

**CSA Community Advisory Group  
To Island Timberlands  
September 8th, 2010  
Minutes  
Town Centre Hotel**

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:02pm: 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, Wayne French and group.

**Review and Acceptance of Agenda**

Agenda was accepted.

**Review and Acceptance of Minutes**

Minutes from Western Forest Products May 12, 2010 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

**Correspondence**

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

- Emails inviting First Nations to meetings
- May, June, July, and August letters to PRPAWS.

*Comment: There will be a letter coming from the ATV club regarding the reopening of the trail that IT logged over in Gio. It is a thank you letter commending the work IT did in restoring the trail.*

*Question: Is the logging complete in the Theo area?*

The Thors cove area is complete and the roads are deactivated.

*Comment: Please be advised that the community is working on getting funding to expand the width of the Canoe Route trails to accommodate trailers for hauling canoes through the trail. The width will be increased to a minimum of five feet and some of the trails will need some work to give them gentler slopes than they now have.*

*Question: Do you know anything about the Heron Nest issue in Lot 450?*

As this is not Island Timberlands land I have limited knowledge regarding how the cutting was approved, but it is my understanding is that little field work was done. Generally when you are laying out a cutblock you walk through it to see what other things might be there. I can see how a single herons nest might be missed during a time of year when it is not there.

*Comment: We understand that St. Vincents has been sold. The new owners have put huge “Private Property – No Trespassing” signs up on all of the roads. This came is a big shock to a lot of people who that the property was crown land. It would be great if you could show us a site plan for the property because we think one of the signs is on crown land and we would like to verify.*

We have a map if anyone would like to look at it later.

*Question: How many parcels of land were involved in the sale at St. Vincents?*

Just the one right be the dump.

*Comment: I spoke to a logger on the property and he said the owner bought it so that he could have short haul distance to an active dump. That way he can bid on BC Timber Sales and underbid anyone trying to get timber down that side of the hill. This fellow thought the new owner would sell the property in about five years when the BC Timber Sales offers dry up.*

St. Vincents has been for sale for a long time. A long before Island Timberlands owned the property.

*Question: Does St. Vincents just have one entrance?*

No, there are two on crown land.

*Comment: There are two roads coming off. One is Lois Main and BC Timber Sales punched in a new spur two years ago.*

*Comment: Yes. That is a public road. How far beyond the dump does the property come down?*

About 250 – 300 metres to the south of the dump site and north about 600 metres.

*Comment: There are signs up at the junction of the new spur and the old road.*

That is way to the north.

*Comment: Yes, he has his signs way out of line.*

I don't know if this sale would be registered with BC data bases yet, but there is a resource called imap which is a government tool used to see crown/private land boundaries. You can't see who owns the private land, but you can see the boundaries. It has the foreshore numbers and from that you can contact the freedom of information and privacy office and get who holds the lease. It's a bit of a tricky site, but if you want to do some digging it is a good place to start.

*Question: Do you have any other lands around Powell River for sale?*

There are three lots on the north side of Princess Louisa up for sale and they have been up for sale for a long time also. They are so remote from our other holdings as was St. Vincents that selling them makes the most sense.

## **Operational Information Update** **Engineering Active**

### **Cutblock**

Okeover (973408)- complete

### **Issues**

Sunshine Coast Trail, visuals, Thulin Lake  
Community Watershed.

Wayne and Makenzie spent most of the day walking the Sunshine Coast Trail in this area with Eagle Walz. Eagle has some concerns. The trail as it was went through a significant portion of the cutblock and there are areas of the cutblock that it is very hard to avoid the trail. They had a very productive day walking the whole length of the trail and looking at each section to figure out how best to compromise and leave a bit of timber so that the trail wasn't left right out in the clearcut. Eagle looked at some options of moving the trail to where IT has some existing retention or where they will have retention in the block. The trail now may be about 5% out in open cutblock instead of 75% as it would have before. Eagle said there is a lot less in-growth and less maintenance if the trail is not left out in the middle of the block. There are some domestic rhododendrons in the area and we are looking at re-engineering that portion of the cutblock so that they can be left standing. They are in a portion of the block that we can easily shift the boundary which will also work for the trail.

They also met with some of the Okeover rate payers. We had a good well facilitated meeting. They expressed their concerns and we shared some information about how we would address those concerns or that we would consider them. The biggest concern seemed to be about the timing of our operation and how it would affect their tourist season from May to October. This block doesn't have any significant terrain issues so we can work around it. There was also concern about water, endangered species, visuals, and if IT is going to replant. They were able to address many of the concerns, but Wayne and Makenzie will likely go out with the group again to take a look at the visuals from a boat on the inlet.

They then met with the Lund water board. Their concern is water quality. IT will be logging a small portion at the head of the watershed. They gave the group information on the steps the company takes to mitigate any sediment or toxins such as fuel oil or antifreeze input into the water system. Wayne explained how retention is handled along the creek that is within the cutblock. They had concerns about a wet area, but there is a large retention patch in that area.

*Question: Are you above or below the road at Okeover? I have a friend with a well neighbouring your property.*

Above. We have talked to all of the neighbours in the area. We are not actually logging right above Crowther Road. There is a strip of timber we looked at logging, but it is too difficult.

**Road Construction Active**

**Cutblock**

**Issues**

None

**Logging Active**

**Cutblock**

**Issues**

None

**Road Construction Planned Next**

**Cutblock**

**Issues**

Okeover (973408) (+/- 4.5km)

Sunshine Coast Trail, visuals, Thulin Lake Community Watershed.

3 cutblocks on Cortes Island. (1683 m)

Many.

793208 (Lee/Loubert Road). (629 m)

Residents, urban interface, trails, fish window.

Roberts Creek / Sechelt – 2 cutblocks (1100 m).

Urban interface, mountain bike trails, domestic water intakes.

892307 (Forest Warden) (1108 M).

Fish window crossings.

**Logging Planned Next**

**Cutblock**

**Issues**

**2011 cutblocks.**

3 Cortes cutblocks (25,000 m3)

422410 (Roberts Creek) (10,000 m3)

Urban interface, hiking trails, domestic water intakes

424255 (Roberts Creek) (5,000 m3)

Urban interface, hiking trails, domestic water intakes

882357 and 884104 (Paradise) (15,000 m3)

Myrtle Creek, bridge over Myrtle, hiking trails, visuals, adjacency.

892307 (Forest Warden campsite) (8,500 m3)

Fish crossings

973408 (Okeover) (30,000m3)

Sunshine Coast Trail, visuals, Thulin Lake Community Watershed, adjacency.

Coming up very soon will be logging off of Warner Road in Cranberry. It is a 5 ½ hectare patch but there are houses right next to it. Wayne has spoken to all of the neighbours. We knock on each door and

if the people aren't there we leave a letter with contact information. We talk about what we are doing and how long it will take. Some of the neighbours are happy, but one is very unhappy. Two of the neighbours would like the timber on their property to come down as well. We may not be able to do it because it is too complicated. Drainage is the concern of the individual that is in opposition. We had a hydrologist look at the block and he deemed it acceptable for logging.

*Question: How did the fire season impact on your business?*

There have been twenty fires so far this year. Sixteen were started by the public, three were operational, and one was unknown. One of the operational fires was caused by a piece of equipment which had a mechanical problem and caught on fire. In those cases we always have fire fighting equipment on site and it was put out right away. All of the public fires are considered suspicious and are being investigated as it is still believed that there is an arsonist in the Nanaimo area. For example there was a fire two weeks ago that had three ignition points. One point was on our land and two were on crown land, but they were all set with the intent to start the same fire.

*Question: What about in Powell River?*

None that were reported to us.

We work with the MoF fire patrol very closely and we have agreements with them regarding how we deploy crews. If there is a fire we all respond. The first priority is to put the fire out. The MoF takes the initial attack and take control of the site until it is at the mop up stage. This has proved to be very effective. Although we have had many fires each year on our property none have amounted to much. This is due to the MoF and our crew's ability to respond.

**Engineering Planned**

<b><u>Cutblock</u></b>	<b><u>Issues</u></b>
883404 (Valentine Mountain)	Public, visuals.
894352 (Portage Trail)	Trail
893451 (Tony Lake)	Lake riparian.
894151 / 894159 / 894160 (Stillwater main leave-strips)	
894356 (Goat lake 1100)	
4 cutblocks in Sechelt/Roberts Creek.	Urban interface.

**2009 Plan**

17 km. of road construction.  
 175,000 m3 of harvesting.  
 193,621 actual volume harvested.

**2010 Plan**

10.1 km of road construction (2.9 km in DFA).  
 120,000 m3 harvesting (52,000 in DFA).  
 109,374 m3 YTD end August actual volume harvested.

**2011 Plan**

4.5 km of road construction (1.7 km in DFA).  
 93,500 m3 harvesting (23,500 m3 in DFA).

**Company Update**

This month IT will be having its annual internal audit as required by their standards. It will be three days and it will not be in Powell River.

*Question: Who chooses where you do your audits?*

We make the decision for internal, we can make suggestions for external. We base it on a three year audit plan schedule. We rotate for the external audit as well. This way we can get to all of our different property areas. We try to get to every single one over the three year audit period. We have already done audits in Powell River within the three year period. We have started up with a brand new contractor in Cowichan and they have a very large area. They are taking over one of the union crews that was released last February by a company that went out of business. It is important for us to get to the new contractor and make sure their awareness is high and up to speed and that things are looking the way they should. If anyone has any major concerns please let us know.

We have finally delivered Dr. Brook's desk to the Townsite Heritage Society. As you may recall we found this desk in one of our old administration buildings and we got some interesting history about it from Craig including a whole write up about who had sat in that desk. It turned out that it was originally Dr. Brook's desk and since Dr. Brook's was the Powell River Company doctor we felt the most suitable home for it would be with the Townsite Heritage Society. When we first spoke to them about it they were renovating the heritage house that they want to place it in so we've been storing it for them. I believe the Society has it in storage right now because they aren't quite ready for it, but I can find out which house it will be settled in.

We are right in the middle of our summer plant. In the Powell river area we planted 259 hectares so far this year. We have done 3.2 hectares of fire abatement and there are 11 more planned for this fall. Fire abatement includes insuring there is fire wood salvage, minor salvage, grinding, or as a last resort pile and burn.

*Question: Does Hot Stuff still have the fire wood contract?*

I'm not sure. Is someone else interested?

*Comment: No. I just saw that Hot Stuff did quite a bit work for IT this spring and last winter.*

*Comment: When the MoF shuts down the woods is Hot Stuff required to stay out as well?*

Yes. He's right at road side with power saws.

The shut down requirements aren't based on what phase of harvest you are at, but by what type of activities are going on. There is a list of activities based on risk. Engineers are pretty low risk so we generally don't even go on early shift.

*Comment: The reason I asked is because during the time ban on any fires and asking ATVs to stay out there was some trucks coming out of the bush. I don't know who it was, but that's why I asked.*

It wouldn't be people that had permission from us.

*Question: Would you contact people to let them know?*

Yes. They would be contacted. If you ever see that kind of thing you could get the license plate number and let us know particularly if it appears to be a commercial firewood cutter.

### **Invasive Species**

Makenzie was hoping that one of their summer students could do a presentation on invasive species because he spent part of his summer working on IT's invasive plant program. She thought it would be a great opportunity for him to work on his presentation skills. Unfortunately, he had a prior commitment. One of the things that IT is trying to do with summer students is to give them some interesting things to do and get some experience rather than just make them do all the unwanted work. This also gives IT an opportunity to tap into some of their new ideas and projects like the invasive species program are perfect. IT had the student put together the beginning stages of what will be the corporate strategy on invasive species. IT has been working with the coast invasive plant committee for a couple of years but had not really put a real plan together yet. Invasive species is a huge issue to manage when you have a huge land base. Trying to eradicate every invasive plant would be an enormous undertaking. The first step in become proactive was getting involved with the Invasive Plant Council of BC. They helped the company zero in on the top three species that IT would like to tackle. These species are gorse, giant hogweed, and knotweed. Makenzie distributed handouts to the group from the Invasive Plant Council of BC for each of these species. These three species were deemed the most significant and best to start tackling first. The next step which the summer student spent a significant amount of time on was identification and figuring out where the species are. He built into IT's mapping system a special database with some tabular data of where all these invasive species are. He didn't do all of the surveys to collect all of the data, but he built the initial system so that they can collect the information about where the critical areas are and start building the knowledge base. Once they have the knowledge base the next step will be eradication plans. This will vary based on what the species is. The critical point about this, and where the umbrella organizations such as the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee and the Invasive Plant Council of BC and community groups can help, is the level of cooperation received by adjacent land owners. If IT eradicates a species on their property and it is right next door on the adjacent property the eradication is pointless, because the species will just re-invade. A large amount of coordination coupled with awareness will be a major component of the program. When the company moves into action there will have to be a very strategic plan. For example with giant hogweed, in French Creek it is coming from upstream so you have to start at the top and work your way down. It will probably multiple entries of mechanical removal. In the case of hogweed there are serious health hazards because if the prickly little hairs on the hogweed brush your skin and you go into sunlight you can receive third degree burns. People that are involved with removing the hogweed will have to wear full on 'space suits'. Once the action is taken and the invasive species has been removed IT will have to try to replace it with native plants that can take over the area so it doesn't come back.

*Question: Why did you choose these three particular invasive species?*

The recommendations for the tops three invasive species came from the Coastal Invasive Plant Council, each or a different reason. Gorse can be a competitor for our trees, hog weed is a health hazard, and knotweed is incredibly invasive. One of the concerns with knotweed is that when it gets into riparian areas it can out compete every other plant that is there and it is very shallow rooted so there is no soil stability on channel ledges. It can cause very serious erosion issues. We have three different concerns, regenerating trees, environmental concerns, and health reasons. Hog weed isn't as prolific as broom, but it is of higher concern due to the health issues. There is no doubt the broom is a problem, but for us from a regeneration perspective, if we get the trees in the ground soon enough they will out compete the

broom. Broom has its cycles and it appears around Nanaimo to be dying right now. Apparently broom seeds can live in the ground for a very long time, so it is an exercise in futility to try to get rid of it. The handouts have information and photographs on each species as well as information on how to get rid of them and web sites for more information. This problem exists for anyone that has a backyard. We have a lot of land so we have a lot of work to do. In the planning process they will look at how they can raise external awareness. It may include putting information on their website, sharing information with groups like CAG, and increasing internal awareness. The summer student did start an internal awareness program using posters around the office.

*Question: Why can nurseries sell invasive species like ivy and bamboo?*

Bamboo is a great example because knotweed is actually related to bamboo. Maybe one of the next steps will be to talk to nurseries about invasive species.

*Comment: There should be some legal ramifications. One group is trying to eradicate invasive species and another is trying to make a profit from them.*

That is a suggestion we could make to the Invasive Plant Council. They are directly tied to the Provincial government.

Makenzie handed a booklet on invasive species around and offered to order copies for anyone in the group that was interested.

If you do go on the offensive against invasive in your yard, be careful and do your homework. Knotweed propagates vegetatively so it should be burned not composted and you need major protection against hog weed.

*Comment: BC Forestry did a trail study on Southview Road with different herbicides last year on knotweed. They had sample plots all down the road with ribbon markers. I don't know what the results were.*

The handout says the mechanical treatment for knotweed is mowing twice a month from April through August and once per month until the first frost for *five* years. There's a reason this is considered an invasive species. It is pretty intensive for mechanical control. I know some people shy away from using herbicides, but sometimes if applied correctly using the right chemicals they can be the most effective way to get rid of things.

*Comment: We have some invasive species spread from Lund to Saltery Bay along the highway right of way. We need someone to say we need to deal with them. It shouldn't be up to one forest company to take them on.*

*Question: Are other forest companies doing this?*

Yes. I believe some are, but we are taking on a particularly proactive role.

Brian Sanders and our summer student are the resident experts, so if you have any question please email and we can ask them.

We don't know how long the project will take. They will be controlled by funding and how cooperative neighbours are.

*Question: Do you know which plants you would take on next?*

Yes. Broom is another big one, ivy is also a concern as it will actually choke out a tree, and scentless chamomile is always a concern as it is very invasive and a competitor for other species. I'll ask Brian what his next three species on the hit list are.

### **Action List**

**ACTION # 1** – Find out if visuals for TFL39 are used

Makenzie said the short answer is no. IT doesn't use their visual process. Wayne has some really good information from his previous experience as to why it doesn't work.

Wayne said that in the crown world you deal with VQOs and VACs, but he found that a lot of time you got into really subjective calls and sometimes the solutions were impractical because where you could log didn't allow for yarding breaks and it isolated timber. IT does manage visuals, they just manage them differently than crown land companies. For instance in Okeover they ran sightlines. They pick a prominent viewpoint where there might be a campsite on the other side of a lake and draw a profile of the land and figure out what the screening should be if you draw a sightline from your point to the tops of trees. They manage visuals differently, but use much of the same methodology such as retention and leaving smaller non-merch wood. Just the method of when to use those tools is different.

*Question: Where your land butts up against crown would you coordinate your visuals with Western?*

No. They don't coordinate with us either.

I don't know if the rules are the same now as when I worked on crown land, but my experience was that you didn't have to take into account anything that had been done on private land.

*Comment: It would be better for everyone if there was some kind of coordination between companies.*

The issue with coordinating is that it can become a race. I saw that when I was working on crown land with adjacency. Companies tried to get to the block first because the other company would have to wait for green up before they could cut their block. If you make it so that everyone has to meet the same objective you can avoid that and overall everyone meets that same objective.

*Question: Over the past couple of years when we've asked how the company is doing you've told us things are pretty bad. What is the feeling at IT about the next year or two?*

We are now feeling that it is not total gloom and doom anymore. We've seen a little loosening of the markets and we are using the slow and steady approach similar to what we did last year while we try and maintain our customer base and a positive cash flow. We will look at ramping up when the markets

look like they are on a longer term trend in a positive way. There is speculation that there will be some false starts in the market before we see a long term trend. People are starting to go back to work.

*Question: Have some weaker companies gone out of business and will that stop a flooding of the market?*

Yes, but others have started to fill the void.

*Question: Do we still have the conversion capacity?*

That might be a bigger issue. In addition, where are the people? Many have gone away to work. It may take a while to get the training back up.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm**

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group  
Island Timberlands  
September 8th  
Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Member Seat</b>
<b>PRESENT</b>		
<b>Colin Palmer</b>	Primary	Local Governments
<b>Paul Goodwin</b>	Alternate	Forest Dependent
<b>Dave Hodgins</b>	Alternate	Recreation
<b>Nancy Hollmann</b>	Alternate	Tourism
<b>Barry Miller</b>	Primary	Environment
<b>5 Seats represented</b>		
<b>ABSENT MEMBERS</b>		
<b>George Illes</b>	Alternate	Environment
<b>Dave Rees</b>	Primary	Tourism
<b>Rory Maitland</b>	Primary	Contractor
<b>Bill Maitland</b>	Primary	Local Business
<b>Dave Formosa</b>	Alternate	Local Governments
<b>Wayne Borgfjord</b>	Primary	Forest Dependent
<b>Jane Cameron – Chair</b>	Primary	Member at large
<b>Mark Hassett</b>	Alternate	Contractor
<b>Doug Fuller</b>	Primary	DFA Worker
<b>Read English</b>	Alternate	Local Business
<b>Ken Jackson</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Andy Payne</b>	Alternate	Member at large
<b>PRESENT</b>		
<b>Resource – others</b>		
<b>Makenzie Leine</b>	IT	
<b>Wayne French</b>	IT	
<b>Valerie Thompson</b>	Secretary/Facilitator	