

Minutes
CSA Community Advisory Group
To Western Forest Products
December 12, 2016
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.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted.

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes reviewed and accepted via email and posted.

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed
Letters to PRPAWS
Emails to First Nations
Letter to Tla'amin
Letter to Sechelt
Email re: Goat Main closure
Thank you letter to Nancy Hollmann

Welcome and Introductions

Second Chair welcomed group.

Company Update

Darwyn shared the results of Western's internal audit, information regarding two C&E alleged non-compliances, 1 self report non-compliance and one potential non-compliance. The alleged non-compliances were failure to ensure road drainage systems were functioning on the Freda Branch Road and failure to abate a fire hazard. The self reported non-compliance was construction of a borrow pit in a RMA. The potential non-compliance has been festering since July - C&E now has their information together and there was a meeting last week regarding visuals on Goat Island

Whenever C&E sends notices out about non-compliances they are always alleged. This is very frustrating as these 'alleged non-compliances' never go away. It doesn't matter if you are innocent or guilty.

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The first alleged non-compliance took place on the Freda Branch between 26 and 27 mile. This is a very old road that WFP took over responsibility of and are in the process of upgrading. It was inspected by C&E on October 20th. This was one of those days that the rain just wouldn't stop. There was water running all over the place. The road was under construction and there was still machinery there. The hoe was working there but not that day because it was such a rainy day. The complaint was under sized pipes but this was an unusual situation and all of the ditches were full. The report said the pipe was too small, debris in the ditch and over steep and cut banks. On November 9th WFP received the C&E inspection report. On November 10th the company was getting ready to shut the project down because it was starting to snow. Adam from the WFP office and the hoe operator worked the ditch line, controlled water, put some water bars in and dealt with it in a temporary manner knowing that they have to go back in the spring because they are not done building road. So, WFP received an alleged non-compliance even though they were not done building the road.

The second alleged non-compliance was regarding fuel accumulations on the Stillwater Main. If you have been up the Stillwater Main over the last year you would see a lot of piles. Last year was not a very good burning year and this year is proving to be even worse. They have tried to burn piles and have not been very successful. C&E said they are not abating the hazard even though Environment Canada's website said from October 1st to November 17th there has been 378 mm of rain in Powell River. These piles are very wet. The venting index since October 24th which was the first day they were allowed to burn has been poor which means they cannot burn. The second part of this alleged non-compliance was about a large diameter culvert at 15 mile on the Stillwater Main. An old boiler plate structure with signs of water flow going over the road and some debris partly blocking the intake. They already had plans to put a new bridge in during the summer of 2017.

The self reporting non-compliance happened on or about October 25th. It was reported to Western on November 7th. They had a joint field inspection on November 9th with the road building crew that were involved. After the investigation WFP self reported to C&E on November 18th. The issue was blasting a boiler pit to near a riparian management area. The flow of the water course has been altered by the amount of material taken out. It is on block WL-948. It appears there was a communication issue. It was marked clearly on the map, it was talked about at the pre-work meeting, but the road construction supervisor was away that week.

The potential non-compliance has been festering since July. It never was a formal C&E investigation. There was a complaint from a member of the forest service. There is an informal C&E investigation underway to verify if WFP exceeded the VQO. Darwyn provided C&E with information regarding WFP's visual analysis and what their qualified professional came up with. C&E got their own qualified professional from the Island. He is a higher up visual expert for the coast. He did his own visual analysis using the FREP Protocol which is what FREP uses to assess visual conditions. On December 7th WFP met with this expert to go over the results. This was useful because they now better understand where FREP is coming from and things to look out for. Much of this comes from the Interfor C&E case which went to Appeals Commission and C&E won. There was nothing to say 100% beyond a reasonable doubt that WFP exceeded visual partial retention. The FSP says they have visual units on the landscape and they have viewpoints. WFP did what the FSP dictates. C&E did not use the WFP viewpoints they picked there own and this made the findings inconclusive.

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Question: Isn't it specified where you have to stand when you do the viewpoint?

Yes. In our FSP it is. It will likely change in the new FSP that will be advertised in January. They are looking for licensees to pick the most restrictive viewpoint which opens it up to interpretation and subjectivity.

Question: Wasn't it always intended for worst case scenarios?

Unless you had viewpoints that were approved. In this case there were approved viewpoints. Most places do not have approved viewpoints and then it is up to the qualified professional to pick the most restrictive viewpoint. Then you can have qualified professionals arguing over which is the most restrictive viewpoint.

Stuart said having known viewpoints really gives you something measurable. This is all modeled prior to any trees being felled so that it can be seen what it is going to look like ahead of time.

Darwyn said this particular block went through six reiterations to get to this final product that they were all happy with. It met the intent and requirements of partial retention.

Stuart said he was involved and knows the complexity that they went to and the analysis they went through including financial analysis on the ability to build the road relative to the volume of wood. They had to build the road with future passes in mind as well as the current one. Many hours of work went into this project.

Question: What is their measurement of exceeding partial retention?

In 2007 or 2008 the government changed their definitions around percent alteration. There use to be ranges. Partial retention between 1.5 and 7% was the percent alteration that you could see on that landscape. Now there is subjective criteria such as; scale, recto linear, and square. So now that they have taken the percentages away that you could actually calculate they have come back and said you are not actually below 7% like you said but at 11 by their calculations. What they failed to recognize is that they used different viewpoints and they didn't even use the same landscape unit,

Comment: It seems like conversations are happening after the fact that should have happened before. The conversations are happening in an inefficient way if you are sitting talking about it for four hours after the fact.

Stuart said they go through the FREP Protocol and take the time to understand it and go through it.

Darwyn said it comes down to people's interpretations and then there are gray areas. You are absolutely right. Since the summer I have refereed a couple of viewsapes to them for their opinion. The only problem is sometimes it takes months for them to get back to you. On one of them we are falling trees on it now and we still haven't heard back.

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Stuart said there is so much to visuals that the human eye does not see while looking at a view scape. It is extremely complicated. When engineering a hillside you have to think long term. There is great complexity about where the yarding boundaries are, where the road systems go, so that the view scape is set up for the long term. Just looking at it in the short term and considering simple shapes is just a very minor part of the vast complexity. We put many hours into getting a viewscape right and we should actually be congratulated that we manage to access that land base, keep it looking visually appealing and not isolate timber for the long term. To get the monitoring correct all of these issues need to be monitored together and we would see how clever people are getting these viewsapes together.

Question: Why are you concerned about alleged non-compliances if you are certain that you are doing everything right?

Darwyn said they don't go away and are included in their reporting.

Stuart said they take them just as seriously as actual non-conformances and they go through all of their internal investigation processes to make sure there is nothing to it.

The 2016 Internal EMS and CSA Audit took place on October 24th at the Burleith sort yard and Nootka for EMS only and at Mid-Island for EMS and CSA. Zero non-compliances, 3 non-conformances and 13 opportunities for improvement were found.

The non-conformances were: the inspection process not being followed with relation to sites and facilities as several issues around fuel handling and storage were identified, auditors found that the required management reviews were not being conducted 2 times per year and there was a discrepancy in version dates on the SFMP between the title page and the footer.

The audit schedule has been revised. The internal EMS and CSA audit will be in October or November 2017 and the external EMS and CSA audit will be in January or February 2018.

Operational Information Map Update

Current Activities

Harvesting – TM-263, PD-463, PD-464, PD-530, PD-480, PD-531, PD-262, PD-164, PD-539, PD-287, UL-821, UL-830, UL-844, WL-346, BT-915

Road Construction – PD-287, PD-541, WL-948, GI-070, GI-080, ST-087, EL-702 drop zones, FH-044

Engineering – PD-212, EL-671, EL-681, EL-358, EL-679, EL-360, EL-684, ST-085, ST-409, CH-553, CG-305, CH-032, CH-030, ST-088, LL-046, GI-018, ST-132, ST-347, UL-842, UL-848, ST-078

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What's New on the Map

New Blocks – ST-085, ST-409, CH-553, CH-305, CH-032, CH-030, ST-088, LL-046

New Roads – N/A

Cutting Permit Approved Areas – BT-915, GI-134, GI-135, GI-136, GI-206

Logging Complete – ST079, ST-080

Road Construction Complete – PD-507, ST-112, LL-040, GI-134, GI-070 Road Rehab, WL-012

Engineered Blocks and Roads – ST-087, ST-089, ST-358, TM-264, GI-141, GI-142, PL-004, PD-212, GI-080, PL-004.

Sunshine Coast Trail

FH-044 Trail safety detour – Effective Starting on October 11th a safety detour route of the Sunshine Coast Trail will be put in place in the vicinity of Fiddlehead Farm. Detour maps have been posted to inform potential hikers of Western Forest Products active operations in this area. The trail has been re-routed and brushed out. PRPAWS completed the trail grubbing and WFP completed the brushing and clean out.

Road construction on FH-044 will be finished by Christmas. FH-044 is planned for harvest in late February or early March 2017. WFP will concentrate harvesting first on the front end of the block where the re-routed Sunshine Coast Trail is.

ST-333 was field visited by WFP and PRPAWS to look at a portion of the NW harvest boundary that is adjacent to the trail. WFP will be putting up a management zone along the trail harvesting single stems. Once a final map and details on the management zone are known WFP will provide this information to PRPAWS.

Fires/Slides/Spills (YTD):

No new fires. Pile burning is underway weather permitting.

No new spills.

No new slides.

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Safety Stats (YTD):

Stillwater Timberlands as of August 30th, 2016:

#of incidents = 1. TIR 7.55

#of recordable incidents = 0. MIR = 0.00.

#of lost time cases = 0. LTR = 0.00

#of lost time days = 0. SR = 0.00

Stillwater Contractors as of August 30th, 2016:

#of incidents = 16. TIR 13.35

#of recordable incidents = 7. MIR = 5.84.

#of lost time cases = 4. LTR = 3.34

#of lost time days = 251. SR = 209.41

TIR = Total Incident Rate

MIR = Medical Incident Rate

LTR = Lost Time Frequency Rate

SR = Lost Time Severity Rate

Harvesting Stats (YTD):

As of November 30th, 2016 the total amount harvested from the TFL (YTD) is 426,867 m3.

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Guest Speaker: Stuart Glenn - Western Forest Products Lean Initiative

“Lean thinking” is a culture of maximizing customer value while minimizing waste. Western Forest Products is working on a number of initiatives using Lean both internally and collaboratively with government. Lean is an effective way to help us identify waste in the log handling process on the coast so that we can operate more efficiently and improve our processes. There are seven forms of waste that include; transportation, inventory, motion, waiting, over production, over processing, and defects. Log handling initiatives being worked on include implementing a fluid check scale, scaling on the water, scaling at roadside, log marking, etc. Lean is proving to be an effective way for people to work collaboratively together to improve the work that we do ensuring we have a vibrant and healthy forest economy on the coast.

Moving Towards the New CSA Standard

There is a new CSA Standard. The internal audit is next fall so we need to bring the new plan up to the new standard in about 8 months time.

The DFA map needs to be revised to remove the Tla'amin TSL. The map use to be require, then it was not and now it is required again. Further indicator mapping may be required for analysis units inconsistent with the DFA such as if you had an indicator specific to a certain ungulate winter range.

Question: What about your viewscapes and your view points?

We will need a bunch of little maps to cover that off.

The organization will need to update the indicators with the 2016 reporting and there will be lots of minor editing and re-numbering of Criteria and indicators. Darwyn is already working on this – comparing the existing plan to the new plan factoring in some of the new indicators. There are seven significant plan content changes and eleven system requirements changes. The CAG has three new indicators to assess, develop, and approve values, objectives, indicators and targets. They will likely have to bring in a couple of experts as there are a couple of different indicators to be considered.

Question: Are we allowed latitude to create our own values and objectives in the new standard?

Yes. The criteria are assigned but the group comes up with the values and objectives. That hasn't changed.

In the Terms of Reference there will be five system requirement changes.

The three new indicators are: role and importance of wetlands, role of forest ecosystems and their management in the global carbon cycle, and the significant vulnerabilities for community sustainability linked to forest and timber supply conditions over time.

Aboriginal participation has been added to Sections 5.1 and 5.2. This group invites the local First Nations group and WFP recently met with the Tla'amin Hegus and some of their council members and once again invited them to participate. Hopefully someone will soon choose to participate.

Comment: They were very good and interesting guest speakers in the past.

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Yes, they are interested in doing that again. They are very busy right now with all of the changes associated with becoming self governing and managing their newly awarded lands.

Involvement of experts has been added to Section 5.3. This group has already been doing that so this will not change anything for us.

Section 5.4 use to have words suggesting approval by the group was needed. The words have been changed to monitoring of results and discussing of issues.

Wood Availability for Small Operators Within TFL39 Block 1

The chair asked Ben Berukoff to speak on this issue. WFP continues to be one of the larger employers in the Powell River area supporting 338 direct and indirect jobs as reflected in the 2014 indicator. WFP supports the local areas arts & culture recreation programs and other interests. The ever increasing mechanization and efficiencies of logging and sawmill operations have dwindled the man days required to harvest wood and make wood products. Historically TFL 39 Block 1 supported over a dozen small salvage companies, but over the last 15 years due to reduction of product demand, and prices combined with increased cost of manpower this has diminished to 1 salvage company on the TFL. This small crew has been limited to salvaging within recent logging slashes and have managed to scratch up less than 1000 cubic metres each year for the last few years with the exception of 2012. There has also been a reduction of local small sawmills and these remaining sawmills purchased just 267 cubic metres from WFP in 2014 (this does not include Goat Lake Forest Products or Lois Lumber). Ben believes there are better times coming. Over the last year there has been a dramatic increase in cedar prices and cedar specialty product prices. These prices could open up some local job opportunities for salvage. Ben has been actively salvaging logs and some small cedar products with Ocean View Helicopters over the last 4 years for PR Community Forests, BCTS, and Island Timberlands. The work periodically employs two fallers, logging truck drivers, forest professionals and helicopter staff. The wood that they have been salvaging is of a high quality that is sold to local mills which is important for the sustainability of those small mills. With current cedar prices he thinks there is some good opportunities for cedar blowdown salvage, and shake & shingle salvage on the TFL. Ben has approached Darwyn and in the past Stuart and Ken with some ideas to help maximize that fibre utilization and create some local jobs. It squeezes more value out of the DFA. These ideas have been well received by WFP and he hopes they can look forward to some increase in minor products and local log sales from salvage in the near future. As time goes on he thinks we need to maximize fibre value, local jobs per hectare of timber. These jobs are valuable to the community and it is important to forest stewardship to maximize the value of our forest.

Darwyn said they are considering the proposition and have been talking about it. WFP is very happy with the salvage service they get from Goat Lake. They are looking at whether or not there is a niche for helicopter salvage.

Question: Is Goat Lake is your only salvager?

Yes.

Question: So, if somebody approached you saying they found some blown down that they would like to bid on to salvage would you consider it?

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It is an area based tenure and the logs really are Western's property so if they are going to entertain salvage it would have to be a product that they are not going after at this time or it is a product that they do not use such as shake and shingles. As an area based claim WFP would always get right of first refusal.

Comment: I have been meeting with some of the local First Nations people and there is a movement towards carving a reconciliation canoe here. There is no cedar big enough here and the Klahoose band apparently is promising one. A fellow has one tree for sale in Tofino big enough for two canoes that is worth \$60 to \$80 thousand dollars. An example of incredibly high value added.

They asked about a log. They only block we could think of that might have something is a heli block in the Eldred coming up this summer.

Question: Darwyn I think you mentioned at an earlier meeting that when you walk blocks with a First Nations representative you are looking for monumental cedars. Does this mean a huge cedar?

Yes, but it could also mean a smaller one that has potential. The only place we have had First Nations identify trees is in the Phillips. The opportunity is available for any FN, it is written into the plan. Most of our second growth is predominantly fir with cedar peppered through so you don't often have that kind of stand. You usually have to push up the hill to the old growth to find those types of trees.

Question: What is the limit to improving the value added opportunities on the TFL? It seems like this would be a simple business discussion.

Yes. It is a business to business relationship. We don't talk about our agreement we have for the shake and shingle. It is value added. It was broken pieces of cedar that were laying on the ground. They can make a product of it and sell it.

Question: It is a hard one for our group because our values and indicators quite often come back to business to business relationships.

There is an ugly side to have people free to run around the TFL with chain saws. I was recently pressured into allow someone to go in to salvage a couple of old growth fir that had been sitting down a bank. That particular individual left a really big mess for someone to clean up and that was unfortunately us. So, it is a little dangerous having people willy nilly identifying a tree here and there and taking out. We just have to be careful. The logs on the TFL come under our cutting permit and our license when the logs get taken out. It falls under our certification, our EMS so there are systems in place and we have them in place for our one salvage contractor where we release them into blocks. There are EMS pre-works, safety issues brought up, checks and balances in place and the TFL would suffer if we didn't have those checks and balances.

Comment: You wouldn't want it opened up as a free-for-all for salvage. I can understand that.

Question: Does the salvage come out against your quota?

Yes.

Comment: As Ben pointed out we have gone from a number of salvage contractors to just one. This is not because people don't want to. The volume just isn't there. If you started breaking that last volume up nobody would be able to make a go of it. The blow down is another thing.

Comment: I think anyway we can maximize the value per hectare is important.

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You are proposing a niche that I think needs to be filled. Whether or not it is through one contractor or two is a detail we need to sort out.

Comment: I think the fundamental thing we are missing is that there is a lot of round log salvage out there in this sunshine coast forest district but the value of the standing green that is still there beside it is worth more to a holder or licensee so that is the missed opportunity. I don't know the answer, if there should more pressure on government or more conversations around this table or what. There is a lot of wood out there available for keeners as long as we can solve some of the issues.

Comment: Maybe some kind of concession could be made like with the partition for heli-logging. Heli logging is a lot more expensive than conventional logging so you have to give some kind of concession to get companies to do it without destroying their bottom line. Perhaps some kind of break could be given for blow down.

I am not in support of having government get involved. I have far too many times seen a lobbyist get government involved and they get in the middle of a potential business to business relationship. It muddies it and stops it flat. It destroys potential.

Action List Items

Action Items	Who	When

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Adjourned 9:00 pm

Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group Western Forest Products December 12th Attendance

Name	Position	Member Seat
PRESENT		
Wayne Brewer	Primary	Tourism
Mark Anderson	Alternate	Member at Large
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
Colin Palmer	Primary	Local Governments
Ben Berukoff	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Andy Payne	Primary	Employment & Education
Bill Maitland	Primary	Local Business
Paul Goodwin	Primary	Forest Dependent
Doug Fuller	Primary	DFA Worker
Read English	Alternate	Recreation
Dave Hodgins	Primary	Recreation
Joseph McLean	Alternate	Local Business
9 Seats represented		
ABSENT MEMBERS		
Jane Cameron – Chair	Primary	Member at Large
Karen Skadsheim	Alternate	Local Government
Barry Miller	Primary	Environment
Russ Parsons	Alternate	DFA Worker
Mark Hassett	Alternate	Contractor
George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Resource – others		
Stuart Glenn	WFP	
Darwyn Koch	WFP	
Valerie Thompson	Facilitator/Secretary	