

Southwest Island Public Advisory Group (SIPAG) Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order

Jill West, Environmental Programs Advisor, called the 3rd meeting of 2007 to order, of the Southwest Island Public Advisory Group, at 4:43 p.m. on **October 3, 2007** in Shaker Mill Restaurant, Lake Cowichan, BC.

2. Members

Present:

- Vince Callander, Local Business
- Larry George, Cowichan Tribes
- Sandy Peters, Valley Fish & Game Club
- Dennis Martel, Wilderness Watch Committee
- Pat Weaver, Lake Cowichan Town Council, Cowichan Lake Community Forest Co-operative

New member:

- Kirstin Campbell, Terra Tree Forestry

Support (TJG):

- Mark Carter, Operations Planner
- Jill West, Environmental Programs Advisor
- Teresa Burton, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

- Jack Smith, Lake Cowichan First Nation
- George Williams, Ditidaht Band
- Jim Humphrey, Chamber of Commerce
- Ted Burns, Salmonid Enhancement
- Tim McGonigle, TFL 46 Worker
- Tom Jones, Pacheedaht First Nation

3. Documents Distributed to Members:

1. South Island Meeting #16 Agenda
2. Resume of Kirstin Campbell, TerraTree Forestry, New SIPAG member
3. South Island PAG Meeting #15 Minutes (May 2, 2007)
4. SIPAG Members Contact Information (September 2007)
5. Corporate Tracking System for Administration Tasks (Outstanding & Completed)
6. Newsletter, Valley Fish & Game Club, Cleaning Up Environment Once Again
7. SIPAG 2007 Meeting Evaluation Survey Summary of Results (6-Sep-07)
8. SFM Plan, Draft Employment Indicator
9. SFM Plan, Draft Bridge & Major Culvert Repair Indicator
10. Copies of the SFM Plan were distributed to Tom and Tim (as requested). Pat took Tim's copy and Tom's copy was included with his meeting package, Teresa will take for him.

4. New SIPAG member, introductions

Jill welcomed Kirstin Campbell, TerraTree Forestry to the meeting and introductions by members went around the table finishing with Kirstin.

Kirstin provided a brief history and background information about herself; she and her husband moved to Duncan about a year ago, she has 9 years in forestry, gets a lot of work in BC Interior, wants to learn more about this area so that is why she wants to participate, she has done a lot of Indicator work for biodiversity, stand level, non-timber forest products, natural disturbance modelling and climate change. Currently is working on certification Indicators for BC Timber Sales in the Interior.

Kirstin's resume is provided in the meeting package for more information on her background.

5. Reviewing minutes from Previous Meeting

Members reviewed the minutes of May 2, 2007 meeting and the following changes or additions were made:

Sandy Peters presented 3 changes:

- Near top of page 3, Indicator 6-1 First Nation Participation in SIPAG... word missing (chosen).

Change to:

Tom asked if Mr Jack Smith has an alternate. Sandy said that it isn't quite fair to this group if someone chosen to represent their group doesn't attend

- Middle of page 3, under Indicators 3-2, 3-3, 3-5 a word missing (could)

Change to:

Tom & Sandy asked if we could find out the number of identified areas of instability in regards to roads and structures.

- Top of page 5, Indicator 5-11 Local Supplies & Services, the name of the recycling company is missing or sentence does not read right.

Change to:

Teresa said when Teal no longer had someplace to recycle log marking spray paint cans, she discovered on the worldwide web that local vendor Raeside Equipment in Duncan was just bought out by Commercial Solutions and the store expansion includes eng/for equipment supplies. So we now have a local vendor to purchase eng/for supplies and handle our Paint Spray-Can Recycling.

Action Item #1: Corrections to SIPAG Meeting Minutes #15 (May 2, 2007 as noted above)

Jill West

6. Updated SIPAG Member Contact Information List

Jill said that she merged the Contact Information and Active Members Lists into 1 worksheet and added a column for active / inactive members and the reason for that is if someone misses 3 meetings in a row we can flag that and phone them and encourage them to attend.

Pat no longer has a work phone number; Larry George is here so becomes active; John Kiki, last name is incorrect should be John Keating; Jill talked to Jack Smith and he gave her an alternate but it's not on the list yet; Sandy Peters email address is all lowercase letters.

Sandy asked if there is going to be an alternate for fisheries. Jill said not yet but that is something we have to work on. Sandy said maybe someone through Salmon Fisheries Enhancement here in town would be a good idea. Jill asked if Sandy could send her some contacts for this.

Action Item #2: Corrections to the SIPAG Member Contact List; delete Pat work phone, correct John Keating, correct Sandy's email to lowercase letters.

Jill West

Action Item #3: Sandy Peters will provide Teal with some contacts for local Salmon Fisheries Enhancement members. One name provided is Art Watson. Jill/ Chris to follow up with Sandy.

Chris Harvey

Jill said the majority of outstanding items will be reviewed tonight and we'll be able to complete most of those.

The handout shows only the 2007 tasks in order to keep the size of the action tracker handout smaller (i.e., 2006 completed items not handed out for review). All outstanding tasks were provided.

7. Review Terms of Reference, outstanding signatures

Jill said she will review and sign-off Larry George tonight if there is time.

Action Item #4: Review SIPAG signatures on the Terms of Reference, obtain signatures for all of those that have not yet signed. Will need to add new member Kirsten, new alternate for Chamber of Commerce, Chief Livingston and any new salmon enhancement members.

Jill West / Chris Harvey

8. Current Events / Management Issues

Wilderness Watch Garbage Cleanup

We finally just got exoneration on tipping fees for Meades Creek and Bings Creek disposal depots through the Valley Fish & Game and Wilderness Watch. We earmark a couple times a year to do a mass cleanup in our jurisdiction within the Cowichan Valley District of items thrown in the bush. It seems that doing that twice a year is not adequate. We have a massive job to do in Mesachie that we haven't even dealt with yet, it is behind where the water tower used to be along the Hillcrest Road and another spot we've noticed is on the way to Mesachie along the straight stretch where there is a new road punched in on your left hand side, at the end of the road is about 3 dump truck loads full. Vince believes that this is on TimberWest land. Another point is that we filled our annual exemption for tipping fees in just one weekend and we just now received a second exemption to hand out to our members so that when they go out in the woods they can collect garbage.

- When the Town had garbage bins out did it make a difference? (Pat)
- Just a point about Pat's question I don't think you can answer the question that easily. Was there an effect? You cannot monitor this situation to that degree of accuracy. (Sandy)
- Like Dennis said there is a mountain of it out there and if those 3 bins were available and some people put theirs in it, you didn't know it and if those bins weren't there might they still dump it in the bush? How would you know? (Sandy)
- When the bins were out on the highway you didn't get the tourist garbage out in the bush. (Vince)

- Cowichan Valley ATV Club would like to help again and the Rock Crawlers from Victoria have indicated they would like to help. (Dennis)

Harris Creek Blow-down in RRZ

Mark said there was a couple of areas with substantial blowdown and we've looked at them in terms of getting the timber salvaged so we've had a pretty good look at it. In one case just after you pass Lizard Lake on the Pacific Marine route at what they call Nine Mile Junction, if you look across the river there is a substantial amount of blowdown there. We've laid it out so we'll salvage just the downed timber and leave the standing timber so we'll have a natural feathered edge there.

In response to Tom's questions from last meeting, as far as we can determine, the blowdown did not occur in the Reserve zone which is 50 meters from the Harris Creek. Also the same thing in an area near old Harris Creek Camp there was quite a swath and we got Larry Childs in there to salvage the bulk of it, but we perhaps could have gotten a road in there to salvage more but there wasn't enough value in it to do this, but it looks much better now.

Theft

How was theft on the TFL and around office and shop during the strike? (Vince)

A little bit on the TFL, not more than normal; picket line guys were best security we ever had. (Mark)

We lost a tailgate off a pickup parked at the office and had fuel siphoned. (Mark) Is this a normal? (Vince) No. (Mark) What about on the TFL? (Sandy) Not too bad other than some Water Tank Trucks vandalized and a bit of wood theft.

BCTS land removed from the TFL

Do you see any controversy with the companies working on the BC Timber Sales on land that was previously in the TFL? The guys on strike see these loads of logs going thru town and some people get quite upset about this. (Dennis) There are a couple of operators working on BCTS and one independent operator working on private land down in Port Renfrew. Mark responded that it has not been raised as an issue to date.

South Island Crime Prevention Committee Meeting

I attended the quarterly South Island Crime Prevention Committee Meeting last week & first of all we were very appalled to see that hardly anyone was there. Only 1 enforcement agency was present (MoE), but no one from the RCMP, MoFR or DFO. It was very disheartening to see because that is what it is, South Island Crime Prevention. TimberWest, Lake Cowichan (???) and Rick Bennett, who I believe used to go for Teal-Jones were not there. I think it's important we have a representative from our group or from Teal Jones that is earmarked to attend these meetings. (Dennis)

Was a notice sent out? (Mark), likely by email. (Dennis) then probably to Rick who's on strike but I'll check with Ron (Mark). Then I'll see you get put on the distribution list (Dennis).

Action Item #5: Dennis Martel will see to it Mark Carter receives S.I. Crime Prevention Committee Meeting Notices, so that we can do our best to have a Teal representative attend the meetings. Next Meeting is November 21 @ 9:30am at the Forest Museum.

Dennis/ Mark

Secondly, we had a representative from Multilock there, a company that sells locks specifically for gates. He showed a lock which is designed so you can't break it and has nothing to hook to so to bust it and he said you can shoot it and it will still stay intact. It was a really odd looking thing with 2 cylinders coming down and a flat plate.

2008 Indigenous Games in Cowichan Valley

Larry George reported that the Cowichan Tribes is proud to announce that the 2008 Indigenous Games are being held this summer in Cowichan Valley. Indigenous athletes from all across Canada and the United States come and compete in many different sports. He mentioned that they will be looking for local support in terms of volunteers as well as financial. There is also going to be a canoe trip from Alert Bay down to Cowichan Lake that will stop at all of the villages along the way and pick up paddlers from other Nations.

9. SIPAG Evaluations – Review of Results

Jill prepared a summary of the evaluations survey that members completed at the last meeting. It seemed that everything is running fairly smoothly and that we don't need to do any major changes. The general comments are summarized at the bottom of the page and one of the key items that came up and that sounded interesting, was to consider having indicators specific to global warming, carbon credits and green house gasses. It would be good that before we start developing indicators and targets that we should have a guest speaker and for us to learn what that is all about.

Pat said she just attended a Global Warming Seminar at UBC and Premier Gordon Campbell was there making all kinds of promises. (Pat)

I would like to get a clear answer if this is global warming or a climate change. If anyone thinks they're going to change it they're crazy. (Vince)

I don't think we'll ever get a clear answer, but at least if we take the route that it is global warming and try to clean up our act would be a positive move. (Jill)

Action Item #6: Organise a guest speaker on climate change. Explore developing some Values, Objectives, indicators and Targets for climate change, global warming, carbon credits, green house gasses following the guest speaker discussions. Kirsten mentioned that she has some experience and knowledge on climate change and would be willing to do a presentation for next meeting.

Kirsten, Jill West / Chris Harvey

10. Review Draft Employment Indicator (SFMP)

Criterion 5.0 – Economic & Social Benefits;

Value (employment), Objective (stable full time jobs provided from TFL 46)

Indicator: Number of direct full time jobs (employees & full phase contractors)

Target: 110

Variance: N/A

The group discussed that a variance is not really applicable for this indicator, as the information will fluctuate over time. The group is interested in a reporting of the information so that we can view trends over time.

Action Item #7: Update the SMFP with the approved indicator, target and variance for number of full time jobs.

Jill West / Chris Harvey

Value (community benefits), Objective (assess the monetary benefits to the local community as a result of harvesting in TFL46)

Indicator: Total dollars contributed to the local economy from TFL46 employee wages each year (employee and full phase contractors)

Target: \$5,000,000

Variance: N/A

We discussed at our last meeting about 'measuring money going into the community' and 'number of full time jobs, which was at 110'. Since then Jill has talked to upper management at Teal about this and was told that the problem with wage reporting is that it is so confidential, especially because Teal has so many contractors. So Jill researched the internet at BC Stats and Stats Canada and got the average wage for Logging and Forestry Labourers on Vancouver Island (2007) which is \$25.25/hr. Jill ran this figure with 110 employees at 8 hours/day, 5 days/week, 48 weeks/year. Total wages paid is \$5,332,800. So that is a potential indicator we could report on. (Jill)

What we were looking at, was not necessarily the wages, but the economic benefits to the community - the whole picture, including taxes spent. (Vince & Sandy)

When we add this to the group of indicators we are measuring we will get a bigger picture and closer to determining that. (Jill)

We already have wages, revenues to the government, local donations and contributions, Local supplies and services in our other approved indicators. (Jill)

Also we could put an indicator together that totals up the dollar figure of all the Indicators. Vince and other members agree they would like to see the total figure. (Jill)

Is everyone happy with that indicator? (Jill)

Yes, that is the way we have to go (Vince).

Discussed all of the indicators relating to local contributions to the local economy.

Action Item #8: The group suggested that we merge all of those indicators into one indicator that reports on the total dollars provided. E.g., merge 5-8 Revenues Paid to Crown (previously approved just reporting a single monetary value for this indicator); 5-9 Support of local resource projects; 5-11 Local Supplies and Services with a change to reporting a monetary value instead of just companies used; plus new Employment Dollars contributed indicator (as approved at this meeting).

Chris Harvey

Action Item #9: Update the SMFP with the approved indicator, target and variance for total dollars contributed from employment.

Jill West / Chris Harvey

Discussion on setting a variance for the two employment indicators:

It would be hard to say that a variant within 5 people would be meaningful. (Vince)

Could we put 'Not applicable'? (Jill)

Put a variance with a footnote underneath it for a level which you wouldn't want it to drop below, is that more important? (Kirstin)

Isn't what you really want to do is get a correct number so maybe what you want to do is set a tolerance level that is within 10% of the actual figure. (Sandy)

You're allowed one time to cut your Annual Allowable Cut under or over by 50%. (Mark)

The purpose of this target isn't to guarantee that 110 people are employed but to report on what it actually is. (Sandy)

Decision was to use a variance of N/A for the two employment indicators.

11. Review Draft Major Culvert/Bridge Repairs Indicator (SFMP)

Criterion 3.0 – Conservation of Soil and Water Resources; Value (fisheries), Objective (protection of fisheries resources)

Indicator: Number of repairs completed on bridges and major culverts that have been identified as requiring repairing

Target: 5

Variance: +/- 3

Tom Jones had asked at our meeting if we could draft an indicator relating to repairs to bridges and culverts. We added it to the Fisheries section. The only difference was that Tom requested for areas of instability but we thought we don't just want to target these areas, but all areas.

Comments from Mark Carter: Change to bridges and major culverts. Teal has a program where we try to get to them every year on a priority. Also we have projects with TimberWest and with Hancock too on their private lands as part of our road use agreements. We have an exemption from the Union (currently on Strike) to work on the Gordon River mainline (Gregson excavator) along the Sutton Creek portion because of the concern about Sutton Creek

The group approved the indicator, but requested that Tom have an opportunity to review and comment before we finalise it.

Action Item #10: Tom to review and approve the new Major Culvert and Bridge Repair indicator before we finalize.

Tom / Jill West/ Chris Harvey

12. Review & Discussion of External Audit Observations:

Since we had our external audit last January we have been working through addressing some items that came up as observations and we have 3 left to do.

Indicator 5.11 Local Supplies and Services

Our Indicator: Number of companies and which companies for local supplies & services Teal uses

Auditor's Indicator Recommendation: is reporting a dollar value instead.

I think from our earlier discussion tonight everybody thinks this is a good idea and go ahead and change this one. (Jill)

Action Item #11: Change Indicator 5-11 to report on total dollars contributed rather than number of companies.

Jill West/ Chris Harvey

Indicator 6.2 First Nation Review of Landscape Level Plan

Auditor's Observation: it is a legal requirement for Teal-Jones to review their Forest Stewardship Plan with First Nations, so why have it as an indicator.

Backgrounder/Comments:

Talking with Mark, he recalled some earlier discussions on the topic and what Teal's protocol is now. Mark says it's not just about reviewing the FSP but Teal goes one step above the legal requirements and reviews the detailed operation plans with each First Nation. So if we try to clarify the protocol in the wording of the indicator then that should clear this one up. (Jill)

Action Item #12: clarify the terminology of the indicator or within appendix 2 details to provide information that this indicator is not just tracking FSP reviews, but site level plan reviews of cutblocks and roads prior to permits being approved by MoFR.

Jill West/ Chris Harvey

Indicator 2-6, 3-1 Permanent Access

Backgrounder:

Auditor's Indicator Recommendation:

The auditor recommended doing some measurements after logging to see if what we're estimating it to be is actually what it is ending up at.

Comments:

Before Teal goes logging they take the information from the computer file from the layout crew that measures side slopes and various things that calculates what the road width needs to be before they construct. Then they take that number and calculate it into the area of the block to determine the area that they need to grow trees in after logging. (Jill)

Through some discussions with Mark he recalled that a couple of years ago they did just that. The foresters went out and did a bunch of measuring following harvesting and what they found is that the pre-harvest numbers were over estimating how much area was taken up by the road, so in the end the road widths were less than what were estimated, so Teal has done some adjustments as a result of that. Currently the calculations that are estimated are really close and they are not seeing much difference on what is actually out there. (Jill)

I talked to our Forester about this and he said yes he is out there on a regular basis checking to make sure our site deg numbers are close. (Mark)

Quite often you see the minor roads are actually planted (Sandy), yes sometimes they are (Jill)

Do they include the side slopes when they cut in a road? Because they are almost always planted (Sandy)

A few years ago that's where we were over estimating, I think it was during the days of the Forest Practices Code where it was thought that any side cast or any cut slopes you couldn't consider that to be capable of supporting any regeneration, but in actual fact in a few areas you have blasted rock and can't plant, but in most of our areas you can. (Mark)

The current procedures that Teal follows are during harvesting and road construction, Teal completed monitoring and inspections using a template Form (Inspection Checklist) under their Corporate Management System. There are boxes on the checklist to assess whether the plan is being followed, and whether the soil disturbance and permanent access limits look like they are being adhered to. If it looks like the area is not within the limits, the Inspector (Foreman) would develop an action plan that would involve completing some further measurements to assess whether the limits have been met. MoFR Compliance and Enforcement also checks to see if we are following the limits.

Action Item #13: Consider completing some post harvest site deg assessments on a few cutblocks during 2008 to compare with the pre-harvest estimates.

Mark Carter

13. Membership Participation (First Nations) - Update:

I spoke on the phone with Jack Smith, Lake Cowichan First Nation and he apologized that he hasn't been able to make it to any meetings yet, but he appointed Chief Livingston as his alternate, so I will add him to our contact list and he will start getting all of the emails as well, so hopefully between the two of them someone will be able to start coming to the meetings. (Jill)

And we already talked about an alternate for Ted earlier tonight so I will get that contact information for salmon enhancement and hopefully we can get someone in to represent Fisheries.

Are there any others that might have an alternate that we can think of, while we're here? I know that Jim Humphrey is with the Chambers of Commerce, is there anyone else in Chambers that we can think of? (Dennis) He could be at an Ohtaki Meeting which is where I have to be in about 5 minutes. (Pat) He was here last time. (Jill) He is also very busy with Hockey right now. (Pat) I will contact him and see if there is an alternate. George Williams, Ditidaht Band was going to come tonight but something must have come up. (Jill)

Action Item #14: Add Jack Smith's alternate, Chief Councillor Cyril Livingstone for Lake Cowichan First Nation, to SIPAG contact list and SIPAG Email distribution list.

Contact Jim Humphrey, Chamber of Commerce and George Williams to see if there is an alternate

Jill West / Chris Harvey

8. Review more actions items on our list (time permitting) FIA Funding and Projects

FIA Funding & Projects

One of our indicators was to do with removing fish barriers and we talked a bit about road deactivation at last meeting and we were going to get an update on what the FIA projects were for this year. So we looked at the budget this afternoon and Mark could probably talk a bit more about the projects, but unfortunately for this year none of our indicators were selected for funding this year. However, they do have some very good projects that are being funded;

1. Harris Creek Side Channel, to construct another side channel that is 1.7 km long. Is a fish rearing channel. Tom Jones could probably provide some specific information on this project at the next meeting.
2. Renfrew Hydrometric Measuring: a joint project with MoE and Water Survey Canada
3. Vegetative Resource Index Ground Sampling so they can review the productivity information that we have for the TFL for use in Timber Supply calculations.

Vegetative Resource Inventory (VRI) where they send timber cruisers out to intensify the sampling of mainly 2nd growth sites & verify the productivity. We have to put together Management Plan #5 next year for the TFL and part of that is where the Chief Forester of the Province looks at all of our information and he comes up with an allowable cut determination. (Mark)

Hopefully next year we'll be able to get some road work done. (Jill) The FIA project money runs out at the end of March but we'll have to start working on next years budget now, unfortunately it's based on your annual cut and this year our cut is down. (Mark)

SFM Plan Copies brought for Tim and Tom as requested

Pat will take one to Tim and we will send Tom's copy to Teal office for him to pickup in the morning.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will need to be scheduled for late November or early December. Members will be contacted to select a date.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.