

## *Minutes*

### **CSA Community Advisory Group To Western Forest Products April 10, 2013 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 members.

#### Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted with addition of member safety meeting report.

#### Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

- Letter to PRPAWS
- Emails to FNs
- Townhall meeting email
- CSA reaffirms SFM email
- Open Loop email
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#### Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes reviewed and accepted.

#### Operational Information Map Review

##### Current Activities

Harvesting – CH-400, CH-402, LL-017, LL-026, LL-029, ST-024, ST-272, ST-038 (snow),  
ST-235, ST-255, TM-186, TM-243, UL-815 (snow), WL-345, WL-914, WL-944,  
WL-950 (snow)

Road Construction – BT-664, GI-122, GL-657, ST-264, ST-296, ST-327, ST-329

Engineering – BT-915, CH-018, LL-012, ST-030, TM-123, TM-246, TM-254, TM-259,  
TM-260, UL-817, UL-819, UL-821

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### What's New on the Map

New Blocks – ST-030, TM-259, TM-260, UL-817 (shape change), UL-821

New Roads – ST-030, TM-260, UL-817, UL-821

Cutting Permit Approved Areas – PD-463, PD-464, ST-296, TM-186, UL-807, UL-814,  
UL-838, WL-914

There are no new blocks or roads planned along the Sunshine Coast Trail. UL-817 is an existing block along the Sunshine Coast Trail that has previously been communicated to PRPAWS. The block shape has increased away from the trail.

Logging Complete – None

Road Construction Complete – FH-035, WL-914

Engineered Blocks – None

Engineered Roads – None

### Terms of Reference Sub-Committee – Annual Review

Sub-committee meeting regarding revisions Monday April 15th at 10pm.

### Management Plan #9 and the AAC – Peter Kofoed, Manager, Inventory & Analysis, WFP & Kerry McGourlick, Chief Forester, WFP

Kerry and Peter updated the group regarding the progress of TFL 39 Management Plan #9 and the harvest levels for block 1 of the TFL.

The process of annual allowable cut (AAC) determination and creation of a management plan is what the chief forester of the province bases his decision regarding harvest levels on. The chief forester looks at the harvest level for the whole of TFL 39. WFP Stillwater harvests in TFL 39 Block 1. There are four other blocks each of which are analyzed separately and recommend harvest levels for each block. They then get a total from which the final number for the whole TFL is derived.

The information collection part of the process is complete, most of the sensitivity analysis has been done, and the report should be finished in the next couple of weeks. In the next month they expect to submit the Management Plan, analysis, and recommendations for AAC to the Ministry and it will be available for review by the public for a sixty day period. Later in the year the chief forester determines the AAC.

Question: Is harvest performance by TFL Block important?

The AAC is done at the total TFL level. If the total cut goes more than 10% over the AAC for the whole TFL the company would be fined. The chief forest does look at performance by block and past performance will affect future AAC determination. If harvest in a block is way under projected harvest levels the chief forester may choose to set the future harvest at the lower level than was previously attained. Historically some TFLs were just one block, some TFLs were like this made up of different

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blocks and in some cases a number of blocks were combined and those combined blocks had an AAC and were never individual. Even now Blocks 3 and 5 of TFL 39 will have their calculation for MP#9 based on a combined AAC. There are no communities in the blocks and the people that work there tend to fly in and out so there has been a rationale to combine them.

The major determinants of the AAC are: how much area that you have to manage - this comes from physically how much area less reserves for other purposes, the history of the TFL - the past affects how much timber a forest has today, the timber standing on the stump – this has a big influence on the short term harvest rate, and the rate of forest growth – particularly over the long term.

In 1994 the Timber Harvest Land Base (THLB) was 78,000 hectares and has now dropped to 48,000 hectares. Areas were removed for BCTS, community forests and First Nations. The areas that were removed from the TFL had less mountain tops and more land base. There have also been more reserves created for non-timber purposes during this period.

Question: Have other companies such as Interfor been affected the same way as WFP?

Over the last 20 years there has been recognition that area such as riparian areas need to be protected and this is the same across all of the forests. In 2003 the government took back a portion of allotted tenure from the larger licensees for BC Timber Sales (BCTS) and this affected all the large licensees. If a new park or reserve is created in a TFL it only affects the AAC of that TFL. WFP is largely TFL. Some other companies get most of their volume from timber supply areas (TSA) which give them volume allocation rather than an area. If the timber supply area has a new park or reserve the players in the TSA would be affected proportionately.

The Stillwater area was one of the earlier areas that were logged on the coast. In the '70s and '80s harvest in this area was lighter due to the earlier logging and the result there is a remarkable amount of older second growth. The age classes in Block 1 are a lot more balanced than the rest of the blocks in TFL 39. It is in a good situation in terms of volume today.

Question: Have you had to lower your cut rate in Block 2?

It hasn't reduced for any other reason than area removed, but the recommendation that are likely to go forward for MP#9 there will be a substantial reduction in harvest rate in that portion of the TFL. Over the last few years the harvest rate has been quite high partly because of the undercut of the whole TFL for the previous years due to the economic situation.

The other interesting thing about the Stillwater area is that it has a fire history. There is significant forest in this area that came from natural wild fire which has contributed to the 130 year old forests that came from fires in that period. When you look at most areas being managed on the coast the forests were natural forests and as we harvest we will eventually end up with a forest that we call a normal forest that has the same amount of area in each 10 years and you get a regular cycle. Most places on the coast are in transition from the natural forest to the second growth forest, with generally AACs been managed to gradually decline towards the estimated long-term harvest rate. The interesting thing in this area is that because of the fire history there was a lot of very young second growth that has now grown up and the area is in this sense ahead of much of the coast. The harvest level here is stabilizing.

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In 1994 at the time of Management Plan #7 the growth rate was estimated at 7.0 cubic meters per hectare per year. Management Plan #8 in 2000 estimated the average growth rate to be 9.5 cubic meters per hectare per year and now for Management Plan #9 the rate is estimated at 9.6 cubic meters per year. Much of the change is because of increased estimates of site productivity and some of this is due to improved seedlings. Although area has decreased growth rates have increased.

Before the take-back in the '70s harvest rates were significantly lower than they are today. From '82 – '92 the harvest rate on Block 1 was approximately 310,000 cubic meters per year. This was due to the earlier harvest, the fire history, and a lot of second growth the strategy was aiming for the old growth. Using the assumptions of the time in MP#7 and MP#8 the analysis projected substantially higher rates than what was proposed as AAC contributions. MP#7 projected a long term harvest rate of 547,000 cubic meters per year, but the AAC contribution was 445,000. Similarly in MP#8 the projections of the time showed an increase to 668,000 cubic meters per year and 550,000 was recommended. We have 408,000 today which is different from the 550 due to the areas that have been removed from the block in the last 12 years. Since 1996 the harvest has exceeded AAC contribution by an average of 113%. From 2009 – 2013 the average is estimated to be 130%. Although the harvest rate was higher than the AAC it was lower than the projected rate of the analysis. Recent overcutting is driven by an attempt to meet the cut control requirements which are measured at the TFL level. Not meeting the cut control could mean that volume will be taken away and allocated to other licensees. There are parts of the TFL which it would have been, in hindsight from an AAC point of view, better to revise earlier than we are now taking into account changes like EBM.

Now that the company is at a point of another AAC determination, looking at the blocks and bringing in a recommendation more in line with the management practices of the day. With that they would expect fewer issues as described earlier in the next 5 years. The undercut issue is a big one for any company that does not make their AAC in the TFL because the government can take that volume and allocate it within the TFL to other parties. In TFL 39 in previous cut control periods undercutting lost WFP 400,000 meters. The government has held it for a number of years and are still in the process of allocating it to other parties. WFP does not want this to happen again and will do everything they can not to leave volume on the table. When it does happen they do their best to argue that the volume should stay in inventory because there are usually reasons that a cut was not achieved. They have no certainty that they will have success with their arguments. The AAC hasn't been altered to reflect the fact that Block 5 came under EBM which drastically reduced the possible harvest level there. In order for the company to still achieve its AAC, higher levels of harvesting occurred in Block 1 to make up the deficit. The end of this year is the end of the governments cut control period, so once they get a new AAC in place cutting will change as determined by the new AAC. They would rather that cutting had not rolled out this way, but as was described earlier in the discussion, Block 1 has a very large cushion of volume. So, even though the number looks to be big, against the volume it is not. They do not wish to continue to manage the forest this way, but they were driven in this direction over the last period. They are very close to their cut control and are hopeful that they will make it. Beyond 2013, the plan is to bring Block 1 harvest back in line with the AAC contribution for the local area.

This block has a fair chunk of the standing inventory that is only accessible using helicopters. Helicopter areas are a challenge because it is an expensive yarding system. You need timber with sufficient value to support the cost of harvest. The conventional harvest inventory in this area is extremely sound. The place where there is opportunity is in helicopter-logging. The volume has always been in their inventory, but now that it is getting to be a significant part of the inventory they really feel

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they need to pay attention to the volume. In their analysis they have calculated a stable conventional AAC that would currently be projected at approximately 385,000 cubic meters per year. The helicopter inventory makes up 26% of the available volume and could support an AAC range from 25,000 cubic meters per year up to 90,000 cubic meters per year or more. 25,000 cubic meters would be conservative. If you look back over the past 11 years at the company's helicopter, which includes the worse market conditions since the Depression and a previous period where there was a fair amount of helicopter, the average was 50,000 cubic meters per year. Things are looking fairly positive for the industry over the next period of time and if the company wanted to take advantage of this they could harvest 90,000 cubic meters per year. If the market improves as is forecasted they should be able to get a better price for their logs and pay more to harvest them. The risk would be that they may not be able to sustain this if the market does not support it. They are leaning toward recommending at least 50,000 cubic meters or higher.

The likely proposal is to recommend an AAC with approximately 385,000 cubic meters per year of conventional harvest and between 50,000 and 90,000 of helicopter harvest.

Question: Are there separate AACs for conventional and helicopter logging?

They have one tree farm license that has an AAC exactly as you described where the conventional and helicopter volume is separated. They have another license where the conventional and a portion of the helicopter is in one AAC and the hemlock and balsam helicopter is another AAC but not in Block 1. So, there is definitely an opportunity to have a bit of flexibility. Last time the helicopter volume was identified but there was no partition applied in Block 1.

The next steps will be finishing the deliberations about what they will take to the Chief Forester over the next month. They will submit the draft Management Plan which has the timber supply and AAC recommendations. The draft will go out for another round of First Nation and public consultation for 60 days. The Chief Forester looks at the recommendations and the public input and determines the AAC. Once the package goes to the government it takes 4 – 6 months and the company will have a new AAC by the end of 2013.

Question: How many years does the AAC stand for?

Up until 10 years unless there is a significant event that needs to be considered.

Question: When does the current AAC run out?

When the Chief Forester makes a decision. If he does it on November 15<sup>th</sup> it changes that day. It is prorated if it takes place part way through a year.

Question: Are we applying for a separate AAC for helicopter? If not, I can see the danger of just cutting conventional logging harvest areas.

Right now the AAC is for the whole TFL (with AAC contributions recognized for each TFL block) and little recent harvest has occurred in helicopter areas. That is what we are trying to work out right now, including how much harvest might be attributed to helicopter areas. The advantage of a partition is that it is an up-front way of acknowledging what the challenges are and the performance can be monitored.

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They could say that all of the helicopter should be different or that part of the helicopter is in a different AAC. WFP is comfortable that they can get part of the helicopter. They see benefits of having a partition and built in flexibility.

Some of the helicopter designated volume can be accessed with conventional methods. Just because it's classified as helicopter on a broad scale doesn't mean that you can only take it out with helicopter.

Question: Will the timber be old growth?

It will also include second growth. That is why we need to keep our costs down and get good value for the volume.

### **2013 Silviculture Review – Rudi VanZwaaij, WFP**

Silviculture Statistics:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u> (estimated)
Harvest Area	660 hectares	600 hectares
Harvest Volume	504,000 m <sup>3</sup>	450,000 m <sup>3</sup>
AAR(area awaiting reforestation)	789 hectares	800 hectares
Declared Free Growing	530 hectares	400 hectares
Planted	741 hectares	693 hectares
Brushed	334 hectares	450 hectares
Surveyed	3000 hectares	3000 hectares

5161 hectares are being managed (not yet free growing) as of December 31, 2012

Question: What does 'free growing' mean?

It is a legal term. Companies need to reforest their areas and when these areas have trees that have outgrown their competition they can be declared 'free growing'. The company has then fulfilled its obligation for reforestation and can sign off. This usually takes about 9 – 12 years.

Question: How much of that free growing is now under the new regulation of 1 meter as compared to the previous 3 meters?

There is not at Stillwater and not sure where there is free growing at 1 meter.

#### 2012 Planting

Spring 537 hectares, 551,000 seedlings, 74% Fdc, 26% Cw

Summer 204 hectares, 163,000 seedlings, 58% Fdc, 34% Cw, 8% Yc

Seedlings were healthy and 300,000 were fertilized

#### 2013 Planting(estimated)

Spring 566 hectares, 525,000 seedlings, 75% Fdc, 18% Cw, 7% Yc

Summer 127 hectares, 127,000 seedlings, 52% Fdc, 31% Cw, 17% Yc

300,000 were fertilized

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### 2012 Brushing

Girdling	99 hectares
Manual	68 hectares
Herbicide	167 hectares

The herbicide program was greater due to blocks with large amounts of maple coppices, denser cherry and younger alder. This is all single tree application on the outside of the bark. They could not afford to wait.

2013 brushing program is bigger overall.

### 2013 Brushing(estimated)

Girdling	163 hectares
Manual	135 hectares
Herbicide	179 hectares

One of the areas that herbicide will be used is near the fish farm. They have already been consulted and are fine with this. They will have a 30 meter herbicide free zone near the stream that feeds the fish farm.

Question: If you girdle a maple how long would it take for the tree to die?

Girdling doesn't kill maples.

The timing of brushing is critical. If you wait too long the seedlings will not be able to compete.

Elk are returning and the impact is showing. The cougar population appears to be declining and no one is moving the elk out. The elk like to strip the tops of cedar seedlings. If they run out of food supply they will also feed on Douglas-fir. There are some benefits to elk as they also help keep down the brush.

Chipping has started up again. The chipper came back in February after approximately a year of absence. The close proximity and the volume of the blocks make it economically viable to chip.

Rudi also does post-harvest inspections which is a good fit with reforestation because he can make sure the lot is in good shape for planting when the time comes.

399.3 hectares were aerial fertilized Feb 23 – 28, 2013. 174,000 kg of 46-0-0 was applied. The blocks were near Stillwater and Deer Creek. These 40 year old stands have a nitrogen deficiency. Salal was getting all of the nutrients from these slash burned stands. This is a companywide program for which the government paid.

Rudi showed a photo of the new wheel able portage at Horseshoe River on the canoe route. Island Timberlands had some blow down at an adjacent block which has now been cleaned up. All of the boardwalks and bridges between Nanton and Ireland Lakes on the canoe route have been replaced. There is gravel in the soft spots. For 2013 they will continue to do more upgrades on different portages. Ireland or Dodd will get the same treatment. There have been drastic budget cuts at the Ministry. WFP is looking at a partnership with Powell River Education Services Society (PRESS). Students are brought

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in for two week sessions for outdoor experience. There are several cutblocks on Canoe Main. They are trying to harvest before the recreational period starts.

Rudi reviewed the harvest of the last two years and that the harvesting has been higher than the AAC as discussed earlier. He is pleased that the helicopter program is back.

Thirteen cutblocks were windfirmed in 2012.

The company had another successful forestry tour in 2012. In addition the company hosted the senior foresters' tour which was also very successful.

### **Climate Change Workshop – Stuart Glen, WFP**

In February Stuart and Rudi went to a climate change in Nanaimo. There is no longer debate as to whether or not there is climate change. Government recommends that decisions be made based on the fact that there is climate change. For example, the bridge that was built to Prince Edward Island was built 1 meter higher anticipating sea level rise over the lifespan of the bridge. They have modeled the whole province based on temperatures rising. For example, it shows mountain hemlock zone possibly disappearing off the top of a hill and other sites moving up north. Seed lots from Oregon may now be best for this area. Trees being planted now have to be able to survive for 80 years. South facing areas may need different seed lots than north facing. Modeling shows all of Canada getting warmer. The west and east coasts will be getting wetter and the interior getting dryer. For every 1 degree increase in temperature there needs to be 10% more rainfall to keep the same moisture balance. Trees will become more stressed if the balance is out and will become more susceptible to bugs. They have done modeling for fire behavior for the province and they expect fire activity to be double. The risk of doing nothing is greater than doing something and getting it wrong. People shouldn't be afraid to make changes in their management practices to accommodate for climate change.

Question: Has anyone from the Ministry looked at the beetles that are destroying the tops of the Douglas firs?

Yes. They have identified them as Douglas-fir pole beetles. WFP has decided to monitor them this year and hopefully they will disappear. They do not kill the trees, just the top. This could affect future growth.

### **Safety Meeting Review**

One of the members attended the WFP annual safety seminar on January 10<sup>th</sup>. It was chaired by Adam Culos. It started off with a manager's review by Ken Mackenzie. Ken reviewed the safety stats from 2012 and some of the trends that are being monitored into 2013. Emergency response has been a focus and will be again in 2013. The 2012 emergency response drills with Lou Prussner with WFP, Rick Allen from Olympic Logging, and Chris Laing from RBFM was reviewed in detail. They held a simulation of a faller with a broken leg. It went well. The response card itemizing steps to be taken worked very well. It highlighted the importance of getting one person to immediately take charge. Engineering crews operate at low risk, but they do regularly make treks of up to 10 km in and out during a day's work. Worksite safety planning will again be a focus in 2013. Disability management was reviewed and assistance will be provided to interested contractors again in 2013. The guest speaker was Ken Moore, Health and Safety manager for Coastland Wood Operations of Nanaimo. He made an emotional accounting of an incident at the Nanaimo sawmill in which young man was crushed and he

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had to tell the family. He relives this horrible incident frequently. The risk had been there for 20 years and no one had noticed it. He said we need to be aware of becoming complacent. Safety training is the number one priority of the mill now. There were breakout sessions during the meeting with tables of 6 to 8 people. Each table addressed safety risks that individuals could identify and pass along to their supervisors. Safety should not be set aside for the sake of production. There were presentations on log flow and markets at the meeting. Stuart Glen did a presentation on TSR net downs from the gross to net timber supply of Block 1 of TFL 39. This presentation showed that net timber supply is 31.2% of the gross area. Stuart also did an Environmental Management System (EMS) review. The EMS binder contains Standard Operating Procedures, emergency preparedness response procedures, HAZMAT information, training audits, etc. There was also some discussion about identification of the coastal northern goshawk and its nest as well as the buffers around them. There was ergonomics in the workplace presentation by Bob Fontain entitled Ergorisk addressing injuries of movement. Soft tissue injuries make up 40% of all injuries. He emphasized using your physical job to get into and stay in good physical shape. The Safety Leadership Award, the annual OH&S given to an individual who has stood out in fusing safety into the workplace over the past year, was given to Rick Allen of Olympic Logging for 2012. The manager's 2013 forecast by Ken Mackenzie covered areas of safety focus. These include; improving hauling safety, being prepared to handle emergencies, helicopter logging safety program, grapple yarding operations and falling safety inspections, and incident reporting. WFP's resources, such as the Ergorisks talk, are available to contractors upon request and all timber volumes will be delivered safely.

### **2013 Executive Elections**

Jane Cameron was elected as the Chair, Ken Jackson as the First Vice Chair, and Dave Hodgins as Second Vice Chair.

Adjourned 8:45 pm

### **Action Items**

<i><b>Ongoing</b></i>	<i><b>Who</b></i>	<i><b>Meeting</b></i>	<i><b>When</b></i>
Set up evening meeting or evening phone call with Nate in April.	Stuart	March 13	
Stuart to find out more details on local sales and will confirm who the current contact is for purchasing logs.	Stuart	March 13	
Find a Junior Forest Warden to fill student seat	Andy	March 13	

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group  
Western Forest Products  
April 10th Attendance**

Name	Position	Member Seat
<b>PRESENT</b>		
<b>Jane Cameron – Chair</b>	Primary	Member at large
<b>Dave Hodgins</b>	Alternate	Recreation
<b>Wayne Brewer</b>	Alternate	Tourism
<b>Laura van Diemen</b>	Alternate	Employment & Education
<b>Barry Miller</b>	Primary	Environment
<b>Doug Fuller</b>	Primary	DFA Worker
<b>Nancy Hollmann</b>	Primary	Tourism
<b>Colin Palmer</b>	Primary	Local Governments
<b>Bill Maitland</b>	Primary	Local Business
<b>Rory Maitland</b>	Primary	Contractor
<b>George Illes</b>	Alternate	Environment
<b>Ken Jackson</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Andy Payne</b>	Primary	Employment & Education
<b>Read English</b>	Alternate	Local Business
<b>Rob Stewart</b>	Primary	Forest Dependent
<b>Paul Goodwin</b>	Alternate	Forest Dependent
<b>Cathy Bartfai</b>	Alternate	Member at large
<b>10 Seats represented</b>		
<b>ABSENT MEMBERS</b>		
<b>Russ Parsons</b>	Alternate	DFA Worker
<b>Mark Hassett</b>	Alternate	Contractor
<b>Debbie Dee</b>	Alternate	Local Governments
<b>PRESENT</b>		
<b>Resource – others</b>		
<b>Stuart Glen</b>	WFP	
<b>Valerie Thompson</b>	Facilitator/Secretary	
<b>Fred Westarp</b>	WFP	
<b>Al Radke</b>	PR Regional District	

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<b>Rudi Van Zwaaij</b>	WFP	
<b>Peter Kofoed</b>	WFP	
<b>Kerry McGourlick</b>	WFP	
<b>Walt Cowland</b>	WFP	