

**CSA Community Advisory Group
To Island Timberlands
April 9, 2008
Minutes
Town Centre Hotel**

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:00pm: Meeting called to order
Quorum noted

Safety Review

Facilitator noted fire exits and first aid attendants in case of emergency. Meeting place in case of emergency was noted.

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct for Community Advisory Group was reviewed

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed.

- Letter to PRPAWS
- Email between Chair and Monty Tyrwhit from PRPAWS regarding logging at Myrtle Creek
- Email between David Moore from Friends of Eagle River and facilitator regarding website and contact information.
- Email between David Moore and Chair regarding agenda time for two Friends of Eagle River members to speak.
- Email from Chair inviting Esther Dyck to speak at this meeting
- Emails to Sliammon and Sechelt First Nations

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted as amended

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes from Western Forest Products March 12th meeting were reviewed and accepted

Welcome and introductions

Chair welcomed everyone and introduced Esther Dyck, who wished to voice concerns regarding logging near Myrtle Creek. Members introduced themselves to Esther.

Esther Dyck – Myrtle Creek

Esther read the following email to CAG members: Myrtle Creek's wild coho fish habitat has spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply and migration areas on which the fish depend directly in order to carry out their life processes. The salmon are a major source of food for the animals like bears, cougars, elk, and deer as well as eagles and insects that live in Myrtle Creek's canopy and

wetlands. To ensure a future for these fish, and the species that rely on them for their survival, this habitat must be protected. I have monitored Myrtle Creek's wild diverse coho salmon for 10 years. Myrtle Creek is a full indicator creek which means the data collected is to track the numbers ocean and fresh water survival of wild coho. I also measure and record the water temperature and water level daily. Data is collected and recorded on all other fish species in Myrtle Creek like cutthroat trout, ocean going and resident. Two species of sculpins (Latin names are *Asper* and *Aleuagus*), rainbow trout and lamprey eels and a run of wild chum salmon. In 2003, I inserted radio tags in the stomach of 60 coho. I tracked the adults 12 to 14 kilometres with a receiver and GPS readings upstream. Each coho had its own code number and name. The majority of coho spawned in the creek where the West Lake tributary meets Myrtle Creek.

Looking at the map of lot 1649 which is owned by Island Timberlands scares the hell out of me. The logging you have proposed could wipe out this diverse wild coho run and displace the wild animals who live there. There is a large piece of wetlands in this same area which holds the insects and other life which are a major food

source to the Coho. To disturb this wetland ecosystem could wipe out not only this diverse wild coho run but many other species and cause irreversible damage to this environment. When native vegetation, brush and trees are removed from the creek's banks this creates erosion and allows sediment to enter the creek. Silt suffocates all fish life. After about a year the silt hardens like cement to where fish can no longer spawn.

Once the canopy along creek's banks is removed the water temperature will rise. This is a death sentence for most fish species. Last May was the first time I measured the water temperature in Myrtle at 15°C normally measures 12°C at peak. At 15 °C the coho smolt's flesh was soft and easily suffered scale loss. Ocean survival then would be

almost impossible. In 2006, silt poured into Myrtle Creek thick as molasses. The silt source was flowing from a residential development near Myrtle Creek. The silt covered everything in its path from the Hwy to about 1 km out from the mouth of Myrtle Creek. Two chum spawning beds were covered in blanket of thick silt. I organized and volunteered to restore this Chum habitat. This was a major undertaking. We by hand loaded 8 trucks loads of shot rock that was needed to create two new pools. All life was removed by pole seine. All water was drained and dammed with the use of flexi pipe. With the help of many volunteers we removed the silt and more by shovel. Timing was crucial. The gravel was delivered and shoved by hand into the two pools. This project was a great success. The design of the new spawning Chum pools was used in some creeks on Vancouver Island. This past fall the first storm on November 11, 2007 left silt that normally is water, measured at 40cm at the water staff gauge the silt measured 40 cm. The storm was so severe I could not track the source of this silt.

Esther passed around photos of Myrtle Creek before and after the storm.

Makenzie: What do you think, Esther, would a reasonable buffer be to protect temperature and habitat based on your experience?

Esther said even if Island Timberlands logs within the parameters of existing legislation, the buffer would not be enough to preserve Myrtle Creek's diverse wild coho. The reason is the government for the last seven or eight years has enacted to favour corporate interest rather than fish habitat and environment.

Makenzie said legislation is 15m depending on the size of the creek. They have their own stream riparian policy that is over and above their legal requirements by quite a bit. She doesn't know what Myrtle Creek is classed as, and Wayne could talk about that, but generally IT's riparian standards exceed legal requirements on private land. They've developed that standard with the biologists and hydrologists that work with them to come up with what a reasonable width is based on stream classification.

Wayne said he knows the work that goes into stream restoration as he's been involved in a lot of it on the coast and Vancouver Island on behalf of MacMillan Bloedel, Weyerhaeuser, First Nations, FRBC, and FIA. He knows the dedication and work it takes to get these things up and running and that they are a lot of work.

Wayne presented a map of Myrtle Creek to assist with discussion.

Esther said there are some wetlands where the tributary meets Myrtle Creek.

Wayne pointed out that only about 500m of Myrtle Creek runs through Island Timberlands property. It is a small portion of the entire length of the creek.

Esther said except that it is a very wet area.

Wayne displays the cutblock and shows that there are plans to harvest on only one side of the creek and the buffer is 25m.

Esther expressed concern for the wetland.

Wayne and Makenzie are not sure that their cutblock includes the wetland that Esther is concerned about.

Wayne pointed out the retention areas on his map. These add up to 27% retention. One area is marked as needing to be cut during the summer due to sensitive soil conditions.

Question: Are you planning any pruning along the riparian area for windthrow?

No.

Question: Do you think there will be any windthrow?

I sure hope not. It's down in a bit of a depression and I didn't see any evidence of windthrow. There is some level of root rot. There are no guarantees.

Minutes

I know fisheries enhancement is a big thing in every community. I just wanted to point out what a small percentage of the stream is actually on our property. There's a residential development down below.

Esther: That bothers me as well. That's where I had a problem with the silt.

Makenzie: As far as the 6% of that is on our property – do you feel any better?

Esther: Expresses her continued concern based on what happened to the entrance to the canoe route.

Makenzie: Have you been there since we did our clean up?

Esther: I've only seen photos of Horseshoe River, but it is disastrous. You don't have a very good reputation here in Powell River.

Makenzie: All we can really do is present what we plan to do at Myrtle Creek. We can't erase how people feel about our past activity. There are stories to explain what happened at other sites. Right now we are asking the community if what we plan for Myrtle Creek is reasonable.

Esther: I'll worry until I see it.

Comment: The wetlands are more prone to windthrow.

That is why we moved the buffer out as far as we have. It's standing there by itself as all of the land around it has been cleared in the past and it hasn't fallen down yet.

ACTION: Wayne French to organize walking Myrtle Creek with Esther Dyck before it is to be logged to assure the buffer is sufficient.

Question: You have had problems in other areas with blowdown. You know windfirming works. Why don't you want to spend the money on Myrtle Creek when you know it is a sensitive area?

Windfirming works. I didn't see a lot of evidence of windthrow.

Comment: That's because your block isn't down yet.

It has been logged all the way around the block. It's farms all around it and there hasn't been any blowdown. We just had one of the worst storms ever and they didn't come down.

Comment: That may be the way of the future.

That's why I said there are no guarantees with windthrow.

Question: do you know when you'll be logging Myrtle Creek?

July, August, or September of this year. If we had a really dry spell in June it could happen then.

Question: Could you let us know when more accurately closer to the event? Perhaps a week in advance?

If I know that far ahead.

ACTION: Wayne to let CAG know when Myrtle Creek will be logged with as much notice as possible.

Question: Have you been having any other activities in the community to allay the concerns regarding this cutblock?

We've been talking to people at the trailer park and we will notify them before we start.

Question: A lot of people in the Valley are on wells. Have you thought about addressing any problems caused by your activity?

We checked water licenses to find out who had licenses on Myrtle Creek and nobody uses it for domestic use.

Comment: I'm talking about the water table being affected by removing cover near the stream. The wells are downstream.

If you look at the maps you will see that we are not removing any cover near the stream.

Makenzie said that she called Esther to find out if there are any opportunities to do salmon enhancement on Island Timberlands property. IT has money to use for salmon enhancement.

Comment: Perhaps Wayne could discuss further with Esther on their walkabout.

Horseshoe River

Wayne displayed photos of Horseshoe River trail showing the blow down from severe storms. Showed pruning. Pointed out that trees were blown out into the cutblock. The wind did not come through the cutblock, but out into it. Wayne explained that this proved that many of the trees would have blown down even if there hadn't been logging. Wayne also displayed photos during and following cleanup. Shows rebuilt canoe rest and other work completed by IT.

Comment: Severe storms are a good excuse for now, but a few years down the road that explanation will not cut it.

Comment: Can you work together with the other organization to make sure this

doesn't happen again.

Makenzie said they could.

Comment: Being proactive could do wonders for your reputation in this community.

Makenzie said that IT does not risk manage for windthrow of catastrophic events. They risk manage for windthrow that is endemic. Pruning works, but it is expensive. The business would not be able to make any money if they risk managed for catastrophic windthrow as these winds are not only extremely strong, but they come from every direction. If we risked managed for catastrophic windthrow we would have to prune everything.

In order to base our planning climate change we need the science. The science cannot be based on the information from one catastrophic event and talk of global warming.

Wayne said that IT spent over ten thousand dollars at Horseshoe on pruning and it worked. Those trees didn't come down. The wind came from another direction and took other trees down.

Question: Other licensees are pruning and paying their stumpage. IT doesn't pay stumpage, so why can't you afford to prune?

Crown licensees they get their pruning paid for them as a stumpage allowance. Their stumpage is deducted dollar for dollar for pruning (sometimes more). We have to pay for the land and pay taxes plus any additional management costs such as pruning. That is our stumpage. Our pruning comes directly out of our pocket and still we did twenty thousand dollars worth of pruning on Lois main this year.

Question: Are you going to do any pruning on Duck main?

I don't know. Maybe that is one of the areas we are going to talk about tonight.

Makenzie asked how IT can get the word out that they are doing good work like cleaning up Horseshoe Creek trail. She has a vision of going out in the community and telling people what they are doing, but their community meetings are confrontational.

Comment: A starting point would be sending a non confidential memo to CAG with an action plan to discuss openly plans to work with other licensee holders.

Comment: A public display in the mall might be a good idea. Signage that explains what happened at each end of the trail may also help.

Comment: Another thing that might help is field trips showing all the good things that you are trying to do.

The group decided to invite David Moore and Mary Lou to talk about Eagle River and Stillwater bluffs to speak at the June CAG meeting with Island Timberlands.

Question: How important is certification? It's a pretty big task and maybe never getting anywhere.

Right now about 80% of our customer base is asking us to have certification. They don't specify what kind of certification. Our SFI certification that we already have meets that requirement.

Question: Then why are you going after CSA certification?

Partly because it was a requirement of the removal letter. Although the letter says CSA or ISO which we already have. I personally think that the CAG component of the CSA certification process provides the most benefit to our business. We benefit from this forum. It works great for us in Port Alberni and Campbell River. It is a good process.

Question: Do you have this much opposition in other communities?

Not to this degree.

Question: Is that because you are not right inside the community.

Yes. The blocks are all pretty close to town.

Another thing about logging close to town. When Weyerhaeuser owned this land they had other land and they avoided the areas near town. Island Timberlands' land is all near town, they don't have anywhere else to go.

Issue Alerts and Issue Notes

Makenzie displays examples of Issue Alerts. These documents are created when someone recognizes that an area is going to be a contentious issue. The area and its issues are identified. Background is provided. It is given a timeline and a risk rating. Options are provided. An execution strategy, communication strategy, and key messages are identified. This document is distributed to senior management for their meetings.

Issue Notes are abbreviated versions of Issue Alerts and they go out to the production and planning people.

Question: Do you have any blocks coming before our June meeting?

IT started one block today.

Question: Where?

Windthrow at Haslam.

Operational Update

IT started falling up at Fiddlehead a couple of weeks ago. They will be hauling shortly. They put up trail closure signs on the SCT and talked to Eagle Walz. They started the Haslam windthrow block today.

Question: Is there any more we need to say to Eagle or have you taken care of that?

Wayne thinks he has taken care of it.

Question: Is Fiddlehead wood going to go in the lake or on the road?

Wayne doesn't know yet.

Question: Any more blocks before June?

Maybe one on Dixon. Probably not Loubert.

Question: How much longer at Fiddlehead?

Probably another month.

Question: Can we talk about Loubert in June?

Sure, but IT can't guarantee they won't be in there before then.

Makenzie will add it to the Issue Notes that if they are going to log any hot spot blocks they will notify the CAG.

Makenzie asks for a list of hot spot blocks.

Hot spot blocks are: Myrtle, Loubert, Haslam, district block 3040 Stillwater bluffs and Eagle River, Dixon Road, lot 450, Duck Lake block.

Election

Jane Cameron – nominated and elected as Chair

Ken Jackson – nominated and elected as 1st Vice

Dave Hodgins – nominated and elected as 2nd Vice

Other Business

At the end of May the Regional District succeeded in getting a meeting with the Minister of Mines and Energy, BC Transmission Company, and BC Hydro regarding transmission lines. The idea is not to stop IPPs, but to get some sanity into the issue. They have 45 minutes to make a presentation. They are going with Sunshine Coast Regional District, Mount Waddington, Comox Valley, and Strathcona.

Comment: I was told by a Kiewit representative that PPC is possibly planning on

twinning their line.

That is what is worrisome. The theory is that it will be exactly parallel, but that is unlikely to happen. A former BC Hydro employee said that double circuiting the existing line would give almost the same power as twinning.

Hawkeye is now double staking PPC's applications for tenures because PPC was double staking Hawkeye's sites for turbines.

Next CAG meeting – April 23rd with PPC

Next WFP meeting – May 14th, 2008

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 pm

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group
Western Forest Products
April 9th, 2007
Attendance**

Name	Position	Member Seat
PRESENT		
Jane Cameron – Chair	Primary	Member at large
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Local Business
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
Ken Jackson	Primary	Recreation
Barry Miller	Primary	Environment
Colin Palmer	Primary	Local Governments
Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Nancy Hollmann	Alternate	Tourism
Ron Fuller	Alternate	DFA Worker
Wayne Borgfjord	Primary	Forest Dependent
Doug Fuller	Primary	DFA Worker
Ted Byng	Alternate	Local Governments
Dave Hodgins	Alternate	Recreation
6 Seats represented		
ABSENT MEMBERS		
George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Dave Rees	Primary	Tourism
Mark Hassett	Primary	Local Business
Kathy Kirk	Alternate	Member at Large
PRESENT		
Resource – others		
Makenzie Leine	Island Timberlands	
Wayne French	Island Timberlands	
Esther Dyck		
Valerie Thompson	Secretary/Facilitator	