

WIWAG Minutes November, 2004

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West Island Woodlands Community Advisory Group

November 18, 2004

Regional District boardroom, Port Alberni

Present:

Advisory Group Members:

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

* = attended R = regrets blank = did not attend

Resources:

Steve Chambers - Weyerhaeuser

Michelle Colussi - Facilitator

Mike Davis - Weyerhaeuser

Ryan Dvorak - Recording Secretary

1. Welcome and Introductions:
2. Safety Orientation
3. Agenda:
4. Minutes of October 14, 2004:
 - Move item #10 in the Action items to the Sub-committee section
 - **Minutes approved**
5. Announcements:
 - There will be a HAYES FDP amendment available for review and comment starting November 22, and an Open House December 10 & 11 10am – 4pm at the Echo Field house.
 - ? – Will HAYES provide a copy for the AEC – A request would have to be made directly to HAYES
 - Thanks to Rick, Harold, Darlene, Ed and Mike for all of the sub-committee work.
6. Letter to the Huu-ay-aht: Will be ready for January.

7. Fall Fair Comments response from Weyerhaeuser:
 - Old Growth transition strategy – Old Growth harvesting will go on for 15 – 20 years; however, Weyerhaeuser has not developed relationships with the Value-added industry.
 - FEN's in Sproat Lake – Weyerhaeuser has the ability to shift FEN's to accommodate harvesting.
 - There are no issues around free-to-grow in the Alberni East area.
 - Adjacency rules are different in enhanced forestry zones such as the Alberni East area.
 - Forest Revitalization Act – Weyerhaeuser can not carve up their tenure without the approval of the Ministry of Forests.
 - Publicizing the maps and ortho photos brings about issue of data ownership.

8. Road Closure Postings on Web-site:
 - Deb has been posting road closures on the web-site.

9. Letter to Tom Holmes:
 - It was noted that the requirement of Weyerhaeuser to maintain CSA certification on Private Lands is indefinite.
 - The WIWAG would like to see a letter sent to Tom Holmes confirming Weyerhaeuser's commitment to maintaining CSA certification of the Private Lands. The letter should also note that the WIWAG would like to see one standard for Private and Crown lands, the letter should also note that the WIWAG would like to see certification under the CSA standard or better. The letter should also include a request by WIWAG for an aerial tour of the DFA. CC to Steve & Michelle.
 - Standards on Private Lands – 6-12 indicators will be split in the SFMP to reference private lands, and those areas with Crown land specific issues.
 - ? – Will over time the number of split indicators decrease. It is likely that over time, there will be a core set of indicators for Crown lands in Canada, and local indicators will be overlaid.

10. BCTS and Certification:
 - Michelle met with Ken Matthews, and he indicated that he will continue to pursue certification of the BCTS lands.
 - Ken will have to have a conversation with Weyerhaeuser over the logistics of this issue.
 - The BCTS program plans to be ready to roll on January 1, 2005.
 - Ken expects around 10 good sized tenders to go out of the Sproat Lake area.

11. Aerial Tour:
 - Gary spoke with to a Director of LightHawk re: flights of the forest land base, the company will be insured for Canada in 2005. In order to access this WIWAG will have to make application and come up with some creative accounting to cover the costs – Would look at an April timeline.
 - **Action Item – Gary will forward the web-site of LightHawk to Michelle.**
 - Any flights could be geared around addressing indicators
 - WIWAG would like to see the Klanawa, VR, the landscape units in the DFA, Watersheds (China Creek in particular) and the Private lands.

11. Sub-Committee reports:

- ? – What kind of reporting mechanism would WIWAG like to see around the progress of the sub-committee's. WIWAG would like to see the results.
- **Action Item – E-mail the dates, times and location of the sub-committee meetings to the group.**
- If WIWAG is curious, they can ask for a progress report.

12. 2004 Data Set:

- Data for the 2004 Data Set will be collected against the 2003 – 2005 SFMP, those indicators where a baseline was to be established, or where the indicator has been achieved will not be collected for. These include:
Indicator #1 – Commercial Tree Species
Indicator #25, 26, 27 & 28 – Streams
Indicator #32 – Carbon Budget
Indicator #41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49 & 51 – Socio-economic
- A WIWAG field tour could include small streams on Private and Crown land in lieu of the data.

13. Letters from Stillwater:

- The Stillwater Advisory Group is asking for other Coastal AG's to support their continued participation in the Forest Stewardship Planning process, and to support Stillwater's position against a Coastal-wide FSP.
- Weyerhaeuser will not invite Advisory Groups to join in the FSP process at this time. Steve and Diane Medvis (?) are co-chairs of the FSP process. An offer was made to Stillwater, and now to WIWAG to review and comment on a draft of the FSP prior to any public release.
- Weyerhaeuser is not discussing the creation of one Advisory Group to cover the Coastal area.
- Attila Gereb is working on FSP objectives, and should have them done by January for presentation to WIWAG.
- The FSP will examine Weyerhaeuser's openings and where they will build roads. Recreation areas and road maintenance are a business decision for forest companies.
- A coastal wide FSP would have certain efficiencies built into it eg, SOP's, Procedures and cross-area synchronicities.
- The FSP will have a built in mechanism to address local issues.
- Stillwater is worried about losing some of the legislative requirements embedded in their FSP.
- There was a concern noted that the shining example of FSP's (Stillwater) are now concerned over the process as a whole.
- Please contact Steve for his car analogy on Stillwater and FSP's.
- The FSP's are the environmental arm of Weyerhaeuser's SFMP's
- ? – What would the consequences be if there was a conflict between the SFMP and the FSP. The company would either be embarrassed by legal action, or loss of certification.

13. Letters from Stillwater: (cont'd)

- The process around the current FDP's and the new FSP's will be identical in terms of inclusion in the SFMP.
- WIWAG should consider inviting a Stillwater speaker. Weyerhaeuser indicated that WIWAG should consider waiting for this until after the draft FSP has been reviewed.
- Joint Coastal AG Meeting – Stillwater has made a request for Weyerhaeuser to support a Coast-wide Advisory Group meeting. Weyerhaeuser indicated that this could happen in the Spring.
- **Action item – WIWAG will write a letter of support in-principle of the Stillwater group to have local control of the FSP.**

14. BCTS and Small-scale contractors:

- A MoF enforcement officer has indicated that there are concerns over smaller contractors on the landscape.
- It was noted that BCTS will have an Environmental Management System EMS, that will be audited by an independent 3rd party.
- There are 2 full-time MoF enforcement officers in the DFA that ensure that cut-blocks meet the criteria before they will release the cutting permit.
- 80% of Weyerhaeuser's environmental headaches come from roads.

15. What has changed as a result of WIWAG's efforts?

- The document associated with this discussion pulls out practices that can be directly attributed to WIWAG. The intention is to explore where in the plan the group would like to see a move, or a different kind of progress.
- The question is, as a result of this process how has Weyerhaeuser's harvesting become more sustainable?
- There is value for Weyerhaeuser in terms of WIWAG validating their efforts towards sustainability. It was noted that public concerns are prime drivers of change.
- The fact that Weyerhaeuser is now meeting full reserve zone obligations is not in the document.
- **Action item – Michelle will check the data to see if Weyerhaeuser was not meeting reserve zone obligations in the past.**
- It is hard to find people who work in the field who think that the harvest level is sustainable and that it is not economically sustainable for the community.
- The question is, does MoF want to get as much value out of the forest as fast a possible, and is taking the economic benefit now, while the industry still has a competitive advantage?
- ? – Why is it cheaper to harvest in an un-sustainable manner.
- It may be too early to declare sustainability; however, there has been a corporate shift towards sustainability.
- We are losing the economic benefit of the forest to our community, but it is good to see that WIWAG has had some impact on Weyerhaeuser's actions.

15. What has changed as a result of WIWAG's efforts? (cont'd)

- There has been progress on the ecological side eg. SEI, and it was noted that WIWAG can not have an impact on the harvest levels, those decisions are made through MoF.
- It was noted that on the recreational side, WIWAG has made big steps.
- ? – Can WIWAG make a difference on the socio-economic side.
- There was concern over the morale of the people who work for Weyerhaeuser.
- There was concern that WIWAG has not done anything substantive over Harvest Levels, Old Growth and Biodiversity. It was noted that this process is about future generations.
- Access issues have been positive.
- It was noted that Weyerhaeuser is likely here for a short time, and has done well on real estate in Canada.
- It was noted that the Earth is a very resilient organism.

System Conditions For Sustainability:

1. Accumulation of Fossil Fuels – Is it better to harvest twice at 70years, or once at 140years?
2. Poisons manufactured by society – Could stop using pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers in the forest.
3. Harvest Levels – **Is Weyerhaeuser harvesting 1% or less of its inventory/year?**
4. Social Justice – The improved relationships with First Nations are a credit to Weyerhaeuser.

- It was noted that the Beetle kill in the Interior has had an impact on the Coast, the stumpage on the dead Interior forest is very low, so the Crown has to access revenue from another forest eg. The Coast.
- Age-class distribution by landscape unit would give a better picture of sustainability on the landscape. An inventory by age-class by landscape unit by productive vs. non-productive.
- It was noted that Steve's comment on Old Growth harvesting (under Fall Fair Comments) is based on markets and the environmental lobby, not inventories. There will be productive Old growth left after 20years.
- It was noted that the future working forest will be 2nd growth.
- The economic shift in the Alberni Valley has had a huge impact that has been amplified by the Crown increasingly squeezing for more revenue from stumpage.
- It was noted that Weyerhaeuser operates in an international marketplace.
- The WIWAG needs to put their efforts to those areas in which WIWAG can effect change.
- There is a biased indicator in the SFMP, as it only addresses the value derived from the forest as a function of the value of the fibre extracted.
- It was noted that a forest that has a uniform age-class distribution is more prone to fire and disease.

15. Labour Representative:

- Dennis sent a copy of a press release outlining the Steelworker's regional representative. WIWAG could invite him to make a presentation. **No, WIWAG must invite someone local first.**
- **Action item - Ken will check out the issue and get back to Michelle.**
- It was noted that Monty Mearns made a presentation to the ACRD to get rid of Weyerhaeuser.
- Does WIWAG agree to pursue a labour representative – **Yes**
- It was noted that there are several current WIWAG members with strong labour ties.

16. Communication Plan:

- This document is a shared responsibility between WIWAG and Weyerhaeuser.
- Separate Open House from Annual Report.
- **Action item – Steve – WIWAG minutes to go out to prime contractors.**
- It was noted by Weyerhaeuser that pursuing HAYES for an SD#70 liaison needs to be cranked up a notch.
- The communications plan needs to be prioritized, and measurable results attached
- Add, under Directed at Youth - ADSS Forestry Liaison

17. End issues:

- Mike extended an invitation to WIWAG to send a representative to the FDP amendment open house on December 10 & 11th.
- Merry Christmas

Next Meetings:
Janaury 13
February 10
March 10
April 14
May 12
June 9

Location: **Regional District Boardroom, 3008 5th Avenue, Port Alberni**

Time: **5:00pm Dinner; 5:30pm Meeting**

WIWAG Action Items: October 14, 2004			
	Action:	Completion Date:	Person Responsible:
1.	WIWAG minutes to go out to prime contractors.	ASAP	Steve
2.	Plan for a public seminar	To be determined	Steve, Rick, Ken
3.	Ken will check out the issue of a labour representative and get back to Michelle		Ken McRae
4.	Letter to Tom Holmes re: CSA application on all of DFA	?	Michelle
5.	Analysis of MAI and 80 year rotations relating to the LTHL determination	November	Peter & Steve
6.	Tawney will bring the % of the Sproat Landscape Unit that the Hupacasath would like to see managed for Cedar to WIWAG	ASAP	Tawney Lem
7.	Michelle will check the data to see if Weyerhaeuser was not meeting reserve zone obligations in the past.	ASAP	Michelle
8.	Contact HAYES to follow-up on the Forestry Liaison for the High School	ASAP	Mike Davis
9.	Mike Davis to respond to the concerns of the Huu ay aht in the form of a letter to be brought to WIWAG as well.	November	Mike Davis
10.	E-mail the dates, times and location of the sub-committee meetings to the group	ASAP	Michelle
11.	Gary will forward the web-site of LightHawk to Michelle	ASAP	Gary
12.	WIWAG will write a letter of support in-principle of the Stillwater group to have local control of the FSP	ASAP	Michelle
SUB-COMMITTEE Action Items: Ongoing			
1.	Develop a plan for managing private land indicators within the SFMP & present to sub-committees	To be determined	Steve
2.	Maps re: WY & government zoning for Nov. 18 Eco-Sub meeting – include parks?	Nov. 18th	Steve/Mike
3.	Copies of the non-spatial old growth order for eco-sub committee	Nov. 18 th - completed	Mike
4.	Arrange for speakers on old growth levels/biodiversity for whole group	January	Michelle
5.	Collect references we have on old growth levels	January	Phil/Dennis
6.	Develop & complete indicator research work to ID what information is actually available for socio-economic sections of SFMP (proposed list attached to Nov. 2 Sub-Comm. minutes)	January?	Steve/Michelle
7.	Develop a way to review what has changed or been accomplished since we started this	Nov. 18 th ?	Michelle
8.	Develop some agreement with WY mills re: information sharing (socio-eco sub comm.)	To be determined	Steve
9.	Steve will think about the process over First Nations and Cultural Sites, and bringing it to WIWAG	Pending	Steve
10.	Ask the Chamber of Commerce about ideas for increasing local supply spending	Nov. 18th	Michelle/Neil

Outgoing Correspondence Outstanding

Letter to Tom Holmes – Re: Commitment to Certification on Private Lands, etc.

Letter to Stillwater – Re: Support for local control over the FSP process.