

Minutes

**CSA Community Advisory Group
To Island Timberlands
April 14th, 2010
Minutes
Town Centre Hotel**

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:05pm: 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.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair welcomed Makenzie Leine, Ally Gibson and group.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted.

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes from Western Forest Products March 10, 2010 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

- Emails inviting First Nations to meetings
- December and January letters to PRPAWS.

Action List

Action #1 – Find out how big subdivision blocks at Stillwater are.

Makenzie said the subdivided blocks at Stillwater are between 10 and 30 hectares. Item is considered complete

Action #3 – Confirm that Fiddlehead has been replanted.

Makenzie said that it was planted in the planting season right after it was harvested. Item is considered complete.

Action #2 – Find out if there is going to be any more clean-up on the block logged last fall at spur 18 near Horseshoe Lake.

Minutes

Ally said they have been in contact with Catalyst regarding the continuation of the hogging program at Lubert, Lot 450, Canoe, and several other blocks. He will have to look at that block specifically to see. If there is any firewood that will come out first and then the hog second.

Comment: The reason it was brought up is because there was a large amount of full length alder left. There were felled trees crossing two streams and basically it was unsightly.

I'll have a look at it.

Comment: Shake blockers were in there two weeks ago.

Have the blow downs been picked up?

Comment: Not at that time.

Company Update

The company went through its ISO and SFI audit in mid March. IT was recommended that the company be recertified. These were surveillance audits. Next year's audit will be a full re-registration. The company's certificate expires next year, so there will be a full blown audit which is five days long.

This audit went very well. Crew awareness was high. Contractor awareness was really high which is something that they have been working hard on because it was commented during a previous audit that perhaps messaging needed to be very precise. The awareness of the system and how it works, the importance of the environment, and how each individual's job function could potentially adversely affect the environment was very high.

There were a few findings in the audit which Makenzie will present with the company action plan at the next meeting.

One of the crews was designated with an A+ . It was the first time a crew was given this grade in British Columbia. Crew members were very interested in how they did on the audit which shows how much pride they take in what they are doing.

Question: Was there any auditing in Powell River and if so was there any issues?

We didn't audit in Powell River because this area was audited last year. This year we looked at Northwest Bay and Port Alberni. Next year it will probably be Sechelt.

Question: Do the crews know that the auditors are coming?

They know that day and if they don't know there stuff they wouldn't do well even if they knew a week ahead of time.

Question: Who were the contractors?

Alternative Forest Operations was the A+ crew, our own company crew, Bjornson, Gregson, and Matt Sicker. Those are all that I can remember at this moment. They all did well.

Minutes

Question: Regarding VQOs, do you use any of the TFL39 VQOs that have been done recently for your property that is surrounded by TFL39?

We are not legally required to use them. I'll have to ask Wayne about that question. Perhaps we can go over our standard on visuals, because we do take visuals into consideration.

ACTION: Find out if visuals for TFL39 are used.

Question: Were visuals taken into account on the highway by canoe main when it was logged?

I'm not sure what we could have done differently on that block.

Comment: I'm not sure what your criteria for visuals are, they must be different from Westerns.

Comment: If you look at the block that you can see when you are driving up Duncan which is next to the private property where the pit is, you can't even tell that IT has logged. If they had taken everything out it would have been very visible from the four way stop on Manson. They have been planning for things that are close to town and very visible. I think they have done a good job.

Question: Why couldn't that have been done on the highway?

Comment: I think that perhaps IT learned a lesson from that block. Since then things have improved.

Canoe was a long broad narrow strip. We are experiencing quite a bit of blow down at Lubert. I think if we left anything at Canoe we would have been facing a lot of blow down there as well.

Question: If there are four different players in an area do you talk to each other?

No, we don't talk. Not because we don't want to, we just don't

Question: In an area with visuals or other concerns, should you be talking?

You make a very valid point, but the chances of four different companies working in the same area at the same time are highly unlikely. It would be very unwise to create a forty hectare clear cut next to an existing forty hectare clear cut. Visuals would definitely come into play at that time. We don't have a regimented program regarding visuals. It is more of an intuitive process. If it doesn't make it into the news, you've done a good job. You are going to do a different kind of logging if a cut is right out your window than you would do if a cut is out of sight.

Comment: I know talking together is hard to do, but it might be necessary at some point.

Comment: Part of the problem is that we just started seeing your map. WFP, BCTS, and Community Forests have maps. If we don't see your map, we don't know where you will be logging next.

Our logging planning is quite different from BCTS and Western. Our marketing group has us change our plans continually. Many times in the past we have shown plans and then they have changed. People bring out the old plans and ask us why we didn't follow them. One of the things that is keeping our

Minutes

company afloat is the flexibility we have to change. Companies that are logging the crown have to follow forest stewardship and cutting permits so their plans have to be in place a year ahead.

We do show our plans and if there are any specific blocks you want to talk about we are willing, but the plans are subject to change.

Question: Do you have any idea where you are going next? Do you know what is happening on Lot 450?

I still don't have any information regarding the Millennium Park. Last time we were here Wayne spoke about the block that has now been cut behind Brooks School.

Question: Who is doing the hogging and chipping?

Andy Burns.

Question: Are you doing that anywhere else?

Ally said yes. On Vancouver Island. I'm opposed to burning and chipping and hogging is a much better way to deal with the waste. I was out on the Timberlane block today talking about taking the remaining material off. The difficult part of the hogging process is that there is only one buyer in town. There may be pellet opportunities coming up in the very near future. Island Timberlands wants to be in position for that when it happens. We have done a few trials making pallets. When the pine beetle wood runs out pellet manufacturers will be looking for more fibre.

Question: Where did you do your trials?

We've done one here. It went very well. The trick to making a good pellet is you need the right moisture percentage and pressure for the glues to stick. The European community and institutions are all going to pellets. It is sadly ironic that we have all this biomass that we have trouble dealing with and the European community is desperate for it.

Question: what species?

Everything. A bunch of different material was hogged, put in a five gallon bucket, and put through a pellet machine. Manufacturers de-bark and sort by species. When asked why they said that was just the way they did it. Nobody had tried running everything without sorting, but the only way to make any money is to do it as cheaply as possible, so we tried and it worked fine.

Last month Island Timberlands planted their 20 millionth tree. There was a ceremony in Port Alberni including high school students and the mayor.

Question: Since the inception of the company?

Yes. Since 2005.

Minutes

Speaker: Ally Gibson, Post Harvest Coordinator – Salvage and Fire Wood

Ally said he has had the official title of Post Harvest Coordinator with Island Timberlands for about three years. Island Timberlands is the only company that he is aware of that has that position. He believes that IT is way ahead of other companies when dealing with the post harvest product. A lot of companies are looking at what they are doing and Ally believes that many more will be joining them. Not only is their process environmentally palatable, but it is also making money.

When the logging is finished, Ally is notified. He has three field foresters that go out and do the post harvest assessments. Ideally, they are notified about a week before the logging is completed. They look to see what has to be done. Part of it is deactivation, ditch cleaning, re-accumulations, and getting ready to plant. Now they also look at any further opportunity to make money. Ally presented some before and after photos. Ally's crews have gone into the areas and rescued fibre. In some cases they have gone through wood on the ground and turned it into shake blocks, fire wood, and hog fuel. The wood would have been piled and burned at a cost, instead it made the company money. In other cases they have selectively logged large timber with big sails (that could blow over) out of small awkward to log areas leaving a lot of smaller trees behind and the block visually appealing.

Some areas have piles that would have been burnt that instead are hogged. IT has an arrangement with Catalyst that is revenue neutral. The fibre is still burned, but as hog it creates energy that replaces burning fossil fuels.

Question: How far away from the mill is the block in the photo?

It is 25 km from the mill. 22 kms is actually the maximum distance. We try to work within 17 kms. It is no longer revenue neutral when we get beyond 17 kms for hog.

Question: What about firewood?

Firewood can be anywhere. Firewood contractors pay us a percentage of their sales. We allocate areas and they go out and cut.

Mileage is our biggest difficulty. With the pellet market as well.

Island Timberlands has a community firewood project that is a partnership between IT and local community groups to sell firewood permits. True benevolent societies, like hospices, IT will give all of the proceeds. For other groups that are not true charities, IT shares the proceeds 50/50.

The process where fibre in blocks is rescued from wood that is already on the ground is called 'Brown Tree'. The process which convinced Ally to take on the Post Harvest Coordinator job is called 'Green Tree'. He said that prior to this process all logging was done with a map covered with prescriptions that had to be followed exactly. They were told never to cross the line and ask if they were uncertain. Common sense departed and a lot of good wood was left behind. Variable retention was overdone by about 100%. A lot of lots had 30 – 40% retention. There are four specialized 'Green Tree' crews. All they get is an aerial map with the stream matrix and the PFLA legal requirement printed on the back. There are no instructions on the map and there has not been one trespass in three years. Instead of 700 metres per day they do 60. It is usually a three man crew.

Minutes

Question: How do you reforest?

We replant if we can, but often we may not because the tree spacing may be okay.

Question: How do you make money when they are logging 60 metres per day?

It wouldn't work if the wood wasn't a higher dollar value per cubic metre.

Comment: It would cost the company to go back a second time to get these trees. I hope that your conventional logging layout engineers are learning from these fellows so that they capture this wood the first time through if they can. That way your costs would be really reduced but you'd be out of a job.

I thought that this job would be done in three years and I could retire, but it hasn't worked that way. The engineers have become way more innovative because of a bit of healthy competition to get the wood before I send my crews in has developed. They have changed a lot of the layout and are doing a lot more 'green tree'. If you go to Lubert Road you'll see a bunch of trees with a 'T' for take painted on them. The engineers plan to take the trees, but if it doesn't work for the contractor's equipment they mark them and leave them for my crews. The contractor will log the block to an agreed to price but if its difficult to get some of the trees then it could cost a few dollars per metre more over the entire block. So they save the tough logging for Ally's crews. This doesn't always happen, but it is another tool.

If you look at it purely from an economic view you would wonder why we don't just take it all out at once, but there is a high level of supervision necessary because it can be in sensitive areas. A different level of training is also necessary and that costs extra money.

Question: Have you tried 'green tree' in Powell River yet?

No. I want to. It will be in a contentious area.

Comment: We have people that could do it.

Comment: You've had lots of contentious areas that it could have been done. I don't know why you haven't.

It is still in development. I could have crews trained here. I wouldn't bring a crew, I would use local people.

Lot 450 was basically logged using 'green tree' methods and it looks pretty good. Lubert Road also looks good.

Question: What does pellet making equipment cost?

We haven't got to the point of costing equipment because we already know that it is cost prohibitive to send it to Europe which is where the market is right now. The only way it could work is if people in BC start to buy more pellet stoves. There has to be a cultural shift because right now people see natural gas as clean and pellets make smoke.

Question: How pollution safe is a pellet from the time you chip it until the time it is burned?

Minutes

Theoretically it is carbon neutral, but instead of burning fossil fuel you are burning wood. Wood is already in a carbon cycle and you are not taking stuff out of the ground and adding it to the carbon. This is the big benefit to Catalyst. If they burn hog then they aren't burning natural gas which is better for the environment. There are arguments regarding particulate and the time it takes to burn vs. rotting.

Community Advisor Self Survey

Group was asked if they could fill out survey and give to Makenzie.

LEED (leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Building Standard Petition

Comment: The group that runs LEED is the US Green Building Council (GBC) which has been around for more than 10 years. LEED is also supported by the Canadian Green Building Council that has been around for about 5 years. They rate buildings according to how energy efficient and how environmentally friendly they are. The rating system gives points for doing certain things. One of the points is given for using FSC certified wood. The five articles that were in the Tye deal with SFI vs FSC. The Canadian Green Council only accepts FSC wood. In Canada 55 million hectares are SFI certified, 83 million hectares are CSA certified, and 35 million hectares are FSC certified. FSC is by far the smallest – CSA certifies one quarter of all the certified wood in the world and yet the Canadian and US Green Building Council won't accept CSA or SFI. The petition that was sent to the group via email came from the US organization asking for comments beginning February 22, 2010 and it closed March 14, 2010. A lot of the comments have been that these councils should be accepting certified wood from other acknowledged certifying systems. Apparently Pat Bell, the Minister of Forests, met with them and said that CSA and SFI certified wood should be accepted. Although the use of certified wood is only one point for LEED building and is not mandatory unless you are using tropical woods, when you think that if builders want to use local wood the only certified wood available is CSA or SFI. If local operations wanted to sell to a builder for a LEED building they couldn't. It would have to be imported. LEED also gives points for acquiring goods within 500 miles.

The exclusivity of FSC is drowning all of the great benefits of environmental merit of building with wood. Somebody is going to do just as well under the LEED system using concrete and steel as they would using SFI or CSA 2x4s. The use of steel and concrete do not need to meet any environmental standards under LEED. You can get one point from rapidly renewable materials such as bamboo even though it is shipped from China, is grown in a monoculture herbicided pesticided high rotation crop. It is so contradictory.

Comment: It is coming from a country that doesn't meet environmental standards.

There are thirty one FSC standards around the world. Half of them are not fully endorsed standards and may not even meet British Columbia law. If preference went to an FSC product and it was shipped from overseas who knows what it may be coming from. The Pacific FSC standards are know to have much rigor, but there are thirty other standards and they don't have they same rigor.

I think SFI is doing a great job of raising awareness. They put out the petition and have been working with Yale University and are trying to get them to look at the merits of all certified wood.

Other programs accept different certifications but LEED is clearly the most recognized.

Minutes

Comment: The Athlete's Village has been built to LEED's standards and they are expected to get a high market value because of this.

Comment: What does LEED matter? I wouldn't care if I had a house built by a LEED standard or my neighbour's standard as long as it was built well.

It is verifying that the building has met a specific environmental standard regarding energy efficiency, source products, water utilization, and recycling. It is basically another certification seal. If I were to sell my house and say it is an environmentally friendly house someone could ask what is the measure of the environmental friendliness. LEED is measuring it.

Question: If LEED isn't measuring up should it be used?

There is a lot of pressure on organizations to tow the environmental line. LEED has a product to sell and they feel that FSC comes with more credibility than other certification programs and they are misinformed. When you think about the statistic regarding how much of our forests are FSC certified from an economic or employment perspective alone, LEED which has become the most well recognized green building association, could be putting Canadian organizations out of business. Our marketing group is looking very carefully at where LEED is going. Some may argue that if you put enough pressure on everybody will get FSC certified.

Comment: That, at this point, can't happen here on the TFL because it requires FN approval of logging.

Question: If residential is not a big player will it actually impact the industry?

Comment: I think residential will become a big player. Developers may start a new community and build LEED houses, selling them to people who are environmentally concerned. A lot of the LEED requirements are good. They include such things as innovation of design, location in regards to amenities, sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and heating and cooling efficiency, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and decreased exposure to pollutants. Using non-potable water for outdoor use could get as many as four LEED points.

In California there was a bill that was going to require builders to reach LEED gold level for commercial buildings larger than 50,000 square feet. It was turned down because of the forest certification issues. The BC government could choose to pass a bill like that.

Comment: We could write to the Canadian Green Building Council and suggest that all recognized certification systems be included.

ACTION: Group agrees that a letter should be sent to the Canadian Green Building Council.

Makenzie read a quote from one of the SFI publications that the UN said that green building initiative standards giving exclusive recognition to a particular forest certification brand may help drive demand for these brands at the expense of wider appreciation of the environmental merits of wood.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group
Island Timberlands
March 10th
Attendance**

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