

Minutes  
**CSA Community Advisory Group**  
**To Western Forest Products**  
**May 13, 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.

**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: Summer job

Thank you to Brian Carson

Email announcing Williams Lake received advisory group award.

**Operational Information Map Review**

**Current Activities**

**Harvesting** – FH-033, GI-119, GI-122, GI-129, GI-131, GI-140, LL-012 (inactive), ST-103, ST-111, ST-276, ST-820, UL-846

**Road Construction** – FH-041, ST-031, ST-063, ST-075, ST-080, ST-093, ST-294, ST-298, UL-821, PD-Rehab, PD-164

**Engineering** – BT-630, BT-644, GL-024, GL-031, GL-661, ST-065, ST-112

**What's New on the Map**

**New Blocks** – None

**New Roads** – None

**Cutting Permit Approved Areas** – None

## Minutes

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

**Logging Complete** – None

**Road Construction Complete** – ST-152

**Engineered Blocks** – None

**Engineered Roads** – None

### **Guest Speaker – Stuart Glen, RFP – Landscape Level Planning to the Block Level**

Stuart presented a photo showing the first stand of trees that Rudi van Zwaaij planted when he started at Stillwater. The area in the photo was originally harvested in 1920 and then harvested again in 1988. Rudi planted the area in 1990. The most recent picture was taken in 2014 and the trees are already a substantial size after 25 years of growth. There is an old sign on the block saying when it was harvested, planted, and how much wood was harvested. There was enough wood for 2,000,000 canoe paddles, 60,000 canoes or 700 – 800 houses.

There is a whole section of provincial legislation regarding forestry. Foresters have to be knowledgeable about all of this legislation. Stuart keeps the legislation binder on his desk and he says it is a phenomenal amount of information that needs to be understood. The regulations change and updates are provided. There are online tools used to query different regulations. You may need to pull information from four or five different sections, acts or regulations on one particular topic.

At the broad level, about 60% of the forested area (coloured green on the Operational Information Map (OIM)) does not get logged. There are a number of reasons these areas are not logged including: being inoperable, riparian, wildlife habitat, not productive, terrain stability, and recreation.

Stuart showed a map of Block 1 with all of the TFL showing green and then masked it off with white for each of the government take back areas and then for each type of harvest constraint until only the area representing the 40% available to harvest remained green. He also showed maps with different reserves at the landscape level. One of these had the grizzly bear, deer and goat winter ranges, and marbled murrelet habitat polygons identified.

*Question: Can you cut in these areas?*

You primarily cannot harvest in these areas. In our goat winter ranges there is some flexibility to do some harvesting. The goat winter ranges are broad areas that cover a wide range of structures like rock bluffs and depending on the goat winter range there is some limited harvest opportunity. With the help of a biologist you can identify the areas available for some limited harvesting in these areas. A rotational harvest is completed within the deer winter ranges, which manages for both forest cover as well as forage areas.

Another map showed visual requirements at a broad level. Approximately half of the harvesting in Stillwater comes out of scenic areas with visual quality objectives established. These areas must be within an allowable level of alteration of the viewscape.

## Minutes

*Question: What is the percentage of alteration allowed?*

In simple terms, it's up to 7% for the partial retention areas from the perspective view and 14% for the modification areas. Additional harvesting cannot take place until visually effective green-up has occurred within harvested areas. This is why we need to be careful with our future planning because we need to manage these viewscapes to their intended alteration level to maintain an even flow of harvest opportunities.

The next map showed Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs). These reserves were established in conjunction with government. OGMA's can be amended if necessary and it sometimes makes good sense to do so. These areas were established at a broad level with coarse filter information. A good example of a time that an OGMA should be moved would be if during site groundwork it was discovered that an OGMA established on a stream feature has actually missed the stream. Any time that an OGMA is changed the same amount of area and equivalent or better timber qualities must be maintained.

Some constraints are fixed constraints and harvesting cannot take place in these areas, others are timing constraints, such as visuals, where harvesting can take place but must be managed over time. Harvesting within community watersheds for example, may be subject to timing restraints. In some community watersheds, you cannot have more than 30% of the forest in younger stands. Deer winter ranges are set up with rotational harvesting. No more than 20% can be cut at one time and there are minimum patch sizes of trees over 80 years of age which must be retained. Operational timing constraints include seasonal restraints, method and equipment, species and age needed for market.

Information regarding the species and size of timber being harvested are communicated ahead to our mills. The mills communicate back their requirements for customers and sharing this key information helps ensure the mills will have the right products for the market.

Other things to be considered include access and road networks and structures. A key piece of the puzzle is log dumps on Powell Lake. They are expensive so you want to plan harvesting that will justify the cost of the log dump. Generally on the lake areas are set-up for more than one rotation because of managing for the visuals. You get clever about what patch you should take first and subsequently so that you don't isolate the wood.

*Question: Does any company have access to a log dump?*

Yes, generally an agreement is made to facilitate another parties use of a log dump.

*Question: When you are deciding between heli and conventional logging at what point do you submit it to the government for their approval? And how often do they say no?*

Government sees this level of detail at the time of applying for a cutting permit.

*Question: I'm thinking of the Windsor Lake situation years ago.*

That one had the complexity of the OGMA involved and to access the area conventionally required the OGMA to be amended for road access.

## Minutes

*Question: It seemed like you had done a lot of planning for the heli with the CAG and putting in the campsite and only to have it denied. How does it get that for along and then get denied?*

That was a more complex situation. It may have been related to how access through the OGMA was viewed. Early discussions can help in these more complex situations.

After the Management Plan is completed and the Chief Forester has set the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) the next thing to prepare is the FSP (Forest Stewardship Plan). This is the five year plan that has results and strategies for all of the objectives that government has established for the area of the plan.

Once this is approved the next level of planning is the cutblock. Prior to going into the field, a review is completed of all the information that relates to the area where harvesting is being planned. They create layers masked off on a map prior to going out and hanging any ribbons. These layers will be made up of things like OGMA, deer winter range, steep terrain, visual quality polygons, bird nests, cultural heritage features, fish streams, and retention patches.

Once this is done you go out in the field and design your cut block. A key part of the planning is where your access should be. We have great discussions about this around the light table. If old roads are to be used they need reactivation plans. Items such as the Sunshine Coast Trail, terrain stability, and recreation sites are all examples of issues that need to be considered before hanging ribbons. In designing a cutblock, you need to consider all of the factors relating to an area in relation to each other in order to develop a good plan.

Silviculture systems also need to be considered. Wind throw would be a factor in deciding whether to use clear cut with reserves or the retention system for the block. Retention can be used to help manage items such as bear dens and wetlands.

Harvest systems need to be planned. Grapple yarding is used for steeper area and helicopter yarding is used for areas where road access is limited.

Stuart showed an example of planning for the viewscape of ST-111. He showed how the block was originally planned and how they created a different shape with a retention patch to soften the edges. They have to be careful not to isolate any timber that they wish to get in the next pass.

*Question: Was there no visual requirement during the 70s and 80s? Is this new?*

Yes, plus there was still not harvesting in the second growth at that time.

*Comment: Visuals started coming into play when cruise ships started traveling up the coast and a little bit on the Coquihalla. Then it started spreading over the rest of BC. Our values changed and then forestry improved.*

It is complicated. You have to get the road in the right spot, make the grapple yarding set up so that it is safe, consider all of the other things on the landscape like OGMA's, and at the same time make it look good and not isolate wood. There have been times when we have done 4 or 5 renderings to get the block to look good from the viewpoints.

## Minutes

When we get into steeper ground we walk it with a geotech to help us with our terrain stability. You look at hazards and grade it as low, moderate, or high and consider the consequence and make decisions about what and how to harvest.

We walk all of our blocks with Sliammon or Sechelt First Nations prior to harvesting. We are looking for cultural heritage items.

We complete soil hazard assessment assessments prior to harvesting considering compaction, displacement, and erosion based on soil types which helps with ground based timing.

Part of the planning includes finding the creeks and assessing where the fish are or are not. Sometimes it is obvious it is a fish creek, but sometimes it is not so clear and outside help is brought in. This information guides the block boundary and reserves. Lakes also have classifications (like creeks) depending on their size. There are requirements for reserves around some sizes of lakes.

*Question: Government has less staff and more regulations. Is there a ministry that keeps an eye on you?*

In British Columbia, forest management is done by Registered Professional Foresters (RPF). Forest Professionals have a right to practice and right to title. Harvest plans need to be prepared and signed by a forest professional. That is the foundation of our system and there is an act governing it. There is also compliance and enforcement. We notify them when we start on a block. They will look at the block and see that it has perhaps a fish creek and target their inspections based on that information. We get inspected by C & E on a regular basis. The Forest Practices Board also does audits and they were here about two years ago and did a thorough audit of every single cut block that we had harvested over the previous year. They also reviewed our silviculture, fire hazard assessments, and site plans.

*Comment: When government was shrinking they got rid of all of the extraneous legislation and only kept the legislation that covered the values they wanted maintained. We ended up with FRPA which is significantly smaller legislation than the Forest Practices Code ever was and they put the onus on compliance and enforcement. They also looked at history and for all of the millions of inspections there were not significant problems except from back in the days when standards were much lower. Code came in, standards improved and government had to deal with more limited resources and the new model came in to play.*

The final piece of the puzzle is the Site Plan. It is required by legislation and must be signed by a Registered Professional Forester. The Site Plan specifies how the results and strategies in the FSP apply to the area being harvested. The ecology (what type of site) and associated reforestation regime through to free-growing are all tied to the plan. The Site Plan map documents the retention areas which are in addition to the reserves at the landscape level like OGMAs. These are small reserves sprinkled throughout the large reserves. They would be protecting things like fish creeks, nests, deer dens or perhaps a culturally modified tree. Silviculture plans which the company will be measured against at the free growing stage are also included in the Site Plan.

### **Summary of Seat Review**

CAG completed the annual seat review .

### **Community Display**

CAG considered possible ways to promote CSA sustainable forestry

Minutes

**Action List Items**

**Action Items**

<i>Ongoing</i>	Who	Meeting	When
Find somebody to talk about visuals.	Stuart	May 13, 2015	

**Adjourned 9:00 pm**

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group  
Western Forest Products  
May 13th Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Member Seat</b>
<b>PRESENT</b>		
Jane Cameron – Chair	Primary	Member at large
Barry Miller	Primary	Environment
Mark Hassett	Alternate	Contractor
Wayne Brewer	Alternate	Tourism
Colin Palmer	Primary	Local Governments
Cathy Bartfai	Alternate	Member at large
Mark Anderson	Alternate	Member at large
Paul Goodwin	Primary	Forest Dependent
Karen Skadsheim	Alternate	Local Governments
George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Read English	Alternate	Recreation
Dave Hodgins	Primary	Recreation
7 Seats represented		
<b>ABSENT MEMBERS</b>		
Russ Parsons	Alternate	DFA Worker
Bill Maitland	Primary	Local Business
Doug Fuller	Primary	DFA Worker
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Tourism
Joseph McLean	Alternate	Local Business
Andy Payne	Primary	Employment & Education
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
Laura van Diemen	Alternate	Employment & Education
<b>PRESENT</b>	WFP	
<b>Resource – others</b>	<b>Resource – others</b>	
Stuart Glen	WFP	
Valerie Thompson	Facilitator/Secretary	