

West Island Woodlands Community Advisory Group
February 12, 2004
Regional District boardroom, Port Alberni

Present:

Advisory Group Members:

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

Resources:

Steve Chambers - Weyerhaeuser
 Ryan Dvorak - Recording Secretary
 John Flintock - Weyerhaeuser

Michelle Colussi – Facilitator
 Mike Davis - Weyerhaeuser
 Stan Coleman - Manager WIT

1. Welcome and Introductions:
2. Agenda: Remove:
 - Small dimension processing capacity

No Objection to the changes
3. Safety Orientation
4. Minutes of November 13, 2003: **Approved**
5. Announcements:
 - Gary Swann is on the organizing committee to bring a Natural Step framework to Port Alberni
 - There will be an information meeting regarding BC Oil and Gas exploration offshore at the Italian Centre March 18th between 6 - 9pm
 - Dennis Luttard the Retired Chief Mining official for the Province of BC has indicated an interest in presenting to WIWAG
 - Gary Swann will be lecturing March 4th on sustainable living through organic gardening
 - Steve - congratulations to Chris Law and Ken McRae for attending 20+ meetings of WIWAG

6. Stan Coleman - Manager West Island Timberlands

- The Crown has indicated on February 9, 2004 the volume of timber that will be taken out of TFL #44 totaling 300,000cubic metres/year
- Next step - negotiations will proceed with the Province and other stakeholders to identify how this will take-back will be laid out
- There has been a push to use TFL #44 as a pilot for this process
- The issue is still unresolved, but the end of this process will have Weyerhaeuser managing 300,000 cubic metres less in this TFL
- The breakdown formula 10% BCTS 8% FN's 2% Community Forest is Province wide not area specific
- Michelle has asked the BCTS for the location (Business address) of the firms harvesting under their program in this area
- There was a concern over pulling 300,000 cubic metres of Timber out of the SFM Plan requirements and the potential negative environmental consequences
- Is there enough fiber in the TFL for Weyerhaeuser to provide local mills with a fiber supply
- Weyerhaeuser will be able to competitively bid for timber sales
- The Hupacaseth will strive to include any First Nation's timber under the SFM Plan criteria
- The Hupacaseth have indicated their concern over all of the 20% take back coming out of Sproat Division
- Weyerhaeuser will receive a compensation package which would cover the company/affected employees/contractors - **Weyerhaeuser will get back to WIWAG with the details of this package**
- Landscape unit planning will apply to the 20% take back timber
- Certification could apply to this volume
- The concern over environmental practices, safety practices and bonding should be included in a letter to the Ministry of Forests on behalf of WIWAG - this letter should also include a request for assurance that the 20% take back will be put under a certification strategy - **Michelle will draft this letter for the next meeting and it will be circulated prior to the March WIWAG meeting**
- Safety has been a major emphasis of Weyerhaeuser - this has lead to a substance impairment policy which has been implemented in BC as of February 1, 2004
- Emphasis on business/partnership with FN's in the WIT operating area
- Weyerhaeuser anticipates that TFL #44 operations will be solely run by contractors as Weyerhaeuser believes that the contractor community does a better job on the ground
- The year ahead - resolving the 20% take back
- Removal of Private Lands from the the TFL - Weyerhaeuser is lobbying to remove their private lands from the TFL, large blocks would remain as managed forests. Some small blocks mainly on the West Coast may move more towards development

- Lands around McLean Mill - These are private lands held by Weyerhaeuser, but would make an ideal location for a community forest
 - These community interface areas tend to be managed less intensively by Weyerhaeuser
 - Private lands under CSA certification - there could be a change in this approach, would generate discussion internally within Weyco
 - Analysis on the impact of FSP implications - This approach is highly compatible with CSA standards
 - Identification of culturally important/heritage sites becomes difficult under the FSP process, consultation occurs prior to the layout of specific cut-blocks
 - There should be a way to build in a process to facilitate site/cut-block identification - CANFOR database example
 - Place, Significance and Priority of the SFM Plan within Weyco - This is a very significant document as it relates to the corporate commitment to certification and ties in a strong public component
 - Undercut - related to cut-control requirements of the Provincial government, the volume mainly went to First Nation's
 - 80,000 ha would be removed from TFL #44 if the government agrees to remove private lands from the TFL
 - Weyerhaeuser is actively working with government to remove private lands as they provide a company with return on investment
 - On private lands 18% is the average leave volume
 - Alder has become a very valuable fiber to Weyerhaeuser
 - Small dimension processing - Tony Sudar will discuss this issue with WIWAG in detail at the March meeting
 - Currently small dimension fiber is going to Coastland for veneer to create engineered wood products, Courtenay, Long Ho, Cowichan Poles and New Westminster
 - How would Weyco management of Private Lands differ from Timber West? - Commitment to VR, Watershed assessment process, riparian setbacks would be more variable
 - Seed guidelines - movement/collection of seed is regulated by the Provincial Government - Weyco's seed orchard program is more intensively managed/tracked within the US operations
 - Seed from the Olympic Peninsula - Weyco has a strong business in nurseries and sells a fair amount of product outside of the company
 - Access in the 20% take back area? - it would likely remain the same re: access to keys/gating with the responsibility being taken by whoever manages the land
7. Sustainable Harvest Levels Part II:
- Looking at shorter term harvest levels, building on past harvest levels
 - Sustainability (Timber) = the ability to grow timber = Forest growth in the future = Long run sustained yield LRSY

- LRSY - constraints = Long term harvest level LTHL - benchmark for sustainability
 - TFL #44 = 297,683ha the working forest portion in 167,174ha or 55% called the Timber harvesting land base THLB
 - It is assumed that the future forest will grow at a rate of 9.6 cubic meters/ha/year, this times the THLB = 1,555,000cubic metre/year of growth the LTHL
 - To achieve 9.6 cubic metres/ha/year the average stock will have to be cut at 80years = 783 cubic metres/ha, today's stands at 250+ years = 830cubic metres/ha
 - The LTHL reflects the growth potential of the forest, it does not change with forest inventories
 - The current AAC as determined by the Chief Forester is 1,675,000 cubic metres/year or 7.7% higher than the LTHL - Weyco has the inventory to support a higher cut (pg 7 of the Intro to Sustainability handout) this will result in an age class distribution which will support cutting to the LTHL
 - Is there any information that support a number for an optimum inventory?
 - Are there adequate reserves in the DFA?
 - First Nations have identified 26,000ha not currently reserved but believed that they should be
 - What will the soil impacts be of a highly intensive management regime on the THLB - Cindy Prescott - **Peter will talk to the government on this issue** - Hamish Kimmens nutrient cycling
 - Forest project documents could address this issue
 - **Adaptive management program - Steve will produce - Stan can send CD's**
 - WIWAG would like the annual reports associated with the Forest Project
 - The approach to sustainability proves that the issue of volume will be sustainable, WIWAG can work from there re: the other issues
 - #1 - What does WIWAG need to be comfortable with the reserves? - What process does WIWAG need to see in place to address concerns over reserves
 - #2 - What are WIWAG's concerns over current harvest levels? - What information does WIWAG want to see and why?
 - A review of indicators in the Data set review coupled with the Intro to Sustainability document could shed new light on current indicators and look to improving the SFMP
 - There are a number of assumptions that WIWAG is using when defining sustainability - do we have a set of criteria that WIWAG can agree on when we discuss sustainability
 - Need to review the SFMP with a sub-committee to look for improvements
 - What is today's MAI in TFL#44 - Old growth and 2nd growth?
8. Forest Education Program:
- Weyco will go with the “Gently down the Creek” program and the High School/HAYES program

9. Recreation Signage:

- Mike Davis will start with the Ash Valley posting recreation signs

10. Public Sessions:

- These should look at Connectivity and Biodiversity in general
 - A sub-committee consisting of Harold, Rick and Ryan will look at the Public Session

11. Past Gold Commissioner:

- Will be put on the list for possible inclusion in the Fall
 - Approvals for mining - hand panning claims are not referred to anyone
 - Ken Watson will make a formal request for notification of any mining activity taking place in the City's watershed

Next Meeting: March 11
April 8

Location: Regional District Boardroom 3008 5th Avenue
Port Alberni

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

Action Items February 12, 2004

	Action:	Completion Date:	Person Responsible:
1.	Details of compensation package for 20% will be shared with Advisory	As soon as they are defined	Stan Coleman/Steve
2.	Letter to Minister of Forests with concerns about how allocated portions of TFL are managed	Draft for March 11	Michelle – members comments electronically
3.	Distribute Adaptive Management Program report to members (3?)	ASAP	Stan Coleman/Steve
4.	Report to Advisory on soil disturbance & management	April?	Peter Koefed
5.	Confirm Hayes participation as ADSS liaison for Education Program/placements	April?	Stan Coleman
6.	Develop plan for WIWAG public seminar	April?	Rick, Harold, Ryan
7.			
8.			