

**CSA Community Advisory Group
To Island Timberlands
October 14, 2009
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 read to group.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair welcomed Brian Saunders and he introduced himself to the group. Brian is one of two silvicultural foresters working for Island Timberlands. His primary area of responsibility is the Southern half of IT's operation which includes the area including Qualicum south to the Malahat and over to Port Alberni. His supervisor, Kevin Ashfield, has the same responsibility for the Northern half of the operation. Their responsibility is to plan for how an area will be reforested before it is logged and then to make sure a new crop of trees starts growing on that logged area, and care for the trees until they are ready to harvest.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

- Emails inviting First Nations to meetings

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes from Western Forest Products September 9th meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Operational Information Update

Engineering Active

Cutblock

Final details on Sechelt, St Vincent,
Okeover-ongoing

Issues

Sunshine Coast Trail

Question: Is your Okeover block near the Sunshine Coast Trail?

Yes.

Question: Are you talking to them?

Not yet, but we will be.

Question: You mentioned that you will be taking some of the operation down to Sechelt. Can you give us your best projection as to what will be logged in this area this year compared to this year?

Roads planned for 2010 are for St. Vincent's Bay and Okeover. Logging will be finished in late spring and then the operation will move to Sechelt.

Road Construction active

Cutblock

5 Olsen cutblocks near completion

Thors Cove Nearby B&B, oyster farms, domestic water intake

Question: Do you take the viewscapes from the water into account at Thors Cove?

Yes.

Logging Active

Cutblock

884103 – Duck Lake. (completed)

Riparian revised to meet new ITLP matrix.

Trails.

883262 – Cemetery (completed)

Funeral services. Discussions with cemetery staff re: notification of services to stop operations.

883251 – Lot 450. (completed)

892350 – Goat Lake

894355 – Horseshoe Lake

Issues

Community Watershed.

Urban interface / public.

Urban interface / public.

Road Construction Planned Next

Cutblock (2010)

Issues

984408 – Fiddlehead Giovanni Lake Trail – to be re-established after harvesting.
St. Vincent
Sechelt
Okeover

Logging Planned Next

Cutblock

Issues

5 cutblocks in Olsens and Thors Cove.

Engineering Planned

Cutblock

Issues

Valentine Mountain.	Sunshine Coast Trail.
Valentine Park.	
Urban interface / public.	
Proposed Millennium Park.	Urban interface / public.
883405 – near load out	Urban interface / public.
892307 Stillwater Mn	Near Forest Warden Camp
Paradise area (next pass?)	Visuals. VIA completed for previous block. Urban interface
cutblock.	

2009 Plan

2.3 km. of road construction.
70,700 m3 of harvesting.

Action Items

Action Item #5 – Check last year’s data regarding feasibility of planting 10% species other than fir

Brian Saunders explained that more than 95% of planting in Powell River is Douglas fir. In addition there is a little red cedar and western white pine. He is going to increase the amount of red cedar planted. The reason that they haven’t been planting much red cedar is because the Douglas fir breeding program is further along. The improvement in growth from the MoF breeding program has increased Douglas fir timber harvest by 16%. The best improvement in growth of red cedar that Brian has been able to buy is at about 5%. Red cedar grows slower to start with plus the improved growth breeding program is behind. Within two years Brian will be able to plant red cedar that will almost keep up with the Douglas fir and within five years he will be able to plant red cedar that has a higher growth rate than Douglas fir which will allow it to compete. He wants to put in mixed plantations on any site that will support red cedar. Many sites will only have portions that are suitable for red cedar.

Minutes

Question: What impact will the enhanced growth have on wood strength?

That is one of the key things that is measured. Seed orchard managers pick which trees that go in the orchard and any trees that have a reduced wood density are thrown out. There is probably no reduction in wood strength. There are two variables that are listed for each parent tree. One is improvement in growth and the other is wood strength.

Group decides to archive existing Action List and to create new list going forward.

Company Update

The market has not changed and IT is expecting it to continue the same into 2010. They expect to keep operating cautiously and cost consciously as they have this year. They will be making sure they have customers for their product.

New signs will be going up in some areas. The company believes that making its presence clearer would be helpful to its image. Some IT signage is old and confusing and they are looking at cleaning it up. IT's access policy will also be reviewed. In many areas the water purveyor asks IT to restrict access. The Nanaimo watershed is completely restricted to public access.

Question: Why do interior watershed lakes have camping, residential areas, boating, and fishing and the coastal watersheds, where we have lots of water and rain, are restricted?

We don't have big treatment plants to clean the water. That may be the reason.

In Nanaimo what would happen to the water if there was a catastrophic fire is the biggest concern.

The Maanulth treaty has been signed. There are five bands in the Maanulth treaty group. It is probably going to be a benchmark for treaty. The provisions have some interesting things related to forestry and it can be found online if anyone wishes to read it.

Mackenzie did a presentation last year about the process IT had started for flagging areas of contention and developing a comprehensive communication and actions plan related to the area to manage some of the issues that the company has been facing. IT has been implementing the process and it appears to be working in their favour. They have finished logging Lot 450 and people had some concerns in the beginning, but the communications clarified the company's intent and people were content.

Action: Mackenzie to give member educational information about forestry.

IT's Future Plans and Commitments to This Community

Question: What are your harvesting plans over the next two or three years in the Powell River area?

If the wood is older and of better quality than wood in other areas and if there are no adjacency or other issues, IT will continue logging whatever is available.

Comment: When we started talking with IT there were members of the group that were concerned about the rapid rate of logging in the area and now there is little logging happening. As a community we would like to see a more sustainable and even rate.

IT doesn't calculate a harvest rate for just Powell River. A lot of the wood in the area is at a good age for harvesting. They are not big enough in this area to have much impact. If they were to even out their cut rate they may only (estimate) keep a contractor with three employees going. On the other hand, they have provided a bridge while other operations are not happening and that has helped some of their contractors stay alive during these very difficult economic times. When things slow down for IT they will hopefully be able to work for other clients.

Question: We've been asking for a number of years how much volume your company has in this area.

Action: Makenzie to find out how much timber IT has in Powell River. How fast will it be harvested? How long will it last?

The answer you will get will be an age class distribution.

Action: Makenzie to bring an age class distribution of timber in Powell River.

Comment: Ray Balogh said that all of Powell River is at the right age class now.

There is more employment in the forest industry on our land after harvest as well, such as planting and stand tending forests. Pieces will be left for visual or adjacency and they will be harvested when young forests nearby grow up a bit.

Comment: They will be pretty small bits and pieces.

I expect that you are right.

We do make donations to the community and it is not based on cut. So, we will continue to support the community whether we are cutting or not. As well, our land is still here and everybody is still walking the trails and enjoying it.

Brian Saunders: Silviculture and Climate Change

Brian describes the normal forest practices employed to get the next forest growing to help put his presentation in perspective. The normal routine is the operations people identify an area for harvest. An engineering contractor would map out where the road and boundaries should be. The silviculture prescription for the block would be created to plan for reforestation. The plan is used to order trees to be grown in the nursery.

IT would provide the seed to grow the new trees at the nursery. The seeds come from a huge freezer that the MoF keeps in Surrey where seeds are stored for up to twenty years. Most of the douglas fir that IT uses is purchased from Weyerhaeuser because there is a seed shortage in coastal BC for douglas fir seed. IT is seeking to address the shortage by establishing their own seed orchard. They have a baby seed orchard in two gallon pots and will be producing some of their own seed in four or five years.

The nurseries produce the trees. IT hands the trees over to a planting contractor. The planting contractor plants the trees according to the plan provided by IT's silviculturalists.

As the logging contractor is finishing up harvesting the silviculturalists are doing a post harvest survey to make sure that the plan for reforestation is still appropriate. Any last minute changes will be made. They will look at the fire hazards of the wood left behind and make a plan to deal with the possible fire hazard such as giving out firewood permits, salvage, grinding and selling to papermills for power generation. Trees are planted and plantations are assessed. They will look at the plantation during the first and second growing seasons and then as needed. If necessary they will control competing vegetation manually if possible with a power saw, or with herbicides applied by individuals with backpack sprayers. When the brush is under control and the trees are growing well the silviculture group is done for a few years. The next activity would be aerial fertilization applied five to ten years before final harvest.

This presentation about climate change was created because four years ago Brian was asked to look at what the company's reforestation strategies were. The company wanted to know what species it should be planting, where it should be managing for natural regeneration, and how it would secure a supply of seed, what species the seed should be, and if it is worth spending the money to get genetically improved, faster growing, disease resistant seed.

Climate change is important because we need to understand the potential impact on our forests. It is one of the things we take into account when we decide which species we are going to manage for on our land. Each species has its own vulnerability to change in the climate. What I've learned is Douglas fir is a good bet when it comes to climate change because it has a very broad range of climates that it grows in. It grows from Northern California to three quarters of the way up Vancouver Island. You can take a tree that grows on the banks of the Columbia River and move it to Campbell River and it will grow well. It

Minutes

grows from sea level to 900 metres. Red and yellow cedar are much higher risk. They are much more sensitive to changes in climate, particularly warmer dryer summers. Hemlock is also very high risk for climate change.

Brian presented a slide which portrays how green house gases influence global climate. He shows a graph that shows increases in CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere from 1960 to 2000, a graph that shows CO₂ has increased beyond any changes over the last 450,000 years as measured from ice cores, and a slide that shows the effect of different gases, particularly water vapor. His last slide shows that although increased CO₂ might not have been the driver of climate change it increases the effect.

Brian believes that we will continue to see this part of the world get warmer. He thinks the biggest question is what is the magnitude of the change. Potentially it could be warmer on average, hotter in the summer, and more precipitation in the winter.

Brian presented a web page developed by Richard Hebda, who is employed by UVIC and the Provincial Museum and has done a lot of work on climate change. The slide is an interactive map that shows how each species will be affected by various degrees of climate change.

Brian says he has this information in the back of his mind when he is writing standards to give to consultants. He sees that red cedar is risky with climate change, so he is hesitant to create plantations of 100% red cedar. He said he is much more comfortable planting mixed douglas fir and red cedar so that if we end up with a scenario that is not good for red cedar and they die he would still have a plot that is completely occupied with douglas fir.

Douglas fir has lots of genetic diversity and is well adapted to hotter dryer climates. The trees that are in the breeding program have been selected from a very broad range. The MoF makes trades with other organizations that run breeding programs to increase genetic diversity. The trees being planted have a higher genetic diversity than natural regeneration.

Brian sits on three committees: Western Red Cedar, White Pine, and Douglas Fir. These committees provide guidance to individuals that are running the breeding programs for these species for the MoF. One of the things that Brian learned from the Douglas Fir committee is that the native population of trees seldom are the best adapted to the area. This is because adaptation always lags behind the change in climate. The MoF is doing a lot of work right now to figure out which trees should be planted to be best adapted to the climate in fifty years.

Question: Have there been any studies showing which species best convert CO₂ into oxygen?

Probably, but I have not heard about it. They groups that I meet with are most concerned about how efficiently the tree converts CO₂, water, and nutrients into wood. The more

Minutes

efficient the tree is at making wood the faster it is pulling CO₂ out of the atmosphere. The trees with improved growth are faster at sequestering carbon out of the atmosphere. The province is looking at funding the breeding programs by selling carbon credits. Seed for trees with improved growth cost about ten times more than wild seed. Perhaps in the future the extra cost could be offset by selling carbon credits.

Comment: That is a reactionary approach to what is likely to happen. I was wondering if the government might be saying you should plant certain trees to prevent it from happening.

What the government is really after is pulling CO₂ out of the atmosphere and planting trees with higher growth rates will do that. If they create a market where we can sell the carbon credits it will be a big economic incentive.

Question: Would it not be advantageous to plant trees that capture the most carbon, prohibit all logging, and the industry would be to preserve our forests and get carbon credits and produce more steel?

No. If you look at the research that Natural Resources Canada is doing on the whole carbon cycle you will see that it is most advantageous to plant the trees, let them grow into the long lasting product lumber, harvest them, and then replant. That is the best for the carbon cycle mostly because then we aren't relying on fossil fuel intensive products like concrete and steel.

Old growth forests are actually neutral. They are not sequestering any more carbon than they are giving out because they are falling down, dying and decomposing. Second growth forest sequester carbon most rapidly between the age of 25 and 80.

Question: From your own personal experience over the years what changes have you seen that convince you that the climate is changing?

There is so much variability from year to year that I think you'd have to look back over one hundred years to be able to say. We just had a hot dry summer, but a couple years ago we had a particularly cool wet one. I think it is more telling to see how far you have to walk in the Rockies from the road to glaciers compared to a few years ago.

Question: Have pest breeds been coming in?

Not on the coast, but look at the Mountain Pine Beetle in the interior. Warmer winters and no forest fires contributed to that.

Question: What if the trees that are now growing farther south or east became more adapted to this area? I know the government dictates which species are allowed to be grown in their forests, but has there been any talk about growing things that might survive where a cedar

Minutes

won't? For instance the Sequoia Gigantia will grow anywhere. They grew in this area before the ice age.

On private land the only restriction is that reforestation has to be done with ecologically suitable species. They don't have to be native species. For decades foresters have been experimenting with exotic species. We have sequoia planted a short drive from my office. They are about twenty five years old. They grow very quickly and we could be planting more of them.

Question: Can you sell it?

There is an established market, so I'm sure you could sell it. It would be a fairly low risk species to plant. There are dozens of exotic species out there. Noble fir grows just over the border at higher elevations and there are plantations of that. It is easy for me to look at our inventory to see where these exotic species are and see how they are performing and use that to change our plans for reforestation. A more difficult thing to do is to go to the log marketing people and say: what do you think about redwood? They would say they don't want to think about it right now. It would be one more species to worry about.

With exotics you have to figure out what kind of soil and climate trees are adapted to. You might find that trees from a particular area aren't well suited to our climate, but that trees from 200 kms south of there that are well adapted. It takes a lot of work to figure that out. It would be a twenty year commitment. That would be more than our company could do. The province would have to get involved. As a member of the species committees the topic of exotic species comes up. They do quite a lot of testing. They are testing some species that are not native to Vancouver Island on sites near Coombs and Port Alberni right now.

Question: How do you balance choosing a tree that will grow well and guessing what will sell in fifty years?

Part of the discussion about what species should be growing on our land base was ecologically suited to today's and the future climate. Economics comes into every conversation that we have. Three years ago we sat down with the marketing group and Richard Rigma told us which species he wants us to grow and why. He said don't grow yellow cedar, there is currently not a well established market for second growth Yellow cedar lumber.

Next CAG meeting – November 18th with WFP

Next IT meeting – December 9th

Meeting Adjourned 8:25 pm

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group
Island Timberlands
October 14th
Attendance**

Name	Position	Member Seat
PRESENT		
Jane Cameron – Chair	Primary	Member at large
Nancy Hollmann	Alternate	Tourism
Dave Rees	Primary	Tourism
Read English	Alternate	Local Business
Ken Jackson	Primary	Recreation
Doug Fuller	Primary	DFA Worker
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
Colin Palmer	Primary	Local Governments
Dave Hodgins	Alternate	Recreation
Wayne Borgfjord	Primary	Forest Dependent
Andy Payne	Alternate	Member at large
7 Seats represented		
ABSENT MEMBERS		
Dave Formosa	Alternate	Local Governments
Bill Maitland	Primary	Local Business
George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Barry Miller	Primary	Environment
Ron Fuller	Alternate	DFA Worker
Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Mark Hassett	Alternate	Contractor
PRESENT		
Resource – others		
Makenzie Leine	IT	
Jacques Prairie	IT	
Brian Saunders	IT	
Valerie Thompson	Secretary/Facilitator	