

# **Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group**

**October 27th 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:  
- Ray Parfitt, Director of Planning for Sechelt, Brian Smart, Consulting Forester, and Cam Reid, Mayor of Sechelt. Also welcomed was Louise Fleming, Manager for Stillwater Waterworks.

### **Introductions**

Members introduced themselves and gave brief outlines of the sectors that they represent. Paul Kutz, forester from Weyerhaeuser, resource person for CAG.

### **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 13th**

Minutes from October 13th were reviewed, discussed and accepted with amendments.

### **Review of Action List**

Action List will be reviewed at end of meeting if time available.

### **Correspondence**

Reply from Ken Matthews, BC Timber Sales – will come to speak to CAG in the near future. BCTS has expressed an interest in utilizing the current CAG to continue with CSA certification.

**Facilitator noted that the BCTS website is a useful one**  
**<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/>**

**2. Copy of correspondence from Walt Cowlard regarding organizational changes at Stillwater. Stephen Chaplin will take over from Doug McCormick and will be taking on the challenges of EMS, CSA and the FSP.**

**Member suggested a "Thank you gesture" to Doug for all the hard work would be appropriate.**

Copy of BC News Release – *"Sunshine Coast (Sechelt) gains Community Forest Opportunity"*

### **Powell River Community Forest**

**Chair noted that Powell River has now been invited to apply for a Community Forest.**

**Member for municipal government outlined the application and planning process. Minister of State for forestry operations came to Powell River on Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Powell River's municipal government has been invited to apply for a probationary community forest license of up to 25,000 cubic metres. Ministry of Forests district manager Greg Hemphill will help to outline the boundaries. Council has elected a special committee to look at different ways to**

**handle. Community Forest will be a company or corporation. Members of council have traveled to other areas such as Mission, and will go to Lake Cowichan to learn more on how community forest should be handled. Member noted that the recent news is due to a lot of hard work on behalf of Councilor Dave Gabelhouse, PR. Wood president Vern Kinley, and District Manager Greg Hemphill.**

Copy of letter from CAG to Diane Medves – requesting an opportunity for CAG member to attend Coastal wide FSP meetings as an observer.

Copy of letter to other advisory groups regarding concerns about one plan FSP, and request for a conference to discuss issues as soon as possible.

Copy of letter from Corporation of the District of Powell River containing results of baseline water testing on Powell Lake. Member provided copies that were requested during Pest Management Plan (PMP) discussions.

Copies of *Stillwater Pilot Project Annual Report July 9 03-July 8 04* were provided. Members are invited to send comments on the report to Doug McCormick.

### **Company Updates – Paul Kutz**

New roles at Stillwater office - Steve Chaplin will take over duties with CAG and Doug will provide support to Steve. Paul Kutz's role is one of CAG alternate.

New roles at Nanaimo office – Diane Medves will now be the chair of the FSP committee. Bill Waugh will now be manager of private lands.

Diane Medves will attend CAG meeting on November 10th; Steve Chambers may also attend.

**Question – Is Bill Waugh in charge of all private lands?**

**Answer – Yes – he's in charge of all private lands.**

**Question – Will private lands in Powell River that have been taken out of the TFL remain certified?**

**Answer – Yes**

**Members asked for private lands on maps to be shown in a different colour.**

**Paul noted that it will be done soon.**

Paul asked whether showing operational information maps for Block 1 and Block 5 at alternate meetings was agreeable to members. Members agreed to this plan, as it would not decrease the frequency of viewing the maps.

**Question – Private land in Powell River such as Lot 450 - how is it managed? Is it under the private forest land management act?**

**Answer – Lot 450 is not within the MFU (Managed Forest Unit). MFU 21 was land within the TFL that was managed in the TFL but has now come out of the TFL. Riparian regulations from government will apply.**

Investigation into LL-162 is ongoing – Ministry is still investigating unauthorized harvesting by salvagers in a reserve zone where there is an S-3 creek.

**Question – What is the internal land use audit?**

**Answer – Internal land use audit reviews land use for environmental issues and certification purposes. Forestry looked at free growing obligations and environment audit inspected Phillips Arm camp for compliance.**

### **Access**

**Member reported that following access items -**

**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 was not allowed to be taken out of the office. Member requested a copy for CAG.

**ACTION – Copy of geo – tech report for Whiskey Creek Bridge to be provided by e-mail.**

**B-Branch** -Member noted that the length of time it took to clear B-branch was excessive.

**FIA Funding** - Paul noted that the brushing has been done at

**Weyerhaeuser's expense. FIA funded brushing to Mt. Alfred \$1000 per day. Job took six days. Member thanked Paul for getting the job done.**

**Member suggested a letter of thanks from the Alpine Club with cc: to CAG regarding the brushing of B-branch.**

**ACTION – Member will write a letter of thanks from Alpine Club to Weyerhaeuser re: B-branch brushing.**

**Sechelt –Community Forest**

**Cam Reid, Mayor of Sechelt was welcomed and spoke to the group about the intention of Sechelt council to apply for a community forest. Sechelt was invited to apply by the Minister of State for forestry operations Roger Harris. Sechelt will make a joint application with the Sechelt Indian band and form a partnership to manage the community forest. Opportunity to apply has been the result of a lot of hard work for one and a half years by the town of Sechelt council members, Greg Hemphill, district manager for the Sunshine Coast Forest district and others, including the regional district. It was noted that there had been some civil litigation in the past between Sechelt and the Ministry. Intention for the community forest is for economic and environmental gains for the whole of the region and to diffuse the issues of environmentalists.**

**Member asked about Sechelt’s relationship with the regional district.**

**It was noted that the two groups do not always work well together.**

**Member noted that Powell River is getting closer to an organization structure, and will establish a corporation (to have protection from liability). Organization will include two board members from council, two members of the First Nations band. Profits from the community forest could be turned back to the community for recreation, as will be the case in Sechelt.**

**Question – Could information be shared between the two communities?**

**Answer – Yes. Mayor Reid noted that some council members from Sechelt have already visited Revelstoke and Mission. It was also noted that some community forests do not operate as working forests, but are used as parks. Sechelt wants a working forest, and to be able to use local fibre for value added businesses.**

**Question – Use of fibre for local value added businesses may create stability and create more partnerships?**

**Answer – Yes – Revelstoke bought a forest for \$3 million, and now 80% of timber is milled in the area.**

**Question – How many cubic metres will be taken out and what age timber-any old growth?**

Answer – Brain Smart noted that license will be for 20,000 cubic metres annually. All species – Douglas Fir, cedar etc. and all ages. There are some remnants of old growth, but predominantly second growth. Watershed has already been logged. Community Forest organization will demonstrate good logging practices.

Question – With 20,000 cubic metres annually, are there minimum and maximum cuts?

Answer – Not known yet – but there will be some flexibility regarding cut control.

Paul noted that the present rules regarding 5 year cut control allow for 10% plus or minus, with no cut in some years.

Question – Who owned and logged the (Sechelt) forest previously?

Answer – It was crown land that was logged for 15 years with some contentious issues. If community was offered a watershed area it would not accept or support it, and would ask for another area. License is volume based and is later increased. Letters of support and referrals are required for harvest plans.

Question – Is committee aware of potential contentious issues of having community forest in community water shed?

Answer – Yes – they are very aware of it.

Question – How is license converted from volume based to area based?

Answer – Brian noted that a line is drawn on map and that will be the area.

Paul noted that an inventory is taken and they will see what is sustained.

Chair thanked Mayor Cam Reid, Ray Parfitt and Brain Smart for taking the time to visit Powell River. Mayor Cam Reid thanked CAG members for the opportunity to observe how the advisory group works.

### Operational Information Map

#### Block 5 – Paul Kutz

No handout, but map was provided and areas were shown. Paul noted that the logging in Phillips Arm is now starting to wrap up for the year and noted that snow is beginning to fall in the area.

Areas shown were -

**PH-159** – Wash Main – finishing up loading – heli-site.

**PH-901** – Single stem harvesting just finished loading up- (2 heli-blocks)

**CL-100** – Clearwater – road construction stopped (road failed)

**PA-163** – Engineers working on putting in roads and setting tables for next year.

**Question – Can't they log when it snows?**

**Answer – Paul noted - No – there is a tremendous amount of rain in the area**

**and rain causes snow slides – if just left, the roads would fall apart. Twenty years experience with camps – we have learned that we have to manage the water.**

**20% Map – Paul Kutz**

**Map was provided showing the outlines and boundaries where 20% has been carved off. 20% for BCTS will include Saltery Bay, Hotham Sound, Granville Bay, Freil Lake, and south side of Lois Lake down to the ocean. Paul noted that the area has been identified but not yet finalized. Area has been compartmentalized and sufficient timber for ten years (80,000 cubic metres per year) has been identified. In the area above Kent's Beach resort, road construction has been laid out – this two-pass block will be harvested by Weyerhaeuser for the first pass, and then given up as part of the takeback.**

**Question - CAG worked hard on buffers for Rainy Day Lake and old growth recruitment in the Fairview block – will they stay or go?**

**Answer – These areas are thought to be carved off, but now may stay within the TFL. BCTS wants to incorporate their areas under same FSP.**

**Question – Is there a date for completion of the takeback?**

**Answer – No set date, but as soon as it can be completed, it will be.**

**Question – The 80,000 cubic metres per year over ten years from crown land, will it be managed under an FSP and what is the role of BCTS?**

**Answer – Weyerhaeuser's AAC is 450,000 cubic metres and they will lose 80,000 of that cut. BCTS will manage that area. Logging and reforestation are in the hands of BCTS.**

**Question – Who will allocate the 80,000 cubic metres?**

**Answer – BCTS will allocate, with FSP's in place. Legislation decides the AAC for Block 1.**

**Question – Will the major licensee still hold liability?**

**Answer – Unknown at this point – there may be legislation to transfer obligations to others.**

**Comment from member – Things are still "in flux" and there will be many changes.**

**Question – Do you see BCTS taking over silviculture etc?**

**Answer – All cutblock obligations and responsibilities will be taken over.**

### **Sliammon**

**Paul noted that the 20% map showing areas of proposed takeback of 80,000 cubic metres was separate from the 50,000 cubic metres that are being allocated to Sliammon. Area that is to be allocated to Sliammon is still being discussed. Currently they are looking at the Chippewa-Olsen areas, but decisions still have not been made.**

**Break – 7:25pm – 7:37pm**

### **Windsor Lake block – WL-909**

#### **Update**

**Paul noted that engineering and road design has been completed for WL-909. Cutting permit forester is away taking RPF exam.**

**It was noted that there would be some discussion with CAG regarding long-term access after harvesting is completed. Once harvested and area is free to grow (8-10 years), three choices are –**

Full deactivation of road

Gate restricting access

Leave open with full access to 4x4 vehicles.

**Question – Member asked what operational reasons would there be for restricting access**

**Answer – Canoe route peace and tranquility is a consideration. One side of lake is already open to traffic.**

**Member noted that there are two opposing opinions –**

One for full access and to keep open for all.

Canoe route and tourism resources – relatively remote campsites. With too much traffic would take away the charm. One side of the lake is accessible to vehicles - so can still have the semi-wilderness experience. Gates don't keep people out – traffic would be on both sides of the lake.

**Question – Member asked whether the roads would provide any access to the Alpine.**

**Answer – Paul will bring map next time showing engineered roads.**

**ACTION – Map of WL-909 will be provided for next meeting.**

**Member noted that there is no real pressing need for action at this time.**

**Facilitator suggested members talk to their constituents to find out what they want.**

**ACTION – Members to consult with constituents regarding access after harvesting on Windsor Lake block WL-909.**

#### **One FSP Plan**

**Chair noted that the idea of one Coastal wide FSP is being promoted by Stillwater. CAG has written to Diane Medves requesting that CAG could be included in the discussions with the FSP committee.**

#### **Other Advisory Groups**

**Chair noted that a letter has been sent to other advisory groups, suggesting a meeting in Courtenay.**

**Question – Member asked how groups would propose to have input into new FSP?**

**Answer – Three or four groups would meet and have discussion on whether one FSP is acceptable.**

**Member suggested that**

One FSP plan would diminish protection that is enshrined in law

Protection would be lost and could be moved into CSA.

**Member suggested that Weyerhaeuser reps could be invited to meeting to make a presentation on how they perceive the new FSP is going forward. If Weyerhaeuser is not interested, the groups could still meet to discuss issues, and pass on information.**

**Member asked whether previous discussion had suggested CAG's observation or participation in FSP committee meetings.**

**Paul noted that Diane Medves will attend meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup> and will answer questions at that time.**

**Member suggested sending a letter to Michel de Bellefeuille requesting funds for conference expenses**

**ACTION – Letter to be written to Michel regarding funding for November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of all advisory groups in Courtenay**

**Member referred to page 14 - section 3.5 in the Stillwater Pilot Project annual report -**

**Weyerhaeuser is currently developing a single FSP that would cover all Weyerhaeuser BC coastal operations (BCCG) under the FRPA. Once the BCCG FSP is approved, the licensee will likely apply for cancellation of the Stillwater Pilot Project under Section 90 of the Stillwater Pilot Project regulation.**

**Member asked for clarification on this item.**

**Paul noted that the process is to have a coastal wide FSP that would provide competitive advantages. The Stillwater Pilot Project Annual Report has been sent in to the Ministry and is being evaluated.**

**The push to go to one plan and to get rid of the Pilot Project is coming from Nanaimo. Doug has trepidations against dumping the Pilot Project. Discussions are only in the initial stages and Stillwater is seeing where it is**

going. Paul noted that page 14 – section 3.5 states there is an option to continue with the Pilot Project with amendments to the regulations.

Member noted that a lot of work went into the development of the Stillwater Pilot Project in the beginning and asked whether the group was aware of the "2-month notice" clause? The Stillwater Pilot Project is a valuable document, not to be "jettisoned " at the first opportunity.

Paul noted that the name "Pilot Project" led the way with new regulations and the way things were done. New FRPA (Forest Range Practices Act) came out with new regulations, some the same and some different from the Pilot Project. The rest of the office staff is looking at it now with discussions on changes to a coastal wide FSP.

Member noted that CAG was aware of the 2-month cancellation clause, and was aware that the project was a "first". Members were very proud of the accomplishments regarding the Pilot Project. Member suggested that questions should be prepared for Diane Medves at next meeting.

ACTION – Prepare questions regarding coastal wide FSP for Diane Medves at Nov 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chair noted that he would be in touch with other groups regarding conference on November 13<sup>th</sup> in Courtenay.

### Jefferd Creek Watershed

#### Louise Fleming

Louise Fleming, Manager of Stillwater Waterworks District was introduced. Louise provided handouts. Copies of recent correspondence between the Stillwater Waterworks and BCTS were shown as well as map, engineering reports and update of watershed assessment for Jefferd Creek Community watershed.

Louise noted concerns regarding a proposed 30-hectare block along the Jefferd Creek on one side with 15-hectares on the other side. Block is a proposed BC Timber Sales sale. Residents oppose logging plans in the watershed. There are serious concerns about road building in the area; the land slopes towards the creek and erosion would be a problem. Louise noted that the Stillwater waterworks had been very pleased with their dealings with Weyerhaeuser in the past. Many safeguards were given to protect the water. BCTS sale suggests that 20-metre buffers would be in place. Area residents took part in a field trip with a forest consultant to the proposed block in September. Four hundred homes are hooked up to the

water supply, with up to 600 in the summer. Clean drinking water is necessary for all. Silt from logging can cause numerous problems.

Member noted that logging has an economic value, but so does clean drinking water. It was noted that there should be a policy about logging in a watershed. Jefferd Creek was one of the areas that were identified in the FSP for Stillwater.

Question – What is Weyerhaeuser’s opinion on logging by BCTS in the Jefferd Creek watershed?

Answer – Weyerhaeuser consulted with Brian Carson, hydrologist, talked and listened to local groups. Weyerhaeuser offered a way of logging that was acceptable. Now BCTS has the block, and things will be handled differently.

Member noted that the report was done by Weyerhaeuser. New plans are comparing what Weyerhaeuser did on the other side of the creek. BCTS is selling the other side of the creek.

Question – Weyerhaeuser has a vested interest in the watershed, as one of the stakeholders, what is their position with BCTS?

Answer – Doug and Louise have had many discussions. Forest Practices code states a 30-metre setback is required – if 60-metres is given it’s a loss to the province (in stumpage fees). Don’t think Weyerhaeuser can make any statements at this time since BCTS has the control.

Question – The area in question is outside the TFL?

Answer – Yes – outside.

Question – Has the regional district been consulted?

Answer – Yes – Don Turner from the regional district came to the field trip and walked around the site. We are approaching all who can help.

Question – BCTS may have drawn up plans that residents can be satisfied with?

Answer – Realistically, if timber sale is official, they will ask for what Weyerhaeuser has said (regarding the harvesting in watershed).

Question – Referring to the letter from Bill Hughes, planning forester for BC Timber Sales, are the residents not satisfied with what he says in the letter?

Answer – No - our goal is to not have cutblock sales in the watersheds. Government mandates clean water act for clean, potable drinking water. Bill Hughes (BCTS) says there will be just one block, but other foresters say there could be two or three more in the future.

Paul noted that BCTS has a Forest Development Plan review period and asks for public feedback. District Manager is required to reply to all concerns and comments from the public. Suggest talking to Kerry Davies, local BC Timber Sales at the Duncan Street office. Member suggested that making an appointment with Kerry Davies would be the best plan. Staff for BCTS are mostly based in Campbell River.

Question –What do you have to support opinion that logging would have a negative impact in that block?

Answer – We have personal opinions from drinking water office for ministry of health, and opinion of forest consultant – both have written letters to BCTS.

Member noted that a block near Lang Creek was logged one and a half years ago – since then the creek has become silty. Water has to be run through a sand filter because of Glacial till. Could water from Haslam Lake be affected?

Legislation is very vague. Lower mainland salmon run has been threatened where building has happened within 15 feet of streams. CAG supports logging, but we don't want to have to import water!

Member suggested that CAG should write a letter to BCTS.

Member suggested using the "freedom of information act" to obtain copies of information pertaining to the watershed.

Question – When hydrologists are consulted, don't they consider glacial till?

Answer – Yes – Jefferd Creek is a high-risk area for sedimentation.

Paul noted that professionals have a code of ethics, and we should accept the experts' advice and opinions.

Member noted that there are lots of other watersheds that could be affected.

**Louise noted that an investigator for Environment Canada lives in the area, and is aware of the community concerns. Louise thanked members for the input, and noted that the Peak newspaper would also publish concerns.**

**Question – How will BCTS respond to community concerns?**

**Answer – Chair noted that CAG would deal with this subject at subsequent meetings. CAG would like to get information from the drinking water officer and other pertinent information.**

**ACTION – Obtain information from drinking water officer and others regarding Jefferd Creek watershed proposal.**

### **Field Trip**

**. Brian d'Anjou is confirmed for field trip in January 2005.**

### **Future Meetings**

Rod Bealing – the Private Forest Land Act contact person will be available to give an overview of new regulations.

Michel deBellefeuille is still working on CSA 2002 standards.

Terms of Reference need a review/re-write before March 2005.

Sharon from EBM (Ecosystem Based Management that has been in effect in Phillips Arm since April 2004) has agreed to speak to CAG.

### **Business Cards**

**Members needing new business cards should let the secretary know and they will be supplied.**

### **Next meetings**

**Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 2004**

**Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 2004**

**Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 2004**

**Possible conference in Courtenay – Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 2004**

### **Action List**

**Members were asked to review action list and complete actions – Replies  
be e-mail requested.**

**Meeting adjourned 8:55pm**

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<b>Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group</b>		
<b>October 27th 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>Joanne Cameron-Nordell</b>	Primary	Local Business
<b>Jack McClinchey</b>	Primary	Motorized Recreation
<b>Tony Smith</b>	Primary	Education
<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>10 Seats represented</b>		

<b>ABSENT</b>		
<b>Ken Jackson - Vice-Chair</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Erika Hein</b>	Primary	Youth
<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
<b>Dianne Mason</b>	Alternate	Education
<b>Bill Maitland</b>	Alternate	Contractors
<b>Kevin McKamey</b>	Alternate	Contractors
<b>Guests</b>	Mayor of Sechelt	
<b>Cam Reid</b>	Forest Consultant	
<b>Brian Smart</b>	Director of Planning – Sechelt	
<b>Ray Parfitt</b>	Manager – Stillwater Water District	
<b>Louise Fleming</b>		
<b>Resource – others</b>		
<b>Paul Kutz</b>	Stillwater	Weyerhaeuser

<b>Cathy Bartfai</b>	Facilitator	
<b>Pam Dowding</b>	Secretary	