

**CSA Community Advisory Group
To Western Forest Products
September 10, 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 Don Benn, Juan de Fuca Environmental Consultants and had members introduce themselves.

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct for Community Advisory Group was reviewed

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

- Letters to PRPAWS
- Kathy Kirk resignation
- Thank you letter to Kathy Kirk
- PPC emails regarding possible meeting dates
- Emails to Sliammon and Sechelt First Nations

OIM Review

Current Activities

Harvesting – EL-669, GL-636, PD-245, PD-246, PD-414, ST-262

Road Construction - GI-029, GI-032, GI-111, GI-113, ST-062, ST-256, ST-822

Engineering – EL-676, EL-678, EL-681, GL-044, GL-664, PD-421, PD-422, PD-458,
ST-308

What's New on the Map

New Blocks – EL-676, EL-678, EL-681, GL-044, GL-664, PD-421, PD-422, ST-308

New Roads – PD-421, PD-422, ST-308, Heli-Landing Rds (Stillwater Main)

Cutting Permit Approved Areas – None

Note: No new blocks or roads are identified adjacent to the Sunshine Coast Trail.

Map Updates

Logging Complete – PD-203, PD-248, PD-304SS, PD-411, ST-205

Road Construction Complete – ST-223, ST-229

Engineered Blocks – GI-113, PD-168, PD-197, PD-199, PD-280, ST-258

Engineered Roads –PD-168, TM-222

Company Updates and Other Business

Question: Can you tell us how far up the PPC line right of way has gone?

I'd say the majority of it is completed.

Question: Has WFP changed its plans about second growth and started looking more at old growth?

The market for old growth is better now and we will pick up what we can, but the reality is we only have a certain amount of old growth. The majority of our plan each year is second growth. Our wood basket here at Stillwater is mostly second growth fir which is usually a good species to have.

Question: I read an article last week that said the carbon value of old growth outweighs cutting it when we talk about carbon tax. Has the government ever indicated that they might give the licensee a break to keep old growth and help the province with its carbon?

When you look at Block 1 there are lots of reserves. Trees are tied up for perpetuity and are not available for harvesting. You would imagine this could have some economic value.

Question: Has the government ever indicated with the carbon exchange and the buying and selling of credit that a licensee could get some credit for leaving trees standing and maintaining particularly old growth?

Not that I'm aware of, but I wouldn't be surprised if something like were to occur in the future.

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Question: Isn't old growth seen to be a carbon producer with the decaying going on in it as opposed to new growth?

Comment: If it is sequestered in lumber it is a carbon sequester. It is a pretty interesting argument.

You can see it being talked about more and more. It may happen in the future.....

Comment: Surely a young growing forest sequesters more carbon than an old one.

I believe it holds a lot more carbon for the volume. Old growth forest's volume is actually decreasing. From a total timber supply point of view, to maximize volume, it makes the most sense to cut old growth first as the volume is decreasing while in second growth stands the volume is increasing.

Question: what is happening with all of the wood that Plutonic has been cutting?

We have been loading this wood out and more of it is in the plan for this fall and into next year.

ACTION: Stuart to provide volume figures from right of way to group.

Membership items include Kathy Kirk's resignation and Ted Byng passed away over the summer. Possible new member to replace Kathy could not make it to this meeting, but hopes to come next month.

ACTION: Stuart to contact city regarding new member to replace Ted.

Comment: New small business member is still considering coming.

Comment: Member representing Environment is unable to attend for some time due to a family emergency. Chair offered a period of leave rather than have member step down.

At the last meeting with the executive it was mentioned that the group was interested in water. Stuart indicated he would get in touch with Brian Carson – a hydrologist from the Sunshine Coast. The MoF has an initiative called FREP which monitors the implementation of FRPA to make sure that it is achieving the standards that government expects for things like water quality, biodiversity, and riparian. Brian has been tasked to investigate the water quality part of this initiative. In October they have field day coming up and if any CAG members would like to come along they are welcome to see how they monitor the water quality. Brian would also be happy to come to a meeting some evening.

CAG field trip could be September 19th to either go out on the lake in the crew boat to Fiddlehead or go up Stillwater and watch the helicopter. Helicopter watching was a slight favorite over trip to Fiddlehead with the group so if helicopter is there on September 19th group is invited to watch helicopter, if not there then a trip up to Fiddlehead in crew boat.

September 27th is WFP's public tour this year.

Question: would you like a CAG member to speak at lunch time?

Yes, if somebody is available.

Action List

One outstanding action item to be fulfilled with Don Benn's presentation

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes from Island Timberlands June 11th meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Guest Speaker: Don Benn, Juan de Fuca Environmental Consultants – Completed Visual Landscape Inventory for TFL 39, Block 1

See attached "Summary of Visual Landscape Inventory Stillwater Woodlands, 2005/06".

Don reviewed how the attached form "Visual Sensitivity Unit Classification Form – TFL #39, Block 1 – Stillwater Woodlands" was used to classify the visual sensitivity of polygons in the Stillwater Woodlands.

Question: How much of the checklist could be viewed as subjective? It seems that the further down the form you get the more subjective the observations recorded would be.

I think most items can be considered objectively. The category 'Viewer Rating' is actually looking for numbers of viewers as in most areas there are no accurate counts of viewers. We have to depend on people working in the woods to help estimate how many viewers there are in a given area. Most people that go through this process come up with about the same answers. The process of going through these details that are fairly objective gives a consistent output.

The final outcome of a Visual Sensitivity Class (VSC) determines how important a visual landscape is.

Government has had this inventory since it was completed two years ago. WFP has to use the old inventory until this one has gone through the government's GAR process.

Comment: We really relied on your VQO's to try, with limited success, to have the transmission lines rerouted to protect visual landscapes.

That would be difficult as transmission lines are permanent linear changes to the landscape.

Question: Did you say hydro had a similar program?

I don't know about now, but 20 years ago it did.

Question: Is the number of kayakers and hikers an estimate?

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Yes. Those figures are not readily available. We are using the numbers for comparisons of magnitudes.

We've broken the TFL into eleven viewing corridors.

Question: Does Freda include the lake and creek?

Yes.

There are some suggested changes from the previous inventory. Some of this is due to how inventories are done now. More weight is now given to use.

Comment: We've seen a large increase in use of the SCT from Lois Lake to Saltery Bay over the last two years. I don't know how you can keep the inventory up to date.

What kind of feedback do you get?

Comment: Canoe route people always comment on the noise of the trucks and the scenery as they are comparing it to the Bowron Lakes which are not in an active forest. We always have to explain that they should come back in five years and the trees will all be growing and beautiful.

Comment: Public use patterns have changed drastically in the last few years. Over 10,000 quads have been purchased over the last ten or eleven years in Powell River. We have 180 in our club. Many of those quads sit in peoples garages most of the year, but all the same, public use has increase greatly. On any given weekday there are between 100 and 200 quads out and that's just a fraction of the use. How often is the information being updated?

The forest service suggests every 5 to 10 years. This is rarely done. The licensees are the most efficient at doing the updates. There is a need to keeping things up to date. Features don't generally change. It's the use that changes. Use is accounted for in another audit that is done on a fairly regular basis.

Don shared the four albums of photos of the viewsapes with the group

Comment: The photos show 180 degrees. What about the other 180 degrees of that view?

That is a really good question. The MoF likes to use polygons with regard to viewsapes and they don't wish to change to scene based visual landscape management. Many people think it would make more sense to take in the whole view, but the government does not wish to change.

Question: Where do you draw the line – what if you were up in a plane?

You draw the line at not managing visual landscapes from the air or from the top of mountains. It would be virtually impossible to manage viewsapes from above.

Maps shown to group are summary of more detailed maps. All are available to view at

WFP office. Descriptors are used to identify viewsapes not numbers.

Question: How do the transmission lines affect your viewscape planning?

We plan as if they weren't there. They are permanent additions to the landscape, so there is nothing that we can do about them.

Review and Update of SFMP from 2008 Audit Recommendations

See attached list of indicators with proposed changes.

Indicator 2 – changes accepted by group.

Indicator 3 – changes accepted by group.

Question: Where are the hectares?

Some you legally have to. Mountain goat polygons were defined on the landscape for the pilot project. WFP asked MoE to add the mountain goat polygons that were on the pilot project permanently and they are very close to completing that process.

Question: What about the 3.3 hectares for coastal tailed frogs?

There are hectares upon hectares of habitat for coastal tailed frogs that will never be logged because these areas are in OGMA and goat habitat and areas that are far to steep to log. Legally we must also have the 3.3 hectares. One day the engineers were up on a side hill found a stream with coastal tailed frogs and set it aside.

Comment: What about the bullfrogs?

It is scary. Some ponds and lakes are just full of pollywogs.

Comment: There is a two year cycle for bullfrog pollywogs. No other frog has a two year cycle.

Last summer there was a research project on amphibians. Seasonally flooded areas can be more important than the lakes, because the lakes have predators like the bullfrogs. During layout some wetlands are preserved for amphibians. From the research we are using a wetland card to help identify the most important wetlands to assist us with locating retention patches.

Indicator 5 – changes accepted by group.

Question: Does the survey include alder?

All of the trees in the block are counted.

Indicator 7 – changes accepted by group.

Indicator 16 – most of the group prefers the original wording for this indicator. The

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group decided to take out the comment that CAG does not support herbicide use.

It is noted that the amount of use has decreased year after year. Group is warned that this is partly tied to where the logging is occurring. Higher altitudes have less brush and therefore needs less brushing.

Question: How is herbicide applied now?

It's applied with a backpack for salmon berry. It is injected into the bark of alder. If the alder is large enough it will be girdled. If you girdle it when it is too small in can break or if it is cut it off it will come up in coppices. It's best to stop the growth before they are too large otherwise the regenerating trees get tall and spindly.

Question: What about maple?

It's best with maple to cut all but one tree so that all of the energy goes into the single stem instead of creating coppices.

Question: Are you doing this? Where can we find it?

Yes. This is completed in riparian areas where herbicides aren't used.

Comment: I have a problem with the wording 'economically impractical'. Safety is really important and if non-herbicide methods are ineffective I guess herbicides may be used, but the corporation could decide at any point that it is economically impractical.

Members thought it would be interesting to include volume cut on the herbicide use table.

ACTION: Stuart to include volume cut on the herbicide use table for indicator 16.

Question: On all of the TFL land that you have given up for small business, BC Timber sales, and First Nations - are you still responsible to make that timber free to grow?

Yes.

Indicator 25 – Auditor questioned whether this was a useful indicator. Group decided to keep the indicator.

Indicator 46 - Auditor questioned whether this was a useful indicator. Group decided to drop the indicator for now.

WFP has been giving money every year to a research group regarding non-herbicide brushing. WFP was unable to fund the project this year.

Question: Are you still supporting research?

Yes. WFP is doing research all of the time. We just don't have the money for this project. We've funded this project for years and we still don't have a method that works.

We just couldn't justify that we were getting any return.

Indicator 47 - Auditor was impressed with the work done to include First Nations and felt it should be reflected in the indicator. Changes were accepted by group.

Indicator 48 – Auditor felt there should be a measurement based on the actual number of culturally modified trees found. Changes were accepted by group.

Plutonic – Future Projects and Transmission Line Updates (CAG update)

Plutonic is not putting Freda Creek into the hydro call this year. They have applied to ILMB for a two year development permit to look at the stability of the ground. They would still like to go ahead with the project. It will take up to 97% of the water out of Freda Creek and run it through a nine kilometre long penstock.

Our group has not made any official statement regarding how they feel about Freda. Do we want to make a statement, or wait...?

Group agreed that they should be proactive and send a statement to ILMB. Most group members don't support the project or the transmission line.

Some members would like to see the plan.

ACTION: Chair to distribute plan to members before decision is made regarding wording of statement.

Terms of Reference Review

If anyone wants any changes to be made to the Terms of Reference please bring them forward. The standard requires an annual review. Several changes were approved throughout the past 12 months.

Next CAG meeting – October 8th with IT

Next meeting with WFP – November 12th

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 pm

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group
Western Forest Products
September 10th, 2008
Attendance**

Name	Position	Member Seat
PRESENT		
Jane Cameron – Chair	Primary	Member at large
Ken Jackson	Primary	Recreation
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Local Business
Dave Rees	Primary	Tourism
Wayne Borgfjord	Primary	Forest Dependent
Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Nancy Hollmann	Alternate	Tourism
Mark Hassett	Primary	Local Business
Dave Hodgins	Alternate	Recreation
6 Seats represented		
ABSENT MEMBERS		
George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Ron Fuller	Alternate	DFA Worker
Colin Palmer	Primary	Local Governments
Doug Fuller	Primary	DFA Worker
Barry Miller	Primary	Environment
PRESENT		
Resource – others		
Don Benn	Juan de Fuca Environmental Consultants	
Patrick Brabazon	Local Governments	
Stuart Glen	WFP	
Valerie Thompson	Secretary/Facilitator	