

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

October 13th 2004

Minutes

Brooks Secondary School

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

Quorum noted

6:07pm: Meeting called to order

Welcome

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

Introductions

Guests Tom Holmes, Ray Balogh, Michel deBellefeuille, Steve Chaplin, Walt Cowlard and Rudi vanZwaaij were introduced. Members introduced themselves and noted the sectors they represented. A special welcome was also extended to Carol Sansburn, new member for education.

Safety Review

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

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was reviewed and accepted with additions.

Review and research

Copies of Section 5 – (SFMP Summary of 2003 Indicators data set report) was made available to members. Chair noted that additional time is required for facilitator to review and research results of the report. Request for extra time was brought

forward. It was noted that there had been some budget cutbacks in the past that had not been brought to CAG's attention. Ray noted that there were some budget cuts in 2003, with further constraints in 2004, and CAG staff time was one of the cuts. Member noted that the Terms of Reference was agreed to by Weyerhaeuser in the beginning to include two paid staff. Unfortunately CAG was not informed of the budget changes and this will be rectified in the future. Members noted that CAG is unlike other advisory groups; they meet twice as often and have had to deal with more issues than other groups.

Jefferd Creek Watershed

Doug noted that there were concerns surrounding the Jefferd Creek watershed. It was noted that the watershed is outside of the 20% takeback, and the issue is on the TSA, the area was never in the TFL 39 block 1. Weyerhaeuser has engineered the block and has done a good job in a very sensitive area. Member noted that there is now a less sensitive plan for the watershed. More information will be available at the next meeting on October 27th.

Recorded meetings

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

Review of Minutes of September 29th

Minutes from September 29th were reviewed, discussed and accepted with amendments.

Question – Page 4 in the minutes states that old growth logs from Phillips Arm may be scaled in Howe Sound?

Answer – Ray noted that the scaling of old growth and second growth at the local sort can create problems, and sort would prefer to confine to one type (second growth).

Comment – Member noted that the group took on Phillips Arm with the understanding that there would be benefits to the community – more logs going through the sort etc.

Ray noted that currently some Phillips Arm wood is going through the Stillwater sort, but in future, some may go to Howe

Sound.

Review of Action List

Action List will be reviewed at next meeting.

Correspondence

Letter to Mr. Donald McInnes, President, Plutonic Power Corp.

Reply from Mr. Donald McInnes – Company is interested in getting acquainted with CAG.

Correspondence with Bill Waugh, Bill may be moving on to another position, but will attend CAG meeting and bring someone else from Nanaimo.

Letter from Forest Service regarding Hernandez Creek bridge closure on the Theodosia Forest Service Road 6423 branch 02 at approximately 6.4km (Southview Road). Bridge has been closed for public safety. No funding for new bridge at this time. Alternate route for 4-wheel drive road access is via the Theodosia Road 6423 branch 01 (Wilde Road). This road will have grading conducted on rougher sections to improve road conditions. No additional maintenance work is planned.

Member noted that there have been a lot of delays and hassles for area residents.

Millennium Park

Member asked whether there was any news on the establishment of Millennium Park, and whether the new riparian regulations would have any effect on the area.

Ray noted that the Weyerhaeuser is supportive of the proposed Millennium Park, but after 5 or 6 years, they are really no further ahead. One meeting has taken place with Norske. Park is still proposed but not established. Joint venture partners have recently opened up new conversations - so chain saws will *not* be heard in Millennium Park just yet. Weyerhaeuser's obligation was to continue to negotiate in good faith.

Member noted that there has been a significant change in talks with joint venture partners, and the meeting of all the parties is a major step forward towards the establishment of Millennium Park.

Lot 450

Question – New ribbons of a different colour have appeared above the pole line does that mean logging is imminent?

Answer – Ribbons were old and have recently been "freshened up".

Question – For riparian areas on private land (such as lot 450), and new regulations that will come into effect next March, who is responsible?

Answer – By-laws state that owners need to get professional assessment of properties when managing new riparian areas not within the managed forest.

Question- Is it true that riparian management zone regulations may be "looser"

Answer – Regulations will be *different*, new regulations state that owners will have to rely on a professional person, and ensure that no harm is done to streams and fish habitat. Professionals will have to look at what the plan is and send in report to government.

ACTION - Doug noted that he would provide a copy of a 47 – page (Riparian Regulations) assessment schedule for the CAG library.

Question – If Millennium Park is established – (the land belongs to Norske and the trees belong to Weyerhaeuser), will the new regulations have an effect on the riparian zone and who hires the expert?

Answer – New Riparian area regulations say that the landowner is responsible, but we don't know how Norske will deal with it.

Company Updates – Doug McCormick

Plans are under way for 2005 harvesting

Phillips Arm – 2005 plans show that the company will be active in this area in 2005

FSP – update – 2-day meeting was held in Vancouver to look at objectives.

Member asked whether Doug asked permission for a CAG observer to attend FSP meetings.

Doug noted that it was early in the process and the question was not yet raised.

Chair asked for the question to be raised regarding CAG presence at meetings.

Stillwater Pilot Project annual report will be sent to members by e-mail. Members should comment before the report is sent in to Minister.

ACTION – Send Stillwater Pilot project report by e-mail to members.

ACTION – Members to review Stillwater Pilot project annual report.

Operational Information Map

Block 1

Handout for October was provided. Map was provided and areas were shown.

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Current Activities

Harvesting is taking place at –LC-006 and PD-206.

Road Construction for block TM-191P

Engineering is taking place at PD-453 and WL-027

New Block on the map – PD-453

New Road- PD-453

Cutting Permit approved – ST-013

Salvage areas – Goat Island, K-Branch, Ireland Lake and Lang Creek

Map Updates

Logging complete ST-149

Road Construction complete – UL-801, EL-668, TM-224 and WL-906

Road Construction Update – PD-245, ST-008 and ST-048

Engineered Blocks – GL-014 and WL-BCTS

Engineered Roads – GL-014

Question – Can private land on map be shown in a different colour?

Answer – Yes, but will have to wait for new program.

Block 5

Doug noted that map updates for Phillips Arm will be available for viewing at next meeting; and asked whether it would be acceptable to do Blocks 1 and 5 on alternate weeks. Members agreed to this plan.

Access

D-Branch slide – is now fixed. Member noted that there were concerns regarding how long it takes to get things fixed – it was one year from the date of slide.

Question - Member noted that the Stillwater Pilot Project now shortened the time for approvals, could time also be shortened for access issues? Member noted that trail now takes 3 hours and 15 minutes, glacier is now more approachable. (It took 2 days before)

Answer – Weyerhaeuser is prepared to do that but it makes sense to do the work when other work is going on and machinery is in the area. Budget is squeezed, and company is trying to commit to as many requests as they can.

Larsen Road - Gate on the bridge is locked – is it supposed to be open to the public?

Walt noted that the gate is supposed to be locked to protect the Haslam Lake water supply; but area is not part of TFL39- block 1. Public access is restricted. It was suggested that members could take concerns to IWMP meetings that are held twice a year.

Tom Holmes, Vice President, BC Coastal Group - Timberlands

20 % takeback

Tom noted that Weyerhaeuser is the first company to sign an agreement with the government regarding the 20% takeback. The takeback will have an impact on Weyerhaeuser employees and contractors. It was noted that the company has lost 980,000 cubic metres, with 700,000 to go on January 1st, 2005. Agreement in Block 1 is for 83,000 cubic metres to be set-aside in the Hotham Sound area. Map was shown outlining the area to be part of the takeback. This area was chosen in order to have as minimal as possible impact.

First Nation

It was noted that Sliammon has a 50,000 cubic metre forest license and they are looking at the Theodosia area. Weyerhaeuser will help Sliammon to get their cut. A two-year trial period will be implemented.

Contractors

Weyerhaeuser is approaching contractors to see if any want to get out of the business; letters have been sent out to everyone on the coast. It is expected that some may wish to get out.

Thanks and appreciation to CAG

Tom thanked CAG members for being such a dedicated committee for the past four and a half years.

Other areas affected by 20% takeback

Queen Charlottes have lost 173,000 cubic metres

Port McNeil and Islands have lost 97,000 cubic metres

Sproat Lake and Henderson Lake area has lost 298,000 cubic metres, resulting in the loss of 110 people/jobs.

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Compensation for staff and contractors

Government has set aside \$50 million for staff and \$25million for contractors that will be affected by the takebacks. Chartered accountant Eric van Soeren is working with Daryl Wong of IWA to take care of workers and cheques should be sent to individuals before Christmas.

Question – When transitional dollars are handed out to workers, there have been problems in the past with FRBC funds and taxation – how will this new compensation be handled?

Answer – Funds will be treated as retirement funds – Daryl Wong of IWA would have more information on taxation etc.

Question – Have funds been set aside for retraining or is this just a "buy-out"?

Answer – Eric van Soeren– accountant and Daryl Wong would have more information on how disbursements will be handled.

Copy of Map

Member requested a copy of the map for the Regional District showing Hotham Sound area that is to be cut off.

Map will be provided, but is not yet complete.

ACTION – Map showing takeback areas to be provided for CAG and Regional District (when finalized).

Question – Is Weyerhaeuser encouraging small contractors to bow out? How are their rights redistributed and are they entitled to some of the compensation when bought out?

Answer – When bought out – their rights are gone. AAC is 72,000 – 84,000 less now.

Question – What about Bill 13 contractors?

Answer – Contracts can be bought and sold.

Question - Member asked for clarification of cubic metres and how does it relate to the amount of acreage that is reclaimed.

Answer – A truckload holds around 35 cubic metres. An average of 800 cubic metres per hectare, so around 200,000 hectares in total. 75,000 cubic metres coming from 7,500 hectares in this area.

Question –What is the implication for loggers losing jobs in the Powell River area?

Answer – Around 30 men will be affected by the loss of 80,000 cubic metres, but if land at Hotham Sound is transferred, there will be different employers to employ them.

Question – For the Sliammon portion of the cut – will Weyerhaeuser be marketing the logs for them?

Answer – Possible, but we did that one and a half years ago and there was a dispute.

Tom noted that Weyerhaeuser has lost one in five logs for their own mills, and have to buy logs on the open market.

Question – For mills on this side of the border, will they be getting first dibs on the wood?

Answer – Company has to buy on the open market. Some wood goes to Japan and US from private lands.

Question – What about assertion of aboriginal rights – is the 50,000 cubic metres for Sliammon part of the AIP?

Answer – Sliammon has been "invited to apply" for a non-renewable license for five years. Their current license is non –renewable and is made up of the 5% takeback.

Walt noted that the AIP has two parts – the treaty settlement lands, which they will hold in fee simple. From Sliammon to Okeover, they will get 50,000 cubic metres of the cut. The first part (22,500 cubic metres) comes from the 5% and the second part (to make up to 50,000 cubic metres in total) comes from the 20% takeback (from Crown land)

Question –What percentage of treaty lands is involved? Is agreement open-ended?

Answer – Land will be run like BCTS (BC Timber Sales), first for a five- year term, then will be settled. Carving off an area for First Nation would be preferable to company.

Question – How profitable is Weyerhaeuser on the coast?

Answer – Private lands show a fair profit, Crown land is marginally profitable, Boards go to Japan, and business is good. Canadian White Pine site has been sold, and \$32million compensation package was received.

Question – Are more logs going to Washington state mills?

Answer – No – mostly to Japan

Question – What volume goes to the US?

Answer – 150,000-200,000 cubic metres.

Question – Is the profit from US mills part of the profit in BC?

Answer – No.

Public Relations Issue

Member noted that the recent harvesting on Lombardy Street showed the need for better communications between the company and the community.

It was noted that when things are happening in the community Weyerhaeuser seems to lack a public relations person.

Question - How can the community have better communications with the company?

Answer – Local planners can look at the site and public can voice concerns at public meeting when plans for harvesting are shown.

Tom noted that the common approach is to knock on doors in the community to make people aware of what is happening.

Member noted that this did not happen in this case, and meetings with the municipality regarding buffers were not successful due to summer break.

Replanting – Member asked about replanting and it was noted that the site will be replanted in the spring of 2005.

Member noted that a public relations person would be helpful in bringing the community up to date with what is happening.

Member noted that area in question (Townsite) was not within the TFL 39 Block 1 and not in CAG's mandate. Member suggested that there is a need to talk about interaction with the community on other issues.

Break – 7:45-7:56pm

Message from the Chair

Chair noted that when CAG began four and a half years ago, it had a vision to create a world class working forest. CAG has addressed many issues over the years and have established values for the forests around Powell River. Some of the groups' values have been taken from the Stillwater Pilot Project and incorporated into other plans. CAG members wish to continue with the advisory group and draw on local resources. It has been suggested that there could be in the future one community advisory group for the whole coast. This group wishes to remain and continue to advise in a positive way, and would not wish to become part of any "super-CAG". This item was discussed at the advisory group conference in Nanaimo.

Response

Michel noted that the idea of a combined coastal-wide CAG was discussed at the advisory groups' conference two years ago. Tom assured members that there are no plans to combine the CAGs and noted that there are four very dedicated and successful groups. Tom noted that CAG can pride itself on the input they had into the Stillwater Pilot project. Now there is a new opportunity to use a common template for a new FSP. It was noted that Bill Waugh will meet with CAG along with colleague Diane Medves with more information on the FSP. Tom noted that retention logging will stay, even though it costs the company \$3 or \$4 per cubic metre. There will still be certification and indicators. Weyerhaeuser is committed to remaining certified under CSA.

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Reciprocal Process

Member asked at last meeting if CAG could be involved in initial FSP meetings to represent the community. It was noted that locally our information is to be taken into consideration. Member asked again to be included in the initial meetings.

Doug noted that he would send an e-mail with request and cc. to CAG

ACTION – e-mail request for CAG to be included in new FSP meetings.

Member noted that there were some concerns regarding buffers on trails and wondered if they were taken out of legislation – would company honour agreements?

It was noted that some of the commitments from the FSP could possibly be moved to the CSA.

Tom noted again that certification is very important to Weyerhaeuser. Regulations may change but company is still committed to certification.

Member noted that if the FSP is a work in progress, some items may be in jeopardy and noted that items could be missed in a "one- plan for all" type of document.

Answer – Doug noted that yes - there is a higher risk.

Rudi noted that in the FSP renewal, there are some general things, and there are some local issues.

Doug noted that zoning and retention commitments are in the regulation

Question – How will BC Timber Sales be affected?

Answer – They will be required to have an FSP.

Question – Now with 20% - are there the same requirements for BCTS?

Answer – Now it is all spelt out in the code, with new rules the government has given some flexibility. Companies can increase or deviate from standards. There is some confusing technology. Objectives made by government are in the regulations.

Under the new FSP, company writes strategic targets and District Manager approves. Objectives that exist will stay, such as landscape and planning

Question – What about VQO? (Visual Quality Objectives)

Answer – Targets and strategies are written by the company. The idea is that accountability is on individuals, professional foresters and engineers.

Question – So if it's up to the District Manager to evaluate, and when plans are approved will District Manager take a look at results?

Answer – Yes, inspections will look at results and strategies.

Question – Will CSA develop a volume based tenure process?

Answer – There is a guidance document with explanations available.

Question - Should government based tenures operate under CSA?

Answer – They are committed to maintain certification on volume expropriated from companies.

Question – Who looks after the log sales?

Answer – BCTS.

Question – Would they develop a sustainable working forest?

Answer – Ask Ken Matthews, Manager of BCTS about sustainability.

Comments from Michel – Government officials say they are ensuring sustainability, instead of uniform standards; there will be individual standards.

Question –Where are the meetings held?

Answer – In Vancouver.

Question – Profit picture for BC Coastal Group?

Answer – Private lands are nicely profitable – with exports to Japan and US.

Last year Crown lands lost money but this year are marginally profitable – due to the sale of White Pine mill and from \$32 million compensation from AAC loss.

Financing of CAG

Member noted that the financing of the group comes from Weyerhaeuser, and that CAG has been helpful to the company regarding all sorts of issues that have come to the table, including certification. Services of the facilitator and recorder are essential to the group. Cutting back of services of facilitator and recorder shows a lack of trust between the company and CAG.

Ray noted that a meeting would be set up to deal with the solution, and hopefully there will be better communications in future.

Sechelt visitors

Facilitator noted that a group of people will come from Sechelt to observe a CAG meeting on October 27th. The visitors would require approximately five minutes on the agenda. Facilitator asked for a few volunteers to be available to answer questions prior to the meeting.

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Invitation to Ken Matthews and Greg Cawston

BC Timber Sales

Members asked facilitator to invite staff from BCTS at their earliest convenience.

ACTION – Contact Ken Matthews at BCTS to arrange visit with CAG.

Field trip Oct 23 2004

Members were asked to give ideas for a field trip with one or two possible sites. Members suggested a visit to the Southview Road/Okeover area where alternate methods of alder treatment can be observed. Members should reply by e-mail before October 20 so that arrangements can be made. Members were asked to bring their own lunch and to wear sturdy shoes. Weyerhaeuser will supply Visi vests and hard hats.

Thanks to Tom Holmes

Chair thanked Tom Holmes and other guests for attendance and participation.

Meeting adjourned 8:35pm

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Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group		
October 13th 2004		
Attendance		
Name	Position	Member Seat
PRESENT		
Eagle Walz - Chair	Primary	Recreation
Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair	Primary	Recreation
Jane Cameron - 2nd Vice-Chair	Primary	Member at large
Patrick Brabazon	Primary	Local Govt. (Regional)
Debby Waslewski	Primary	Citizens
Jeff Mah	Primary	Local Govt. (Municipal)
Fran Ferguson	Alternate	Recreation
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business
Jack McClinchey	Primary	Motorized Recreation
Erika Hein	Primary	Youth
Tony Smith	Primary	Education

Andy Davis	Alternate	Citizens
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Environment
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractors
Paul Goodwin	Primary	Forest Dependent
Michael Conway Brown	Primary	Environment/Access
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Carol Sansburn	Alternate	Education
14 Seats represented		
ABSENT		
David Gabelhouse	Alternate	Local Govt. (Municipal)
Les Falk	Alternate	Local Govt. (Regional)
Dave Rees	Alternate	Tourism
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
George Ferreira	Alternate	Local Business
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens
John Passek	Alternate	Motorized Recreation
Andrew Pinch	Primary	Tourism
Dianne Mason	Alternate	Education
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractors
Kevin McKamey	Alternate	Contractors
Guests	Vice-President	BC Coastal Weyerhaeuser
Tom Holmes	Manager	Nanaimo

Michel deBellefeuille		Stillwater
Ray Balogh		Stillwater
Walt Cowlard		Stillwater
Stephen Chaplin		Stillwater
Rudi vanZwaaij		
Resource – others		
Doug McCormick	Stillwater	Weyerhaeuser
Cathy Bartfai	Facilitator	
Pam Dowding	Secretary	