to Stillwater Main. It is of the last blocks before the 20% block. Area was described as too far in the process to clawback. Block is along the east side of Windsor Lake, further southeast – high up and around the corner. There should not be any visible impacts.**

## **9. Water Testing**

Under the new drinking water protection act, Weyerhaeuser is now conducting weekly water testing at the Phillips Arm Camp and Stillwater Dryland sort. Water testing at Phillips Arm camp has not been very positive – there is a high coliform count and tests have failed at both sites. Camp has been there for thirty year but is now shut down for winter. All drinking outlets have been placarded.

### **BC Coastal FSP committee**

#### **Diane Medves**

**Diane thanked members for the invitation and introduced Steve Chambers, who took over the position from Bill Waugh. Diane and Steve are the co-leads on FSP discussions. Diane invited members' questions.**

**Question – Can you please tell us what has been done so far?**

#### **Answer -**

Bill Waugh established a team and a two-day meeting was held in Vancouver.

All team members were trained in the new regulations for FSP.

Meeting was for information gathering for a district –wide BC Coastal FSP. Forest development units and maps of units were studied.

At the end of the session, team came up with a game plan to approach as one FSP.

Many questions were asked – to have one forest development unit or many within one plan.

Team decided to try to develop one plan to see if it is doable.

Legal objectives for Land Resources, Forest Act and wild life habitat areas have been

discussed.

Member of the team are getting familiar with the new regs.

Information is being collated to see how many items overlap and how many are separate.

Meeting in Courtenay on November 28<sup>th</sup> will address strategies.

**Steve Chambers noted that –**

Weyerhaeuser has no plan yet.

There will be meetings in Nanaimo, public and First Nations meetings.

Regulations are still "shifting" and replacing forest development plans.

Deadline of next year may be extended because of lack of stability.

Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection is still struggling with objectives.

Process is in the very early stage.

Weyerhaeuser would not go ahead without input from CAGs.

Team intends to go forward and engage in conversations with all advisory groups.

**Question – Members were led to believe there was a December 2004 timeline?**

**Answer – Bill Waugh intended to start plans in September and end in December – that timeline is not possible. Team would like a timeline of the Spring 2005.**

**Steve Chambers noted that with the 20% takeback and need to consult with First Nation, there is a challenge because they don't know where the land is yet that is allocated to First Nations.**

**Question – How will the new FSP's look and what differences will there be?**

**Answer – Diane noted that she had not yet looked at the Stillwater Pilot project FSP. When planning begins, the team will be looking at the Stillwater Pilot project.**

**Steve Chambers noted that one plan FSP is approved in the northern part of the province and there is one plan in Zebalas that is in the comment review period.**

**New plan will have to include –**

Soils

Access

OGMAs

Land Use planning

Biodiversity

**Same values are required to be covered, government has supplied "defaults"; if a company decides on different values, it may have to get approval.**

**There will be more flexible themes for industry, and new relationships between government and industry.**

**There will be more reliance on professionals, more reliance on CAGs and more reliance on the certification process.**

**One possible outcome is that the same conversations will be continuing under one FSP.**

**Question – Is there a similar situation where Western Forest Products chose the Zebalas operation for Pilot?**

**Answer – Western Forest Products is a small operation with no First Nations and a small forest development plan – there are not a lot of values there. For FSPs, and new regs, the company decides. Weyerhaeuser is opting for the Coastal –wide plan for business reasons. Interfor is looking at an FSP for eight companies.**

**Question – When looking at recreational values how do they come up with different identified recreation values in one plan?**

**Answer – In a one plan FSP they would have to address all legal sites. Different Forest development units could be in one section, one section for Stillwater, and one for others. Some of the same strategies and objectives can apply to all.**

Facilitator noted that the group spent eight months working on the map and identified their values.

Diane noted that when they have a draft, after November 22<sup>nd</sup>, it could be shown to CAGs first, and First Nations, before any public review. Representatives from each operation are on the team. Results can be verified and measured, and can they make reference to the process. CAG's comments, recreation and other values can be tied into the strategy

Member noted that CAG's eight months participation on the process allowed Weyerhaeuser to become more flexible. The payoff was that community values were recognized in legislation. To lose that is unsettling to the group. Hearing about a mid-December or spring deadline makes for more unsettled feelings. It was noted that that different players from the company do not seem to be speaking the same "game plan", and are not co-coordinated that well.

Diane noted that there has been a steep learning curve for her and that she was not familiar with the legislation. She noted that on November 22<sup>nd</sup> the team is hoping to pull together to put together the first draft.

Member requested that the draft come to CAG's first.

Steve Chambers noted that the interest is here at Stillwater but not the same with all other groups.

Diane noted that the Ministry is looking at whether a management plan is needed – some items could be redundant. CSA plans are very important and legal requirements are covered off. There are clear messages being sent to Ministry that they don't need management plans if they have CSA certification.

Comment – Member noted that members are sending a clear message that they were there in the beginning, and helped create a single FSP for Stillwater. Creating a single company approach for all BC Coastal area means there are concerns for fisheries, recreation areas, First Nations and other values. New one plan could be awkward – no one considers Pilot projects - there are a lot of successes and legal aspects to consider. Maybe company could move forward with several different varieties?

Diane noted that initially the company looked at BC Coastal. BC Interior operations have separated out, and are looking at operations where it "makes sense". CAG did the Pilot project and government would like to bring in some features from the Pilot.

Steve Chambers noted that they could end up with a book of 10 –15 chapters all together in one binder, with uniqueness in each chapter.

Member noted that community values are incorporated into the plan at present. Regional board has used these community values to make decisions in the past. Local government does not believe that "one suit fits all", and will not be happy if any of those values are thrown out.

Diane noted that the values will be maintained hopefully through CSA.

Member suggested that maybe the Stillwater plan was "too strict" and "too specific"

Steve Chambers noted that they hope to maintain protection of values and improve upon some bureaucracy inefficiencies. No one is trying to lower the bars – environmental standards will still be there.

Question – Are they going to be concerned with wildlife values and community values?

Answer – We share the same concerns. All responsibility will lie with professionals. Government is telling professionals to figure it out – we have to have confidence in the professionals. Ministry of Forests is given more rope when it comes to fines and penalties.

Member noted that she has many times defended Weyerhaeuser's actions in the community. One plan administered from a distant office sounds more like the American way. There will be less autonomy for the people of Powell River. Member noted that hopefully one plan won't alter the relationships between CAG and Steve and Paul.

Diane noted that there will be one core set of values, flexibility will be unique – they don't want to lose the values that are already set.

Break – 8:00pm – 8:11pm

Question – Work on the Pilot project went through the Nanaimo office, how many of the original staff that knew the process are there still there?

Answer - There may be no one at the table from before - Mike Hooper is no longer there, Doug McCormick will still be there for a resource person when comparisons are ready to be reviewed.

Question – Is it true that working with the Pilot project costs the company money because of buffers etc? Now working with a one size fits all plan that is cost effective, will buffers be kept and how will they be worked in?

Answer – There will be new requirements for buffers, spatial analysis and riparian zones. We are hoping there will be a lot of overlap.

Steve Chambers noted that buffers are not really a high cost item – Values are there or soils, visual, fish etc. Taking forestland from the land base has an impact on AAC. Effect will be on future generations to have a sustainable forest. Decisions are made together at a cost to society.

Question - Are decisions on buffers etc made together, by community, or does the company decide?

Answer – It is usually a community decision – every time the Chief Forester makes a decision on the AAC, values are constantly shifting.

Comment - Some decisions in the past by "professionals" have resulted in events such as no cod left in the Atlantic etc.

Diane noted that if a private company makes decisions, and if the document from November 22<sup>nd</sup> doesn't get thoroughly vetted, company will be responsible.

Steve Chambers noted that there are enough checks and balances in place to be protected. There will be changes from CAG, changes from First Nation and changes from public review.

Facilitator suggested that Diane could go to the CAG website, read the minutes and regulations for the Stillwater Pilot project, and become familiar with the contents of the FSP. Facilitator noted that CAG was living this document for one and a half years before government legislated it. CAG went over the zoning hectare by hectare.

Diane agreed and noted that the Ministry of Forest's website has specific sections showing what factors and values that have to be taken into consideration. Diane will e-mail the web address to Steve for CAG.

ACTION - e-mail the web address to CAG regarding Ministry of Forests information on values for FSPs.

Question – CAG created a fourth zone – a recreation zone, what will happen with those areas?

Answer – If zone is established and is legislated, it will have to be kept. Committee will decide on what has to happen.

Comment – Members have the feeling that Diane intends to consult with CAG. Apprehension about the timeline is an issue.

**Question - How much work is there to do if plan is to be submitted in March?**

**Answer – We don't know how much work there is to do. Perhaps CAG could consider a sub-committee to discuss one plan FSP.**

**Question – How will CAG be consulted?**

**Answer – Not sure yet**

**Chair asked to meet at earliest possible date when the team has something to show. An extra meeting could be arranged.**

**Question – What happens in May (elections)?**

**Answer – There are a lot of new amendments waiting to be looked at – success of amendments may depend on May election.**

**Comment – Member noted that apparently Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Water Land and Air protection do not talk to each other?**

**Answer – FSP plan has to be covered off by – Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Ministry of Water, Land and Air protection, Ministry of Forests. Talks will take place with all three ministries, as well as CAG groups.**

**Question - What about ISO?**

**Answer – Regardless of FSP outcome, there will still be ISO and CSA.**

**A recent study in England rated CSA a one of the top certifications.**

**ACTION – Provide url for CSA study in England.**

**Chair thanked Diane and Steve for their input and wished them both good luck with the project.**

**Operational Information Map**

**Block1 – Steve Chaplin**

Handout was provided and areas were shown on the map.

**Current Activities**

**Harvesting - Goat Island blocks GI-100 and GI100A are complete**

**Road Construction Complete– ST-048 – Kent’s Beach, and HB-170 (Haywire Bay)**

**Engineering – Crews are mostly in the office cleaning up harvest plans for a number of engineered blocks. Active engineering is occurring in GI-98 and ST-151- Goat Lake Main at 3-mil, TH-045 and WL-27**

**Question – High Canadian dollar has caused closure of some operations on the Island – could it happen here?**

**Answer – Ok currently until the end of the year – harvesting is still on track and we still have volume needed to the end of the year. Operations will run until Dec 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Question – What are the orange property markers for south of town?**

**Answer – Sometimes shakers use them for boundary markers. All Weyerhaeuser ribbons are wide and have writing on them for falling boundaries.**

**Question – Any activities on HB-169 at 3- mile bay on the west side of Powell Lake?**

**Answer – No – there were two blocks – HB-168 and HB-169. Sliammon is looking at that area for takeback. No activity planned.**

**Access**

**Question – The road from head of Haslam to Fiddlehead is blocked- can it be cleaned up? Big timber on road is blocking access.**

**Answer – Road is laid out for next year – new road will come down from farm to eliminate a 2-1/4-hour drive.**

**Norske Lands**

**Question - Any news on the Norske lands in Wildwood?**

**Answer – No – will let CAG know when activity is planned. Continued restructuring in the office mean less staff. Company will have to realign how to do same jobs with less people. Doug will be going back into the woods. Engineers are changing from hourly to salary.**

**Restructuring of Staff**

**Question – Will Weyerhaeuser be hiring out tasks to engineering companies?**

**Answer – Engineering is not hiring any outside help. Forestry is hiring some help. Company is "under the gun" for costs.**

**2002 - CSA requirements and**

**Terms of Reference review**

**Member noted that the document for the new 2002 requirements for CSA and CAG's terms of reference have been reviewed. Preliminary discussions on reorganizing have taken place. Member noted that under the new 2002 CSA requirements, there might be some minor changes to the format of the Terms of Reference. Member suggested the idea of keeping the operating principles the same - in a separate section of the document.**

**Facilitator noted that if CAG were chosen by another organization as an advisory group, the operating principles would stay the same.**

**It was noted that any suggested changes would be brought forward to the Terms of Reference committee.**

**Member noted that terms of reference committee were not involved in the meeting and expressed disapproval at the process.**

**Facilitator noted that it was not a "terms of reference" meeting, but a discussion on the operating principles that are required by the new 2002 CSA requirements as per the documents (CSA – Z-809 - 2002 Requirements)**

**Facilitator has reviewed the new CSA document and will note changes from previous requirements.**

**Access – Whiskey Creek**

**Member thanked Steve Chaplin for the summaries, and stressed that the Whiskey Creek geo-tech report issue must be addressed.**

**Plutonic Power Corp**

**Open House**

**Facilitator noted that Plutonic Power held an open house in Powell River on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Maps will be provided for CAG when ready. Proposed project is in the initial stages. Ministry of Environment is aware of CAG's role in the**

**community. Weyerhaeuser will be kept up to date on progress, and will pass on information to CAG when available. Plutonic Power Corp will come to a CAG meeting when ready. And may use CAG for consultation requirements.**

**Member noted that the regional board has been involved with Plutonic regarding the placement of two sites where power line will be placed.**

**CSA – Sierra Club website**

**Member noted that website contained information on Sierra Club challenging CSA audits.**

**Question – Where does CAG stand on First Nation’s participation?**

**Answer – CAG has met all the requirements – there is and always has been an open seat for Sliammon. They are "capacity building" and don't have enough people at present. Also, they are in the midst of treaty negotiations. New Chief Walter Paul has received written and verbal invitations to attend. The minutes of every CAG meeting are sent and read. Sliammon has regular meetings with Weyerhaeuser. QMI Auditors at last audit followed up on correspondence between CAG and First Nations.**

**Next Meeting**

**November 24, 2004**

**Meeting adjourned 9:03pm**

<b>Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group</b>		
<b>November 10th 2004</b>		
<b>Attendance</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Member Seat</b>
<b>PRESENT</b>		
<b>Eagle Walz - Chair</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Jane Cameron - 2nd Vice-Chair</b>	Primary	Member at large
<b>Patrick Brabazon</b>	Primary	Local Govt. (Regional)

<b>Debby Waslewski</b>	Primary	Citizens
<b>Jeff Mah</b>	Primary	Local Govt. (Municipal)
<b>Fran Ferguson</b>	Alternate	Recreation
<b>Jack McClinchey</b>	Primary	Motorized Recreation
<b>Andy Davis</b>	Alternate	Citizens
<b>Nancy Hollmann</b>	Primary	Environment
<b>Michael Conway Brown</b>	Primary	Environment/Access
<b>Dave Rees</b>	Alternate	Tourism
<b>Carol Sansburn</b>	Alternate	Education
<b>Erika Hein</b>	Primary	Youth
<b>Bill Maitland</b>	Alternate	Contractors
<b>12 Seats represented</b>		
<b>ABSENT</b>		
<b>Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Joanne Cameron-Nordell</b>	Primary	Local Business
<b>Tony Smith</b>	Primary	Education
<b>Paul Holbrook</b>	Alternate	Forest Dependent
<b>Rory Maitland</b>	Primary	Contractors
<b>Paul Goodwin</b>	Primary	Forest Dependent
<b>David Gabelhouse</b>	Alternate	Local Govt. (Municipal)
<b>Les Falk</b>	Alternate	Local Govt. (Regional)
<b>Lorne Marr</b>	Alternate	Recreation
<b>George Ferreira</b>	Alternate	Local Business
<b>Terry Peters</b>	Alternate	Citizens

<b>John Passek</b>	Alternate	Motorized Recreation
<b>Andrew Pinch</b>	Primary	Tourism
Dianne Mason	Alternate	Education
<b>Kevin McKamey</b>	Alternate	Contractors
<b>Guests</b>		
<b>Dan Waslewski</b>	Wildwood Ratepayers	Weyerhaeuser
<b>Diane Medves</b>	Environmental Forester	
<b>Steve Chambers</b>	Weyerhaeuser -	
<b>Resource – others</b>		
<b>Stephen Chaplin</b>	Stillwater	Weyerhaeuser
<b>Paul Kutz</b>	Stillwater	Weyerhaeuser
<b>Cathy Bartfai</b>	Facilitator	
<b>Pam Dowding</b>	Secretary	