

**CSA Community Advisory Group**  
To Western Forest Products  
October 17, 2018  
Western Forest Products Boardroom

**Attendance**

**Present**

Jane Cameron - Chair

Wayne Brewer

George Illes

Joseph McLean

Bill Maitland

Colin Palmer

Rory Maitland

Tom Koleszar

Andy Payne

Jeffrey Belcher – BC Wildfire Servie

Darwyn Koch, WFP

Valerie Thomspon, Facilitator/Secretary

**Absent**

Russ Parsons

Mark Anderson

Mark Hassett

Paul Goodwin

Dave Hodgins

Doug Fuller

Barry Miller

Ben Berukoff

Karen Skadsheim

6:15 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 accepted.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair introduced guest speaker Jeffrey Belcher and welcomed group.

## **Correspondence**

Copies of recent correspondence were provided and reviewed

Emails to First Nations

Letter to PRPAWS

## **Company Update**

Fred Westarp left WFP and has gone to work for the BC government.

*Comment: I heard on the CBC news that the Ladysmith mill has been shut down for about 4 weeks. The union fellow said they had shut down for lack of fibre. He was complaining that WFP is exporting logs. I thought we were told that WFP is not exporting logs.*

It was shut down because we had such a lousy August throughout the company. The woodlands were unable to deliver enough volume. The Ladysmith mill consumes small hemlock. They got a lot of that from Stillwater so when we had to shut down in August because of fire season they didn't get the steady flow of logs. It is starting to come back now.

*Comment: It is interesting that this union representative was saying that the fibre shortage was due to wild fires and exported logs. Now we are hearing that both of these things are wrong and he is stating this as fact on the CBC morning news. You guys should know what is being said*

Who knows where he is getting his information. Everything I understand is the shut down is due to the inability to get logs to them. Our deliveries were shut down for about 6 weeks other than 3 days.

Other company news is the Forest Practices Board has a new boss who wishes to understand logging. His people told him he should go see what WFP are doing because they are doing it right. They called up Stuart and they will arrive Monday for two days and the Stillwater Division staff will be touring them around.

## **Operational Information Map Update**

### **New blocks on the Map**

#### **New Blocks**

No new blocks

### **Current Activities**

**Harvesting** – PD-466, PD-212, ST-391, UL-842, GI-141, ST-095, ST-096, ST-348, ST-344, GI-158, ST-116 and ST-108.

**Road Construction** – ST-060, ST-347, PD-528, ST-289, ST-076, GI-072, GI-012, and GI-138.

### **Sunshine Coast Trail**

No activity at this time.

### **Fires/Slides/Spills (YTD):**

No new Fires.

No new spills

No new slides.

**Safety Stats (YTD):**

In September there was one new recordable incidents. MIR is now 5.41 for the year.

**Harvesting Stats (YTD):**

As of September 30, 2018 the total amount harvested from the TFL (YTD) is 341,769 m3. The budget target was 332,571 m3.

*Question: How are the approvals flowing through Sechelt/?*

It has taken a bad turn. I want to review the new foundation agreement with you. It has the potential to impact our business even more than the shared decision making. Our people in Vancouver that work with the First Nations people are going through the 200 page agreement right now. It comes with a lot of land and money and expectations.

*Question: Is this a treaty agreement?*

No. They don't want to sign a treaty but it is treaty like. It is a 25 year agreement renewable every 5 years.

*Question: Has it been signed?*

Yes. October 6<sup>th</sup>. It is the first major agreement of this kind.

**Sunshine Coast Fire Zone – Jeffrey Belcher**

The province is broken up into 6 regional fire centres. Each centre is broken into zones. There are 60 fire zones/Initial attack bases. There are 2 provincial warehouses where they keep the bulk of their gear – one in Chilliwack and one in Prince George and there are 18 tanker bases.

The Sechelt base Forest Protection Tech is Stephen Gemmell and the Forest Protection Assist is Gord Kohut. This area has two 3 person Initial Attack Crews.

The Powell River base Forest Protection Officer is Rob Crookshank and the Forest Protection Tech is Jeff Belcher. This area has one 3 person Initial Attack Crew.

BC Wildfire Service, Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is the lead agency in British Columbia responsible for wildland fire management. It is mandated to assist in emergency response – “all hazards” There are 1,150 seasonal fire staff employed each fire season and 250 full time staff.

During fire season, fire reports are called-in to our 24-hour Dispatch Centre in Parksville.

They have an online map showing IPR plot onto a digital map. From the IPR the dispatchers create Fire Icon if there is an actual fire.

They are able to use photos sent via cell phones and link them to Google Earth to determine where a fire is. MODIS satellite imagery can be used but it needs to be a fairly large fire to be seen by MODIS.

Drones are assets and liabilities. They have problems with the public flying drones near fires where personnel might need to fly. They are trying to educate people about how hazardous they can be and that operations may even need to be shut down if there is a drone near by. When fires are largely out they send people out to walk the perimeter to check and they can also use drones to investigate.

Challenges include: longer seasons from climate change, increased pressure on resources, more people living in wild land urban interface areas, and fuel load and forest dynamics.

Provincial Statistics:

Year	Number of Fires	Hectares Burned
2017	1334	1,215,816
2003	2473	265,053
1958	3039	855,968

The size of fires rather than the number of fires has grown.

Year	Evacuated	Structures Lost
2017	65,000	502
2003	45,000	334

Provincially 60% of fires are caused by lightning, 22.4% by industry, and 17.6% are caused by people.

In 2017 the 1,216,053 hectares burned were mostly in the Caribou fire centre. In 2018 the 1,349,730 hectares burned were spread all across the province.

Over half a billion in costs recorded only include suppression costs. It does not include the cost of shut downs of industry, economic costs, when roads need to be replaced because the land eroded due to the lost timber, replacement of powerlines, houses that need to be rebuilt or communities that are shut down.

Coastal Fire Centre

	2018	2017	10 year Average
Total Number of Wildfires	292	113	219
Total Hectare Burned	174,943	7,807	4,853
Human Caused Wildfires	133	99	138
Lightening Caused Wildfires	159	9	81

*Question: What about the fire on East Redonda?*

We did very little action on that fire. Part of the fire management plan for the park it was partly on is to let it burn. We let it burn but we did build a fuel free line of about a 150 ft buffer so it wouldn't cross over.

*Question: Did you ever catch up with the boaters that were thought to start it?*

I don't think so. If we did find them we would have called Compliance and Enforcement in to deal with them and issue fines. If people are found negligent BC Wildfire Services can go after costs.

*Comment: I heard that they were actually caught.*

I don't think so, but I could be wrong.

*Comment: C & E was on it.*

*Comment: An American boat was identified.*

What we have learned: Fire seasons are getting longer and more extreme, costs are approaching \$500 million per year (unsustainable), the focus shifted from protecting forest values to protecting communities, and the focus is shifting from suppression to prevention and mitigation

At its peak capacity BCWS was utilizing:

Total Personnel	4756
Out-Of-Province Personnel	961
Contract Personnel	1719
Aircraft	270

The BC Wildfire Service received help from around the world, including: all Canadian provinces and territories except Manitoba and Nunavut, United States of America (Washington state), Mexico, Australia, and New Zealand.

Canadian Armed Forces personnel also assisted the BC Wildfire Service during the 2018 wildfire season.

*Question: Do you pay for bringing these people in and their wages?*

Yes. And, although it hasn't happened on a large scale for a number of years, when we go to other places we are a service that the BC government would bill out for. Theoretically over time it would balance out.

Resource Strategic Wildfire Allocation Process (prioritize):

- 1) Human Life and Safety
- 2) Property
- 3) High Environmental Values
- 4) Resource Values (ie – Timber)

During the fire season, British Columbians may be evacuated from their communities and homes may be destroyed. Living in a forested area means that you and your community eventually will have to contend with the threat.

Home Ignition Zones:

Zone 1: 1.5 to 10 metres from the home. Create a FireSmart yard so that fire will not easily transmit to your home. Plant low density, fire resistant plants and shrubs. Avoid planting coniferous trees (cones and needles) in this zone, since they are highly flammable. Keep lawns mowed. Move firewood piles, construction materials, storage sheds and other combustible structures out of this zone and into Zone 2.

Zone 2: 10 to 30 m from home in forest. The goal is to promote canopy closure and increase the gap between surface and over story fuels (shaded fuel break). Leave all healthy deciduous trees and shrubs. Remove understory conifers under 15cm in diameter. Where spacing allows, consider leaving the

occasional conifer in the understory to promote future crown closure. On conifer trees, remove all branches to a height of 2 metres above the ground (maximum of ½ the height of the tree on understory). Remove ground fuels under 15cm. Leave larger materials for wildlife habitat but cut them so they are in contact with ground to promote decomposition.

Zone 3: 30 to 100 m from home. Create an environment that will not support high intensity crown fires. Focus on fuel reduction and conversion (rather than removal). Look for opportunities to create a fire break by creating space between trees and other flammable vegetation or by having bands of deciduous trees in a coniferous forest.

Always ensure roofs and gutters are clear of combustible material, vents and eaves are screened in or enclosed, and siding is free of gaps where embers could accumulate.

Smoke management: 10km buffer from hwy 101. Less restrictive to burn outside of buffer. Extended another year until the new regulations come into play.

### **Indicator Action Item List**

#### **Indicator 1.2.3 – Proportion of regeneration comprised of native tree species**

The finding of the external audit was reviewed with Nancy Pezel. The target of this indicator is 100% compliance - Nancy planted Noble fir as a test for one unit in the DFA in 2017 - although Noble fir is an "acceptable" species under silviculture regulation, it is not a native species to the Stillwater area - this put them slightly offside (99.8% of planted species were native). The auditor suggested we consider changing the indicator to reflect the legal requirements of the FSP as the operation may wish to test plant other acceptable species in the future to build in some stand resiliency in the future

Darwyn suggested the indicator be changed the introduction statement to:

Proportion of regeneration comprised of native tree species allowed for under the Approved Forest Stewardship Plan

And the target from “the proportion of regeneration comprised of native tree species is 100%” to “the proportion of regeneration comprised of native tree species as allowed for under the Approved Forest Stewardship Plan is 100%”.

The group agreed to this change.

#### **Indicator 5.2.3 - Level of direct and indirect employment**

The auditor said consideration should be given to reducing the current target from +/-25% based on man-years of employment. 2009 – 2017 results show that -15% (2017) and +14% (2011) were the lows and highs for this indicator outside of an outlier value in 2010 (+29%). The current variance allows another +/-10% outside the target.

Darwyn proposed the target be changed to 15% from year to year and to change the variance to <10%.

The group agreed to this change.

#### **Indicator 6.1.2 Evidence of efforts to promote capacity development and meaningful participation in general**

Current target for this indicator is  $\geq 10$  CAG and public meetings with and possible variance of 4 meetings. The auditor said consideration should be given to reducing the current variance from  $\geq 4$  for number of CAG and public meeting as meeting numbers have historically easily met the target since 2009.

Darwyn proposed making the variance zero.

The group agreed to this change.

**8** people will be required to meet quorum at the next meeting.

Adjourned: 8:00pm

**Action List Items**

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
Bring back definitions of independent and dependent contractors for next meeting.	Darwyn	September 19/18
Talk to Zack regarding website uptime	Darwyn	September 19/18

