

Minutes
CSA Community Advisory Group
To Western Forest Products
November 16, 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 guest speaker and members introduced themselves

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted.

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

September minutes were accepted and October will be accepted by email.

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

Letter to PRPAWS

Emails to First Nations

Email regarding University of Manitoba research project

Chair recognized Doug Fuller on the regional and provincial woodlot management awards he received.

Operational Information Map Review

Current Activities

Harvesting – GI-119, GI-140, GL-021, GL-022, PD-471, PD-306, ST-031, ST-093, ST-111, UL-816,
UL-839, EL-695, TM-263

Road Construction – ST-388, UL-830, UL-844, PD-530, PD-505, PD-262

Engineering – ST-284, LL-040, ST-351, WL-948

What's New on the Map

New Blocks – PD-163 (PD-166 split into PD-166 & PD-163)

New Roads – none

Cutting Permit Approved Areas – None

Minutes

Logging Complete – LL-012, ST-103, WL-042

Road Construction Complete – UL-844, ST-065, ST-066, ST-080

Engineered Blocks – ST-095, ST-096, PD-163, ST-249,

Engineered Roads – ST-095, ST-096

Question: Does our community feel welcome on the TFL? Are they comfortable or intimidated by it being a work environment? Is this a good challenge for us as a Community Advisory Group?

Comment: I don't hear chatter that people are uncomfortable. The only negative comments I hear are 'oh no, they are going to go after more old growth'. Old growth is a hot button.

Comment: I think people see it as part of the risk of going outside. People have different risk tolerance. I know some people that do not go on the mainlines because they are not carrying a radio and they think they will run into a logging truck no matter when they go. Some people won't go out after dark. From my perspective I feel safer going out than I did 10 or 20 years ago. This comes from more experience being out there and more awareness of the other users.

Stuart said they put a full page ad in the Ferns and Fallers magazine welcoming people into the TFL. When people come to the desk they have a safety conversation with them explaining that the high risk times are during weekdays and that weekends and evenings are available.

When Tourism Powell River was working on the signage WFP recommended being careful about what is posted on signage for out of town people driving down the highway. If they posted that it was safe for just anyone to start driving up any logging road we would be in trouble. Canoe Main and Dixon Road are 'green roads' that are open all of the time and available to get to Lois Lake and the Sunshine Coast Trail. For more advanced areas like Tin Hat Mountain people should have a chat with somebody first so they understand how things work.

Growing a Healthy Forest – Seedlings and Vegetation Management –Stuart Glen & Kelly Niedermayer

Stuart said brushing and silviculture treatment is a key part of forest management; WFP spends hundreds of thousands of dollars every year on brushing. Brushing is key in the success of growing trees. It is the second biggest expense of silviculture after planting. There are a number of times that brushing might take place over time. The first time they look at brushing is at the site plan stage before logging. When looking at the site plan the ecology of the site is considered and based on soil, moisture, and brush species that are growing decisions will be made with understanding prior to logging. They will know if the area will get brushy or not and a brushing treatment will be part of the plan and money will be accrued for this. After the block is logged and the company is doing their post harvest inspection they may refine the brushing plan. Usually they just verify that they made the right pre-logging decisions, but sometimes there might be a slight modification. After the reforestation trees are planted they go back in and watch what the brush is doing as the seedlings grow. Often the seedlings and the brush are close to the same height. They go back and check on the brush again during the 3 – 7 year range to see if the trees are falling behind the growth of the brush. They check one last time at the free growing stage. At this point the trees are quite large and they are looking to see if the alder is taking over. The earlier checks are more focused on the salmon berry, elder berry, thimble berry and maple

Minutes

that the little trees are competing with. Basically, they watch the block all the way from planning to free growing making decisions about brushing treatments based on how the trees are reacting to the brush.

Different treatments are prescribed based on the information gathered on the ground. The two strategies you would start with on a rich wet site which will likely grow lots of brush like salmon berry would be prompt reforestation to get as much of a head start as possible and you would plant a bigger tree to give the tree more opportunity to get ahead of the brush. Sometimes this is completely effective and sometimes it is not enough. If it is not effective you have to brush things like salmon berry. This can be done two ways; either cutting it down with a chain saw or using a foliar spray to kill it. There are pros and cons to each method. You may have to cut them back up to three times with a chainsaw and you may only need to use the foliar spray once. Foliar spray cannot be used near creeks and other water features.

Legislations says that when you declare your block free growing and it goes back to the Crown it has to remain free growing. This means the ecologically suitable species planted on the site has to be free of brush competition. Generally if there is alder in a non-alder site around two years before the site is declared free growing they will go in and kill the alder. There is nothing wrong with scattered alder in a block it just needs to be treated if the density is too great.

Kelly said he gets involved with brushing around 1 to 2 years after the seedlings are planted. Brushing refers to every type of brush removal including being bent over clearing an area around the little tree so that it doesn't get crushed. When they prepare to go to these sites they make sure that their vehicles are in good working order, they have to be signed off on emergency response plans, job site specific safety plans, and tail gate meetings. Sometimes the hardest part of the job is finding the tiny trees.

The second treatment is often to take out the maples. They often treat maples by cutting all but two or three of the stems off. This trains the maple so that it doesn't grow into a massive bush with 50 stems. The best time to kill the maples is when they are young. At this time they use herbicide. They cannot use herbicide if there has been any rain. When using herbicide Kelly uses a map of the block to check for streams, culverts, and ditches and walks the block marking off buffers. Provincial standards require a 10 metre buffer near water and Kelly adds 2 metres to this. In the buffers they have to use a chainsaw to brush.

Kelly showed the group the tool they use to girdle alders. They use it to cut a ring around the trunk of the alder which stops the tree from being able to feed itself and it dies off. If alders coppice they can't be girdled so they treat them like the maples cutting most stocks off and leaving one or two.

Question: When you girdle trees they die after you leave. What happens to them after they die?

It depends. If they are thick along a roadside we may go in later and cut them down. In areas where they are in more wide open areas they just rot standing and they will fall over.

Question: What time of year is best for cutting and girdling?

That would be up to the forester to decide. We have cut riparian areas in the spring ahead of going in to do the foliar spray of the rest of the block in the summer and I couldn't find the area we had cut because it had all grown back. We won't do that again. So I would say probably fall would be best.

Stuart said if you let the bush take all of the nutrients out of the roots and sprout in the spring and then cut before they have a chance to build up new reserves is best.

Minutes

Comment: I would imagine that spring would be best for girdling as well because the bark would peel off more easily.

Kelly said that in the spring and winter because there is no underbrush. All of the bracken is dead and the salmon berry leaves are gone so it is easy to see what they are doing.

Question: How do you space a harvestable alder patch?

Stuart said they have been planting alder most years. They plant 1600 stems per hectare and then they space them to 8 or 900. 1200 stems per hectare is 3.2 metres between trees so 8-900 would be about 4 metres between trees. You plant them close to get the straight growth and as the canopy closes in you space them to get the diameter out of the remaining trees on the site.

Kelly explained that broadcast foliar spray is almost never used in this area although it is used a lot in the Interior. He prefers the method used here. They use a back pack sprayer and they make sure that their backs are always to the water. The wand on their sprayer, which is half the size of a pen, has a positive shut off valve and nothing can come out until the trigger is pulled. You could drive over it with a truck and it will not leak. They use the wand tip to create a chemical girdle around the trunk of the tree with one little squirt.

Kelly said his company is Safe Certified. The company checks in with their employees to make sure they know to wear their PPE and that they understand their role within the company. Kelly has an applicator certificate that he has to right tests for every five years. The information he has to understand includes rules and regulations and different herbicides, pesticides, insecticides and fungicides. Each person with an applicator certificate can have four people working under them that they must be in communication with. They mix chemicals ahead of time and never bring concentrated chemicals onto the site. When mixing he always wears a mask because the chemicals are more dangerous when concentrated. They are diluted to 19% before use.

Question: Where is Adept's headquarters? And what areas does it cover?

It is based out of Nanaimo and we work on the Sunshine Coast and Vancouver Island.

Question: How many employees does the company have?

At least 20 to 30.

Stuart said that Adept also helps them with cleaning up the Sunshine Coast Trail, creek cleaning, brushing out signs, opening roads, pile burning in the fall and sometimes grass seeding. They great thing with Adept is they are local people and they can keep enough work so that they have good silviculture jobs through the year.

Kelly said they work for 8 – 9 months a year which is really good in the silviculture world. He used to have to travel around for his work before he moved to Powell River and started working for Adept. Other contractors and BC Hydro also hire them.

CAG Field Trip June 2015 – Joseph McLean

Minutes

The CAG went to Powell Daniels to see some Heli pole logging and Joseph showed a slide show from the field trip. He found it interesting that the buyer had walked the area and pick the poles they would be purchasing. WFP knew exactly where the trees were on their map of the block and would send the chopper to pick up the individual trees after they were prepared. The helicopter used is made by Kaman and managed by Heliwest.. The helicopter has intermeshing rotors that intermesh like egg beaters. This provides a huge amount of lift. It could lift more than its own weight of 6000 lbs. It uses a big grappling hook to grab the trees and pull them up. It has a 500 km range. After the helicopter took of the crew drove to an overlook adjacent to where the helicopter was fishing for the poles he was picking up. He picks the tree up and lays it on the road.

Stuart said that they brought in two helicopters for this project. The one the field trip went to see was the 6000 lb one and there was also an 8000 lb helicopter. They logged this block in two passes because the key for poles is matching them to the right size machine. You have to get the diameter right and then top the tree at the right height so that the pole is the right width.

Question: Did you drop any?

Joseph said the pilot hadn't dropped any in two or three weeks and then the first one he picked up with us all watching he dropped.

Question: Is there anyone on the ground to put the hook on?

Joseph said the tree is prepped before the pilot gets there and it is pretty tricky because he has to look down and see where they are. He has looked on a map and the tree has been topped so he knows approximately where it is and is looking for a topped tree.

Stuart said there is a ribbon on the top.

Comment: I found it interesting that the buyer went the year before and picked out his trees.

Stuart said their people go with the buyer and he picks his tree and the WFP people plug the info into the GPS and collect the data. They are telephone poles.

Question: Is it common for the buyer to hand pick the trees?

You could do it this way or you could log them all and then lay the poles out for bid. Poles are a lot of work. The cost for the volume is high but you do it based on margin.

Comment: The heli people said that when loggers take poles the waste could be very significant but with a helicopter there is a 95% success rate getting the poles out.

Yes. Recovery goes down when you hand fall it because sometimes the tree will break in the wrong spot so you are unable to get the whole length but the cost is much cheaper. So, you could have a lower recovery but still have a higher margin. You have to do the calculation taking all of these factors into account for every block to figure out which type of logging would be best.

Question: What is the difference in waste between hand logging and heli logging?

Comment: They said heli was around 95% and hand logging could be as low as 60%.

Minutes

In PD we also went ahead and did a bunch of the road right of ways. This is part of planning and making clever decisions. You could never bring a helicopter in just to do a road right of way so you have to plan that to go with other heli activities.

Comment: He said that when a tree is prepared for the helicopter to grab it the loggers cut it to the point where it is standing on its core. They just snap the tree off when they fly up and take it.

There were issues with taking two passes because of this because the wash from the first helicopter knocked some trees over.

Question: How do you mitigate that?

This will be taken into consideration during planning for the next heli block.

There is good demand right now for poles because North America's infrastructure is getting old and poles need to be replaced. We also sell sort 134 which is the cross arm for telephone poles.

Seedlings and our dry summer – a foresters initial observations

Stuart presented a few slides that Nancy Pezel prepared. After Kelly does his work Nancy goes back in to do follow up inspections. Once slide compared a seedling that had been brushed to one that had not. The seedling that had been brushed looked much healthier than the one that had not. Another slide showed a good example of girdling. No limbs can be left below the girdle. The last slide showed dead alder trees in a stand of young trees.

Stuart said that Nancy was pleasantly surprised at how well all of the blocks came through the draught this summer. It reinforces that tree are pretty tough. I don't think we could stop them if we tried. We are mostly influencing what type of trees are growing and speeding up the process.

Question: Ha she been able to get caught up?

Yes, she has had the help of one of the summer students.

Question: What is she looking at when she checks the trees? Is she taking a core sample?

No. They are still little trees, .so she is mostly just making sure they are still alive.

Comment: She is also coming up with a fill plan. Sometimes areas are missed by the planters because there is too much brush or other reasons so sometimes you need to go back to a block and plant where areas have been missed.

Comment: What is happening with the elk? Is the population growing ?

I think it is steady.

Question: Do you know how many were in the draw for the hunting season?

No. I would love to have more collaboration so that we could know exact hunting numbers and how it changes from year to year so that we could monitor this against what we see.

Minutes

Kelly said the people are coming to hunt from the lower mainland. If you live in an area it is very unlikely that you will get a limited entry hunt in your area. His family has hunted for years and this is the experience they have had.

Action List Items

Action Items

<i>Ongoing</i>	Who	Meeting	When
Find somebody to talk about visuals	Stuart	May 13, 2015	
Bring contact info re: National Forest Research Survey	Stuart	Sept 14, 2015	
Look into having the website send emails regarding updates to subscribers	Stuart	Oct 5, 2015	

Adjourned 8:45 pm

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group
Western Forest Products
November 16th Attendance**

Name	Position	Member Seat
PRESENT		
Jane Cameron – Chair	Primary	Member at large
Mark Anderson	Alternate	Member at large
Bill Maitland	Primary	Local Business
Wayne Brewer	Alternate	Tourism
George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Doug Fuller	Primary	DFA Worker
Barry Miller	Primary	Environment
Karen Skadsheim	Alternate	Local Governments
Colin Palmer	Primary	Local Governments
Joseph McLean	Alternate	Local Business
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
8 Seats represented		
ABSENT MEMBERS		
Andy Payne	Primary	Employment & Education
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Tourism
Dave Hodgins	Primary	Recreation
Mark Hassett	Alternate	Contractor
Cathy Bartfai	Alternate	Member at large

Minutes

Russ Parsons	Alternate	DFA Worker
Paul Goodwin	Primary	Forest Dependent
Read English	Alternate	Recreation
Laura van Diemen	Alternate	Employment & Education
PRESENT	WFP	
Resource – others	Resource – others	
Stuart Glen	WFP	
Valerie Thompson	Facilitator/Secretary	
Kelly Niedermayer	Adept Vegetation Management	