

Minutes
CSA Community Advisory Group
To Western Forest Products
January 14, 2015
Western Forest Products Boardroom

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:00 pm: Meeting called to order
Quorum met.

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. Members, Doug McCorquodale, and Kylie Anderson introduced themselves.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted.

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes were accepted.

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

Letter to PRPAWS

Emails to First Nations

Email re: Stillwater Main washout

Email re: new office protocol

Thank you Debbie Dee letter

Thank you Alan Rudson email.

Operational Information Map Review

Current Activities

Harvesting – CH-018, CH-042, GI-122, LL-012 (inactive), LL-038, ST-026, TM-254, TM-260

Road Construction – FH-033, GI-130, LL-037, ST-103, ST-111, ST-152, ST-820, TM-265, UL-846 (snow)

Engineering – ST-294, ST-298, ST-034, ST-277, TM-183, WL-014

What's New on the Map

New Blocks – TM-183, ST-034, ST-277

New Roads – TM-185

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Cutting Permit Approved Areas – LL-038, TM-265, FH-033, PD-505

There are no new blocks or roads along the Sunshine Coast Trail.

Logging Complete – None

Road Construction Complete – None

Engineered Blocks – None

Engineered Roads – None

Guest Speaker – Doug McCorquodale, R.P.Bio, Pacificus Biological Services

Pacificus Biological has an office in Port Hardy and in Campbell River, working in BC and Alberta. They typically service Stillwater Division out of Campbell River. They do a wide variety of activities including terrestrial biology, terrestrial fisheries, and marine work. They employ 5 R.P.Bios, they have some biologists working towards their R.P. Bios, some registered technicians, and a staff of commercial divers.

Pacificus works for six or seven divisions of Western Forest Products in BC. They provide guidance on both federal and provincial regulations. Provincially most of their services pertain to fresh water issues such as the Water Act and Forest and Range Practices Act. Federally they deal with the Fisheries Act and are following the changes in the act. Another federal act that has changed significantly is the Navigable Waters Act.

Out in the field in Stillwater today they were mostly fresh water focused although they did look at some marine areas. They were looking at some of the development, guiding to make sure that it stays within both federal and provincial legislation.

Crossing assessments and stream classifications have been affected by the new act. It assists with ensuring the most appropriate crossing types can be used on streams. For example, if a bridge is washed out and there is not a real economic reason to get back to an area a more economically favorable structure might be considered. There are fairly specific situations that these alternate structures can be used, but they are a good tool to have. If you do have moderate to high value fish habitat clear span structures such as wood box culvert and clear span bridge allow the stream bottom to maintain itself.

Pacificus is involved in stream classification using methods such as electrofishing and trapping to assess what species of fish are in a water system to help determine what treatment with respect to logging to be applied. In this area there is not a great number of anadromous fish habitat. Some areas dealing with species like coho which are notoriously difficult to follow as they go anywhere they can.

Question: Could you explain what anadromous means?

Anadromous is what pacific salmon are – they live their adult lives in salt water, but travel up into fresh water to spawn. In situations where you have steep gradients, impoundments or dams you don't typically get anadromous fish. You get resident species such as cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, char, or kokanee.

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Question: Some may not know what you meant by an arch with respect to streams and why there is a problem with using a culvert in conjunction with anadromous fish streams and logging roads.

Doug showed the group a photo of an embedded culvert that is an arch as an example. Arches can be half of a culvert placed over the stream that lets the stream bottom remain the same. It isn't as easy as it looks; typically you have to ensure that you have solid sound ground to lay a footing on that is either poured or built of lock blocks. Half culverts would not have the same load capacity as a pipe so it would need more of a cover over it. You usually have to be pretty aggressive to install one as you are likely to have to dig down to solid ground. It is often financially just as easy to put a bridge over the stream.

In some situations culverts are fine. If you have a system where fish are moving through an area and it isn't a spot used for spawning or anything often bare pipes can be used. Areas where gradients are increasing (more than 6%) are not great for pipes because they exacerbate the grading and you can end up with a fall. The best places for culverts are areas that are near zero gradient and with substrates that are not gravel (muck).

Question: Do they have to have baffles in them?

No. Baffles can work for breaking up velocity but you end up not getting an even distribution of sediments in the pipe.

Question: What about the new synthetic pipes?

They appear to be quite durable but from a fish perspective they are too smooth and gravels don't build up inside.

Pacificus provides advice to WFP Stillwater on the effects of the changes to the Fisheries Act on operations. In 2013 the legislation changed but the policy and what to do lagged leaving businesses in limbo. The policy came into place last November. People are working through what it all means. The language has changed significantly. The old wording for 35 (1) was 'No person shall carry on any work, undertaking or activity that results in the harmful alteration or disruption, or the destruction of fish habitat'. The new words say 'No person shall carry on any work, undertaking or activity that results in serious harm to fish that are part of a commercial, recreational, or aboriginal fishery, or to fish that support such a fishery.' This has now defined fish very narrowly.

Question: What if you had an area with bull trout. They are not important to salmon. Does this now mean they are not fish?

Good question. Fisheries is treating it not significantly differently than before, as their argument is that bull trout are a recreational fish. This is what people are waiting for guidance on. Probably we will learn from people stepping over a line.

Question: Has this given the salmon industry a stronger hammer?

In my opinion there was some parts of the old act that were overkill as minor issues were treated the same as important habitat. There are now much more stringent penalties for the Act as it is now compared to as it was previously. The attempt with this legislation change is to make small projects not have to run through the red tape that larger projects need.

Question: How do you deal with run of the river projects?

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The concept behind run of the river should be about as good as it can get for fish because you need steep gradients, lots of head and lots of water which typically fish do not do well in. So, on the surface those types of projects should mesh well with fish habitat. The reality is that some of the systems are not steep gradient because if you have enough water you can manage without. Also, if you do train a river to go through a pipe it isn't necessarily the happiest situation at the back end of the creek. Changes have implications down stream.

This change in the Act is not meant to let things like that slip through. If you do have bull trout or salmon in a stream there isn't functionally any change from before. You are damaging fish or fish habitat so you still need a Fisheries Act authorization.

There are some new terms in the new Act. In the past compensation was due for any damages and now the term used is offsetting. Essentially it is the same thing. Offsetting is a little smarter in the way you are allowed to compensate for damage. In the past compensation of 'like to like' was required. For instance at a log dump in a marine environment if you were in trouble for putting rock in the water you would be asked to build a reef. This would be more rock in the water and it didn't make sense. Now, fresh water improvements or financial contributions can be used for compensation. Doug said this is a great improvement and that generally the change seems to be for the better overall.

Question: If an endeavor looks good on paper, but when undertaken proves to be harmful is this Act better or worse than the previous one? For instance a run of the river project raises the water temperature of a stream to the point that it is killing fish.

Under both Acts this would require a Fisheries Act authorization which is basically a contract. This would have provisions in it and one of them would be stop if you become aware that you are exceeding what you have been allowed under the authorization. I think people will find that the new Act is even tougher than the old one.

Question: There have been a lot of cuts to the federal ministry over the last few years. How many people are left to work with?

Under the old program WFP Stillwater may have had an identical project to WFP Holberg and depending on the personalities working for the DFA I may have had to treat them totally different. Now, under the new Act there is a triage unit in Vancouver and there has been worry that it would hold things up, but it has been way faster, better, consistent and efficient. The intent is that small low risk projects should not be coming to them. The professional should know how to protect fish habitat. They want to triage the small items out of the system and focus on the big projects.

Question: How do I know if I hire you that I will get the correct advice? Are you certified under this new scope of work? How would I know if I hired the right guy?

Similar to forestry with the registered foresters we have registered professional biologists as well.

Comment: I have an issue here with the lack of DFO officers. There is not enough enforcers out there.

I agree part way. People that need to be watched are not the type of people that are going to hire a professional biologist. They are going to do whatever they will do and the new system isn't going to address that. The people that do contact a professional and go through the process will have the

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professional watching them to make sure that they do follow through with their recommendations. Professionals will not risk their designation and allow the system to be abused. Due-diligence works.

Some changes to the Act that are significant to numerous forestry related activities include stream crossings. There used to be hard and fast fish windows such as certain summer months and now there is a more common sense approach. If your professional looks at the stream in the middle of winter and there isn't any water he will recommend that you can cross because there is no chance of causing harm to fish in a dry stream bed.

The one thing that has regressed with the new Act is in the past they were able to do emergency works federally faster. Now you have to get an emergency works authorization.

Question: For the first time ever I had kokanee spawning on my beach in front of my cabin on Powell Lake. Why would this be?

When you have fish show up where they have never been before it would either be because there is an excellent run or their traditional spawning area has been disrupted.

Stuart said the mill mapped many of the kokanee spawning areas a number of years ago and WFP checks the map anytime they are planning activities on the lake.

Question: Once Fisheries has permitted an offset where they have allowed you to write off a creek, if fish somehow come back into that creek is there any provision for undoing the offset and saying that is again a fish stream?

Yes, but if your project was supposed to have had an impact and then you believed it didn't you would have to provide a lot of information to argue that there was no impact.

Comment: We have a creek, Squatter Creek, running right through town which was written off and now the fish have come back. There are car washes foaming down the creek once in a while. Fisheries says they don't care.

They should care. It is very difficult to get authorization for effluent discharge and say it is going to go in a creek and kill fish.

Comment: The city is officially using it as a storm drain. They are coming back despite the 1/2 km of culvert in it.

There are ways to mitigate before it gets to the water way.

Comment: The old act protected fish and water quality. We take water from a fish bearing creek and the new act seems to only care about the recreation, industry and aboriginal rights. What about the little guy that gets his water from the fish bearing creek, can the guy upstream just cut it off?

I've only been talking about one portion of the Fisheries Act. There are other provisions under the Fisheries Act that deal with water quality. The bigger issue that you are talking about is a water licensing issue. That is a provincial concern.

Comment: This creek has been polluted 3 or 4 times and the only thing that saved us was the Federal Fisheries Act. The Fisheries officer came out. Now what?

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The Fisheries Act is still a very powerful piece of legislation. If you are using the Act in that particular case the test is what you have in the creek from a fish perspective. In a way you are right – all creeks are not created equal. It depends on whether the creek has fish.

Comment: The way it reads it looks like it is only concerned about big business and not the little guy.

That is the criticism it got, but what it is really trying to do is move the little guy to a different pot so they could stop wasting time needed to deal with the bigger guy.

Stuart said that Stillwater mostly uses Doug's service to classify streams so that they know exactly where the fish are getting to and where they stop so that they can manage for it properly. Occasionally it is for a structure or something more complex.

Sylvan Vale Nursery Field Trip

A number of members of the CAG enjoyed a field trip to the Comox Valley to visit Sylvan Vale Nursery. This nursery provides seed stock to WFP Stillwater for reforestation. I was interesting for the group to see where the seeds come from and how they are managed. The nursery, which is on a side hill, has no running water on it so they collect water into reservoirs at the top and they have three ponds. This provides enough water for all 22 greenhouses at the nursery. The nursery is run by the twin daughters of the original owner with the help of their children. They have been selling trees to WFP for about 30 years.

They also met Annette who works at Western's Saanich Forestry Center. She explained that she buys and sells seeds, makes sure there is no disease, and keeps track of which elevation they came from because low land trees don't grow up high. She told them that Texada white pine is more resistant to blister rust and could be crossed with other white pines for seed strength.

While they were at the nursery a seed auditor came through who was auditing for quality control. A company in Surrey called Vancouver Bio-Machine Systems invented the equipment used at the Sylvan Vale facility. After the seeds are in freezers where they are stratified they are rehydrated and seeded in Styrofoam trays. The trays are large and have holes in them. The machines put one or two seeds and fertilizer in each hole. After they seeds are planted the trays are lightly sprayed with water and they are delivered to greenhouses that have mechanized temperature, light and water. When the trees are ready for harvesting after a year in the greenhouses the trays are put on a machine which blows them out of the holes onto a conveyer belt where people bundle and box in a special wax box. Each box is given a detailed identifying tag and placed back in cold storage. They have room to store 20,000 of these boxes in cold storage. The nursery employs 12 full time people that provide most of the maintenance and up to 45 additional people for about 8 weeks during the busy time. They grow 75% Douglas-fir as well as western red cedar, yellow cedar, and red alder. Oregon grape, salal, Gary Oak and other species are also grown and sold to garden nurseries. They were told that growing tree seedlings is only 50% science; the other part is art and experience. Root rot is their biggest challenge. There is a lot of genetic gain through cross fertilization for things like structural strength and for deer and disease resistance.

The group drove to an area near Campbell River and met Michael Stoehr from the tree improvement branch of MFLNRO. Twenty years ago he and others started testing the genetic gain from seed orchard seed by establishing plots of varying densities. They planted 4 different plots with trees planted different distances apart. The group walked through some of these plots. Somewhere between 2.5 and 3.4 metres apart seems to be where trees have maximum growth.

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Question: Are the trees grown to order?

Yes. There is a contract made out a year ahead with specifications of size, height, and diameter. If you order 20,000 you have to take all of them.

Operations Update – Ken MacKenzie

Ken presented slides showing the company's safety statistics, environmental management and operations. He said safety is their biggest challenge and their most rewarding activity. In 2014 the company and all of its contractors brought their MIR down to 0.8. This is a great improvement. In 2001 the number would have been 16.0. The MIR reflects the number of people that were injured and had to go to the doctor and get a treatment. Contractors went from 6.5 in 2013 to 2.9 in 2014 which is a nice downward trend. Stillwater had a good improvement from 2011 to 2012. In 2013 the number snuck up and unfortunately this year the MIR was 8.5. 11 people were hurt badly enough that they had to see a doctor and get treatment. A couple of the incidents were serious enough to create lost time.

57% of accidents in Stillwater were in the falling phase of their operations. You would expect fallers to be cut by a saw or struck by a branch but this year the incidents were caused by motor vehicle accidents.

This year there was improvements in planning. Planners had 0 incidents in 2014 and there were a couple of incidents in 2013.

Hauling had very significant improvements. Prior to this year there were numerous roll over trucks. People were also getting hurt getting off and on trucks. This year Andy Burn had no injuries and Goat Lake Forest Products had no injuries. There were great improvements with all of the hauling guys.

Road building also improved a little bit. There was one incident with the road builders this year. There was a back injury while hauling around boxes of powder and putting them into the magazine.

The dry land sort was about the same as last year. Two incidents in 2014. More work will need to be done there.

There has been no change in slips, trips and falls year to year. Some operations put a lot of effort into trying to improve this category but have been unable to make a breakthrough as of yet. Overexertion issues like hurting your back or your knees has not changed either. There is an aging population and ergonomics is a big deal with the demographics of their workforce. Serious injuries are caused when people are struck by something. These incidents came way down this year. Equipment failure also came down this year. With a better economy there is likely more money available for maintenance and upgrading so this has likely had a positive impact. 35% of all issues are motor vehicle accidents. People not wearing seatbelts is an issue. WFP has gone out and spoken to crews about seatbelts to heighten awareness. Everybody needs to wear their seatbelts. Investigations show that seatbelts save lives. Distracted driving is another huge issue. There were very few logging incidents this year – only two incidents all year.

Stillwater had 33 contractors working for them last year and 28 of them had no incidents. Transient contractors need work. One transient contractor came in to do some heli-logging and had 6 accidents. WFP needs to orientate them to teach them that WFP works safe first. This will be a big move for the company this year. Some transient contractors have very few accidents. Evergreen comes in every year to do planting. You would expect planters to have lots of accidents, but Evergreen is very professional,

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they know what WFP's expectations are, they sit down and reinforce the expectations with every crew member and they have no accidents.

What does Stillwater plan to do about this year's 8.5 MIR? Timberlands company crew performance rate improvements from 2001 to 2014 occurred because of the implementation of a true safety management system. Policies, procedures, training, and root cause investigations were created and a huge improvement in safety followed. They also decided to believe that you could work for 50 years and never have an accident. Zero is possible. Eventually through discussion and making real changes all of the employees came to believe this as well. The company learned to demonstrate that they cared about their employees. After a while the improvements began to flatten out and they realized that no matter how uncomfortable it made people – they needed to learn what was going on in people's minds and with their bodies. This is still pretty new. They have adopted a program called Switchback which is helping them learn how people respond to a situation. Knowing how you respond to crisis and why you do so helps you control your reactions and keeps you from more harm. Movesafe is another program WFP has adopted. This program sees workers as 'industrial athletes' so they need to be trained as athletes and be given tips on how to move safely. They are also working with fatigue and have a doctor working with them on this issue. Some fatigue is caused by health issues and some by lifestyle. Nutrition and hydration are also concerns being discussed.

They have pulled together crew members to talk about clusters of incidents and the culture that is behind them. The company VP has developed a Timberland Safety Council. No managers are allowed at this table, it will be made up of working people.

Environment has not been an issue for Ken over the last couple years since he came to Stillwater. They have a good group of professionals that give an outstanding effort on everything. Extra things that they have done here help to make Powell River special. It isn't just their foresters, it is a culture in this community. Staff has taken a leadership role in the Canoe Route maintenance upgrade and Horseshoe Lake debris management. There is lots of stream side management – it is all about protecting the stream and doing it right. The CAG is a group of dedicated volunteers and Ken and the community appreciates what they do. WFP also spends a lot of time with PRPAWS managing for the Sunshine Coast Trail. WFP had an independent audit of their environmental compliance by the Forest Practices Board. Having this important organization come in and say that the division is 100% compliant is due to the efforts of Stu, the staff, the loggers that are out there every day.

WFP is looking at a new level of planning on the landscape for northern goshawks and marbled murrelets. WFP is working with the appropriate agencies making sure they are using the right science and making the best decisions. This will be exciting and challenging.

The operating plan for 2015 has production down 30,000 cubic metres to 428,000 cubic metres. 26,000 cubic metres of this will be heli. This will be financially very challenging. They will be going after 100% second growth in the heli program. There is not a lot of second growth heli logging that isn't cedar going on right now because of the sales values. We are going to single stem the cedar poles out of all of the blocks first. The cedar has such high value that even though there is not much it will be worth it. This value should leverage the whole second growth program. They will log 135,000 cubic metres off the lake this year. It will be about 35% of this years cut. They will build 41 km of road this year. About 7 km will be up at Powell Daniels. This is challenging road as it is isolated and has hard rock. They will be sorting Mainland Coast Forest Operation wood again. Ken will be meeting with their manager and figuring out how to fit it in with the Stillwater wood. The sort creates a lot of employment, so the more wood that comes to the sort the more employment for our community.

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Saltair Sawmill is Stillwater’s biggest customer at 37%. The rest of the WFP mills take about 45% and the remaining 17% goes to external customers including Goat Lake Forest Products. They will continue to export about 1% of their total production to Japan and China. They will be spending 3.7 million dollars in capital expenditures. Most of that will go to mainline roads and bridges as well as some of their operating facilities.

Action List Items

Action Items			
<i>Ongoing</i>	Who	Meeting	When

Adjourned 9:00 pm

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group
Western Forest Products
January 14th Attendance**

Name	Position	Member Seat
PRESENT		
Jane Cameron – Chair	Primary	Member at large
Barry Miller	Primary	Environment
Andy Payne	Primary	Employment & Education
Wayne Brewer	Alternate	Tourism
Colin Palmer	Primary	Local Governments
Cathy Bartfai	Alternate	Member at large
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Tourism
Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
Laura van Diemen	Alternate	Employment & Education
Karen Skadsheim	Alternate	Local Governments
George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Read English	Alternate	Recreation
Dave Hodgins	Primary	Recreation
9 Seats represented		
ABSENT MEMBERS		
Russ Parsons	Alternate	DFA Worker
Bill Maitland	Primary	Local Business
Doug Fuller	Primary	DFA Worker

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Mark Hassett	Alternate	Contractor
Rob Stewart	Primary	Forest Dependent
Joseph McLean	Alternate	Local Business
PRESENT		
Resource – others		
Doug McCorquodale	Pacificus Biological Services	
Kylie Anderson	Pacificus Biological Services	
Ken Mackenzie	WFP	
Walt Cowland	WFP	
Stuart Glen	WFP	
Valerie Thompson	Facilitator/Secretary	