

CSA Community Advisory Group
To Western Forest Products
January 16, 2017
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 were reviewed and accepted.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair welcomed group and group introduced themselves to the speaker.

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed
Letters to PRPAWS
Emails to First Nations
Email regarding future meeting dates

The chair sent out an email asking if the group wanted to talk about the new Forest Stewardship Plan. Darwyn will also be sending a letter out regarding this. Comments have to be in by early March.

Question: Is there a summary of the plan?

Yes. On the WFP website there is a link called Sustainability. If you click on this you will find the new FSP which is out for renewal. There is a twenty page section that highlights the changes that are happening and why. It is still quite technical.

Question: As a Community Advisory Group what should we be looking at?

If I was on the CAG I would look at what I was representing such as recreation. Anything that is legally dictated by the government must be done so I wouldn't spend a lot of time on that. Some things have changed around recreation. For example the last FSP did not recognize the trails around the Knuckleheads and the new FSP will. At this point we are just looking for any feedback on things you find important. The FSP is a bridge to legislation. For the most part it covers off legislative requirements.

Question: Would you like to see this to come to the next meeting?

Comment: I'm not sure. I've always heard that the FSP didn't work for the average person because it was too complex. The only thing I can think of is how could the FSP be made simpler for our group to benefit from it. I really think the information shared during our meetings about operations is really useful.

Unfortunately it is a legal document tied to legislation and they are largely written by lawyers.

Comment: I wouldn't mind going through it. I find it interesting that the Knucklehead are now mentioned. The consultants for the trail strategy pointed out that the whole south Powell divide is an area that we will really want to focus on in the future.

Question: Could we slot a discussion in for this discussion at the next meeting? You could pick out things that would be appropriate for us to discuss.

Sure. There are a few interesting items. Another one is visuals.

Current Activities

Harvesting – TM-263, PD-464, PD-530, UL-830, UL-844, WL-346, BT-915, TM-183, ST-040, GI-118

Road Construction – WL-948, GI-080, ST-087, ST-067, ST-264, PL-004

Engineering – EL-671, EL-681, EL-358, EL-679, EL-360, EL-684, ST-085, ST-409, CH-553, CH-305, CH-032, CH-030, ST-088, UL-842, PL-003

What's New on the Map

New Blocks – FH-043, LL-072, ST-391, UL-823, UL-861,

New Roads – N/A

Cutting Permit Approved Areas – GI-070, GI-118, ST-284, ST-040, WL-012, ST-095, ST-388, ST-025, ST-055, ST-286, ST-281, TM-261, ST-328, LL-040

Logging Complete – PD-463, PD-480, PD-262, PD-164, PD-539, PD-287, PD-531, UL-821

Road Construction Complete – PD-287, PD-541, GI-070, EL-702 drop zones, FH-044,

Engineered Blocks and Roads – PD-212, GI-080, PL-004. PD-212, LL-046, GI-018, ST-132, ST-347, UL-848, ST-078, ST-358, ST-333

Sunshine Coast Trail

FH-044 Trail safety detour – A foot bridge spanning the ditch line was planned to be built between Christmas and New Year's but the access was cut off by the onset of snow.

Fires/Slides/Spills (YTD):

No new fires. Pile burning is underway weather permitting.

New Spill: It is not known if this incident occurred in the evening of December 29th or the early morning of December 30th. Adam Culos and Shaun Gloslee (SGE) were on ST-087 on December 30th 2016 to complete month end measure up of the road construction. When they arrived at the block they discovered the following:

Description of what might of happened: Vandals managed to get into and start the rock truck. They drove it into the ditch and got it stuck. Decked roadside logs were dislodged causing a standing tree to fall over onto the lower road at approximately 0+060 meters. The vandals then used the rock drill to try and move the log out of the way. While attempting to move the log a hydraulic hose on the boom burst and sprayed oil on the front of the cab and on the ground. They walked the rock drill back up the road and parked it on the side of the road. Hydraulic fluid was spread 20 meters along the road running surface. The contractor estimates that approximately 80 liters of oil leaked out on to the road running surface. The contractor indicated that all machines are locked at the end of each shift. The vandals must have had a CAT key to get into and start the various pieces of equipment.

The contractor was using CAT Bio HYDO Hydraulic Oil in the rock drill. CAT claims that this hydraulic oil is environmentally friendly, has a non-toxic formula, and is biodegradable. CAT also claims that this product will biodegrade within 28 days when exposed to soil and air.

No new slides.

Safety Stats (YTD):

Stillwater Timberlands as of December 30th, 2016:

#of incidents = 1. TIR 6.22
#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 December 30th, 2016:

#of incidents = 17. TIR 12.31
#of recordable incidents = 8. MIR = 5.79.
#of lost time cases = 5. LTR = 3.62
#of lost time days = 405. SR = 293.34

TIR = Total Incident Rate

MIR = Medical Incident Rate

LTR = Lost Time Frequency Rate

SR = Lost Time Severity Rate

Harvesting Stats (YTD):

As of December 30th, 2016 the total amount harvested from the TFL (YTD) is 444,115 m3.

John Bunning – Visual Impact Analysis

John has been working with Stillwater Division for about 18 years. In the beginning visual analysis was time consuming and excessively complicated and the modeling software was difficult to interpret. The manual procedure was time consuming and complicated and the end result difficult to visualize. Altered photography was also used to obtain realism but that technique was fraught with problems and not trusted.

The software that John now uses came out in 1999. It was like someone turned on the lights. World Construction set and 3D Nature (a newer version) allowed them to accurately create surface models and create environments that closely matched existing conditions with measurable results. It is also much easier to integrate into GIS software and it has made the whole assessment process doable.

Stillwater goes through a planning process to determine where and what they need to cut. Having decided where they are going to cut they do a preliminary layout and recce and determine if the block openings are within a scenic area. If it is it gets sent to John.

John gets the following inputs emailed to him from Stillwater: block boundaries, leave tree patches in or adjacent to the blocks, right-of-way for road building, road centre lines, tree heights of the trees surrounding the opening for determining foreground screening, height and state of regrowth in adjacent or other order openings within the landscape unit, and indications of which viewpoints to be considered.

John loads this block digital data into his GIS mapping software. Over the years John has built an extensive map database for the whole TFL. The database is based on provincial TRIM data with updated thematic layers such as roads, buildings and other non-forest features such as transmission lines. Stillwater also provides updated road and block histories. Contours are as provided by TRIM. John creates a rendered shaded surface to give the landscape in the maps a sense of dimension. It is this software that produces the maps that he includes with his assessment results.

One of the most important thematic layers is the Visual Landscape Unit inventory and photo points used in compiling the inventory. John uses photo points as viewpoints but it is important to note these are not the only viewpoints he uses.

The terrain models are generated from the same TRIM 3D digital data as used in the GIS mapping so when John imports a cut block into the terrain model he knows it will be exactly in the correct position. TRIM was mapped to an accuracy specification of +/- 5 metres and the contours are 20 metre interval. The model surface is draped with what the program calls ecosystems. An ecosystem is composed of tree images with heights and density parameters. Rock, roads cut blocks and other non forest types are composite textures designed to represent the type. The ecosystems are attached to the forest inventory, roads or cut block boundaries and appear in the rendering. Sky, cloud, sun angle and atmospheric (visibility) are set to compliment the images. The sun angle is usually set between 11 am and 2 pm at the summer solstice. Visibility is usually 20 to 30km.

Once all the data is in place and configured the view points are selected. The software uses “cameras” The camera is located according to Lat/Long coordinates, the elevation is set at the surface +2m. focal length is set at 50mm or what is basically the human eye view. The camera can also be tilted up or down. This is necessary in our steep terrain around the lake. Most of the images John ends up with are composites of a series of overlapping images. These are necessary to include a view that matches what we see. They never exceed 90 degrees.

There are major and minor viewpoints. Major viewpoints generally have a long or static viewing durations, are frequently used and have a panoramic vista. Minor viewpoints generally have shorter or transient viewing durations, low use frequency, and the vista may be restricted. He also looks for the worst case. The worst case is found by moving the camera around on the lake surface until the maximum view of the opening is found.

There are many holiday floating homes on parts of Powell Lake and John considers it very important that the views from these cabins are considered. Canoe paddlers and power boats come and go but the cabin owner has the view from his living room or deck and alterations to that view may last for a few years. John locates a viewpoint that is generally representative of the two or three or more cabins in the area.

The rendering process is one long computer grind. The resulting images are loaded into graphic software (Corel Paintshop Pro.) and stitched together to create panoramas and cropped to size. John then sends these images to Darwyn or whoever is working on the cutblock. They review it and they send it back to John with any changes they would like made. They usually go through at least two iterations of every block and some have gone through as many as eight iterations before they got the plan to the point where it was acceptable visually.

It is important to remember that there is a purpose to the cut blocks to harvest timber economically. That timber may not occur in the best possible location from a purely visual perspective so we have to make sure that the design is suitable for the site.

The next consideration is the design of the openings and how they fit in the landscape. You can see that it is at this point the whole exercise becomes highly subjective.

There are some clues that can be derived from the landscape. There are numerous variables and John uses the ones that seem to be important to location. When he looks at a scene he usually consider the following:

Texture: texture is created by the forest cover. Immature trees create fine textures and large mature trees create a coarse texture with varying grades in between. A mixture of textures creates diversity and can suggest shapes and opening sizes

Complexity: Some terrain is quite simple with smooth slopes and very little interruption from creek drainages. Others are more complex with minor hills, a variety of concave and convex slopes, rock outcrops, cliffs, or slides. (This is visual absorption capacity.)

Aspect: Slopes with a northerly aspect tend to be in shadow for a significant period of the day. They are “dark” slopes and cut blocks shaded. Southerly aspects are in full sun most of the day and the intense light reflects more from lighter cut areas and roads. Generally the south aspects attract the eye.

Visual Force. This can be very influential in how well a cut block fits into the landscape and is a principle consideration when John assesses a block for visual impact.

Once we have revised and created a final design John completes a Visual Assessment Summary which is a standard MoF form and he writes an opinion as to the results and how they reached the visual objective. This summary then becomes part of the record for that block and the final decision to proceed with the cutting permit is signed off by the forester responsible.

New CSA Standard

Darwyn went through the changes from CSA Z809-08 to the new CSA Z809-16 with the group. There were a number of small changes and a few big changes. The minor changes will likely just need slight changes to the wording to match the core indicator or it could there could just be a need to re-number. The bigger changes will need input from the group. Darwyn went through the indicators and pointed out the changes. The biggest change is the addition of a new indicator under 'Timber and Non-Timber Benefits'.

There will be a new indicator added to CSA Z809-16: 3.2.2 Proportion of forest management activities, consistent with prescriptions to protect identified water features. Stillwater had an indicator regarding the annual number of non-conformance issues on water quality on streams in the DFA which was specific to streams. The new indicator not limited to streams. The group will have further discussion on this to make sure activities are consistent with the prescriptions to protect those features.

Comment: The standard does not have a definition for water feature. It has been intentionally left open.

I think it will be fairly easy to describe as it is heavily regulated.

Other new indicators include 5.1.2 'Evidence of open and respectful communications with forest dependent businesses, forest users and local communities to integrate non-timber resources into forest management planning. When significant disagreement occurs, efforts towards conflict resolution are documented'. This will need further discussion as will new indicator 7.1.2 'Evidence of open and respectful communications with Aboriginal Communities to foster meaningful engagement, and consideration of the information gained about their Aboriginal title and rights through this process. Where there is communicated disagreement regarding the organization's forest management activities, this evidence would include documentation of efforts towards'.

Action List Items

Action Items	Who	When
Look at the TOR and make sure it is still relevant	Jane, Mark A., and Paul	January 2017

Adjourned 8:50 pm

Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group
Western Forest Products
January 16th Attendance

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