

**West Island Woodlands Community Advisory Group**

*March 11, 2004*

**Regional District boardroom, Port Alberni**

**Present:**

Advisory Group Members:

* *	Carlson, Harold Avis, Rick (alt)	Forest Recreation	* *	Carol Cutforth Independent Sawmills
R	Tracy Horovatin	Tourism	R	Alison Mackenzie Logging Contractors
* *	Edgell, Phil Ken McRae Lyle Price (Alt)	Watershed/Fisheries A.C. Regional District	* *	Andrew Whittock Placer Mining Creighton, Jim Small Business/Chamber
	Darleen Watts	Tseshah First Nation	R	Ed Sanders Darlene Clark (alt) A.V. Sportsman's Association
R	McIntosh, John Bob Redhead (alt)	Parks Canada	* *	Swann, Gary S. I. Woodlot Owner's Assoc.
* *	Dennis Morgan Lem, Tawney Brandy Lauder	Bamfield Hupacasth	* *	Chris Law Amanda Lord Environment City of Port Alberni

Resources:

Steve Chambers - Weyerhaeuser  
 Ryan Dvorak - Recording Secretary  
 Ken Mathews - BCTS

Michelle Colussi - Facilitator  
 Mike Davis - Weyerhaeuser  
 Andrew Ashburgh - BCTS

1. Welcome and Introductions:
2. Agenda:
  - Additions:
    - Update on Forest Fest
  - No Objection to the changes**
3. Safety Orientation
4. Minutes of February 12, 2004: **Approved**
5. Announcements:
  - Weyerhaeuser is undergoing staff reductions. This will impact on the following - Dennis Fitzgerald, Tom Whitfield, Ted Kimoto, Glen Dunsworth
  - Weyerhaeuser is pleased to recognize Jim Creighton for attending 20+ WIWAG meeting - presented with a vest
  - The Natural Step organizing committee has set October 22<sup>nd</sup> as a tentative date for the seminar
  - Jan Carter, at APD, is the local representative for Weyerhaeuser's donations committee. Steve handed out brochures but she is willing to speak to the group also if desired.
  - April 15 - 17<sup>th</sup> are the dates for a community forest conference in Revelstoke - Dennis Morgan has information
  - Ken McRae will be involved in a conference call with BC Lumber on March 17<sup>th</sup> re: Softwood
6. Sustainable Harvest Levels:

- Look at a sustainable harvest level on a Timber Harvesting Land Base THLB removing reserves from the discussion. The overall harvest level on the working forest
- The question is, does the methodology for determining the Long Term Harvest Level LTHL on the THLB seem reasonable given the agreed upon THLB
- Questioning the assumptions - MAI is 9.6 cubic meters/hectare/year reasonable - Harvest age of 80 years truncates parts of the forest, should look at longer-term rotations that move around the landbase
- Soil microbiology would be impacted negatively by on-going 80 year rotations
- Should note that the LTHL is a theoretical rate of cut set at where people believe a best guess of sustainability is
- The LTHL assumes that at no time in the theoretical process will the MAI decrease
- Landscape Unit Planning: where is this process going. - concerns over liquidating old growth to create the working forest
- Hamish Kimmins has put a lot of work into looking at soil fertility/nutrient levels, and could be brought into this conversation
- Age class of concern is Old Growth and where Old Growth reserves are
- Phil would like the question on the methodology of determining the LTHL and the underlying assumptions to go to an outside 3<sup>rd</sup> party for review
- Does the market play a role in this process - It will drive the local cut, but not the AAC
- Would WIWAG like to see different MAI levels and the resulting impacts on the LTHL as well as an understanding of how the MAI is determined and the underlying assumptions arrived at - Yes
- WIWAG should also look at how different MAI numbers would impact jobs/businesses
- Should consider that Sustainability is not primarily an environmental question the group should also be looking at other issues eg: jobs, cultural concerns, etc.
- The economic question should be totally separate from the biological sustainability of the Forest
- How long would it take for the THLB to be liquidated to 2<sup>nd</sup> growth?
- Look at what the demand is for Old Growth within small scale processors and artisans - For the entire South Island
- **Steve & Peter will look at the 9.6 MAI and 80 year rotations for different options, and present the analysis to WIWAG. Peter will provide the MAI assumptions & factors as well.**
- The issue seems to be one of zonation around old growth and age classes
- Russian wood is coming and will have a significant impact on markets
- Another issue is how the ramp down from old growth to second growth should look - slow - medium - fast?
- AAC level is set by the government and the company is penalized for cutting over or under that level
- Should look at the Chief Forester's office for input on the AAC determination
- Debate circles around whether the company should grow old growth as part of it's management plan

- What will the company do if they are told that the current reserves are not adequate?
  - Weyerhaeuser will be advertising the Sproat Landscape Unit Plan at the end of March - it will be open to a 60 day public review
  - Landscape Unit Planning - What is the process and the opportunities for public comment?
7. Weyerhaeuser's Adaptive Management Program:
- Weyerhaeuser has provided CD's and a manual on their adaptive management plan WIWAG members are welcome to borrow these but please return them to Ryan or Michelle when finished
8. BC Timber Sales - Ken Matthews:
- Andrew Ashburgh is the local forester for the BCTS
  - It is important to note that the BCTS is not the Small Business program any longer, the Liberal Government removed the SBFEP, Softwood issues have driven the changes to the BCTS to create a reference point for pricing and logging costs (Bill 28 & 20% take back)
  - BCTS will provide benchmarks for the costs of logging and the pricing of fiber
  - One goal of the BCTS is to optimize net revenue to the Province
  - BCTS is now wide open, anyone can competitively bid for sales
  - Until all new volume is in the system category 2 (sawmills) operators will be able to bid on sales until approximately March 2005
  - Under BCTS you will not need to be bonded - the laws have changed to provide very strict enforcement to completely log a timber sale - operators will have to put up a larger deposit on the sale
  - Average timber sales under BCTS will be approximately 25,000 cubic meters
  - The BCTS will have to go through the same process as Weyerhaeuser to get a cut plan approved
  - There will be some small salvage operations eg: windthrow, cedar
  - The District Manager will have the capacity to deal with some salvage operations
  - Weyerhaeuser had a choice over their Provincial holdings they could give back all or none of any given license depending on need and a 20% total/company under negotiation with government
  - The BCTS will have approximately 340,000 cubic meters of working volumes this breaks down as - 81,000 residual SBFEP - 20,000 left over from tenure transfer take-back - 237,000 - 20% take back volume out of this 60,000 are allocated to First Nations
  - Weyerhaeuser will likely see the pricing volumes coming solely out of Sproat Division
  - The BCTS needs to sell a balanced representation of fiber that fits the profile of timber on the Coast
  - The BCTS is looking at taking large contiguous areas that reflect the costs of major logging companies
  - The BCTS could contribute financially to WIWAG if they undertake CSA certification
  - Phase II of this process is underway, and includes an area selection phase on TFL #44 and BCTS will select areas needed to maintain a representative coast wide of timber to reflect costs - The BCTS has determined that Sproat Division would be appropriate

- Certified wood is high in the significance of the BCTS in order to sell to the major companies and reflect legitimate costs of the producer
  - Compensation will be a HUGE issue - 20%/FDP's/Engineering/Infrastructure/etc.
  - The BCTS will have the 20% take-back finalized and rolling no later than March 2005
  - ISO 14001 will be registered with the BCTS in September
  - The BCTS would like to continue with CSA certification on the 20% take back volumes
  - WIWAG may move towards the Port McNeill model where 2 companies utilize the same advisory group eg: Weyerhaeuser and the BCTS would look to WIWAG
  - Pricing information on timber is on the BCTS website
9. Letter to the Minister of Forests:
- Should include a more specific reference to community forests, wood lots and First Nations
  - Should include that wood is certified to CSA standards
  - Employee compensation for affected workers
  - **Michelle will e-mail the revised letter to WIWAG for comment prior to sending to off**
10. Communities and Natural Resources in Transition:
- Contains an abstract of the conference and contact information for researchers
  - A good resource to link the academic community with communities
11. Forest Fest:
- Will be held this year July 10 & 11
  - Opportunity for WIWAG to educate the public on the CSA process and what WIWAG is about
  - A display with interactive displays and activities eg: arcview
  - **Ryan will draft a proposal for the next meeting re: display/etc.**
12. Mountain Bike Event:
- Weyerhaeuser's policy is that applicants who wish to utilize Weyerhaeuser's private lands pay a \$350 administration fee
  - **The recreation sub-committee will examine the question of recreationalists and landowners regarding public vs. private lands, and draft a position for review.**

Next Meeting: April 15  
 Location: Regional District Boardroom 3008 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
 Time: 5:00pm Dinner, 5:30pm Meeting

Action Items March 11, 2004

	Action:	Completion Date:	Person Responsible:
1.	Seek out speakers for a public seminar	ASAP	Steve, Phil, Ryan
2.	Draft proposal re: Forest Fest	April	Ryan
3.	Analysis of MAI and 80 year rotations relating to the LTHL determination		Peter and Steve

4.	Develop display description & budget for Forest Fest	May	Ryan
5.	Revise letter to Minster de Jong & send out for approval	immediately	Michelle
7.			
8.			