

*Minutes*

**CSA Community Advisory Group  
To Western Forest Products  
February 8, 2012  
Western Forest Products Boardroom**

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:00 pm: 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 group.

**Review and Acceptance of Agenda**

Agenda was accepted with the following addition: Discuss whether or not next Island Timberlands meeting should be a field trip.

**Correspondence**

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

- Emails inviting First Nations to meetings
- Letter to PRPAWS
- Email re: Developments at Haywire Bay
- Thank you to Mark Anderson
- Jefferd Creek Email
- Email summary of Break-out Discussions at All Contractor Meeting

All Contractor Meeting email has some corrupted information on it so Stuart to resend.

**ACTION:** Stuart to resend All Contractor Meeting email. Done – Feb 27, 2012

**Review and Acceptance of Minutes**

Minutes reviewed and accepted.

**Operational Information Map Review**

**Current Activities**

**Harvesting**

NA-912, NA-920, NA-930, NA-935, ST-029, ST-032, ST-148, ST-232, ST-265 (snow), TM-223, UL-810, UL-811 (snow), WL-907

**Road Construction**

*Minutes*

BT-649, BT-664, LL-017, LL-026, LL-029 ST-235, UL-805, UL-812, WL-040

**Engineering**

ST-040, TM-186, UL-807, WL-345, WL-944

**What's New on the Maps**

**New Blocks**

ST-327 (shape change), TM-186(expanded), UL-807, WL-345, WL-347, WL-944 (expanded), ST-040 (shape change)

**New Roads**

TM-186, UL-807, WL-345, WL-347, WL-944

**Cutting Permit Approved Areas**

None

There are no new blocks or roads along the SCT.

**Logging Complete**

TM-112, WL-911

**Road Construction Complete**

CH-400, ST-255

**Engineered Blocks**

ST-024, WL-040

**Engineered Roads**

ST-024, WL-040, ST-040 (shape change)

*Question: Is there still a desire to get the huge tracts of alder along Lang Creek on the east side? It was about to drop into the creek five years ago.*

Walt said that strip that sticks out by Lang Creek butting up to Community Forests is one of the pieces of land that we will be giving up to Sliammon as part of the Weyerhaeuser take back.

Question: Will that land be used for logging?

Yes.

**SFMP – 2011 Indicator Results**

Stuart has the results for half of the indicators. The other half will be reviewed during the next CAG meeting.

## *Minutes*

Indicator 1.1.2 Forest area by species composition – the target for this indicator is that forest area (ha) by leading species composition remains within 5% of the baseline on a 5 year rolling average by species. All species composition essentially stayed the same although yellow cedar increased from 2.5 to 3.2%

**ACTION:** Stuart to check the yellow cedar figure.

Indicator 1.1.4 Degree of within-stand structural retention – the target for this indicator is that the retention silviculture system is represented across the DFA according to the targets listed in the Western Forest Strategy on a five year rolling average. The target is 50% for main growing areas and on a five year rolling average WFP is currently at 63%. This means that 63% of areas harvested are using a retention system. The habitat target is 60% and WFP is slightly under at 57%. Stuart noticed that areas with steeper ground are being given higher retention goals but it is difficult to meet the goals as it is grapple yarding ground and patches get in the way. Also, with the bark beetle outbreak they have been nervous of blow down in patches. They also harvested a few blocks to get rid of dead trees affected by bark beetle and infected trees around them. These were not harvested with retention systems. Target was not achieved, but there is a variance of 15% allowed on the five year rolling average. Stand level retention remains at 19% for 2011.

Indicator 1.3.1 Percentage of the trees planted annually that are GMOs – the target for this indicator is that the percent of the trees planted annually that are genetically modified organisms is 0%. No GMO trees were planted and the target was met for 2011.

Indicator 1.4.1 Proportion of identified sites with implemented management strategies – the target for this indicator is that 100% of identified sites have implemented management strategies. Every block is walked with representatives from the First Nations to look for archeological features. None were found and target was met for 2011.

Indicator 2.1.1 Reforestation success – the target for this indicator is that the equivalent harvest years of area awaiting reforestation (AAR) annually is < 3 years. The average at Stillwater is 1.8 years. The target was met for 2011.

Indicator 2.1.2 Proportion of identified biotic and abiotic factors (fire, wind, insects, and wildlife) with implemented management strategies - the target for this indicator is that the proportion of biotic and abiotic factors (fire, wind, insects, and wildlife) with implemented management strategies is 100%. There was 8 hectares of land damaged by insect attacks. These areas all had implemented management strategies. The target was met for 2011.

*Question: Regarding wildlife damage - what about elk?*

WFP's chief forest called Stuart the other day and asked what Powell River is doing right with elk because other parts of the company are really struggling with elk. Stuart said that their approach is not to fight them. If elk damage cedar in an area then they don't try to grow cedar there. They grow fir. In addition, elk have been relocated out of Stillwater over the years so the population has not increased too rapidly. Now that elk are no longer being taken out of this area there will need to be other means of keeping the populations from getting out of hand.

*Comment: There is no longer any funding available for relocation.*

## *Minutes*

Stuart has pushed that WFP have input into the plan the Ministry is working on for the elk.

Indicator 2.2.2 Proportion of the calculated long-term sustainable harvest level that is actually harvested – the target of this indicator is that the harvest level is within 25% of the long-term sustainable harvest level (DFA AAC contribution) over a five year rolling average. The 2011 harvest level for the five year rolling average is 101% which is spot on. Once the final scale is in this number will be slightly higher and will be updated with the 2012 indicator results. The target was met for 2011.

Indicator 2.2.3 Amount of area treated with herbicides – the target of this indicator is that the amount of area where herbicide is used for brush control on the DFA is  $\leq 25\%$  of the total area brushed annually. Herbicide was used on 18% of the area. The target was met for 2011.

*Question: Is the percent less than last year because of the areas you are working in or because you are managing in a different way.*

Rudi does brushing manually unless he is unable to. There is variation from year to year.

*Question: Are you leaving more alder because there is more value for alder now?*

Yes. We will grow an alder stand now. There is still debate about alder mixed into other stands as it is difficult to get it out.

*Question: Is stumpage still really low on alder?*

Yes. I believe so.

Indicator 3.1.1 Level of soil disturbance – the target of this indicator is that the annual number of harvest openings in which soil disturbance exceeds the levels specified in the Site Plan is zero. The target was met for 2011.

Indicator 3.2.1 Proportion of watershed or water management areas with recent stand replacing disturbance - the target for this indicator is that the proportion of community watershed water management areas with recent stand level disturbance is less than 30% or other limit that may specified in a detailed Community Watershed Assessment Plan. The target was met for 2011.

Indicator 3.2.2 The annual number of Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) reportable spills – the target for this indicator is that the annual number of PEP reportable spills on the DFA is zero. In 2011 there were two spills. One was from a grade hoe building road in the Deer Creek area. The hose hooked on a root. The other was a failed hydraulic hose on a processor that was working in ST-287. The target was not met for 2011.

*Comment: A lot of companies use environmentally friendly oils.*

Stuart looked into using environmentally friendly oils down near the water and the experts said the products don't last and if a spill happens all of the same clean up processes are needed.

## *Minutes*

Indicator 3.2.3 The annual number of non-conformance issues on water quality and quantity on streams in the DFA – the target for this indicator is that the annual number of non-conformance issues on water quality and quantity on streams in the DFA is zero. In 2011 WFP had 17 government inspections and there were 81 WFP inspections. There were zero non-conformance issues. The target was met for 2011.

Indicator 4.1.1 Net carbon uptake – the target for this indicator is that the net annual carbon uptake on the DFA is positive on a five year rolling average. The net carbon uptake for 2011 was 73000 tonnes. The target was met for 2011.

Indicator 5.2.2 Level of investment in training and skills development – the target for this indicator is that prior to the commencement of harvesting activities, all employees are trained in the safety and environmental requirements specific to the area they will be working in. Every block gets a release package signed off. The target was met for 2011.

Indicator 5.2.3 Level of direct and indirect employment – the target for this indicator is that the level of direct and indirect employment is relatively stable varying by less than 25% from year to year. There were 169 direct employment jobs in 2011 which was within a 25% change to the positive over the 145 jobs in 2010. The target was met for 2011.

Indicator 5.2.4 Level of Aboriginal participation in the forest industry – the target for this indicator is that a number of Aboriginal economic opportunities are in effect in and around the DFA. The target was met for 2011.

Indicator 5.2.5 The % of reviews or field walks completed where harvesting is planned along the Sunshine Coast Trail – the target for this indicator is that the % reviews or field walks completed where harvesting is planned along the Sunshine Coast Trail is 100%. Four blocks were planned and four blocks were reviewed. The target was met for 2011.

Indicator 6.1.1 Evidence of good understanding of the nature of Aboriginal title and rights – the target for this indicator is that all planning staff has training relating to aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights for First Nations relating to the DFA. In 2011 all of the WFP planning staff went to the Island for the day learning about First Nations law. The target was met for 2011.

Indicator 6.1.2 Efforts to obtain acceptance of management plans by Aboriginal communities – the target for this indicator is that First Nation comment and input is encouraged and facilitated through sharing of all Operational Information Maps, Forest Stewardship Plans, and Management Plans. The target was met for 2011.

Indicator 6.1.3 Level of management and/or protection of areas where culturally important practices and activities (hunting, fishing, gathering) occur – the target for this indicator is that WFP Annually request current information regarding potentially affected cultural heritage resources from First Nations and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations. Stuart checks with the First Nations and the MFLNRO each year to see if there are any new culturally important items that he needs to be aware of. The target was met for 2011.

## *Minutes*

### **Guest Speaker: Annette Van Niejenhuis, WFP – Managing the Genetic Resource and Land Based Investment**

Annette moved to the corporate office in 2009 to take on the role of FIA coordinator. Before that she spent 10 years at a nursery and seed orchard in Saanichton north of Victoria. Her background is in tree improvement. She has a forestry degree and she has a masters in forest genetics. She started out with Western in Port McNeill for three years.

Annette started her presentation with some terminology to make her discussion clear for the group. Forest tree improvement is the controlled parentage of the trees that they are planting out on sites. They are looking at management activities to improve the overall quantity and quality of wood products from their forest lands. They have forest tree breeding which are tree breeding activities geared to solve a specific problem or produce a desired product. All of their tree breeding is traditional tree breeding. They measure the success of a program in something called gain. Gain is the percentage increase in a trait of the selected population over the wild-stand. Generally it is volume but it could be other traits as well. The seed planning and registry is where it has to be registered in the province. It is recorded as genetic worth.

There is a coastal tree improvement program that falls under the auspices of the forest genetics council. The forest genetics council has been set up by the chief forester of the province to make recommendations on genetic resource management. The objective that they have is to maximize the economic benefit from tree improvement investments for gains in wood quality, quantity, and pest tolerance consistent with land use planning.

Western is interested in gain and in Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) because they get earlier free growing from this stock, earlier green up where adjacency might be a constraint, and a definite increased yield or else a reduced harvest age.

*Question: Are you able to lower the age of maximum mean annual increment from what use to be 120 years?*

I haven't looked at that specifically. If we go out to 120 years the genetic gain no longer plays a role. Everything evens out.

*Question: Would you get a bigger volume at 120 years?*

You don't lose the volume, but eventually everything evens out.

*Comment: Do you get a gain at 60 years?*

When we talk about gain we are always comparing it to the average so if you have 100 more metres where you have 500 metres on the wild stand you have a 20% gain. If you have 100 metres over 100 metres stand you only have a 10% gain and so it goes over time.

*Comment: That tree that is giving you that greater amount of timber will reach the maximum age at which it is accruing increment at the same age, so age should be irrelevant and you still have to wait until maturity to realize that volume. Reduced harvest age shouldn't come into affect. All it gives you is more volume at a younger age which isn't very optimistic.*

All of our measures are standardized to rotation age 60.

## *Minutes*

*Comment: That is where the problem lies to a forester versus an economist, and a short term economist. A long term economist looking at several rotations would say harvest at 120 years; you are cheating yourself at 60 years.*

From the ARTSA study that was done in 2000, genetic gain has an impact on their projections.

*Question: Is 60 years the standard for BC now?*

No, that is just the standard for discussing genetic worth and gain. It is not necessarily the rotation ages that they are managing to. Across the company ages are different in different areas and for different species. It is a Provincial standard for the whole province except for alder.

The coastal tree improvement program community is coordinated by the Forest Genetics Council of BC through the Coastal Technical Advisory Committee and Coastal Species Committees. The program is led by Ministry Tree Improvement Branch research breeders. Here on the coast there are very good breeders and high end researchers that like to come and work with their breeding program because it is leading the world. Production is at Ministry and industry seed orchards. They get a lot of support from Universities, from Canadian Forest Service, and Ministry, the forest industry, and private consultants and contractors. Funding comes from the provincial government through the land based investment strategy, federal through the genome projects, and other programs.

The Forest Genetics Councils role is to advise the chief forester, it promotes cooperation, and it guides and facilitates planning. It acquires and provides resources needed to implement the plans and advises the chief forester.

A provenance test is where a seed from a single species is collected from different populations throughout its range and planted in a number of common garden test to see how the different population sources behave in a common environment. That helps them to determine how far a seed should be allowed to move up in elevation or north south latitude. From this they have identified superior provenances. It was old provenance testing that led them to discover sources that had weevil resistance in Sitka spruce for instance. The other thing that breeders do is progeny tests. That is where the controlled pollination comes in. You know the mother and father (or collection of possible fathers) of each of the seedling that you are growing and you can test them. What they are looking for is broad adaptability. It is not good to be managing orchards on small plots of land. Nobody wants to be managing hundreds of thousands of seed lots for all of the different places so broad adaptability is important. Volume is a primary trait except in white pine and Sitka spruce where resistance is the primary trait. It is a very comprehensive test. They are done over a range of sites.

The administration in the Tree Improvement Branch maintains the seed planting registry. It is the law that they have to deliver their seed to the tree seed centre and register it on their system. They store WFP's seed for them at no cost and they do some quality assurance on the seed. They promote quality and diversity standards. Every seed lot that WFP produces has to have a minimum number of parents. They recommend and implement legislation and guidelines. Among the guidelines is the rule against the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for planting on crown land in BC. Their breeding programs do not include GMOs.

## *Minutes*

*Question: If a neighbouring farmer is growing crops with GMOs then a farmers fields can become contaminated whether he likes it or not. Is it the same with trees?*

That is one of the big issues with GMOs. If they could produce a sterile GMO they would be a lot more likely to experiment with them

*Question: Are private companies planting GMO trees?*

I don't believe there is anything available to us here.

There is a great deal of genetic diversity in our trees. We can breed "basketball player" trees. If we look we can find what we need naturally.

Planning and cooperation is accomplished through Seed Planning Units. The coast is made up mostly of maritime seed planning zones and the back area of the mainland is sub-maritime. Sub-maritime is a transition into interior type ecosystems. Within the maritime zone there are seed planning units. Seed planning zones and elevation determine seed planning units. Douglas fir low elevation (SPU#1) goes up to 900 metres. Western red cedar (SPU#2) goes up to 700 metres. Douglas fir has a low and high elevation that they manage for with orchard seed and with wild seed it is based on the mean elevation.

The Ministry has some orchards at Bowser. The last person to run these orchards recently retired, but Douglas fir seed is in short supply so they may be harvesting a couple of crops yet. The Ministry is also bringing in some new capacity at Puckle Road. Canfor's Sechelt orchards still exist and there is a Douglas fir orchard although Annette is not sure if Canfor still manages it. Timberwest has orchards at Mount Newton. Western took over the Saanich Forestry Centre in 1996-1997 with Douglas fir seed. Island Timberlands is planning on putting in some low elevation Douglas fir orchard and maybe Western red cedar seed. There are quite a few orchards on the coast, but some are due to retire.

*Question: Where would Island Timberlands get their stock?*

There is surplus seed on SPAR. They work together by looking at a plan which has information for each seed planning unit. The plan says where the program is going, how much seed has been used in recent years, how much seed is in the bank. The Ministry has some Douglas fir on surplus. Unit recently the Ministry could only sell at their list price and they would not give bulk sale discounts. It was cheaper to go to Weyerhaeuser in the States for the same quality of seed. Some seed comes up from the states and some of BC seed goes to the States occasionally.

*Question: How long can seed be kept in the freezer?*

A long time. More than 10 years from most species. Some species germination does fall off over time such as Western red cedar and Amabilis fir. Some would have good germination 100 years from now.

*Question: Do you have commercial pickers?*

We very rarely pick wild crops any more. 80% of the seed used is orchard seed.

## *Minutes*

The objective is to meet the seed needs of WFP with high-gain well-adapted seed at a reasonable cost. When orchards were first put in it was to get plentiful, high-gain seed and it was supposed to be cheaper. It has never been cheaper. Surplus seed is made available to other licensees and when they are planning they will say they will meet half of the needs of the coast for certain species if they are one of two orchards. That is part of the cooperative nature of the Forest Genetics Council.

*Question: How old is your nursery stock when it goes out to be planted? Why don't you grow bigger nursery stock to use as buffers on trails?*

Most of the stock is one year. It would be costly to plant bigger trees as they want to fall over. You have to stake and un stake all of them. You should plant your highest gain and high density and within five years you will be happy.

The main species that WFP is working with are: Western Red Cedar, Douglas fir, Western Hemlock, Yellow Cypress, Amabilis Fir, Sitka spruce, and White Pine. Western red cedar and Douglas fir take up about 70% of WFP's planting program. This year half a million of the ten million ordered are Sitka Spruce. People are gaining confidence in the weevil resistance of the Sitka Spruce and also Elk don't like it so it is getting planted in elk habitat.

*Question: Is your stock bare root or plug?*

It is all plug everywhere in the province.

Orchard management techniques include looking at phenology, supplemental mass pollination (the rarely do controlled pollination except for breeding work – not for operational crops), pest management (mostly insects), crop harvest using man lifts and ladders, cone and seed handling (if cones are not properly dried out you can actually start a fire).

Some successes include over 10% (and knocking on the door of 20%) gain for low elevation fir crops in the new orchards that they are developing. In the Douglas fir species they have also looked at wood density. Five years ago some of the coastal community was saying they should just chase the gain and ignore the wood density because the engineers would find something to do with the fibre. Annette said that she didn't like that so they maintained the density that they had and chased volume. Coastal costs are too high to not have high value products come from the forests.

*Question: How do you measure density? By the rings?*

One of the ways is with a special drill that has a measure of resistance on it. Somehow they measure micro fibril angle. They also measure resonance with a receiver and you bang the tree. Ring is not always a good way to measure. They have some fast growing trees with a decent rings size that are putting on last wood with more density than trees with the same size rings.

Other successes are really good Hemlock seed although nobody is buying it. Sitka Spruce has had a good weevil resistance program. Yellow cypress has a 20% gain in the cuttings program. They have also accomplished better Blister Rust resistance.

## *Minutes*

Costs are always a challenge. They have improved on costs since their cutback. Two years ago you could get wild cedar seed for \$6.40 /1000 seedlings high-gain Douglas fir would be \$131.40/1000 seedlings. This is the range of prices although they may be up a little bit now. It is based on average germination and as seed price goes up – the seed’s cost relative to the nursery cost is larger. When you consider how expensive those Douglas fir’s are it might make more economic sense to single sow the seeds. They are planting one to two seeds so that thinning costs are balanced with the number of empty cells. This year they are treating 7,000 hectares for fertilizing. This costs a lot of money. They could put the same kind of money to seeds which treats so many more hectares. It is one of the cheapest methods for intensively managed forest that you can get. No forester would like to hear of a reduction of their allowable cut. Most foresters would be happy to see their allowable cut go up a bit. This is one of the ways that they can hope to maintain the allowable cut as pressures on the landscape increase and more areas are not available for harvesting.

Climate change doesn’t appear to be as dramatic here on the coast as it is in the Interior. However, we have already seen some changes that are probably associated with climate. Such as changes to elevation transfer limits. They have recently moved up transfer limits for orchard seed lots and some wild seed lots. Douglas fir was 0 – 700 metres and is now 0 – 900 metres. Western red cedar went from 0 – 600 to 0 – 700 metres. One of the big pushes in the province is to really test seed sources and seed lots. The Assisted Migration Adaptation Trial is taking place. The Holberg operation is getting one of these trial sites this year. There will be fifteen species over forty-eight sites in the trial. There are models projecting how the climate will change over time. They will be looking at precipitation and temperature by season looking for commonality because where there is a lot of common prediction there will be greater confidence in predictions. The resolution is improving and there are interim solutions for transference. They hope to be going to climate based seed transfer system within ten years. Climate will be changing rapidly for the next fifty years or possibly longer if we don’t change certain practices in our population.

Land based investment strategy which many will have know as Forest Investment Account (FIA) is no longer called FIA and does not look anything like it did. There is barely any money in it by comparison. The strategy incorporated Forests for Tomorrow which is the Interior’s push to reforest catastrophic fire areas and areas destroyed by Mountain Pine Beetle and things like that. The province has put strings on the money compared to what it was five years ago. It is frustrating, but the Ministry has said that they are about productivity in the forest range. They want to be well managed and have coordinated and integrated planning so there is no more discretionary funding and as the percentage shrinks more is done in house by the Ministry. They have identified the following areas to be covered: mid-term timber supply, reforestation, tree improvement, forest health, forest inventory, fish passage, ecosystem restoration, and fuel management.

### **Trail Strategy Update**

There was a meeting of the primary user recreation groups. They were being pushed to accept the sea to sky trail classification system but it does not include equestrian or motorized vehicles for recreation. They could not accept it. They did accept their classification as far as hazards but there is a need for design classification. ATV BC has been modeling and accepting the Alberta recreational user practice. It is simple. Our trails do not fit the groomed Sea to Sky trail model. Alberta has three classifications permanent, semi-developed and developed.

## *Minutes*

### **Action Items**

<b>ongoing</b>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	When
<b>ACTION #1</b> - Find out if the Ministry's radio pilot project is going to be extended to the rest of the province.	Mark Anderson	Jan 11/12	
<b>ACTION #2</b> - Nave BCTS contact group and let them know if it is going to log Jeffered Creek.	Mark Anderson	Jan 11/12	
<b>ACTION #3</b> - Check the yellow cedar figure for Indicator 1.1.2	Stuart Glen	Feb 8/12	

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group  
Western Forest Products  
February 8<sup>th</sup> Attendance**

Name	Position	Member Seat
<b>PRESENT</b>		
<b>Jane Cameron – Chair</b>	Primary	Member at large
<b>Wayne Brewer</b>	Alternate	Tourism
<b>Colin Palmer</b>	Primary	Local Governments
<b>Mark Hassett</b>	Alternate	Contractor
<b>Paul Goodwin</b>	Alternate	Forest Dependent
<b>Barry Miller</b>	Primary	Environment
<b>George Illes</b>	Alternate	Environment
<b>Laura van Diemen</b>	Alternate	Member at large
<b>Read English</b>	Alternate	Local Business
<b>Dave Hodgins</b>	Alternate	Recreation
<b>Nancy Hollmann</b>	Primary	Tourism
<b>8 Seats represented</b>		
<b>ABSENT MEMBERS</b>		
<b>Debbie Dee</b>	Alternate	Local Governments
<b>Ken Jackson</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Russ Parsons</b>	Alternate	DFA Worker
<b>Andy Payne</b>	Alternate	Member at large
<b>Doug Fuller</b>	Primary	DFA Worker
<b>Rob Stewart</b>	Primary	Forest Dependent
<b>Bill Maitland</b>	Primary	Local Business
<b>Rory Maitland</b>	Primary	Contractor
<b>PRESENT</b>		
<b>Resource – others</b>		
<b>Walt</b>	WFP	
<b>Stuart Glen</b>	WFP	
<b>Annette Van Niejenhuis</b>	WFP	
<b>Valerie Thompson</b>	Facilitator/Secretary	