

**Advisory Group
Island Timberlands
April 21, 2015
Town Centre Hotel Meeting Room**

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 and introduced new members...

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted.

Crowther Road Update

Nothing new.

Question: When will there be activity at Crowther Road?

No plans. It is a very difficult area to deal with. We looked at it about a year and a half ago and it is a really difficult piece of property to work on. It is steep, Crowther Road runs below. There are small pieces we could take safely, but at that level of activity there wasn't enough value at the time. Markets can change, but it is still a very difficult piece of property to operate on.

Comment: There has been some hazard land studies done there. There are some lands along that road that are considered hazardous.

From a terrain perspective?

Comment: Yes.

It isn't our property is it?

Comment: I'm not sure. It is along Crowther Road.

There are a lot of big boulders up there. I'm not sure that would put the land in a terrain stability issue

Minutes

category. If there was an earthquake it could be an issue.

Did the Regional District conduct the terrain stability survey?

Comment: They hired Geotech to conduct the survey.

Question: Is there any plans for the Stewart Lake block? Culverts have been dropped off and some road marking has been done.

The culverts aren't ours. We laid our Stewart Lake block out last year. One of the issues with that block is we have to build about 3 km of road through Community Forest. We are looking at coming from a different direction.

Comment: Last time we met you were going to have it surveyed to find the boundary.

We did that.

Comment: It looks like the boundary is well off the trail so that's good.

The block is totally engineered and will be cut sometime in the next couple of years.

Valentine Mountain Update

Nothing new at Valentine Mountain. We haven't been there for a couple of years. We don't have it on our radar at all.

Comment: A lot of people would be happy to hear that.

Things could change anytime. I could get an email next week telling me to look at Valentine Mountain.

Morgan said there was quite a bit of interest and hype in this area right around election time. People were saying on social media that there were new flags out there and that IT was going to be out harvesting soon. They hadn't been out hanging flags so if there was anything new it was somebody else.

Question: What do you expect from us as an advisory group? We are linked to WFP and CSA. I know you have a history of meeting with us but what is it that we are trying to accomplish?

Mainly information sharing. We want to let you know what we are up to.

Question: So is this a communication plan by Island Timberlands?

I wouldn't call it a communication plan. It is very similar to any of our other operating areas although the sensitivity is quite enhanced. We are just bringing to the table the facts about what we will be doing. We have done a lot over the years to reduce the confusion.

Minutes

Question: Is there anything you want or would like or expect us to do?

No, other than ask questions and take the message to the community if you like. There are people at this table that bring things to their groups.

Morgan said that they don't have a regular presence in Powell River so their interactions with this group have been more irregular. They know there is interest in what they are doing so they wanted to take the opportunity to let the group know. They will be giving a statement to the media tonight or early tomorrow morning. They have already delivered letters to any neighbours.

Question: Will you be sharing with the paper that you have met with an advisory group?

Morgan said they would if the group would like that.

Comment: The chair said that the group has a long history with Island Timberlands because originally when their lands were taken out of the TFL the lands kept their CSA certification for two years and the licensee covered those Island Timberlands lands for two years. At the end of those two years the group worked with Island Timberlands towards to getting the lands certified under CSA as they had been. They worked at it for at least a couple of years, but could not come to agreement. At the end IT decided not to pursue CSA and they chose to be certified SFI instead. Since that time the group has had meetings with IT on an irregular basis to basically information share. It is now clear that the group is not meeting as Stillwater CSA Advisory Group. We are a number of the same people that are interested in forestry that have been meeting with Island for many years and exchanging information. IT was not very good with public relations in this area and the group gave you some good ideas about how to get information out to the community. If we see a place where Island could be doing a better job of getting information out we tell them. It is a different relationship than what we have with WFP. It is pretty informal. I think the last time we met was a year and a half ago.

Lot 450 Update

Wayne showed the group a map of Lot 450. He explained how the area above the powerlines is owned by Island Timberlands and that the area below the powerlines belongs to PRSC. They own the lands, but Island Timberlands holds the timber rights. They have been negotiating with the city for a number of years regarding what area could be maintained as the Millennium Park and exchanging it for various parts of their plans. Public use in this area is pretty obvious. I'm sure everyone in the room has been there numerous times.

North of the powerlines on IT lands there have been two previous passes. One was 15 years ago and the second pass was about 4 years ago. The majority of the remaining timber will go in this pass. They delivered letters to everyone around the perimeter of this property. There was about 100 letters and they have had a couple of comments back. There are mixed feelings. Some people are happy because they will get more sunlight in their backyards. They are starting to fall a right-of-way tomorrow. Blocks in the urban interface are always so difficult. There are so many things to deal with such as powerlines, sewer lines, and falling near people's properties. Near Cranberry School is very awkward because of these issues and the timber is very big. They will build a temporary bridge over the sewer line.

Minutes

Below the powerlines on PRSC lands they have come to an agreement with the city where the boundary of the cutting will be. It is the boundary that they have always talked about separating the Millennium Park from the property they will be operating on. In the block nearest the boundary near the Recreation Complex there are some large patches of alder. These are the areas that were logged 16 years ago. They will be reactivating the roads in this area (no new roads will need to be built) and will cut everything from the powerline down to Marine Avenue. They will leave a strip along the road of non-merchandise timber. This is easy to say but difficult to do. When you are taking out big timber it is very difficult to retain little cedar trees, but they are going to try to do it so that it breaks up the visuals a bit.

Question: How close to the highway are you coming?

Within 10 metres and narrower at times.

Comment: The Cut Connector trail goes through the area you are talking about. What is your plan regarding that trail?

We will do the same treatment on any major trail we find in this block as we do on major trails in other blocks. We hang machine free zone ribbon along both sides of the trail about 5 metres off each side and we try to leave non-merchandise timber along the trail. We will have to cut a path through the trail somewhere to get the trees through. Once again – easy to say but hard to do. That is really the only major trail coming through this block. I looked at some other trails but they didn't seem very major. We had Sliammon come through and do a CMT survey and they found some and I found more. If we can we will leave them for future education opportunities. Some we will be able to cut out of the harvest area. We had a bird expert come from Courtenay. He toured through the properties twice to see if there were any blue heron nests or large raptor nests. He didn't find anything. He knows about the nest between the Rec centre and the hospital and he feels if there is a colony there it isn't likely there would be another for quite a distance because they are quite competitive.

Question: Will your contractors be educated about birds and watching for raptor nests?

They go through the training.

Morgan said that they are taught to watch and stop if they spot one and contact the IT individual that is managing that contract. If it is a raptor nest there is a designated time that must be given to let the birds nest and fledge. They leave a 200 metre buffer from about March until August.

The expert looked for an eagle's nest that was entered into the registry in the mid '70s and was unable to find it or even a tree that would have been suitable.

Question: What about debris and fire hazard?

There have been lots of discussions with the city about this. We have an agreement with them about how it should conceptually look when we are done. As we go through the harvesting phases they will be working with our contract supervisor and they will be involved in inspections. The blocks are close to

Minutes

urban interface so we will be mostly chipping.

The block close to Brooks Secondary School has the sewer pipe going through it. The sewer pipe will be treated like a major trail so it will have machine free ribbon along it and non-merch. will be left along it. They will be building a temporary bridge over the sewer pipe so they can cross it. The city has plans for this property which you all know more about than we do. I have my job to do and it is their business what they do after. There are a lot of kids in these woods.

Question: Will you planting anything on these blocks?

We will plant our property above the powerlines but I don't know what will happen to the PRSC lands below the powerline.

We met with the city and they were originally asking for a 30 metre buffer along the border by the school and track but I think we convinced them that with the windthrow issues it would not be a good idea. So, we will try to leave a buffer of non-merch like the one along the highway. We will try to leave some small cedar.

Question: What is your plan for the streams in the blocks?

There is only one creek. Wys Creek. It is a pretty small creek and we will treat it just like any other creek in a block.

Comment: Could you explain what this treatment would be? What is the IT policy regarding a creek such as this that is presumable fish bearing?

It is fish bearing up to Marine but not in the block. We had a biologist in years ago to identify it. Non-fish streams in the private managed forest land legislation do not require any retention but as we discussed before we have our internal company riparian standards. On one side we will leave 10 – 15 metres but on the other side the creek is right against the haul road so it will be very difficult to retain anything.

Question: If that stream is more exposed presumably the temperature will rise and the warmer water feeds into the fish bearing part of the stream. Are you allowed to change the temperature in a fish stream with your logging practices?

Yes. But we do have our internal company riparian standards that meet or exceed what we are allowed to do under the private managed forest land legislation. There is an industrial commercial area up higher on the stream.

Comment: Where is this industrial area you are talking about.

Manson and Drake.

Comment: That is not industrial.

Minutes

The creek comes down through this area and runs through a couple of swamps and through the block and down by the haul road.

Question: Wys Creek is the creek that comes down to the Willingdon Beach trail that goes under the Bomb Squad bridge?

Yes.

Question: Wayne, could you show us the openings and give us some relative sizes so that it makes it easy to describe it. How big is the area where the hoe chucking will take place below Marine Avenue?

That area is about 10 hectares.

Question: Clear cut?

Yes.

Question: Is that area coming u to the edge of the old golf course?

That's right.

Question: and the trail runs along the edge of it?

Yes.

Comment: That is a really well used trail. Too bad it wasn't included in the Millennium Park.

Comment: There was not enough money to pay for more park.

Question: Across the highway North East of that area looks like a big opening. Roughly what size of an area is that?

I would guess 24 hectares.

Question: With very little left other than those couple of small areas with alders?

Yes.

Question: With your prescription will you be having any hand falling around those trails or will you just use mechanical?

I would imagine it will be mostly mechanical. There will have to be some hand falling along the highway.

Minutes

Comment: In my experience we have had very little success with trying to retain any under-story using mechanical. It is destroyed. If you are concerned with trying to maintain under-story you would need to hand fall around trails.

That is why I have been clear that it is really difficult to retain even with the hand falling scenario. Yes, it is easier but some of those tree crowns are 20 metres across.

Comment: I am not too worried about those trails above the highway. We do use them for the BC Bike Race, but PRSC is going to sell a big chunk of that area to Sino Bright School and it will all get bulldozed anyway.

That may be true but we still need to do our job right and be respectful and leave a little bit of visual corridor. It is a very difficult operating scenario with highway and powerlines and trying to leave non-merch near really big timber.

Comment: Down below the highway there are more people hiking and love the trails.

Comment: It is more than recreationally used. It is a pedestrian corridor that people use to commute.

Question: In the past I've seen that anything left behind that is over 6 metres will just blow over. When taking such a large patch out their root system will not be able to stand up to the South East wind when it comes. What appears when you finish looks decent but as soon as the wind comes there will be criss-crossed trees all over the ground. If they are pruned they can often remain standing. Are you planning on doing some climbing or heli-pruning of the non-merch left along the edges?

We don't plan on leaving anything that is tall enough to need pruning. Trees only 6 metres or under would be left. Some of them will blow over but I believe nothing ventured, nothing gained. If you don't try to leave something you will end up with nothing. Even if some blow over we can hope that some will be retained.

Question: Will you be identifying any danger trees that could blow over across trails? Will you have them pruned?

We won't be leaving anything tall enough to hit somebody's property. We don't leave anything that could hit a powerline. We did a lot of pruning on our last pass because we wanted the trees to remain standing until we came back. We will look post-harvest and if there is anything along the creek that looks like it would be better to prune we will. We won't know until the face is opened up.

Comment: I saw the ones you did on the last pass by Artaban and they turned out alright.

We did lose a few that we pruned.

Comment: As trail builders we do see for 2 or 3 years after harvest trees coming down across trails. At least half are stable enough to make it.

Minutes

The area is pretty exposed. Even today I was wondering if I should have been in there.

Comment: and that was a West wind.

Exactly.

When you are in there it doesn't really matter which way it is blowing.

Question: Will you be trimming the trees along the edge of Millennium Park or will it be the City's responsibility?

It will be the City's responsibility.

Question: Which way will you be hauling? Out the highway to Stillwater?

Probably along Manson and through the Valley.

Question: What is the timeline?

There have been discussions as to whether we should be operating during the summer or not, but in some aspects the summer would be the best time because the kids won't be traveling back and forth through the block to get to school. We did the falling of the area below the track on a May long weekend to avoid the kids.

Question: How long will it take?

It is probably about a 6 month project from start to finish.

Morgan said this is because the crew will be small and they will be taking small patches as they go. They don't want to block off all the trails at once. They will be starting at the top near Drake and Manson and work down.

There are some wet areas that they will want to work in the summer.

Question: Are you using local contractors?

Yes.

Question: There is another block at the top where the powerline turns. Is that going as well?

That block belongs to just Catalyst. The blocks below the powerline all belong to PRSC. We are in discussion with Catalyst about what to do with these ones. We strolled through for the first time last week. There are a couple of spur roads that will have to go in. There will be quite a bit of alder retention along

Minutes

the back alleys which will hopefully be a bit of a visual buffer from the water. It is a difficult situation to plan around. We are mainly trying to manage the visuals and it is not our land and the land owners don't want any trees left.

Question: Isn't there concern about the water coming down into the townsite from that steep area?

It is pretty dry up higher, but it is pretty wet down lower.

Comment: The alder is not doing well because it is too wet for alder.

I hadn't heard of any water issues here.

The land is for sale if you want to buy it. You just don't get the trees.

Comment: Just lots of stumps to burn. Although you can't.

The most difficult part for us will be the trail below the highway. It is in constant use.

Comment: There is another trail closer to the shore that people could be redirected to.

We are going to try and protect the trail a little bit. It is really difficult because the backline is on the lower edge of the trail.

Question: Couldn't you move it above the trail?

We want to get our timber off. We don't get paid for anything we leave behind.

Comment: Maybe you could use hand fallers across the trail. If that area was cut by machine it wouldn't look very good.

Comment: Trails are good for grapple skidding on and then sometimes they turn out better.

Unless it turns into a muck pit.

Question: Is that trail an old road?

Yes. A lot of the trails are old roads or old rail grades.

Question: How many hectares is the city getting put aside as the Millennium Park?

I'm not sure.

Morgan said that it might say in the press release that was put out in December.

Question: How much further toward Westview could you have logged if it were not for the Millennium

Minutes

Park deal?

We could have logged to the edge of the creek below the complex.

Question: and then right down to the waterfront?

Maybe not. Even if it were our private land it would have been difficult to operate on with visuals and land stability issues. I'm glad it is gone to be honest.

Question: How prepared are you for the outcry from the public?

Question: Who is in charge of the public relations? Is it Island Timberlands or the City?

Morgan said that everything below the powerlines belongs to the City and Sliammon and Island Timberlands is coming in to complete its business arrangement it has had in place for a number of years. This is being dictated by the City in many discussions. So, any questions about the harvesting come to her at Island Timberlands and any questions about who owns the land, what is the intended future use of the land, reforestation and trails should go to the City communications department. Any questions or concerns about what Island does on its managed forest properties above the powerlines come to her.

Comment: You might be surprised to hear that many people in this community do not know that when the city bought Millennium Park that it did not include the trees. Hundreds of people if not more are unaware that you still own the trees.

Morgan said this was clear from the bylaw meetings and newspaper articles. The City tried to clarify that. It all dates back to when it was one integrated company – MacMillan Bloedel. They owned sub-surface resources and surface resources and changes over the last 20 years left different organizations owning the land and the trees. This is the largest timber reservation we have but there are other instances where we have situations like this.

Question: So, once you have harvested those trees Island Timberlands interest on the land will end?

Morgan said yes. For the area below the powerline. So, if we were to leave a lot of trees, the trees would be purchased by the City. This leaves them with a huge liability because if a tree were to blow over a day later or a year later it will be the City that has to deal with it. They are not huge fans of having this area cleared but they want the deal to be done. They are supporting us in moving forward.

Question: When there is logging taking place will there be flag people?

Morgan said the main trails will have rope or flagging tape and signage that says 'Do Not Enter - Logging Taking Place' or something to that effect. There will be people walking the trails to clear them in the morning and additional effort because of the school children using the trails. Flagging will be completed over the next week or two because we didn't want to put it up until all of the bylaw amendment meetings were past and to help the City reduce the fluster that they are expecting to receive. We are

Minutes

starting tomorrow morning so we wanted to meet with you before we started to let you know. We expect some blow back but we don't really know how much because some of the comments are owned by Island Timberlands and some of them belongs to the City. We are working with them (PRSC) and I have developed a communication plan that they have signed off on. Specific operational details people can ask us and we will decide to comment or not and any comments about the ownership, tree cutting bylaw or the bylaw amendment and future use of the property are owned by the City and they can deal with them how they want to.

Wayne said the production fellow figures he will have up to 3 flag people some days just blocking trails. While we are working there will be people on the trails all of the time. Some people used to bring coffee and doughnuts out to the guys walking the trails. Sometimes they would come out and sit on a stump and watch machines work.

Question: When do you expect to get below the highway? July?

I wouldn't want to say because I don't know and there are so many things to take into consideration in planning and I don't know what plans have been made at the negotiation level yet. I would prefer not to do anything around the school until summer time.

Morgan said they could always provide an update via email or plan to come back in a few months if that is of interest. Initial conversations were that we wouldn't go past May long weekend, but we had intended to start work in January. Now we are starting work in late April. There is interest in us doing it as soon as possible to sort of rip the band-aid off. There is concern about debris so one idea is that we harvest each polygon and have the chippers come in right behind us having the operation move like a snake really quickly and we don't have all of the areas to chip after the whole area is logged. This should mitigate fire hazard.

Question: On your own private lands I would assume you will leaving some debris as future fertilizer. Will you be leaving any debris below the pole line? Or are you just going to clean up?

Wayne said that one of the major discussions between Island and the City was what is a reasonable level of debris at the interface from a fire perspective. I believe we came to a kind of consensus of using some degree of reasonableness based on other areas we have used chipping as a baseline.

Comment: It depends on the end use of the property. If construction crews are coming in then you would need to clean it all up, but if it will be used to grow trees some debris will be needed for fertilizer.

I don't know if they are going to plant.

Question: It seems like it sped up to me. You spoke about Valentine and how you haven't been there for a couple of years and now this area that has a history of slow and methodical discussion now seems to have had a catalyst to get you in and out of here. What was the catalyst?

Wayne said he believes it is this school coming in, but that has been the talk for several years. I've laid out one of these PRSC blocks 5 times in the last 3 years. I would be asked to lay it out because it was

Minutes

going to be logged in a couple of weeks and then it would stop. This is our third time through. There is a quagmire of ribbons and tapes in there because every time the land owner would want to go in a different direction.

Question: Will it all be exported?

It is split. Some is and some isn't. The timber on our property is all exportable and the timber below is split somehow.

Question: Is that because it has been private prior to 1906?

Yes.

It has been a long time coming. We have been talking about this for as long as we have been Island Timberlands. It has to happen sometime because the City has a liability that they are holding our trees on their land.

Comment: I like to view it as a win-win because you get your trees and the City gets land that they can finally do something with.

With forestry everyone thinks about what it looks like today and not what it will look like in 20 years. As long as it is managed forest and not just left.

Question: Confusion in the community will increase for a while because bylaws, reserve trees, private land, PRSC land is all very convoluted and there are very few people in the community that fully understand the situation.

Morgan said they will try to provide some clarity in the comments I will be providing to the Peak tomorrow. We plan to use one of the maps and I can say where we will be starting to work and we can colour the private managed forest land differently than the PRSC land.

Comment: It will be a massive clear cut where the sewer and the haul road are.

Comment: There is a big hump near Brooks that will hide the clear cut.

Wayne showed a corner of timber that he plans to leave standing that will help hide the clear cut.

Question: Do you see any danger of run off from the block through the old incinerator lands? The soil there is contaminated.

I think the land is pretty well drained and sandy. Not that much actually slopes toward that area. I will have a look when I walk around tomorrow.

Comment: The whole incinerator plant has a closure plan which is being submitted to the Ministry of

Minutes

Environment by the Regional District. The City owns the land but the Regional District had to produce a plan that the City is expected to carry out. If you would like to find out what is going on with that site there is a document that you can read. It tells what the experts came up with. It is a draft document and the Ministry has not yet approved the plan. It does exist but it could change.

Question: I have heard the 'School Dream' before and you said it was the catalyst, but was there something about it that resulted in your company deciding that they better get at it?

No. We've always wanted to go at it. We want to get the value of our trees and get out of this situation. We don't like our trees to be on other peoples land. We like to control our trees. We have always wanted to get in here, but then the City enacted the tree cutting bylaw.

Morgan said it has been an active conversation with the last three councils. There will be conclusion for both parties even though it might not be perfect for either party.

Comment: Perhaps I misinterpreted that our own council is pushing because of the school.

I think it has made the prospect more attractive. If the deal is done they can show progress and it is one step closer to the idea of the school.

Question: Are the maps readily available?

This one is a few years old but very little has changed.

Comment: That one is much clearer than the one in the paper.

Question: With Lot 450 could you give us a heads up over the next few months when things are happening?

Question: You said you may take some of that alder.

We may. I will have the quality control person over to look at it.

Question: What do you do with the alder? Do you sell it to Northwest Hardwoods?

Not as part of this project. We have in the past. It will probably be exported too.

Question: Alder?

Yes. It goes in containers and people pay us lots of money for it. Some gets used on Vancouver Island in furniture places. Marketing group sells it where we get the best dollar.

Question: Will any of that wood go to local people here?

Some of the cedar goes local.

Minutes

Question: But will wood be offered to local mills?

Marketing decides that.

There might be firewood available. I don't know if it will be commercial or if it will be open to the public.

Morgan said when they work near communities they often set up some kind of public firewood program whether asking the Ministry or use not-for-profit groups to administer and split the profits. It is to be determined.

Loubert Road - Update

We are working in between the dry land sort and Loubert Road. Wayne showed a map and said that the new map is significantly different as there is more retention. There is a large swamp in the middle of it. There are no trails in this block. There is the water line, powerlines and the highway involved with this block which makes it very difficult. They can't leave any trees that could hit the powerline. There are retention patches but it will be almost impossible to leave any retention along the road. They wouldn't want to leave a tree that could hit the highway. It is tough block to manage for visuals. It can be seen from the highway, Loubert and the water.

Question: How many hectares.

I think about 18.

Question: When?

This summer.

Comment: You won't need to come back after this summer. You will be back in 60 years.

We're great neighbours.

Question: Have you planted on the clear cut across the road?

Yes.

We just did some helicopter cedar salvage with some cedar windthrow. We used Oceanview and it turned out great.

Question: Stillwater Bluffs are nowhere in the future?

What Bluffs?

Minutes

Question: You don't really have too many neighbours there do you?

I think we have to consider everyone that lives down that road neighbours because they have to drive past it.

Comment: The other side is looking pretty good. There's a lot of regeneration.

Yes. Once the regen reaches about a metre it takes off.

Question: How quickly to you replant?

About 10 months later on average. This block will be logged this summer and replanted next spring.

Question: do you still get stock from Oregon?

Morgan said some seed stock comes from Oregon and some comes from Washington and the majority comes from Vancouver Island – Saanich Peninsula.

Question: Do you have any more properties still to do?

Stewart Lake and a little block near Giovanni so I was up there last week. It is about 5 or 6 hectares. Plus there is a 1 ½ hectare block off Tanner Road.

Question: What part of Tanner?

Across from the new water tank in Cranberry.

Adjourned 7:45 pm

Advisory Group
Island Timberlands
April 21st Attendance

Name
PRESENT
Jane Cameron – Chair
Mark Hassett
Wayne Brewer
Colin Palmer

Minutes

Andy Payne
Laura van Diemen
Russ Parsons
Read English
Joseph McLean
Mark Anderson
Doug Fuller
Valerie Thompson
Wayne French
Morgan Kennah

Minutes