

**CSA Community Advisory Group
To Island Timberlands
June 11, 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.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair welcomed everyone and introduced guest Glynnis Horel, Geotechnical Engineer who will speak to us about stream channel types. Members introduced themselves to Glynnis.

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct for Community Advisory Group was reviewed

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted as amended

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes from Western Forest Products May 14th meeting were reviewed and accepted

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed.

- Letter to PRPAWS
- Emails between Chair and Monty Tyrwhit-Drake from PRPAWS regarding logging at Myrtle Creek
- Emails between David Moore from PRPAWS and facilitator and Chair
- Email between Chair and Esther Dyck
- Emails to Sliammon and Sechelt First Nations
- Letter from Darshan Sihota to Nicholas Simon

Action Item List

Action # 1: Ongoing request for water management and measurables –Done as of this evening with Glynnis Horel’s presentation.

Action # 2 – 6: All regarding indicators – ongoing

Action # 7: Organize walking Myrtle Creek with Esther Dyck before it is to be logged to assure the buffer is sufficient. – Done

Action # 8: Let CAG know when Myrtle Creek will be logged with as much notice as possible. - Done

OIM Update

Engineering Active

891252 – Stillwater Main 4.5 mile (2009).
894156 – Stillwater Main 9 mile (2009).
984408 – Fiddlehead (2010).
793417 – Lois .5 km. (2010).
Thors Cove (2010).
Cortes Island (2009 and 2010).

Road Construction Active

894157 – Tin Hat.
894355 - Spur 18.
884103 – Duck Lake.

Road Construction Planned Next in 2008

892350 – ST654
891252 – Stillwater Main 4.5 mile (2009).
894156 – Stillwater Main 9 mile (2009).
2 cutblocks in Sechelt.

Logging Active

794150 – Loubert Rd.
093522 – Shermans heli.
291450 – Jim Brown.
Fiddlehead

Logging Planned Next

882350 – Myrtle Creek
4 cutblocks in Sechelt.
793411 – Dixon Road
973406 and 973407 – Okeover.
894158 – ST911

We are going to start the Okeover block tomorrow.

Question: Are you going to contact the adjacent landowner before you cut?

Plus or minus an hour. We've tried numerous times to get together with him and I'll be meeting with him tomorrow morning.

Question: Have you finished logging at Fiddlehead?

We will be in a couple weeks.

Question: When are you going in again on this other block

In 2010. We try to do our engineering two years ahead. It doesn't always work

out that way, but ultimately that's what we try to do. We might to build the roads next year.

Question: Where exactly is it in Fiddlehead?

South west right beside the block we are working on now.

Question: Is there any new activity in blocks adjacent to the SCT?

No.

Company Update

Corporate

We celebrated our third birthday on June 5th. We are creating a new website and it will hopefully be ready this summer.

Safety

We started testing a new piece of hardware called SPOT. It should be a good thing for people working alone. It is a GPS unit with just one button. Every hour you hit the button and it sends an email to a list set up on your computer that says you are okay and pinpoints your exact location. If you have a problem you can press the button twice or hold it longer and it will come up as an emergency situation. It is being tested with some people and so far it looks good.

The company is helping employees buy emergency preparedness kits for home as well as for work and they are also having earthquake awareness day.

Certification

Annual SFI reporting on 13 objectives completed. IT has a SFI and an EMS surveillance audit in September. They are working on a huge EMS streamlining project. IT inherited an EMS system from Weyerhaeuser and because they don't have the same business structure as Weyerhaeuser they made amendments to it to make it work. They have now dissected it and found all of the holes and redundancies, followed up on all of their internal and external audit findings, made sure they were meeting standards, and applied them to a new EMS system. From this they created a weatherproof field guide in the form of a flip card that has all of the EMS information. Operators will keep it with them and will be tested on the information annually.

Environment

IT planted 134,000 seedlings in the Powell River area this spring. Another planting is planned for the fall.

There is a section on the new flip card that covers watershed awareness.

Community

IT is working on SCT relocation with Eagle Walz. There is a lot of paperwork that needs to be done. It is being relocated onto crown land.

Question: Which block?

Fiddlehead area.

Comment: Which has been the plan for a number of years.

Wayne said yes. It was approved in 2005. Things have changed since then, so we are just making sure that the approval is still okay.

Question: What does WFP think of that?

Wayne said it's up to the government to deal with the licensing. It is not up to WFP, it's up to the government.

We are hoping to take one trip up to the area with equipment, relocate, and clean up the trail.

Question: When you say relocate do you mean that IT is going to build the trail?

If it is feasible.

Wayne said they will help out. He's not anticipating that it will be a machine type of job. Trails are usually one or two metres wide. Logging equipment isn't good at building things one or two metres wide.

All of the canoe rests at Horseshoe river have now been repaired. Wayne had a contractor come in and do the work.

Makenzie and Wayne gave Laura Walz the same presentation that CAG was given at their last meeting about Horseshoe lake. They also walked the Myrtle Creek block with her.

Makenzie is on the IT donations committee and they have given Powell River Kings Hockey and Powell River General Hospital Foundation donations so far.

Question: I heard something about your company reviewing all of it's operations and doing a strategic plan. Is that internal and something that we will never get to hear about?

Makenzie said she doesn't know what the output of that would be because it isn't her group, it's the properties group, but what they are doing is very interesting and proactive. They are still working on it and it is supposed to be done by the end of this year. In the past the landowners would not have necessarily strategically utilized the land. Our properties group is now looking at every square inch of land and is analyzing what to do with it and how they are going to manage it. There is more than one way to manage land for forestry. The land may be used for recreation, community development, protected as park. IT isn't interested in hacking off large tracks of land and selling it to keep profit margins high. They are using a strategic long term approach. Three to five percent of IT's land is urban interface and it is becoming more and more difficult for them

to log due to safety issues and the nuisance factor for neighbours. In thirty years the pressure from urban development will be even greater and the three to five percent that falls into the urban interface category needs to be closely looked at. So, the property group is using a methodical approach to how the company is managing their land. Growing and harvesting of trees is still IT's core business.

Comment: We started the official review of the southern region community plan. We just got the first background report. The community is going to get involved in it. It might take a year or two, but you have lands within that area so I would encourage you to be aware of that and if you have any input about your lands you should tell your property people about it.

I know he does get involved, so I'm surprised he isn't already.

Comment: Don't be surprised. We just started this week.

Oh, it's really new.

Comment: It started a year ago, but we finally got the consultants to give us the first background report. Things are going to start happening now.

Makenzie asked how does everyone feel about development? I know our competitors have been in the media about development and people are wondering about the fate of land after we log it.

Comment: I often wonder what you are going to do with the two pieces of land that you own bordering on my land. I wish I could buy one of them as it is total riparian zone. I don't know what you are going to be able to do there, because it really is just water. I believe that if you get involved with the community plan it will be beneficial to you because of all of the little weird pieces that you own here and there.

Yes, we do have lots of little pieces. We own pieces of property that have higher ecological value than it has timber value. That is why they are looking at all of our land base. We are paying taxes on that land. We won't necessarily sell it, but are we getting the most out of it.

Question: I wonder how much of your land, if any, is under a managed tree farm status where there is a reprieve from taxes provided that the land is put back to production of timber. I've seen circumstances where this happened and then twenty five or thirty years down the road the owners decided to sell the land. The trees were cut down when they had thirty years growth and they were just entering the steepest of an exponential curve of growth. They had a tax break for fifteen or twenty years and I read nothing about the company having to pay back the taxes.

Makenzie said she doesn't know what the percentage is, but a significant majority of our land is in managed forest status, which is the ALR of forestry. There is a break on taxes on that land and the break is rationalized by the fact that the land

doesn't require septic service, it doesn't have children on it that will be using the school system, and it doesn't burden the health care system. It is a different kind of land ownership. The way that the taxation system works is; we pay taxes on the land every year whether we log it or not and when we do log it we pay another tax based on the value of the timber we log. When, or if, that land goes for a different type of use like sold for development, we have to pay an exit fee out of the managed forest program. The answer I don't have for you, which is critical, is what the differential is between the exit fee and what we would have paid for taxes on development land.

Question: If you wanted to do something other than grow timber with the land you would have to make an application to the provincial government?

Yes, we also have to go through the regional district or local government.

Comment: It is more rigorous than I thought it was. Thank you.

Comment: It is very heartening to hear that a corporation is looking ahead sixty years and stand by it and publicly say that they are doing this. In my experience there hasn't been much evidence of this kind of thing in the past.

Makenzie said it hasn't worked for us in the past. Selling land to the Nature's Trust hasn't worked out in our favour. Everybody forgets that we gave up that land for a bargain basement price.

Question: You mentioned the percentage of IT's total land base that is urban interface. What about Powell River's land base? What percentage is interface?

Wayne said it is definitely not the cross section of our entire land base. It is very different. It might be approximately five to ten percent. At least double the company average.

Question: Is there any movement on Millennium Park?

Wayne said people are working on it.

Question: Is the ten percent earmarked to let go?

Makenzie said earmarked to let go is probably a little strong. Earmarked to look at is probably more accurate. I have always been a bit of a preservationist of the working forest. With my job I do understand the impracticality and safety issues of logging when you are hemmed in by development on three or even four sides, but found myself explaining development apologetically to communities. Recently I learned some new things about development that have made me think a little differently about development. There is very rarely an opportunity for a regional district or community to work with a single large land owner to look at the smart growth principle. Usually cities are growing in ten acre parcels and you can't look at road systems, sewer systems, infrastructure such as schools, recreation centres, parks, and hospitals when you are dealing with a developer

that has forty lots because they don't have much to spare. With a larger land owner there is a real opportunity for smart growth. We are working on a project in Mill Bay which is literally hemmed in on all sides. The community is using this as an opportunity to look at how they want their community to grow.

Question: Who actually owns Island Timberlands?

Makenzie said Island Timberlands is half owned by Brookfield Asset Management and half owned by two institutional partners who wish to remain unknown. I don't know who they are. It is by the investor's request.

Comment: It takes a long time to grow a tree and sometimes what was planned sixty or eight years ago doesn't make sense any more.

Question: Is IT selling any land right now (in Powell River)?

Makenzie said she didn't think so. The only development I know about is the one I described in Mill Bay and we aren't selling anything there yet. We are just working with the community.

IT would consider buying some more productive forestry land.

Question: Can you tell us what the markets for hemlock are like now?

Wayne said it is really bad right now. It is better just to let it keep standing and growing, because the market will turn around. There are specific markets for certain grades out there.

Question: Does that change your falling plans?

Wayne said it could do. Most of the blocks around here are heavily fir. We are engineering a hemlock block right now and we may have to put off logging it, but the market may turn around by 2010 when it is planned to be logged.

Wayne said he and Makenzie had a really positive meeting with Laura Walz this afternoon. We went over some photos of Horseshoe River and walked down to Myrtle Creek with her. I felt it was very positive.

Comment: I'm glad you did that because that was one of our suggestions.

Makenzie said they told Laura that they weren't trying to persuade anyone to like them. If there is misinformation out there they would just like an opportunity to get the facts straight.

Three members of the public joined the meeting at this time.

Glynnis Horel, Geotechnical Engineer
Find Streams PowerPoint presentation attached.

Question: The regional board is being required by the provincial government to impose riparian regulations on private land owners for development. That doesn't include tree farm licenses or agricultural land. The perception is that the private tree farm licensees riparian regulations are less restrictive as the others. The public are therefore suggesting that private tree farm land act companies are getting away with forestry practices that they shouldn't be. Do you have a response to that perception?

Glynnis said that the best response to that is to look at performance audits on the actual land. Audits are done for environmental certification. The bottom line is the condition of the streams. The performance audits on the condition of the streams would be the best place to find out how well these streams are being cared for.

Question: where are these stream audits found?

Makenzie said that they are audited annually by the private managed forest land council and also on a complaint basis. They also do annual inspections which aren't full audits, but an inspection. They also have annual audits by the organization that gives them their forest management certifications.

Question: Are the stream audits published?

SFI posts our audits. You can go on their website sfiprogram.org to see the audits, but there isn't a lot of detail on it. The private managed forest land council posts investigations online.

Makenzie said IT is not saying that the private managed forest land act regulations are bad by doing this process. It is recognizing that the act is designed for people that are managing and own from 10 hectares to 300,000 hectares. Rigorous application of riparian setbacks on a 10 hectare parcel doesn't have the same cumulative impact as it does on a 258,000 hectare owner like us. As a company we decided that we recognize that as an organization we can have more of an impact on the land base. We are not saying the regulations are bad. We are just saying we are bigger, we can have more of an impact on the land base, so we should go with something that is a little more rigorous.

Glynnis said that the rational is if you get it wrong and you own a big part of a stream, you are going to make more of an impact than if you own 10 hectares and get it wrong.

Comment: I just want to know where to send the public if they come to me and say that something is wrong. I want to be able to say you can find these audits at this location.

Makenzie said the Private Managed Forest Land Council audits to the regulations. If your riparian standards meet the legal requirement whether you are a 10 hectare owner or a 300,000 hectare owner you will not have an audit finding (or non compliance issue).

Glynnis said what they do say is whether you meet or exceed them.

Question: Do you have a definition of alluvial?

Alluvial has different definitions. I define alluvial for this application as the stream has to have alluvial deposits and it has to have a flood plain. It has an identifiable channel migration zone and a least one bank in erodable deposits. Fisheries defines it differently and is inconsistent with its definitions. The geological definition means that it was formed by moving (fluvial) water.

Makenzie asked Glynnis to talk about changes she saw from the air when no matter what the width of the riparian was, the riparian started being forced.

Glynnis said that there has been an evolution in regulation around streams. In the mid eighties the coastal fish-forest guidelines were developed by DFO. They were complied with on a volunteer basis, but most of the major licensees complied. They established stands of trees similar to the private forest land regulations along streams. They required fringes to be left along streams. Prior to these regulations, not only was the riparian zone logged, there was cross stream yarding. Not only was all of the wood taken from around the streams but any commercial wood in the streams was removed and machines were working in the streams. There is a substantial difference in stream condition between pre- and post- coastal fish/forest guidelines. The big difference was keep people out of the streams. No more cross stream yarding. No more wood removed from the streams. Even if the fringes were partially lost from windthrow, those streams are still in substantially better condition than the streams that have been yarded across. They were very vulnerable to erosion and windthrow but they were still in much better condition. You do want something much more substantial than a skinny little fringe of trees, but even just that amount of protection was a considerable step in riparian protection.

Question: How do you come up with thirty or forty metres?

It is a function of stream width. The bigger the stream the more energy it has to erode, move sideways, and change itself. It is typically between one and three channel widths to some maximum where it doesn't further influence the stream, which is usually about one tree length out.

Comment: In the late seventies and early eighties I was working in forestry on the north end of Vancouver Island. I was working with CFP at the time. There was a clause requiring a buffer of deciduous trees along the streams. It was thought that the streams were being exposed to a lot of sun and the waters would warm up, and the streams weren't behaving properly so they left wider tracts of standing timber. It all fell down, so they started to feather the edges to slow down the impact of the wind hitting the edges of the riparian buffers. It worked to a degree. This was voluntary. It is very windy up there and they went back to leaving just the deciduous trees until the coastal fish/forest act came into effect.

Windthrow is a big issue on the Island, especially if the valley alignment is south easterly were the wind comes roaring straight up the valleys. Turn the valley around and there is far less wind. The struggle to come up with riparian areas that will withstand wind is still going on.

Comment: The areas that have been helicopter pruned south of town seem to be holding up well. Are you using any of that technology to firm up the riparian leave strips?

Wayne said they had Zenya Lewis do \$20,000 worth of pruning on the Lois block. They also used him on Horseshoe and will be using him on a couple of blocks that are coming up.

Glynnis said virtually every forest operation has a procedure for assessing windthrow hazard and coming up with prescriptions like Wayne has spoken about. Windthrow is like a designed flood. You pick a designed event and try to manage for it. You look at the strength of the prevailing winds and what edges are normally exposed and you design based on the best information you have about the most common conditions. What is hard to plan and design for is catastrophic events. Winds often come out of a different directions than you would design for. Windthrow is a real challenge and will become more so if the weather patterns change. You design for normal predicted conditions according to observed wind, prevailing wind direction, you look at the edges that experience the greatest amount of wind throw, what direction it has come from, how often it occurs and then you plan your edges and block configurations to manage for it.

David Moore and Nadja Hocking

Nadja Hocking said that she, David, and Esther Dyck are grateful for the opportunity to speak to CAG. She states for the record that Friends of Eagle River and Friends of the Stillwater Bluffs have had a one-on-one relationship with Island Timberlands for some time now. They have been kind enough to meet with Friends of Eagle River and there was a public meeting in 2006. They have had dialogue with Island Timberlands since then. They have a direct relationship with Island Timberlands and they appreciate the time IT has spent with them. They have come to the meeting representing the affected community of Eagle River and Stillwater Bluffs. They live in the area and believe they are the affected community. They have come to the meeting to keep CAG informed on what they are doing, to share and explain their concerns and they hope that the group can help them.

David Moore Said thanks for the opportunity to speak and that they have a lot of regard for the work that the group does as a community advisory committee and reads the following accompanied by a slide presentation of photos from the Eagle River and Stillwater bluff areas.

From: David Moore
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Tel: (604) 487- 1900 / E-mail: rmp@telus.net

Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group

Attention: June monthly meeting

Dear C.A. Group Members and representatives of Island Timberlands,

June 11, 2001

My name is David Moore and I'm a resident of the rural Powell River area. My home is on a wooded acreage near Lang Bay which is between Black Point and Stillwater. I've lived there with my wife for 37 years where we raised two children. I have recently retired after working in the social housing branch of the federal government and as a residential designer. I have been a nature lover all my life and enjoy all the natural beauty which surrounds us in Powell River. In recent years I, like many other local people, have become increasingly concerned with logging activity that has had an impact on some of our most valued natural landmarks. That concern is what brings me here tonight in an effort to promote the protection of some special local areas from irreversible loss.

With me is, Nadja Hocking, also a local resident whose home is on Palm Beach overlooking the Malaspina Strait near the mouth of the Eagle River. We are here tonight to speak about two specific sites which are within the Island Timberlands private managed forest holdings. The two sites are the Eagle River, also known as Lois River, and the coastal area known locally as Stillwater Bluffs. We feel it's important to inform the Community Advisory Group of the special nature of these sites, the high value that is placed by people from near and far on the preservation of these sites, and the particular qualities that make them environmentally sensitive areas. The best way to show this to you is with a ten minute slide show which I've prepared, but first I'll describe the areas more specifically so you'll know the context of the pictures. Following the slide show we will speak a bit more on the goals of protection and conservation of the Eagle River corridor and the Stillwater Bluffs. The Eagle River has a history of industrial impacts, but it remains a wild and beautiful place with easy access from Highway 101. This relatively short watercourse has several year-round features and benefits which attract local residents and visitors. The upstream source of the river is the outflow from the hydroelectric dam at Lois Lake. It flows downstream from the dam to where it enters the waters of Malaspina Strait between Palm Beach and the Stillwater Peninsula. Nearby is the power station where turbines generate electricity which goes to the Catalyst paper mill via the familiar 'pole line' transmission lines.

The glory of Eagle River is the dramatic geography it traverses on its rush to the sea. Over a couple kilometres it cascades over cliffs into misty pools of varying size and shape with hidden twists and turns linking them together. This is all sheltered and overhung with a mature mixed forest and lush understorey - a paradise for diverse wildlife and enchanted nature-lovers. Yes, people play a part in this because it is environments like this that influence why residents have initially settled here and want to remain here. And yes, there are countless wild rivers in B.C., but this one in particular is ours to marvel at because it is part of our settled area and accessible to most people by car, bicycle or foot. This fine zone of Coastal BC flora & fauna, boulders and waterfalls has remained undisturbed for decades. Formerly managed by MacMillan-Bloedel, then acquired by Weyerhaeuser, it is now largely within the Private Managed

Forest lands of Island Timberlands with sections also crossing through Crown land, private residential property and reserve lands of the Sechelt First Nation. This is shown on a map enclosed in the report folders handed out.

Also shown on the map is a shaded area on both sides of the river now referred to as the Eagle River Greenways Corridor. This was initially set out by the local group Friends of Eagle River and it has been embraced by the wider community of organizations, conservation groups and the public who would like to see it protected from logging or development and retained as a wild area. This would ensure protection of the terrestrial wildlife habitat, the wild salmon habitat, the forest and plant communities and the enjoyment of visitors. This area has been regarded and enjoyed as a virtual nature preserve for over fifty years, but now it is threatened by the hard reality of industrial logging. A campaign has built up over the last year to focus the efforts of conservation groups, volunteers, and our Powell River Regional District to acquire this corridor by negotiating with and compensating the owners fairly. We therefore wish to inform the Community Advisory Group of this public interest and also engage with the owners and managers of Island Timberlands and other land owners to negotiate agreements to that end.

A similar story can be told of the community interest and concern for the nearby area known as Stillwater Bluffs. It is a spectacular rocky headland overlooking the ocean with the backdrop of a dense coniferous forest. It is an environmentally sensitive area which is equally worthy of protection from development or industrial activity. We will speak in more detail after the slide show which will show photos first of the Eagle River followed by photos of the Stillwater Bluffs. The Stillwater Bluffs and the adjacent forest cover exist wholly in District Lot 3040 which is 118 acres in size. The bluffs contain fine examples of rare and unique plant communities along with spectacular views of the ocean and offshore islands. It is a place beloved by bird watchers, hikers, native plant enthusiasts, photography buffs, and recently the playground of the local and visiting rock climbing clubs. Like Eagle River, it has found a place in the hearts of local people and visitors, yet it is a very fragile ecosystem which cries out for protection of the sort that will preserve its wild characteristics while being accessible to the segment of the public who will respect it and cause as little disturbance as possible.

The province wide organization known as Botany BC held its annual conference in Powell River last month. A group of botanists visited the bluffs for several hours one afternoon and did a quick inventory of the identified plants. The list contains 10 species of native trees, 72 other vascular plants, and 72 species of mosses and lichens. A list of the 94 species of plants identified is included in the report folders. I think it is safe to say that this particular location with its south facing oceanfront is unique in what remains of the wild coastline south of Powell River in our District. It is a precious natural asset which deserves the attention it is now receiving from a multitude of conservation minded groups, individuals and organizations. We sincerely hope that it is not too late to inform the C. A. G. of this important community value and engage with Island Timberlands to discuss and negotiate an acquisition agreement for the sake of the wild ecosystem and the future generations of Powell River residents.

There is the groundwork being laid right now for the formation of a charitable trust that would be a registered society with the sole purpose of conservancy,

fundraising, and identification of areas like this. To hopefully partner with other groups and levels of government to come up with a scheme that would be able to acquire either one or both of these places for the benefit of Powell river into the future. An effort like that takes a lot of time and that is what we're hoping a presentation like this will influence both the advisor group and Island Timber lands to postpone or defer active logging in these areas until it is shown that there is a reasonable outcome of actual negotiating of fair compensation and acquisition of wild nature parks.

Nadja said that Eagle River is the only river on the Sunshine coast that runs under the highway. It is very wide and is an incredible wild river when the gates of the dam are opened and a quite and pristine place when they are closed. The Stillwater Bluffs are almost connected to the river and creates a corridor from the ocean right up the river for the wildlife. If we log this we will cause a lot of problems.

Nadja asks if IT has a herbicide management plan.

Wayne said they do.

Nadja said she knew that there had been deregulation and it is now easier to use herbicides. She said she knows that some companies prefer herbicides although many do manual brushing. She said 500 people signed individual letters to protect Eagle River and they don't want herbicides. If IT is planning to use herbicides she would like to know when and how it is going to be done and whether there are wells near by.

Wayne and Makenzie said there are regulations regarding herbicide use around streams and wells. He said they send out letters to anyone with adjacent property within 150 metres that they will be doing chemical brushing in the area. This is done to identify wells or water sources in the area that they may not be aware of. IT has a map of water sources and creeks. They have a thirty metre setback from all water sources. If they are close to wells they generally manual brush and do the chemical brushing further up.

Nadja said they would like to be part of that communication if possible.

Makenzie said another fellow takes care of their silviculture, but she believes the area is mostly salal and chemical herbicide is not used for salal. They usually only use the chemical herbicide on maple. They don't believe there will be much problem with maple in the area.

Nadja asked that IT provide Powell River groups scheduled access time out of an office in Powell River.

Makenzie asked how often.

Not full time.

Esther Dyck

Esther read the following presentation accompanied by a slide presentation.

At our previous meeting I gave you a scientific report on the importance of Myrtle Creek as a full indicator creek.

Since then I've surveyed the northern third of DL1649 with Dave Nanson, the DFO habitat officer for this region. I believe you've subsequently received his written report and advice on the effects of the planned logging. I believe you also received an excellent letter by David Moore environmental disaster in the making.

The vast majority of scientific opinion is warning us that we are in the midst of a devastating salmon crisis that stretches from California all the way up to Vancouver Island and beyond. You will be hearing further reports in the months to come that our entire west coast salmon stocks are on the verge of total collapse. The main reason for this, of course, is the ongoing destruction of their habitat. Without it they cannot survive.

From my own extensive experience in collecting data and studying fish habitat, I've learned the obvious need to leave wide strips of native plants and trees alongside of fish bearing streams.

In the case of a ravine like the one on DL1649's northern third, where the ground is water saturated to the crest of the ravine and beyond it is only common sense that the trees be left untouched well beyond the crest. All who have walked this area agree.

The area above the crest is soggy with standing ponds, skunk cabbage and mushy soil. You do not need to be a biologist to imagine the environmental mess and disaster that will follow if the northern third of DL1649 is logged on or to the edge of this ravine.

As you walk down to Myrtle Creek even on a dry day, you will see signs of running water and deep impressions where water runs to Myrtle Creek during rain because of the slope of the land.

Please refer to the map I have handed out to each of you. It is plain to see from the contour lines how the slope increases as you near Myrtle Creek. Once DL1649 is logged, all water, mud and silt will run towards and flow into Myrtle Creek.

During the rainy season last November, the downstream water level at highway 101 was at its highest level ever.

If the northern third of DL1649 is logged, it is entirely possible that this year's rainy season could actually take out highway 101 as the levels go even higher. What do you think will happen to the creek and the life she holds when this year's increased torrent tears up the creek's floor destroying the fish habitat and their food source?

We should not turn our face away from an impending disaster. Last November, at the DFO fence where I monitor the wild coho returns, the screens had to be pulled entirely. If we hadn't the raging water levels would've backed up and washed over highway 101 within a few hours and floured private property downstream of the fence. This ruined all chance of an accurate count of wild coho returning to Myrtle Creek. We now have to wait at least a year and possibly two in order to predict what number and the health of this cycle of returning coho was.

It would be easy to point the finger at climate change, developers and private property owners who have already violated Myrtle Creek up to now – all of whom, by the way, have held the belief that THEIR actions would not significantly damage the resource – but many wrongs do not make a right and there is no good reason, other than profit of course, to completely destroy this very important, beautiful little stream and the wild species she supports...which belongs to all of us. Private forest management regulation be damned! If DL1649 is logged to the crest of the ravine, the ensuing disaster will haunt us long after the monies been taken to the bank and counted. This money grab (for trees that they can hardly sell right now) will virtually assure the destruction of one of the last genetically diverse wild bearing streams in BC.

Before any logging begins, I would ask this committee to please have Island Timberlands contact the Ministry of Environment to give you a written assessment of the wet area above the ravine on DL1649.

If this logging goes ahead as planned regardless of our concerns, I would like to see the northern third of DL1649 left untouched for obvious reasons.

The area on DL1649 where the clear cutting is set to take place, only the more valuable trees should be taken by cherry picking. This forest of tall thin conifers should be left intact to protect the buffer along side of Myrtle Creek. In this way Island Timberlands would be better positioned to attain status.

I will be in the area of DL1649 assessing and surveying the creek in the summer months which means, I need the exact date of the start up of the logging in DL1649.

Comment: Nadja and David ought to know that BC Hydro is going to use chemical brushing on the hydro line where it crosses the river just above the bridge.

David said he was also notified and that it was going to be a Round-Up type of herbicide, which is a chemical mimic of a plant growth hormone that causes the trees to exceed their capacity to grow and the cells burst and the trees die.

Esther asked if BC Hydro was going to use the herbicide in all area and it was believed to be so.

Esther said she thought it was very worrying as they will be crisscrossing all the streams and fish habitats.

Wayne says they will have to follow the regulations regarding streams.

Esther said she has seen the regulations and some streams could be so small that they might be dry on the day the herbicides are applied and the next day it may rain and the stream will start to run again.

Comment: Before any logging takes place in the area that Esther is concerned about could Glynnis Horel have a look and make recommendations about the width of the riparian area for Myrtle Creek that has a wet portion to the north west as well as recommendations on wind firming? Also, on the north Island

when the winds are blowing 60 km or more the ground is saturated with water year round and when the standing trees start to move it is like tapping your foot on a sandy beach – it begins to liquefy and you will get whole tracts falling down. I think where you have saturated soils like I saw at the top of the hill by Myrtle Creek there would be a propensity for blowdown to occur.

Glynnis was there today.

Question: Did she make any recommendations?

No.

ACTION: Talk to Glynnis regarding recommendations for the Myrtle Creek area.

Makenzie said that they have a wind firming prescription for that area.

Wayne said he would be do some wind firming in that area based on Esther's concerns although he did not see any evidence of windthrow in the area.

Comment: We always go after these companies that are working within the confines of the law. We are voting in the people that are making the laws. Perhaps we should be looking at that.

Comment: The Stillwater Bluffs are beautiful and we often take visitors there. There isn't anywhere else like it in Powell River.

Question: What is a reasonable amount of time to come up with the money to purchase Stillwater Bluffs?

David Moore said that it is impossible to say, but there is a track record on the coast. There has conservancy on Lasquitti and Savary Islands in recent years. Generally a coalition of forces including the provincial and federal governments and fundraisers work together on conservancy programs.

Next CAG meeting - Sept. 10, 2008 WFP

Next IT meeting – Oct. 8, 2008

Meeting Adjourned 9:15 pm

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group
Island Timberlands
June 11th, 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
Mark Hassett	Primary	Local Business
Wayne Borgfjord	Primary	Forest Dependent
Doug Fuller	Primary	DFA Worker
Ted Byng	Alternate	Local Governments
Dave Rees	Primary	Tourism
9 Seats represented		
ABSENT MEMBERS		
George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Ron Fuller	Alternate	DFA Worker
Dave Hodgins	Alternate	Recreation
Kathy Kirk	Alternate	Member at Large
PRESENT		
Resource – others		
Makenzie Leine	Island Timberlands	
Wayne French	Island Timberlands	
Glynnis Horel	G.M. Horel Engineering Ltd	
Esther Dyck		
David Moore		
Nadja Hocking		
Valerie Thompson	Secretary/Facilitator	