

West Island Woodlands Advisory Group - Island Timberlands Limited Partnership
Thursday, April 9, 2009 Minutes

Advisory Group Members:

✓	Harold Carlson Barbra Baker (alt)	Forest Recreation	V	Vacant	Logging Contractors
✓	Rick Avis Judy Carlson (alt)	Naturalists	✓	Jim Creighton Neil Malbon	Small Business/Tourism
✓	Dave Chitty	Watershed/ Fisheries		Darlene Clark	Alberni Fish & Game Club
✓	Ken McRae	A.C. Regional District	R	Jack McLeman	City of Port Alberni
✓	Mike Kuruliak John Young (alt)	Port Alberni & District Labour Council	✓	Jane Morden	Environment
R	John McIntosh Bob Redhead (alt)	Parks Canada		Vacant	First Nations
✓	Stephan Ochman	Bamfield		Vacant	Independent Sawmills

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

Total of 12 Advisory Group (AG) members	17 AG including alternates	Q	6 is the quorum	8 AG Present 12 including resources
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Resources Present:

Makenzie Leine – Island Timberlands, Manager of Sustainability and Community Affairs
 Rod Christie - Island Timberlands, Area Planner
 Jennifer Dyson – Facilitator
 Holly Massop – Recording Secretary

Welcome and Introductions

Safety Orientation

Jennifer reviewed the safety procedures.

Approve Agenda – approved, with addition for recreation points

Minutes Approved by consensus to accept the October 9, 2008 Island Timberlands - WIWAG meeting minutes.

Action Item 1: Jennifer to post approved Island Timberlands minutes to WIWAG website (once website is back up and running)

Island Timberlands Updates - Makenzie Leine (ML)

ITLPP Audit

- QMI auditors came to ITLP to conduct an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System Audit
- One auditor was American, interested in the issue of procurement, wants to see documentation on this topic “beefed-up”

- ITLPP received re-certification
- 2 minor non-conformance issues – both administrative
 - Manager meeting notes need to be more comprehensive
 - Document handling procedures need to be revised
- Have developed an action plan to address these issues; will be presented to the auditors
 - If these are not remedied they will become *major* non-conformance issues
- Auditors identified 9 areas for improvement, these do not require an action plan to be presented, but if they are not addressed they will become minor non-conformances in the next audit period

General Updates

- ML received word from Jim Sears, General Manager, Southern Operations about the Bamfield Rd.
- Heli-logging will be starting and for safety reasons the Mainline will be closed completely for four hours on Saturday April 18th
- ML will make sure there is proper notification out to the papers, Steven Ochman (SO) will email this out to residents of Bamfield”
- Jim Sears will try to ensure this will be at the least inconvenient time for travellers

Englishman River Situation

- ITLP has holdings in this watershed and went in to do some logging, mostly in the Englishman River Island area
- Approx 10% of the trees removed from the island
- a small number of those trees were “jacked over” to ensure they did not fall near the river, the others were prepped on the stump, then snapped off and flown away with little ground impact.
- ITLP had geo-techs involved and felt this was handled appropriately
- A Department of Fisheries & Oceans Habitat Management Technologist and a Private Land Council auditor also went into the area and noted that the riparian zone beside the river had not suffered any adverse impacts

- Issue with the father and son that got stuck out in the area
- Concern that no one phoned ITLP to find out what was happening & made the assumption that the crew would not work on Sundays
- The man and child accessed the active logging area via the park area & said there was no signage to indicate active logging
- ML indicates that there were signs on the road and defined trails; however it is not possible to post signs everywhere, but where possible there were signs & also you cannot ensure people are not going to walk through the woods.
- These people are very lucky to have not been hurt
- This situation created an upset safety environment; everyone was very shaken-up
- For safety reasons, ITLP needed to go back the next day to finish up their work. The area was surrounded and patrolled by staff while the remaining trees were cleaned up.

- ITLP did some logging beside the park; following a plan laid out by Weyerhaeuser
- This was a second pass logging in the area
- Windfirming and a feathered edge was done to protect the park boundary
- There are significant mountain biking trails in the area that we managed
- mountain bikers and recreation people happy; this was a good relationship
- ITLP took a couple of hours and took the media up through where they were logging and introduced them to the people working; ML believes that this helped – the media presented a balanced story; the logging is all second growth, is partial removal

- It's well known that people would prefer ITLP stayed away from the area; however it must be known that the selective logging in the area does not impact fish habitat or water quality according to the Private Managed Forest Land Council review

KM; what about the reply for Labour Day Lake

Action Item 2; ML to follow-up with KM's questions around Labour Day Lake

Operational Update Presentation, Rod Christie

- Most of the "hot spots" have been dealt with, however the upcoming ones will be around McLean's Mill
 - Shows slide of the potential areas that are planned
 - ITLP has already spoken with Neil Malbon (AG Member, Chair of Alberni Valley Tourism and McLean Mill Manager) and Dave Chitty (AG Member, Alberni Valley Enhancement Association, Gently Down the Creek)
 - ML has also met with Wayne Crowley and Mike Kokura
- It is important to note that this is just a draft plan; already looking at making changes based on the feedback from these meetings
- Deferred discussion around Shoemaker Bay area; going through the Archaeology Branch; Archaeology Branch went to the Hupacasath FN, but they denied the plan; this block will be moved into next years plan
- Work around Arbutus Ridge is working out fine
- Taking into consideration the concerns of the men who own land near the proposed sites; they do NOT want to see clear-cuts, want to see retention; there *needs* to be retention
- The log-train trail, the hatchery, Kitsuksis Creek and MulCaster Swamp are all part of area ITLP is looking @ logging in
- Totals about 100 000 meters of fir and cedar
- Real challenge for silviculture; need to deal with the brush
- Well try to work around the tourists; working with NM to plan and work around the noise
- Other concern is hauling; this will create a lot more traffic – 1300 truck loads; will work with the neighbours to ensure that this is not too much of an inconvenience
- NM; concern about blow-down and the many access points for quads / trucks / ATV's
- RC; trying to build one access point @ Smith Road – will need to build roads, but need to ensure that they are controlled by ITLP, gates, road deconstruction, etc.
- ML; this is a 5 year plan.
- At this point, if something is not worth the value, it will stay standing
- Poplar farm: ITLP owns the land but Catalyst owns the rights to the timber
- The poplar on this land is not growing really well & ITLP is looking at how to manage this, in conjunction with Catalyst. Mixed wood management is a thought.
- Been in contact with the Bainbridge residents about the waterline, most of the drainage goes into Kitsuksis Creek

- Having Darryl Rigets ensure that classifications are being met
- NM; McLean's Mill has a water licence out in this area as well
- DC; hatchery also has a water licence out in this area as well
- Are treating all areas as fish sensitive areas / watersheds, all will have a fall-away, yard-away system
- Bainbridge Road Block; there will be adjustments to these boundaries, lots of sensitive soil, will again be doing fall-away, yard-away system from the buried water line
- Looking for feedback from the recreation groups; there have been some problems with ATV's coming through and using areas are like roads
- There is some unnerving issues about this situation; there are self-built campsites, lots of shot-gun shells, tracks everywhere
- The trail is pretty messy
- ITLP is looking @ the possibilities of hauling off of Bainbridge Rd
- Due the current economic situation; it may not be the most sound plan to build a whole bunch of roads and not harvest
- KM; does marketing have anything to say about when you will start logging?
- RC; yes they are a part of the planning process
- Rick Avis (RA); have you talked with the log-train trail group; the log-train trail walkers?
- ML; not yet, but will talk to them

Action Item 3; Makenzie will take it on to talk with Log Train Trail Group

General Discussion

- ML; in regards to Jane's request about Lookout area, spoke with Kraig and there are no immediate plans, waiting on information on major trails in the area
- JM; there was lots of marking in the area; during the last walk through the lookout - found two more bear dens
- Also this is first growth forest
- KM; is ITLP employing anybody here in the valley?
- ML; of course we are, we are providing employment and economic stimulus in the valley;
- RC; really ramped back in the last few months, the economy has really effected this – but hopeful that things will pick up in the next few months
- Old Growth Management; government data is hard to follow
- ITLP has developed a full inventory of old growth sites; very costly and slow project
- There is government data for sensitive sites, but ITLP will not have all data this year – due to high cost
- Looking at a number of issues (ungulate Winter Range) around this topic; ITLP is about 90% done pulling all the data together
- Focus is on block retention, but also landscape level retention; want to see large-scale retention

- Do not want people to focus on the numbers, need to see bigger picture
- Ecosystems are a large part of this
- There is not a lot of information / guidance on the management of [Species at Risk](#); lots of information on identification, difficulty in how to manage this
- Sensitive animal areas are a little easier to manage, but what about sensitive ecosystems; what do you do with them to ensure they are protected
- Filtered approaches to protection in land bases, but it is just as important to have feedback from the people who know what is going
- ITLP looking at having more training for crew to identify red and blue listed plants / habitats – need to have an operator that knows what he is looking for
- NM; how do we ensure that the areas that are being logged are the areas that should be logged; do not want to institute a plan after the fact.
- ML; when going into sensitive areas / ecosystems - ITLP will hold off and figure out what the plan is before they go in; it is important to note that old growth will always be a part of operations, the consumers want it, but the land available for logging is shrinking, most old-growth is protected within provincial parks
- DC; need to ensure that the operations around the watershed are handled carefully
- KM; have you thought more of logging by rail
- RC; have considered it
- Jane Morden; old growth forest is finite, so eventually it will all go?
- ML; second growth can grow and develop old growth attributes; also a significant portion of landbase cannot be cost effectively logged; also there is parks
- JM; but what happens when we run out of trees
- ML; this is not only about ITLP, this is about any mill that is on the coast, if the old growth does not go to market soon then it never will.
- There are concerns that in the next 15 years, there won't be a market for old growth
- Rick Avis; there is a real need to have a clear definition on the difference between old growth and ancient forest; ancient forest is more towards the west coast, ie. Carmanah
- Barbara Baker; is old second growth the same value as original old growth
- ML; depends on what the market is demanding & re-growth rates
- KM; there is no market for old growth any more
- BB; what if the market refused to use old growth

- ML; it used to be that the system was to protect special places and protect the working forest, but this is not the case any more. Do you think you could do light touch forest management in an ancient forest?
- RA; It could be a possibility. Need to teach high school student and future generations that forestry is a good profession, just starting to properly manage forests
- KM; back in the day, people fought for preservation of forest, now this forest is going to real estate – this is really frustrating
- JM; there needs to be a cut off line
- RC; it will be money – eventually it will be too costly to log old growth

Agenda Item 6 – Recreation Issues

- Review of letter from the Federation of Mountain Clubs (Handout)
- Refers to meeting last June where the Mt. Arrowsmith area was discussed; writer is particularly distressed about two blocks where there has been little to no retention
- Letter writer has a lot of personal investment in this issue

Action Item 4; ML will draft response to the letter from Peter Rothermal

- Darshan Sihota, President of ITLP has received the letter
- There are a lot of trails out there, unfortunately ITLP cannot save all of them; ITLP is trying to manage the sensitive trails – doing the best they can
- ITLP has now instituted a community layer in the GIS ; allows planners to access information and see where people have had conversations and shared information
- RA; invites ML to next trail meeting; talk about creating maximum access by forest management, need to identify which trails are key
- BB; next trail meeting is May 9th
- RA; possibly merger of trails, needs to be discussed
- NM; Public Advisory Group Recreation Access Inventory needs to be removed off of WFP's most recent RI update – this implies that the group had input, which it did not
- NM; no rating of road conditions on the Recreation Inventory
- JD; the inventory needs to go back to the recreation sub-committee and WFP to deal with
- BB; ML was going to speak about the issues with the signs that had been brought fourth
- ML; the photos (from BB and RA) have been forwarded to the supervisors and let them know that if they do not enforce signs people will start ignoring them; this has been forwarded to the higher ups, this is a upper level discussion about signage
- JD; this discussion will be moved to the next ITLP meeting

Agenda Item 7 Forestry Discussion

- Why is ITLP logging if they are making next to no money; need to maintain strong relationship with customers, do this by providing them a constant fibre supply; not operating at 100% - but in times of crisis is when you see innovation that you don't see when you are running fat
- Look at the private land model and see what is working; flexibility but not at the expense of the environment; the crown land operators have less administrative flexibility due to regulations, but the public is not comfortable enough with the private land model to fully embrace it; need to look at why ITLP is still up and running when others are not
- The idea is that there are buyers for the wood before it is felled; there are strategic customers both local and export that will buy product that they do not necessarily want / need because the quality of the product is always good
- Domestic price is at about 50% of the export rate; ITLP will sell at the domestic rate first
- All private land wood must pass the surplus test (domestic has first right of refusal) prior to export.
- KM; how it works is look at what the cost of the wood is and determine if it is a reasonable price or not a reasonable price, if it is not reasonable then it goes for export; this prevents the wood from being exported & can block the
- although ITLP does export wood, there are lots of opportunities for domestic customers to buy logs, however there are a lot of domestic groups that are happy that ITLP exports logs – this is keeping suppliers with a consistent source of fibre and keeping people working
- ITLP costs for security is very costly; how can these costs be reduced
- NM; does ITLP prosecute people for public dumping?
- ML; not much they can do – trespassing laws are not set up for large private forest land ownership, nearly impossible to charge people
- JD; these are long term issues that need to be discussed and revisited

Website Update

- JD; the website is gone and a new one will be built
- NM; would like to keep the annual reports on the website
- JD; Website will now be <http://www.westernforest.com/wiwag/>

Announcements;

Recreation Committee Meeting – May 9th 2009

Next Meeting(s)

- 1) Western Forest Products will be May 14th
- 2) Island Timberlands will be June 11, 2009

Meeting Adjourned 8:35 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	New Action Items	Date of request	Projected Completion Date (Progress)	Person Responsible
1	Posting of previous ITLPP Meeting minutes on WIWAG website	After minutes approved		Jennifer Dyson
2	Mackenzie will follow-up with Ken McRae's questions around Labour Day Lake	April 9 th 2009	June 2009	Mackenzie
3	Mackenzie will take it on to talk with Log Train Trail Group	April 9 th 2009	ASAP	Mackenzie
4	Mackenzie will draft response to recreation letter	April 9 th 2009	June 2009	Mackenzie

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