

West Island Woodlands Advisory Group - Island Timberlands Limited Partnership
Thursday May 10, 2012 Final Minutes Held at the ACRD Boardroom

Advisory Group Members:

✓ ✓	Harold Carlson Barbra Baker (alt)	Forest Recreation	✓	Stefan Ochman	Bamfield
✓ ✓	Rick Avis Judy Carlson (alt)	Naturalists	✓	Keith Hunter	Multiple Goods & Services
✓	Rick Avis (acting)	Watershed/Fisheries	✓	Jim Creighton Neil Malbon	Small Business/Tourism
✓ R	Glen Wong John Jack	A.C. Regional District	✓ ✓	John Smith Brigitte Arndt	AV Hill Climbers AV Hill Climbers (alt)
✓ ✓	Jane Morden Mike Stini (alt)	Environment	✓	Jack McLeman	City of Port Alberni
✓	John McIntosh	Parks Canada	R R	Darlene Clark (alt) Bob Cerenzia (alt)	Alberni Fish & Game
	Lee Blais	Alberni Valley Riders			

✓ = attended R = regrets blank = did not attend V = vacant seat Q = Quorum

Resources Present:

Morgan Kennah – ITLP
Brad Rodway – ITLP
Kraig Urbanoski – ITLP

Jennifer Dyson – Facilitator
Marusha Taylor – Recording Secretary

Guests

David Wiwchar, PEAK FM Radio
Reid Robinson

Welcome and Introductions @ 5:30 – 5:40pm

Safety Orientation

Jennifer reviewed safety procedures.

Action Items

Jennifer reviewed action items.

Minutes of the February 9, 2012 meeting approved by consensus

Action Item #1: February 8, 2012 Minutes to be posted to website

Action Item #2: understorey inventory + mushroom pickers (Keith) ongoing

Action Item #3: Public safety – carried into recreation committee area

Question from Morgan re: Watershed/Fisheries representative. They will select a rep at the upcoming AGM (Rick Avis currently acting).

Previous minutes will be amended to show that Inlet Trail closure will continue until May 18.

WIWAG Terms of Reference Review

Review led by Jennifer with discussion. Document needs review from ITLP perspective, particularly after recent news items. Has been CSA-oriented historically; may need some language changes to reflect SFM.

Section 3.1

- (SO) “rights of members” should be changed from “decision-making” to “informed advice”

Section 3.2

- (JM) Anything reported to city council becomes public information. (JD) Outside discussion should exclude proprietary information.
- (KU) Perhaps it means bringing up issues in the meeting rather than to individual members. (JM) Meetings are far apart, makes it hard to address issues in a timely way. (MK) Gets letters of concern, people don't understand why issues are not brought to group.
- (JD) Longer breaks may be useful; small groups can have further discussion.
- (HC) In the past, public could look at future plans and comment; no longer done esp. w/private forest lands; activities often come as a surprise, need more notice about planned activity. (MK) Maps are being prepared re: roads to be built next year. (HC) This is useful, but surprises still occur.
- (KH) Email, social media are used by his group; could ITLP map be posted on Facebook as a .pdf? Gets queries about WIWAG meeting content re: road safety. May be useful for cultural purposes, e.g. where to harvest cedar bark. Also a safety issue for harvesters. Once ops plans go to band office, how does it get transmitted to the rest of the community?
- (KU) At what point does info become sensitive? (JD) Some info can be communicated one-on-one, but this differs from discussion of controversial items.
- (MK) Maybe maps could be prepared a week ahead of meetings, made available to WIWAG members. Group could have more input into what needs to be discussed at meetings; ITLP offers the info that they perceive to be important. (KU) Road construction is usually laid out 2 years in advance. (BB) Road access inventory was offered to multiple users; company cannot keep track of all potential areas of use. (KU) Cut blocks added can be brought up at meetings.
- (MK) ITLP wants to be open as possible, but some matters will need discussion in camera. (HC) In camera is a formal process, not reported or discussed later; usually done in a limited way. (RA) Sub-committees used in camera sessions to discuss some topics. (JD) This group used sub-committees more in the past, less so recently. Lack of confidentiality could reduce candour in meetings.
- (JM) If uniform sentence structure is used throughout, it makes the terms easier to read; maybe rewrite document in parallel format, begin section on ITLP responsibilities with action verbs.

Section 5.0

- (KU) ITLP are listed as a resource, not as members. (JD) The list as it appears on minutes hasn't been reformatted, but ITLP are members of the advisory group. (MK) Suggests that "all members" be reworded to "all participants".
- (JM) When the company shared something proprietary, they limited discussion until such time as the issue was made public. (RA) Need to review wording and make "membership", "confidentiality", "decision-making" clear. (JC) WIWAG is not a decision-making body. (JD) Some sections will need to be removed altogether to reflect current activity. (HC) ITLP are members; "resource people" are the guest speakers, etc. (KU) what is an example of confidential info? (MK) One example is discussion on controversial harvesting. (KU) Can think of things he would like to be confidential, such as maps of sensitive areas. (MK) Some details might not be available for communication widely.

Section 7.3

- Need to update staff names on Terms of Reference.

Action Item 4: review and update language in Terms of Reference bring back revisions to next meeting in November

Section 7.4

- (MK) Membership was shuffled around 2008. Some current members are now long-time attendees who have attained a certain level of education now; group is now more representative.

Cold Creek Main

- (KU) Two focus group meetings took place Feb. 28, April 3 (minutes provided). Loop trails proposed with trails cutting across to make shorter routes. ITLP property identified with what is available for harvesting. Will review group's proposals for retention. It is hard to discuss and commit to specifics without being out in area. Walking the area is key; would like to include members. (JM) Appreciates the opportunity to go out and discuss on the ground.
- (HC) Referred to a viewscape of the area taken shortly after the first cut (1930s?), which Barb found. Karst area further up from this area? (KU) Dye tests showed water was flowing down below Cold Creek reservoir. (KU) Root rot pervasive in some areas; a challenge. (MK) Compared to Alberni Inlet Trail, there is more light in this area because of the canopy mix. If selective harvesting done, it won't alter light as dramatically.
- (MS) Map doesn't show land rezoned under Cherry Creek OCP. (JC) OCP has not been passed yet, but area is proposed for mixed use. (MK) Need to layer this into the map and discuss in next meeting. (MS) Are there any plans for Maebelle Road area? Was told it was ITLP. (KU) Not ITLP, not aware of a road or any logging plans, perhaps another company is planning something.
- (KU) "must haves": need to bring people out to discuss. 50m management zone on Willow Creek; significant amt of timber for company. Can establish buffers, selective harvest method after tour with group. Cold Creek Reservoir: planned in consultation w/CCID. Concern for recreational security for non-motorized participants; current trails considered in harvest plans, with continued collaboration on Loop trail network.
- (KU) Visuals management: points to "partial retention" as defined by Forestry Practices Regulation (see handout, 1.1(c) for details). Points of reference: highway turnoff to Hollyhock Golf course; Cherry Creek Rd @ Lordco Auto Parts; Cemetery entrance on Hwy 4; Forestry lookout site. May add the big golf course?

- (JC) Is there any way to keep roads remaining for use of non-motorized participants? Citizen's Climb will become more visible; logging roads will open everything else up to off-road use. (JS) Tries to advise motorized users against using mountain bike or hiking trails, but some activity continues anyway.
- (KU) 330 ha net area; what will be harvested is highly variable from year to year; will try different things and see what works. (BB) There are a lot of smaller areas that aren't shown on the schematic present at this meeting. (KU) Photo of area affected by root rot; trees are standing dead, falling down. His approach on this type of site: would probably clear some of it and plant alternative species around the root rot; possibly pull stumps out of the ground as they harbour the fungus; reducing harvest period will also help, fewer trees will be infected. "Total chance placement" to determine what roads will be needed in a certain area? Concept long used by foresters and engineers.
- (MS) commented positively on road. (KU) New arch culverts and simulated stream beds have brought back Coho fry. (KH) Asked how this process is being documented for future generations to consider? (KU) What ITLP does is industry standard; not advertised enough. (MK) Agreed that it is not documented enough; partially a resource challenge, partially company position as to how much is shared. (JD) The whole process is vital from public advisory process; has been in jeopardy; a 2-way process. (KH) Wants next generation to be proud that they're in forestry; more to forestry than what most people see. (KU) There's a lot of work done before harvesting begins, lots of related jobs.

Cameron Fire Break harvest activity

- (KU) When areas were clear cut, strips were left as fire breaks. In March, asked Bob and Mike to come and discuss area in terms of ungulate range, fish habitat, and other key values that would impact cut block design. ITLP decided after the media coverage in March to make progress before the meeting. There was an issue of trust as to how much information would be reported. ITLP has tried to clarify with the press that the area is not adjacent to Cathedral Grove, but is 12 km away as the crow flies; 18 km driving distance. The opening meets Mac-Blo variable retention area. There was a recommendation to do single-stem removal, heli-logging; may do in future but area has been harvested using hand-falling. Elk use the adjacent area heavily in winter; this has not been touched. The idea in the past was to have a core for coverage, but the area would not be used as a fire break anymore, as this is no longer appropriate.
- (MS) Input was given, but suggestions for field visit, alternative harvesting weren't followed up. Animals need sufficient old growth, forage areas; present scheme does not meet the animals' need. Asked whether plan was reviewed by biologists, and whether there is proof that 1% of crown land is protected. (JD) Need to discuss further why this proceeded; there was a breach of trust, but the issue needs to go to committee, not the media; will not be solved at this meeting. (HC) This was a major surprise; area between river and Cameron Main is dense with elk in winter. (JC) Critical habitat is always a priority over recreation. (RA) Several biologists have come in the past; unclear what our status is on this issue.
- (JD) Asked whether Morgan & Brad could form a subcommittee on this, report back to group. (RA) Should include other winter range areas. (KH) In US Forest Service, brought in biologist to tag elk, mapped actual range, and then made land use decisions. Without the science, it's difficult to make harvesting decisions; proposes to get that information to focus the discussion.

Action Item 5: Morgan and Brad to form subcommittee on Cameron Fire Break, report to group at later meeting.

Watershed Management Discussion

This was intended to be an update by ITLP. Meetings will take place with the City, ACRD and ITLP. Morgan provided a meeting schedule, including meetings which have already taken place with various stakeholders.

February 6 – City Water Purveyor Meeting Annual meeting with City staff on harvest and silviculture plans within China Creek and around Bainbridge Lake.

February 13 – City Council Presentation to Port Alberni City Council, introducing the new Council to Island Timberlands, our 'Forest Management Framework,' two high profile harvest plans for early 2012 (Underwood Cove & Shoemaker Main), harvest plans for China Creek watershed and review of McLaughlin Ridge.

February 27 – BCID Board/Staff Meeting Annual meeting with Board members and staff of Beaver Creek Improvement District. Discussed 2012 harvest and silviculture activities for water supply area, concerns and commentary on water quality.

March 27 – CCID Board/Staff Meeting Discussion following a submitted letter from concerned member of the public accusing Island Timberlands and their staff of contravening legislation in a number of ways.

April 3 – WIWAG Focus Group – Cold Creek Meeting minutes as provided

April 25 – ACRD Board Presentation

May 1 – Watershed Tour and Meeting Invite only tour to see China Creek watershed for City Council, key City staff

May 9 – Watershed Meeting

May 11 – Cold Creek Field Tour

May 23 – CCID Board/Staff Meeting

Inlet Trail update

- (MK) May 18 trail re-opening; open for summer -- blog and website will be updated. WFP is also pulling away from activity on the trail. More harvesting planned in the fall, WIWAG invited to tour. Before and after photos were displayed of the area, with a viewpoint opened up by loggers who also built a picnic table there. (HC) Several trail builders went out and were very impressed by what was done.
- Phase Two: big hurdle is getting a bridge over China Creek; funding is being applied for.

Recreation Access Inventory Discussion

A six-page table of roads now exists with lots of input from WIWAG members. More updates to follow. Once this is done, the inventory will be posted on the WIWAG website. (BB) Needs input from other users. (JD) The list has been circulated many times without further input. Another Recreation Committee meeting is needed.

Announcements

- (HC) BCID will be transferred officially on June 1, 2012
- (HC) notes that in today's Times Colonist, an article says WFP is doing well, and another article says that Canada is the largest exporter of lumber to China

Next Meeting(s)

Recreation Meeting date TBD
WFP Meeting **June 14, 2012**

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	New Action Items	Date of request	Projected Completion Date (Progress)	Person Responsible
1.	Posting of previous ITLP Meeting minutes on WIWAG website	Pending approval of minutes	After minutes approved (next meeting)	Jennifer
2.	Examine how information on understorey species could be incorporated with data collected by mushroom pickers on the ground	February 9, 2012	ongoing	Keith and Morgan
3.	Investigate options for forest safety training for public use	February 9, 2012	ongoing	Recreation committee
4.	Review and update language from CSA frame of reference, rewrite where necessary, and bring back draft revisions to next meeting in November	May 10, 2012	November 2012	Marusha, Jennifer
5.	Form subcommittee on Cameron Fire Break, report to group at later meeting	May 10, 2012		Morgan and Brad
6.				

All Completed Actions see file [Actions completed\ITLP Complete tracking.doc](#)