

**West Island Woodlands Community Advisory Group
Oct. 4, 2000
Regional District boardroom, Port Alberni**

Present:*Advisory Group Members:*

✓	Avis, Rick	Forest recreation	✓	McKay, Pat	Independent sawmills
R	Hopkins, Sue	Tourism	R	McKay, Jack	Logging contractors
	Cootes Jr., Charlie	Uchucklesaht	✓	Morris, Rhonda	Provincial government
✓	Edgell, Phil	Watershed Committee		Parker, Eileen	Small business
✓	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		Touchie, Maureen	Ucluelet
✓	Lem, Tawney	Hupacasath	✓	Trumper, Gillian	City government
		Bamfield		Watts, David	Tsesaht
✓	McIntosh, John	Parks Canada			

Resource/Other:

Steve Chambers - Weyerhaeuser
Michelle Colussi - Facilitator

Dennis Fitzgerald - Weyerhaeuser
Diane Morrison - recorder

1. Welcome and Introductions:**2. Approve agenda****3. Acceptance of minutes from Aug 22**

-Correction of location. The meeting was held at the regional district boardroom not the Paradise Cafe.

-comment was made that during the work on the Indicators and Objectives, the list of actions arising from the minutes was no longer being produced. That format will be used again.

4. Update on audit**- Discussion (Steve)**

During the recent audit, a major non-compliance came up dealing with a lack of public support for some of the Indicators and Objectives in the SFM Plan. It was negotiated to a minor non-compliance which means that as long as an acceptable action plan is developed, to be worked on over the next year, Weyerhaeuser certification will still go ahead now.

NOTE: surveillance audit will take place in May.

- Addition to the Terms of Reference (Michelle)

Michelle felt the guidelines around decision making were weak. Neither full consensus nor a system of voting was decided on. She suggested the following addition to the Guidelines regarding members support for the plan and their particular concerns:

At certain points, it will be necessary to form a group "position" on issues. It is expected that each member will be aware of such positions and relate them to the general public in addition to their own/their sectors views if they happen to differ.

The group decided to remove the words "It is expected that"

Discussion around how the group will come to a decision. There needs to be a way to formalize and recognize that each member is part of the group and also a representative of a particular stakeholder group.

Facilitator asked if the group wanted to change the Terms of Reference regarding the decision-making form or define "limited disagreement"?

Discussion around voting and majority rule -

-it is not a simple issue of numbers. We should continue working with current Terms of Reference and leave it to the Facilitator, by reading the group, to make a decision whether there is agreement or whether a vote needs to take place, etc. It has not been a problem up to this point.

Strong disagreement will be recorded in the minutes.

Facilitator comments that the group can decide to do everything within reason to resolve any opposition and make the process work but should realize that a decision may have to be made at some point.

The group re-committed to work with existing Terms of Reference with Facilitator deciding if agreement has been reached. The above statement will be added to the Guidelines to formalize expectations of members.

5. Action Plan

-Issues, as identified by auditors, to be addressed by Weyerhaeuser over the next year.

Discussion - Michelle pointed out that the principal of the SFM Plan is continual improvement. With over 60 indicators, it would be unrealistic to expect improvement in all areas. Improvement in some areas is reasonable progress. In response to a question, Michelle reminded the members that the advisory group has a long-term mandate.

Question - will additions be made to the SFM Plan?

Wey. will measure indicators and report annually to this group. During the first year, a baseline will be created against which change over time will be measured.

The makeup of the advisory group may change as result of progress or lack of progress.

Wey - the requirement is for the plan to be reviewed and revised every five years. Wey. wants to do annual reviews for some years until the information in the document is detailed enough to leave for longer periods of time.

Question - Will the action plan be incorporated before the SFM Plan is release or will it wait till next year?

The elements of the action plan will be included next year with the exception of the change in plan name and the media statement.

Wey - the auditor will judge if Wey. has carried out the recommendations of the advisory group, if Wey. has supported the advisory group in meeting its goals.

Michelle reminded the group that there is also a list of flagged issues that the group had been putting together throughout the process to work on in future. Comment - the auditor has mandated that the issues addressed in the action plan be dealt with first. One of the strengths of the certification process is the power given to the recommendations from the advisory group.

Issue to be added to Flagged List - how to manage TFL in smaller areas such as watersheds or zones.

Issue #1 Communications Plan (including who the spokesperson for the group will be, the web site, method/timing of getting feedback from public and sectors)
Discussion - more time is needed to consult with both sector groups and with experts on aspects of the plan.
Action plan will include process to get input from public and experts.

Issue #2 Title of the plan
Discussion - the plan right now does not present sustainable forestry but reflects moving towards sustainability. Title should reflect that.
Question - if plan is not sustainable, can Wey. be certified?
Wey - certification recognizes that sustainability cannot be proven for a long time, until there is a body of evidence to support that claim.
The name of the SFM Plan will be changed to "Toward Sustainable Forest Management." rather than Sustainable Forest Management Plan.

Issue #3 Media Statement
The advisory group wants a statement (news release) to go out at the same time as Wey. announces certification recognizing that there is not unanimous support from members of the advisory group for every element in the plan.
Michelle will draft a statement. Members will receive this draft on Oct. 12 for discussion and decision at the November meeting.

Issue #4 Review of Indicators and Objectives
In a number of cases, some advisors felt that the Indicators were not in sync with Forest Practices Code.
Discussion - the default position is that Wey. will follow the law. Don't want to give the impression that Wey. is breaking the law.
This sub-committee may need outside experts to suggest other options.
A technical sub-committee was struck (Rhonda, Phil, Steve, Dennis) to review and flag any Indicators in relation to FPC and Goals. Outside expertise will be recruited as needed. A list will be brought back to the group to prioritize and design plan to address. Others who are interested in being on this sub-committee will speak to Michelle. (Rick Avis subsequently indicated interest in the Tech. Committee as well.)

Issue #5 Definition of sustainable
Michelle commented that this is a huge issue. Wey. has background information on sustainable forest management. Alberni Environmental Coalition has information on sustainability.

A variety of background information on sustainability will be sent to advisors in advance of a presentation (Tom Neiman) and discussion at the January meeting.

Issue #6 Integrate/Respond to Higher Level (Land Use) Plan
 The Higher Level Plan (HLP) is part of the VILUP process and, if approved, will change legislation in the FPC. One advisor expressed concern that HLP is contradictory to many elements of sustainable forest management. Because approval process is likely to take place in the next month, it was felt that WIWAG could not respond quickly enough during the current input process. The group will wait to see if the HLP becomes legislation. If it does, a speaker from Ministry of Forests (Rudy) will be scheduled to present key points of HLP. Hupacasath representative asked to be able to present another viewpoint at that meeting.
Note: Correction at Nov.8/00 meeting - This plan will allow practice variations of the FPC, not changes to the Code.

Issue #7 Develop priorities
 This issue was incorporated into #9. One of the outcomes of the review of Indicators and Objectives will be clearer priorities for the coming year.
 Issue #7 was eliminated.

Issue #8 Information presentation on AAC and LRSY
 Wey. suggested Peter Kofoed make a presentation. Provincial Government representative suggested someone from Ministry of Forests as well. The group discussed possible need to meet occasionally every month rather than every other month. Michelle felt it was important for the group to have a solid understanding of these two issues before the first review of the plan. Information package will be available before this meeting.
 A presentation on AAC and LRSY will take place at the February meeting.

Issue #9 Group doesn't want to lose the list of flagged items it had already developed. The FPC and the Flagged items list will be used as a reference point for the review work the advisory group will do over the coming year.
 The Flagged issues will be dealt with over the coming year as time permits.

Three issues were added to the list of flagged items

- Look at management of the TFL by smaller units such as watersheds and zones.
- Deal with other flagged items as time permits over the coming year (also covered in Action Plan.)
- Presentation on connectivity and fragmentation.

The West Island Woodlands Advisory Group is comfortable with the Action Plan as developed at this meeting and that will be reflected in the minutes for the Auditor.

6. Media Statement

Group wanted a statement that reflected lack of complete support for all elements of the SFM Plan from some sectors. Michelle will draft and have out to advisory group by October 12 for discussion/decision at November meeting.

7. Plan Name

Dealt with earlier in Action Plan discussion.

8. Other new business

Michelle asked the group for agreement that she should approach a couple of members who have not been to a number of meetings to find out if there is a problem with there being able to attend and if another representative should be named. The group agreed.

9. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 8, 2000
Location: Regional District Boardroom
Time: 6:00 dinner
6:30 meeting

