

Minutes  
**CSA Community Advisory Group**  
**To Western Forest Products**  
**April 8, 2015**  
**WFP 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 and guest speaker Brian Carson and group 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: Nancy Pezel thank you.

The chair will send the CSA-SFM Z809-08 revision timetable out tomorrow. They expect to have the draft out for public review this summer. So far the changes that have been proposed include a new section 7 which will amalgamate all of the First Nation indicators from the plan under one section. There will be more consistency of working in those indicators. There will not be big changes like last time. They will be recommending that more information from the CSA audits be made public and more accessible. They are proposing some easing on the forecasting on some of the indicators and there will be a new water indicator.

**Operational Information Map Review**

**Current Activities**

**Harvesting** – FH-033, GI-122, GI-129, GI-131, LL-012 (inactive), ST-103, ST-276

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

**Engineering** – BT-630, BT-644, GL-024, GL-661, ST-065, ST-112, ST-306

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### **What's New on the Map**

**New Blocks** – ST-306

**New Roads** – ST-306

Cutting Permit Approved Areas – GI-062, GI-119, GI-130, GI-140, PD-164, PD-471, PD-482, PD-306, ST-298, UL-839, UL-846

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

**Logging Complete** – CH-018, CH-042, LL-038, TM-260, TM-265

**Road Construction Complete** – GI-130, LL-037, ST-040, ST-152, TM-265, UL-846

**Engineered Blocks** – UL-844, WL-014

**Engineered Roads** – UL-844, WL-014

*Comment: The A Branch cabin has been torn apart because with the lack of snow they are able to drive right to the cabin. We have photos of all of the garbage and beer bottles as well as photos showing that the outhouse has been shot up and rifle shot right through the roof of the cabin. The roof has been repaired and we have permission from the recreation officer to deactivate A900 just off A Branch and Stuart has offered to repair the gate and deactivate the road.*

### **Company Updates**

LL-038 has been windfirmed and it looks really good. FH33 is still active and the detour is in place for another month or so. ST820 – the Alaska Pine Road for the ATVers has trees across it right now. The SCT is at the top of the block and is open right now and the Alaska Pine is closed at the bottom. At some point the Alaska Pine will be opened and the SCT will be closed. On the canoe route there is signage in place due to the blasting taking place on the right hand side of Horseshoe Lake and the same for Dodd Lake except in that case it is on the left hand side of the lake.

### **Guest Speaker: Brian Carson, Water Quality, Haslam CWAP update**

Brian has been coming to Powell River professionally for about 25 years. He has worked with all of the companies that have inhabited the Stillwater Division office for twenty years. He also has a working relationship with the Powell River Salmon Society. An important point he would like to make clear is that whenever you see dirt in a river it may or may not show that someone has been irresponsible. Nature puts a lot of dirt in rivers. You don't need to automatically assume that someone has done something wrong in a watershed when you see sediment. Every delta is formed by natural sedimentation.

The goal of the presentation is to understand how water management and water quality are related. You can do a lot of management but it won't change natural water quality. Brian starts by looking for the 'smoking gun'. When you see an issue with a stream you go up stream to see what has happened. The picture Brian used as an example was a very dirty river in Pakistan that had been seriously affected by a

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glacial outflow flood showing not everything is caused by human error. In the forestry operations when you are down at the mouth of a creek and you see something happening, there has been in the past the idea that someone has made a mistake to cause high levels of sediment. There are actually many reasons why rivers produce sediment.

One of the most common causes of sediment in creeks is through landslides. Most of the Stillwater area is relatively stable although there are some areas with unstable slopes. There are many reasons that landscapes produce landslides and the most common is river undercutting. Up to 10,000 cubic metres of material can enter the stream at once when this happens. 90% of the material is coarse material which stays on site and moves down stream slowly as rubble. 10% gets washed out to a lake or the ocean within a period of ten to fifteen hours depending on the storm. All road surfaces produce sediment and it is not a problem as long as the sediment is managed properly.

About 15 years ago a subsurface tunnel came up right underneath Lang Creek and spilled 20 or 30,000 cubic metres of silt directly into the creek over a period of about 5 days. At first it was not obvious what happened but some years later Brian discovered that in the '70s MacMillan Bloedel cut a block that had a back spar that for some reason they ditched. The ditch was well over 90cm deep and it went for 250 metres down a slope. All of the water concentrated down the back of this ditch and went to the far end and created a pond. The pond was only 15 metres from where the damage to Lang Creek occurred. Unusual things happen when you are dealing with this particular landscape. Lang Creek has lacustrines, which is lake sediments, underneath the surface soils in many locations, therefore extreme care has to be taken not to expose those materials when building roads. Those kinds of materials occur post glaciation. This whole basin behind Powell River was a lake. It covers an area that is between 2 to 3 ½ metres deep. Whenever it is exposed it causes trouble. Most of the good road builders are avoiding it. The roads being built by Community Forests and Western Forest Products working in the Lower Lang Main where it is predominately located are actually built differently. They don't dig in to the land and create ditches, they overland with heavy material going over top so that they don't disturb those particular materials. These materials also cause natural landslides in Lang Creek because the river has cut into the banks causing major sediment sources.

You can generate sediment anywhere you want but if it doesn't meet a natural drainage it is not important for water quality. Soil is an incredibly good filtration system and if it is only a matter of one to three feet of water with silty materials going through it will completely filter all of those materials. The issue is when surface water makes it to a creek.

Relief culverts are culverts put on roads at sites where there is a drainage and occasionally at sites where there isn't a drainage because the road ditch itself may be collecting and generating water therefore you may need to send the water across the road at that point. Too large inter-drainage culverts will collect too much water with too much force and the water will cross quite a bit of riparian land and make it to a creek. When you cut a cut-bank through when building a road, if there is a subsurface stream you expose material that runs into the road ditch and if you were not anticipating it the design may not have included a culvert at that location. The water will run along the ditch and if you catch 3 or 4 of these in succession which sometimes happens on concave slopes you can generate a lot of water and this can create a new stream with a whole life of its own. If someone was to classify it according to the classifications that foresters have to use it would be a stream. If this stream connects to a creek all of the sediment in the stream becomes part of the sediment load of the creek. The whole strategy of road construction is to not allow your artificial and your natural drainage to meet. If you look at new roads you will

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see that people have gone to great lengths to make sure that doesn't happen. A lot of 1970s roads were built right along creeks and you can't help getting sediments from these roads into the creeks.

When evaluating watersheds you need to see where water comes from. It comes from different sources and newly constructed roads will be high producers of sediment. Mainlines are high because of the heavy traffic. The more traffic the more sediment generated. When assessing how much sediment a road generates you have to consider the traffic and the nature such as slope of the road.

Landslides, spur roads and harvested blocks are all disturbance. Something has damaged or changed the soil so that it now produces fine sediment which then may be able to be transported. When checking out a site such as a road surface they pour buckets of water on the surface and see which way they flow. If they flow towards the stream and onto the bridge or into a ditch that goes to a stream it is considered part of a mini catchment. The mini catchment is then rated to decide if this site is producing a lot of sediment or if it is producing very little.

Directing concentrated drainage onto unstable escarpment downslope can result in gullying and/or slope failures. The material may not make it to a stream but it needs to be investigated to ensure that it did not. Connectivity is the issue when a culvert drops water onto a lower road. Is it draining into slash and being reabsorbed? If this is so then there is no way that even the finest sediment will reach the creek. The other extreme would be that it is draining directly into a stream without any kind of overland flow therefore everything will get into the creek.

*Question: On your last slide you were showing a slide going into an active creek. Would you armour that with large boulders to disturb the flow and allow it to settle out?*

This is a point of great discussion. What does it take to cause fine sediment to settle out? Basically it is very easy to get coarse sand out but settling for silts is much more difficult to the point where if it is a fine silt or clay you would need a settling pond the size of this boardroom to cause the water to be quiet enough to allow the sediment to settle. When you see sediment traps on forest roads run your finger through the water. The top is silt and immediately under the silt is fine and coarse sand and gravel but very little fines are left in those settling ponds because the turbulence keeps the sediment in suspension.

Water running through landscapes of fine textured materials will have more sediment. In areas where the material is very coarse textured, water will go straight into the ground and it would be virtually impossible to generate fine sediment running away from that site. In between these extremes is the landscape that predominates in this area – basal till. This is the imperviously layer of compacted glacial material meaning the full weight of 1,000 metres of glacier was pushing down on it. It makes a great surface to build on and when you cut into it the cut stands up on a pretty stable slope. The top 60 cm of material is called ablation till. This is the material that was not compacted. It dropped off the glacier and is just loose material. Rainfall runs through the ablation till until it hits the basal till pan and then down the slope and into the ditch.

*Question: Is that what we call hard pan?*

Yes. There are many types of hard pan, but in this area this is the most common.

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If you are working with an excavator and mistakenly dig into this material you know you will have a problem because once it liquefies it does not come out of suspension.

Brian has been working with the Ministry of Forests to create a means of estimating sediment loads from different kinds of roads and different uses. The smallest amount measured is 0.002 mm on a deactivated road. Heavily used roads in average condition might produce upwards of 5 mm which adds up over an area that might be as big as 1,000 square metres. This is used in the field as an audit measure.

Disturbed surfaced behave differently depending on how it is treated after the disturbance. Bare ground produces 1 cm during the first year. After one year you would see just rock – all of the fines would be gone. To produce 1 cubic metre of material you only need 100 square metres.

Brian displayed a graph that shows how well managed the Haslam Lang watershed is compared with the rest of the province. Water quality impact is broken into classes including Very Low through Very High. 34% of provincial sites were in the Very Low class, 37% in Low and 4% in High and 1% in Very High. The Haslam Lang watershed was 76% Very Low, 15% Low and 0 High and Very High. This is substantially different – people are doing things right here. 9% is Moderate so there is still opportunity for improvement.

They have been taking samples in a number of water quality stations in the Powell River watersheds for the past 18 years. They are very interested in Haslam, Brew Bay, Anderson, and Duck Lake intakes. These are quite significant areas from both the point of view of fisheries and for drinking water.

Older alder stands in the Lang Creek area are falling and creating log jams that cause a lot of problems. They wreck things for the fish and cause disturbances in the creek. Some areas are just pure alders and high salmon berry and when the trees fall they just leave a wasteland of salmon berries. Years ago Weyerhaeuser took on the liability of dealing with these alders and did make some money on them. They nurtured the seedlings planted in these areas and had to bush twice each year to get the seedlings high enough to survive. The alder is past its prime now.

*Question: Is it advantageous to cut those alder logs out of Lang Creek?*

DFO wouldn't likely allow you to get near them, but if you were allowed it would only be advantageous if you were able to get the logs out without causing any further disturbances.

Total organic carbon is a big issue for drinking water. If you chlorinate water with high levels of organic matter it create chlorinated hydrocarbons which are cancer causing. The Ministry of Health no longer allows people to use chlorine in water with levels over 4 parts per million.

Brian showed graphs with water temperature at upper and lower Lang Creek as well as Anderson Creek. There was very little variation between day and night temperatures on Anderson but up to 5 degrees at Lang Creek. Lower Lang Creek is cooler than Upper Lang Creek because Upper Lang Creek is coming from the lake and Lower Lang Creek is being fed groundwater and water from the cooler Anderson Creek. Solar input into the lake creates a much higher temperature than the forest covered Anderson Creek. This kind of data helps forest companies to understand where it is important to keep water cool. In lower Lang there are quite a few tributaries. When these high temperatures are occurring these streams have already been completely dry for two months so shading them will not be very important. The point is that money should be spent on things that will make a difference.

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Keeping data can be very useful for decision making, but if you don't know what you are going to use the data for don't collect it. It is very expensive to collect data.

*Question: What is the amount of sediment coming from nature versus development?*

It ranges from 0 to 100%. For Lang Creek you need to take into account past logging. There was a great deal of logging in the area in the 1920s and the area came back in alder. The alder has and is causing problems although less so now. A good guess would be that at this point in time most disturbances in Lang Creek are mostly natural.

*Comment: This is interesting information with this group to have that knowledge rather than tiny things.*

Sometimes the tiny things are important.

Important things to consider when planning include: location - isolate artificial drainage from natural drainage, design - think about where water (and sediment) will flow and design for it, construction - evaluate unforeseen erosion and sediment pathways on newly built roads and mitigate while machinery still on site. Brian said this area is in good shape from what he has seen provincially, reduce concentrated storm flow at source. Due diligence should not involve visible but ineffective techniques, recognize how road use and maintenance influence water and sediment movement, and deactivation - imagine how a road segment will evolve after abandonment and correct deficiencies

Highest priorities include (for example the area surrounding Haslam intake): minimize recreation activities, monitor for leachate from historic Cranberry Landfill, address shore line erosion if it becomes serious, and maintain culverts on otherwise deactivated roadways where recreation vehicles prohibition is not practical.

Managing issues caused by recreation is also important. Sediment needs to be managed on old logging roads used recreationally, not pulling culverts on stable creeks when recreation is expected should be considered, informal camping sites should be relocated to less sensitive areas, potential eutrophication of Haslam Lake should be monitored, faecal contamination should be minimized, mineralization at rock quarries should be watched for and this material should not be used around streams, riparian function to meet purpose intended should be maintained and severe risk of wildfire should be recognized and managed accordingly.

*Comment: One of the repeating issues in the Willingdon Creek area is that all of the storm sewers empty into Willingdon Creek.*

*Comment: McGuffy Creek at the Complex is where the issue is.*

*Comment: Where they put the new senior centre there are all kinds of issues directly related to the design of the storm sewers.*

*Comment: All of the asphalt at the Town Centre Mall, Canadian Tire and the hotel drains into Squatter Creek.*

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*Comment: When they built Quality Foods they had problems there. The City has to do something about their storm drains.*

I should say that I spent the first 15 years of my career dealing specifically with land slides. The one thing that I would like to say is that a very large portion of the landslides were caused by water movement above the landslide and excess water getting on to a slope that did not have the water in the past. Water management from roads is the single biggest factor for landslides, not clear cutting, although clear cutting does cause some slides. Whenever you put a road on a steep slope you need to be very careful with how you manage your water because that is the biggest cause of landslides. Incidentally with forest practice code which came in 1995 this was the one thing that was absolutely better. Prescriptive management of having to build in certain ways such as culvert placement made a huge difference. Companies go to great lengths and hiring geotech people to look over site before they build.

*Question: How do you factor in global warming?*

I no longer make predictions about landslides because the past is no longer a good predictor of the future.

Stuart told the group that WFP's entire road network is road rated. This includes the roads proximity to creeks and the slope it is built on. The roads are all entered into a maintenance/inspection schedule based on risk which is based primarily on proximity to water. All new roads are rated and added to the schedule. Active hauling roads are inspected all of the time. The less used roads are on the schedule.

### Chair's Report

Since my last report to you a year ago we've had a good year. The highlight was receiving the CSA Sustainable Forest Management User Group Chairman's Award which was given to us for our "leadership and personal commitment". We knew last April we had been selected for the honour and then on June 25 we received the award from John Dunford, Chair of the CSA user Group. He represents the group of forest companies who manage their forests in accordance with CSA Z809-08.

We had several guests attend that meeting including John Dunford, Michel de Bellefeuille, of WFP corporate forestry, and Rod Tysdal, the MB forester who was the original champion of our advisory group. That was a special evening for Road, and also for Cathy Bartfai who was our original facilitator. Between the two of them they set CAG on the path of success.

Throughout 2014 and into 2015 we continue to pursue that goal. We spoke to the Annual Coastal Silviculture Tour on June 25 and to two busloads of members of the public on the 'Forestry Week' tour in September. We were also represented and acknowledged at the Annual contractors Safety Conference. In the coming next year I hope that we would have more opportunities to tell people about CSA sustainable forest management.

We had an interesting field trip this past year, a visit to Sylvan Dale Nursery in Black Creek, which is a usual source of Stillwater's seedlings. Thank you to the individual members who have reported back to CAG meetings. The trip completed the loop of learning about the tree from seed to mill.

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We have been fortunate to have had a number of excellent guest speakers this past year. Thank you to Stuart for bringing these people to us. A quick run-through shows the diversity of topics, all of which pertain to our SFM Plan: GIS, species at risk management including the Northern Goshawk, employment and forest worker training, log exports, safety in the field (thank you Russ), working in riparian areas and fish management in the field. In October we turned our attention to the indicators flagged by the auditors:

1.4.2 Identified Cultural and Sacred sites, we worked on making the target more appropriate to the indicator.

3.1.2 Soil Quantity and Quality, we addressed the problem of knowing just how much woody debris is actually left in a cutblock

4.1.1 Net Carbon Uptake, we were asked by the auditors to reason through how a one year negative variance would figure into a 5 year rolling average

6.4.1 Participant Satisfaction, we finally made a change in how we gauge member satisfaction and agreed to a survey. Subsequently the survey was designed by and completed by members and showed overwhelming agreement that members enjoy the meetings, appreciate all the opportunities to learn new things, and are dedicated to the concept of sustainable forest management

We are still awaiting results concerning two issues studied intensely in 2013/2014, the MAMU Recovery Strategy and the new management plan. We had expected the provincial government to make the latter public by December 2014 but it still has yet to be released.

I would like to thank all those who provide support and keep this process rolling:

Val for her excellent minutes. Alan Rudson log export guru told us that reading her minutes is reading a primer on log exports. Thanks so much Val.

Dave and Wayne for always helping, attending extra meetings, answering emails and doing the work to ensure that our meetings are consistently timely, interesting and responsive to group requests.

And a big thank you to Stuart who is the guy that gets 'er done on our behalf. Stuart, we all appreciate the time and effort you put in to our group, making it a success.

My thanks to all of you for your participation and for being dedicated to sustainable forest management and all the best it has to offer.

### **Terms of Reference**

Wayne said that he believes the Terms of Reference are excellent and could not find anything that he would suggest looking at to change.

*Question: Is there any feedback from the public?*

The chair had not heard anything negative from the public over the last year.

Wayne had a conversation with someone that had an incorrect assumption about some WFP activities and plans to seek out the individual and clarify the issue.

*Question: How aware is the public about the CAG?*

A number of members stated that they did not feel it was well known in the community and a number of ideas to become better known were suggested such as a booth at the Home Show or a Facebook page.

### Elections

Jane Cameron was nominated and elected as Chair.

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Dave Hodges was nominated and elected as Vice Chair.

Wayne Brewer was nominated and elected as Second Vice Chair.

Action List Items

<b>Action Items</b>			
<i>Ongoing</i>	Who	Meeting	<b>When</b>
Indicator 1.4.1 – consider adding non-FN cultural heritage.	Stuart	Feb 11/15	
Bring copies of approved Management Principles next time.	Stuart	Feb 11/15	
Topics for future meeting – the 12 research projects.	Stuart	Mar 23/15	
Bring map for spatial constraints.	Stuart	Mar 23/15	
Enquire about the current status of MAMU	Stuart	April 8/15	
Look for more opportunities like Home Show to outreach to the public	All	April 8/15	

**Adjourned 8:40 pm**

Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group  
Western Forest Products  
April 8th 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
Wayne Brewer	Alternate	Tourism
Colin Palmer	Primary	Local Governments
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Tourism
Laura van Diemen	Alternate	Employment & Education

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George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Read English	Alternate	Recreation
Dave Hodgins	Primary	Recreation
Joseph McLean	Alternate	Local Business
Mark Anderson	Alternate	Member at large
Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Bill Maitland	Primary	Local Business
Doug Fuller	Primary	DFA Worker
Karen Skadsheim	Alternate	Local Governments
9 Seats represented		
ABSENT MEMBERS		
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
Andy Payne	Primary	Employment & Education
Rob Stewart	Primary	Forest Dependent
Russ Parsons	Alternate	DFA Worker
Cathy Bartfai	Alternate	Member at large
Mark Hassett	Alternate	Contractor
PRESENT		
Resource – others		
Stuart Glen	WFP	
Valerie Thompson	Facilitator/Secretary	
Brian Carson		

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