

West Island Woodlands Community Advisory Group
Jan. 10, 2001
Regional District boardroom, Port Alberni

Present:*Advisory Group Members:*

✓	Carlson, Harold	Forest recreation	✓	McKay, Pat	Independent sawmills
✓	Avis, Rick		✓	McKay, Mike	
		Tourism	✓	McKay, Jack	Logging contractors
	Cootes Jr., Charlie	Uchucklesaht		Morris, Rhonda	Provincial government
✓	Edgell, Phil	Watershed Committee			Small business/Chamber
	Flynn, Shawn	Small woodlots	✓	Randles, Bill	Labour
	Johnsen, Gary	Toquaht	✓	Swann, Gary	Regional government
	Johnson, Larry	Huu-ah-aht	✓	Thornburgh, Jack	Environment
	Laviolette, Brian	Education/Youth			Ucluelet
✓	Lem, Tawney	Hupacasath	✓	Trumper, Gillian	City government
		Bamfield		Watts, David	Tseshaht
✓	McIntosh, John	Parks Canada			

Resource/Other:

Steve Chambers - Weyerhaeuser

Neil Malbon - Weyerhaeuser

Guest Speaker: Tom Niemann - Forester, Ministry of Forests

Mark Hanley - Facilitator

Diane Morrison - recorder

1. Welcome and Introductions

Congratulations to Michelle and George on the birth of their baby boy. Mark Hanley facilitated this meeting.

2. Approve agenda

Agenda was approved with one addition under Old Business; a presentation on the web page from Neil.

3. Acceptance of minutes from November 8, 2000

Minutes were accepted; no changes.

4. New Business

Tom Niemann's presentation on sustainability. Tom is a forester with the Ministry of Forests. Copies of the slide presentation are available.

Sustainability is a huge topic and a definition may be difficult to agree on. Several definitions of sustainability were presented:

"Sustainable development meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
 (UN World Commission on Environment and Development)

"Manage and conserve the province's forest and range resources in a manner

that balances economic, ecological and social benefits for all British Columbians."
(Mission in MoF Business Plan 2000/2001)

"Our goal is to maintain and enhance the long-term health of our forest ecosystems, for the benefit of all living things both nationally and globally, while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations." (CCFM National Forest Strategy 1998-2003)

"Whereas British Columbians desire sustainable use of the forests they hold in trust for future generations; and whereas sustainable use includes: (a) managing forests to meet present needs without compromising the needs of future generations; (b) providing stewardship of forests based on an ethic of respect for the land; (c) balancing economic, productive, spiritual, ecological and recreational values of forests to meet the economic, social and cultural needs of peoples and communities, including First Nations; (d) conserving biological diversity and other forest resources, and (e) restoring damaged ecologies;"
(preamble to Forest Practices Code of BC Act)

The CCFM and the Montreal Process have defined sustainable forest management in terms of lists of criteria and indicators in booklets of 22 and 18 pages. Copies were provided.

Tom warned that it is easy to get lost in semantics and said he would focus on concepts and challenges of sustainability.

Concepts:

Systems Thinking - We need to focus on the Big Picture and consider many interconnected aspects together, not separately or individually.

Philosophical Perspective - Human-centred and environment-centred perspectives may use similar words but result in different management.

Environmental, Social and Economic - Several models of how these three elements are related suggest different views of their relative importance. Finding a balance between the elements is key. A fourth element, Institutional, is used by the UN and was recommended by Tom.

Scale: spatial - Sustainability is needed at all levels, from global, national and provincial all the way down to local and the stand level.

Scale: temporal - Short trend-lines can be misleading, so long trend-lines should be used where possible. Historical information provides no assurance about future trends. The ability to estimate future trends is important.

Top-down and Bottom-up - Think in both directions, starting with overall Generalities (e.g. goals) and also starting with Specifics (e.g. observations). Both should inform each other as we move to sustainability.

Uncertainty and Risk - Uncertainty is inevitable, since we never have complete knowledge, so we must take some risks and learn from mistakes. The precautionary principle is important if there is a risk of significant and irreversible loss. Unexpected consequences and unintended effects will occur. Rather than focus on "blame" we can manage risk better.

Management Cycle - A simple model is to plan, implement and monitor. A more detailed model used in adaptive management includes six steps: set objectives, plan, implement, monitor, evaluate, and adjust. Changing political and social agendas, along with budgetary pressures, often lead to the last three steps of the cycle getting short shrift. Maintaining the whole cycle increases chances of achieving sustainability.

Participation - Democratic (public) participation is a relatively new concept. Government, industry and communities all have important roles in achieving sustainability. We need to enable constructive debate among all interested people and organizations. Sustainability requires partnership, a sense of "us", not "them".

Challenges: Tom listed a variety of technical, administrative and political challenges to the achievement of sustainability. Examples, respectively, are data standards, budget reductions and commitment.

Discussion – Can the group agree on a common definition of sustainability for the purpose of our forest management focus?

The various definitions from Tom's presentation were discussed. The question was asked whether the group was looking at sustainability or sustainable forest management. The group looked at the definition of SFM used by CSA (page 4 of Standards in the white binder): "management to maintain and enhance the long-term health of forest ecosystems, while providing ecological, economic, social and cultural opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations (CCFM, 1992).

One member found some vagueness in the phrase "health of our forest ecosystems" What does it mean? Niemann - difficult to say in any specific way what constitutes forest health. Defining it has intuitive appeal but it is difficult to pin down.

Another member commented that the CSA is the country's standard. It may be difficult to get your head around it but it is a start.

WIWAG decided to adopt the following definition of sustainable forest management:

"management to maintain and enhance the long-term health of forest ecosystems, while providing ecological, economic, social and cultural opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations (CCFM, 1992).

5. Break

6. New Business Continued:

Indicator Working Group report (Phil)

This sub-committee met November 21 and reviewed Indicators, Objectives and Goals. They prioritized seven areas: connectivity and fragmentation, old growth, riparian setback zones, AAC, access, social issues and local economic benefits. On connectivity and fragmentation - a number of resource people will be asked to make presentations to the subcommittee. Any recommendations for changes to the SFM Plan will be brought back to the advisory group for discussion.

AAC will be topic of a presentation to whole group by Peter Coefed and MoF in February.

Access - the working group wondered if another sub-committee was needed for this topic needed with Weyerhaeuser, Outdoor Club, EDC, and others to resolve issues locally.

Social Issues and Local economic benefits - the working group felt that broader representation was needed for this topic, perhaps another sub-committee, or additional members to the existing one.

The working group has another meeting set for January 16 to go through flagged items list and report back on presentations. Presentations could be scheduled for the months in between WIWAG meetings so anyone who is interested might attend.

Weyerhaeuser suggested that in order to get improved indicators, the group tackle one topic at a time. There was enough work with Connectivity and Fragmentation, and the AAC. Then the sub-committee could move on to other areas.

Sub-committee will report back at the Feb. 7 meeting.

7. Old Business:

From Michelle's report

Membership update – no new information on organizations that Michelle has contacted to appoint new members. On the agenda for February meeting. Wey met with community members in Bamfield. The company has committed to meeting there frequently. Discussion that while there has never been a forest industry there, there is enough interest in the community to develop a community forest. Suggestion was made that Weyerhaeuser might offer support to this community forest with buying and marketing the logs.

Letters to open house attendees – Michelle has sent these
Letter to CSA re: education – Michelle has sent this

Letters to those who commented on plan – Michelle has sent these

Communications Plan - the revised plan was not available to members before the meeting. Members agreed to communicate to Diane if they had comments/additions etc. Deadline will be January 19. The Communications Plan will be on the agenda for approval at Feb meeting.

Article #1 (certification) for local publication – members felt the focus of the article should be on WIWAG not Weyerhaeuser. Comments will be used to revise the article. Michelle, Neil and Diane will meet to develop another draft for discussion at next meeting.

WIWAG also would like Michelle to approach publisher of Alberni Valley Times for a meeting to discuss possible series of articles and possible support from newspaper.

Group also discussed buying space in newspaper but others disagreed with this approach.

The suggestion was also made that a spokesperson from WIWAG should make a presentation to city council.

Web Page - Neil

Additions and changes were discussed. The definition of sustainability approved tonight will be added. Add Communications Plan when approved. Include minutes but not all attachments. Add articles in press release section. Because of the size, do not include data set with the SFM Plan but make it available through AFVC. Include Weyerhaeuser FDP. The Calendar will highlight special presentations. Copies of past and future presentations will be included on the web site under a new category. Possible links might include LBMF and CSA. Include invitation for public to send comments to web address.

8. Next meeting

Conflict with meeting schedule. Heritage Commission meets first Tuesday each month. Two WIWAG members on that board as well. February 7 meeting will go ahead as planned. March date (whether to change from March 7 to 14) will be on agenda for next month. Perhaps cancel March meeting because of weekend workshop also planned for March. May 9 date fine.

Next meetings:
February 7, 2001
March 7, 2001 ?
May 9, 2001

Location: Regional District Boardroom
 3008 Fifth Ave.
 Port Alberni
Time: 6:00 dinner
 6:30 meeting

