

**West Island Woodlands Community Advisory Group
Minutes – October 12, 2006, 5:30 pm
ACRD Boardroom, Port Alberni**

Attendance:

Advisory Group Members:

*	Harold Carlson	Forest Recreation	V		Logging Contractors
*	Barbra Baker (alt)				
*	Rick Avis	Naturalists	*	Andrew Whittock	Placer Mining
*	Judy Carlson (alt)				
*	Dave Chitty	Watershed/Fisheries	*	Jim Creighton Neil Malbon	Small Business/Tourism
*	Ken McRae	A.C. Regional District	*	Darlene Clark	Alberni Fish & Game Club
	John Young	Port Alberni & District Labour Council	*	Gary Swann	S. I. Woodlot Owner's Assoc.
*	John McIntosh Bob Redhead (alt)	Parks Canada	V		Environment
R	Dennis Morgan	Bamfield	*	Jack McLeman	City of Port Alberni
*	Carol Cutforth	Independent Sawmills			

* = attended R=regrets blank=did not attend V=vacant seat

Resources Present: Diane Medves – ITLP

Tawney Lem – Facilitator

Clorissa Croteau – Recording Secretary

Observers Present:

Ed Johnson, Huu-ay-aht First Nation

Alexandra Pavich, SOVA

Jane Morden, Environmental Coalition

Jack Thornburg, SOVA

Edna Cox, SOVA

Dave Cox, SOVA

Reid Robinson, SOVA

Welcome and Introductions

Safety Procedures

Tawney reviewed safety procedures.

Announcements:

- 1) Tawney explained that this an Island Timberlands only meeting for the purpose of reviewing their draft indicators, as a result there was no agenda presented.
- 2) The Private Land Tour is scheduled for October 25, please RSVP with Tawney. Will meet at 9:00 am in the Canadian Tire parking lot and depart in a rental van.
- 3) Satisfaction Surveys were sent out via email to any members who were not present at the September meeting. Please complete and return to Clorissa as soon as possible for tallying.
- 4) WFP is hosting a group advisory meeting, tentatively set for November 25 in Courtenay, giving the opportunity to meet with other advisory members. There is space for 4 WIWAG members to attend.
- 5) Discussion took place regarding scheduling of the December meeting. It was agreed to keep it on December 14, as per the normal schedule.
- 6) The scenarios that Peter Kofoed has been working on should be ready for review at the next meeting.
- 7) Huu-ay-aht First Nation has been doing a lot of forestry work and will be making a presentation at the December meeting.
- 8) January's meeting will host the Ministry of Forests, possibly the Chief Forester, to speak regarding annual allowable cuts.
- 9) Ken attended the annual convention of coalition of mayors, and one focus of speakers was on land claims.

Indicator Review:

Diane noted that for ITLP to receive one certification, the company has to have a core set of indicators that are common to all advisory groups. These proposed core indicators are noted throughout the document.

Indicator #1

Indicator reviewed and generally accepted as presented.

Old growth is considered 250+ years. The representation of old growth in each BGC zone must be benchmarked, and data will be presented mid way through 2007. A target number will be set once the data is reviewed.

Action: Set a target once the benchmark data is reviewed.

Indicator #2

Concern was raised that ITLP may not be ready to get certification. Targets should have numbers/percentages attached before they are approved by WIWAG, and that can't be done until the sensitivity survey and timber analysis is complete. The auditor will determine whether or not the company has enough completed information for a certificate to be granted.

"Non-contributing" landbase is all set asides / non-harvest areas, such as riparian, reserves and cultural.

Indicator #3

Reviewed and generally accepted as presented.

Indicator #4

Reviewed and accepted with removal of “% of” from Target.

Concern expressed with the target that a species could be completely wiped out over time (e.g. cedar via global warming), or that a larger percentage of conversion might be needed e.g. where a species change is needed to deal with disease.

Action: Diane will consider rewording this indicator to provide more clarification on its intent.

Indicator #5

Reviewed and generally accepted as presented. The group requested information about the watershed assessment procedure.

Indicator #6

Reviewed and generally accepted as presented. Retention is defined in the retention policy already submitted to the group.

Indicators #7, #8, & #9

Indicator #9 covers #7 & #8, therefore it was agreed to remove indicators #7 & #8.

Indicator #9 amended to read:

“The annual listing of species at risk, and species of special interest, found on the DFA and their risk status.”

Target #9 amended to read:

”The annual listing of species at risk and species of special interest, found on the DFS does not increase and their risk status rating does not rise year over year as a result of management activities on the DFA.”

Indicator #10

Target amended to read:

“All planners working in the DFA, complete SEI awareness and location orientation within previous 12 months.”

The target amendment reflects the current practice of providing training annually. Planners is defined as including both office and field personnel.

Action: Add the definition of “planner” to a glossary.
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Indicator #11

Target amended to read:

“All planners complete red/blue list species awareness and location orientation within previous 12 months.”

Indicator #12

It was noted that were lands proposed to become OGMAs that then were removed from the TFL. Therefore, it was questioned if new reserves should be established on the private land. There was also a note that it would be favorable if private reserves were contiguous with Crown reserves, but this was not necessary.

Concern was expressed that a number needs to be attached to the target, which will come from the sensitivity analysis in the Spring of 2007. This indicator is flagged, and needs to be revisited after the sensitivity analysis is complete.

Action: Revisit this indicator once the sensitivity analysis is complete.

Indicator #13

Reviewed and generally accepted as presented.

ITLP uses the BC seed program, and also accessed seed from TimberWest and the US (which is tested by the MoF). It was noted that it may be of interest for the group have a presentation made on seed/breeding by the Ministry of Forests. When the Chief Forester comes to a future meeting, he should be asked about the implications of global warming on species (e.g. the effects on gene conservation).

Indicator #14

This indicator speaks to the boundary only, so significant discussion took place about a buffer zone. Some companies use a buffer of 15-30 m., while others have a 100m area of higher retention (>70%). Tree lengths were suggested as opposed to a fixed number (e.g. to address windfirmness). A further approach would be to assess each individual block (e.g. refer block to relevant groups, with a target of having 100% blocks referred). It was questioned whether parks see the logging plans (the Strathcona Advisory Group is interested in reviewing plans for adjacent harvest). It was clarified that this indicator also addresses ecological areas, and established parks and protected areas.

Changes were suggested below. There was further agreement to flag the issue of a boundary, and work on this in the future. ITLP and John MacIntosh would bring back other suggestions. Diane will also consider how to measure this indicator in the SFMP.

Action: Diane and John MacIntosh will provide suggestions on an indicator related to boundaries along areas of special biological significance.

Value reviewed and accepted as:

“Maintenance of areas of special biological significance in the DFA.”

Indicator discussed and agreed to move forward with replacement of “park” with “areas of special biological significance”, now to read :

“The percent of areas of special biological significance perimeter harvested within any five year period.”

Target discussed with same replacement, now to read:

“The percent of areas of special biological significance perimeter harvested within any five year period is less than 7%.”

This target applies to each affected park, and does reference an average of all parks.

Indicator #15

Indicator reviewed and generally accepted as presented.

Indicator #16

Indicator reviewed and accepted as:

“The yearly % of harvested area that is reforested within one year.”

Target reviewed and accepted as:

“The yearly % of harvested area that is reforested within 3 years is 100%.”

Indicator #17

Indicator reviewed, amended and accepted as:

“The annual % of current regeneration established that succeeds.”

Target reviewed, amended and accepted as:

“The annual % of current regeneration that succeeds is 95%.”

Indicator #18

The comment was made that waste should be sent to the mills as hog fuel, as it is done in some areas. Alternately, it is better to let waste on the ground versus burning it on site and creating CO².

Action: Diane will find out if ITLP sends waste from the area to the mills for hog fuel.

It was clarified that this indicator is to measure accidental fires versus management based intentional fires.

Value accepted as:

“The incidence of accidental operationally caused fires on the DFA.”

Objective accepted with amendment, to read:

“To avoid burning forest land through accidental operationally-caused fires.”

Indicator accepted with amendment, to read:

“The total hectares burned annually through accidental operationally-caused fires.”

Target accepted with amendment, to read:
“The total hectares burned annually through accidental operationally-caused fires is zero.”

Indicator #19

Value, Objective, and Indicator accepted as presented.

Target accepted with revision, to read:
“The percent of the productive forest area of the DFA harvested annually is 1%.”

This target will be revisited is needed once the Timber Supply Analysis is complete.

Indicator #20

Value reviewed and accepted as:
“The incidence of operationally related land slides on the DFA.”

Objective reviewed and accepted as:
“To minimize the incidence and impacts of operationally related landslides.”

Indicator reviewed and accepted as:
“The annual area of hectares affected by the number of slides that are post May 2005.”

Target reviewed and accepted as:
“The annual number of slides that are post May 2005 is zero.”

Indicator #21

Indicator reviewed and generally accepted as presented.

Indicator #22

Indicator reviewed and generally accepted as presented.

Indicator #23

Indicator reviewed and generally accepted as presented.

Indicator #24

Indicator reviewed and generally accepted as presented.

Key watersheds include China, Ash, Stamp and Somass. All watersheds will be assessed by the end of 2007. There is a Standard Operating Procedure to contact all registered intake owners, so these people’s interests are addressed even if they are not located in a “key watershed”. Watershed assessment procedures include a multistakeholder approach.

The group expressed interest in the results of the China Creek watershed assessment. Members of the group can attend the China Creek wrap up meeting, or Shelly Higgman can attend a future meeting to present and discuss the results.

Action: Diane to forward meeting information for wrap-up of China Creek Watershed assessment when set.

Indicators #25 & #26

Indicators reviewed. Diane showed the DRAFT stream matrix, explaining that it is a confidential internal document, not for discussion outside of this meeting. Large woody debris needs to be addressed in the matrix.

Indicators agreed to in principle, pending more detail.

Action: A biologist is to be invited to speak at a future WIWAG meeting.

Indicator #27

Indicator reviewed and generally accepted as presented.

Indicator #28

Indicator reviewed and generally accepted as presented.

Additional indicator suggested that the young forest will not be damaged while others are harvested. More information is needed on sequestration and what can be done about it.

Action: Diane to forward articles to the group on carbon sequestration. This indicator is flagged pending more information.

Indicator #29

Value accepted as:

“The permanent conversion of forest lands on the DFA to other uses.”

Objective accepted as:

“Limit permanent conversion of forested area and cover to other uses.”

Indicator accepted as:

“The annual % of the total area of the forest cover in the DFA that is extracted and/or converted to other uses.”

Target amended to read:

“The annual % of the total area of forest cover in the DFA that is extracted and/or converted to non-forest cover uses is <2%.”

Land may be converted based on the “Higher, Better Use Policy”. Selling land for communities to expand their landbase may be one example.

Indicator #31

Indicator reviewed and generally accepted.

Target could have a percent inserted after the timber supply analysis is completed.

Indicator #32

Indicator reviewed and generally accepted.

Indicator flagged to look at with timber supply analysis. The absence of this information is also linked to the comment made for indicator #2 that ITLP is not ready for certification.

Indicator #33

Value, Objective, and Indicator accepted as presented.

Target revised to “7%”.

Indicator #34

Value and Objective accepted as presented.

Indicator accepted with amendment, to read:
Public access is maintained.”

Target discussed and accepted as:
“100% access is maintained except for safety, environmental, and vandalism reasons.”

The recreation access inventory referenced is the one created by WIWAG members.

Action: Diane to bring the Access Management Policy to WIWAG after it is signed off by Senior Management.
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Indicator #35

Concerns expressed over road name changes that no longer correspond on maps. This could lead to an emergency call-out issue.

Action: Diane to revise target for the next meeting
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It was agreed to table the remainder of indicators for review at the next meeting.

Note: SFMP needs to be emailed to all members one week prior to the review meeting to allow sufficient time for review.

Next Meeting

The next WIWAG meeting will be Thursday, November 9 – 5:00 pm dinner, 5:30 meeting, at the ACRD boardroom. This will be an ITLP only meeting.

It was requested that all members closely review the remainder of the indicators and prepare comments for the meeting.

Observer Comments:

Reid Robinson:

- 1) A glossary to define items such as landslides and karst would be beneficial.
- 2) An inventory of karst features is needed.
- 3) People get their water from Roger Creek, Cold Creek and Lacey, but these streams are not mentioned. Dye tracing could be used to determine which streams need protection.
- 4) Indicator #48 - Define what karst and karst features are
- 5) Protection, as well as identification needs to be addressed.