Southwest Island Public Advisory Group (SIPAG)
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order

Chris Harvey, Environmental Programs Advisor, welcomed members of the Southwest Island Public Advisory Group at the Shaker Mill Restaurant in Lake Cowichan on the 18th of November at 4:30.

2. Members

Present:

- Kirstin Campbell, Terra Tree Forestry
- Pat Weaver, CL Community Forest Co-op
- Jim Humphrey, Chamber of Commerce
- Tim McGonigle, TFL 46 Worker
- Dennis Martel, Wilderness Watch Committee
- Sandy Peters, Valley Fish & Game Club
- Vince Callander, Local Business

Guests:

- Rob Brouwer, DFO
- Jayne Ingram, Lake Cowichan Town Council

Support:

- Mark Carter, TJG Operations Planner
- Chris Harvey, Environmental Programs Advisor

Regrets:

- Jack Smith, Lake Cowichan First Nation
- George Williams, Ditidaht Band
- Larry George, Cowichan Tribe
- Tom Jones, Pacheedaht First Nations

3. Documents Distributed to Members:

1. Southwest Island Meeting #23 Agenda
2. Draft Meeting Minutes for September 16th, 2009 (#22) meeting (on screen)
3. Corporate Tracking System for Administrative Tasks – SIPAG outstanding and completed tasks (on screen)
4. Handouts for power point presentation (slides and indicators)
5. Discussion Items for Biological Diversity and Sustainable Forest Management (homework booklet)
6. Terms of Reference

Documents available:

7. SFM Plan
8. CSA Sustainable Forest Management Standard Z809-08
9. Appendix 2C (draft)

4. Review Membership

Chris noted that two guest were attending the meeting: Rob Brouwer from the Nitinat hatchery, and Jayne Ingram from the Lake Cowichan Town Council. She reminded members the procedure for new membership, which would be reviewed for both Rob and Jayne at the end of the meeting.

Chris also mentioned she hasn't had any response from Port Renfrew Chamber of Commerce, Jim suggested the area director or Chamber President from Port Hunt Band management

Action Item #23-1: Contact Port Hunt Band regarding representation for Port Renfrew Environmental Department February 28th, 2010 (or next meeting)

Chris circulated the member contact information and alternates sheet and asked members to double check their information was correct, add alternates if possible.

5. Previous Meeting Minutes

Chris referred to the power point screen for a copy of the draft meeting minutes for the September 16th, 2009 meeting. She noted that going forward the minutes would not be discussed in detail since they are distributed by email and mail and the agenda was busy she would only review highlights and action items. The group was in agreement. The overall purpose and discussion of the meeting (TOR, review SFMP 2008 results, review audit results) was reviewed. Chris reviewed each of the action items and the status. The Corporate Tracking System for SIPAG Tasks, including a list of the outstanding and completed action items was also available. Chris asked the group to put forward any revisions to the meeting minutes? No changes were put forward.

Chris noted that due to comments received at the Fraser PAG meeting in November a sentence was removed from page 7 Code of Conduct number 5 removed. The group was in agreement. Jayne pointed out there was a typo under number 4 of the Code of Conduct.

Action Item #23-2: Correct TOR typo and finalize, post on the internet Environmental Department February 28th, 2010 (or next meeting)

6. Current Events/ Management Issues

Chris asked members if there is any news they would like to share regarding the sectors or groups they represent? No news was offered.

External Audit (November 24-27 2009)

An external audit has been scheduled for November 24th to 27th in Honeymoon Bay. An overview of the audit scope and locations was provided. Would any members be interested in attending? Jayne and Pat noted they would like to attend. Chris and Mark gave details and noted they would contact them with further information

Action Item #23-3: Arrange for interested members to attend field portion of the external audit. Environmental Department November 25th, 2009

7. Presentation Biodiversity

Chris pointed out the PowerPoint slide notes in the meeting handouts for Biodiversity (Criterion 1) and projected it on the screen. The slide presentation addressed several Biodiversity discussion topics including:

- Forest Fragmentation & Loss,
- Natural Disturbance Regimes and Patterns,
- Maintenance of Populations and Communities, Local and Regional
- Maintenance of Populations and Communities
- Local and Regional Protected Areas
- Integrated Landscape Management
- Silviculture Regimes and Tools
- Invasive Plant Species
- Exotic Tree Species
- Native Seed Stock
- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)
- Biological Resources of Cultural Heritage Significance
- Sites with Special Biological and Cultural Significance
- Conservation of Old-Growth Forest Attributes
- Participation in Government Programs to Protect Threatened and Endangered Species
- Discussion of Biodiversity
- Ecosystem diversity
- Species Diversity
- Genetic Diversity
- Sites of Special Biological Significance

Homework ("Biodiversity Discussion Items") on these topics was sent to Members in mid October and printed copies were also distributed at the meetings.

New Core Indicators

Chris pointed out the Indicators reviewed from this presentation are drafts for those core Indicators required by the new CSA Standard. They are developed by Teal for discussion purposes. She reminded the group that CSA provides the Indicator statements (e.g. 9 Core Indicators for Criterion 1 "Biological Diversity") and the PAGs develop the Value, Objective, and Target. Since the Core Indicators are new, there are no existing examples to review. Wherever possible existing indicators were used (reworded and will be reviewed with the group). The following is a summary of some of the discussion regarding core indicators

C1.1.1 Ecosystem Area by Type (NEW)

- How ecosystems are typed in the DFA: Terrestrial Ecosystems are classified and monitored at a landscape scale using the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification system (BEC system). The BEC system is a tool for classifying and mapping ecosystems (i.e., ecosystem types) based on similarities in climate, soils and vegetation. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can be used to report on the current ecosystem area by type. There are 11 unique ecosystems located across the DFA. Kirstin requested a map of the DFA ecosystems type at future meetings
- How the area of an ecosystem type may be changed (e.g., creation of a plantation (defined plantation as per CSA standard), slides, building forest roads or conversion of forest land to other purposes like an industrial site or parking lot). Not normal procedure in BC but if we look at this indicator with an international perspective, customers may want proof that we are not changing ecosystems (perhaps common practice in other countries)
- Making 'forest roads' a separate type and calculating the area annually. Problem noted: the information is not readily available for the Fraser portion of the DFA as the DFA is shared with other licensees and this information is no longer tracked by the MoFR (used to be annually reported by all licensees 'as built roads').

- Discussed weather building a road actually changes the ecosystem type or not, as roads may be rehabilitated and become growing sites with similar characteristics as the adjacent cutblocks. Water table may be changed
- Invasive plants change ecosystem types, however this is being tracked for another indicator
- Noted that the Fraser PAG approved this indicator
- The amount of ecosystem area can be reduced through the replacement of productive ecosystem area with non productive area (i.e., slides or parking lot) or changing of the water table.
- Teal's Forestry and Engineering Department will monitor the amount of Terrestrial Ecosystem Area by Type at the BEC zone/subzone and variant level (i.e. area of Coastal Western Hemlock very moist maritime1 and the other 11 zones/sub zones) net of areas that are characterized as "plantations". GIS queries will be conducted to provide this information.
- For the purposes of this indicator those forest roads necessary for harvesting will not be considered to change the area of the ecosystem.
- Forecast; the area of ecosystem types is not anticipated to change over time apart from negligible losses due to the construction of forest roads necessary for harvesting. Teal will not establish "plantations" as defined in the CSA standard.
- All PAG members present approved the following Value, Objective, Indicator, Target and Variance that will be added to the SFM plan:

Value	Objective	Indicator	Target	Acceptable Variance
Ecosystem Biodiversity	Conserve Ecosystem diversity at the stand and landscape levels by maintaining the variety of communities and ecosystems that naturally occur in the DFA	Ecosystem Area by Type	Maintain current area by type	Forest Roads

C1.1.2H Forest Area by Type or Species Composition (NEW)

- Categories for Forest Types include: forested ecosystems, non-forest ecosystems (i.e., wetlands, alpine tundra, etc.) and plantations. Plantations are defined as "a forest area that does not follow natural succession patterns due to reforestation involving high-intensity silviculture practices" and are areas that are highly managed treed areas with few natural characteristics; they are generally managed for a single purpose though not all areas subjected to intensive silvicultural treatments are plantations[1] (e.g., short rotation hybrid cottonwood plantations, exotic tree species plantations etc.). Forest areas that meet this definition of plantation are considered to contain much lower levels of biodiversity and habitat for natural plant and animal species.
- Discussed measuring forest area by type as it may be difficult to develop a meaningful target for species composition (often the trees species planted on a site was different from those harvested, however, the tree species would be ecologically appropriate, just a different stage in the disturbance regime (i.e., shade tolerance versus shade intolerant)).
- Again, we should view this indicator with international perspective. Not very meaningful to track forest area by type as it is not expected to change (forecast would be to remain consistent for the life of the SFMP). Harvesting and other large human initiated disturbances within the DFA have occurred across the DFA for a considerable amount of time. Within the timber harvesting landbase, the present forest area by type is anticipated to remain relatively stable for the foreseeable future.

[1] Sustainable Forest Management. CSA Standard Z809-09

- Kirstin asked if there are any goals with species composition, for example from the TSR? Or any other analysis that could be used to determine historic patterns or targets? Mark replied that the TSR sets the Annual Allowable Cut only, no detailed goals regarding harvesting or regeneration of timber type. Have Free Growing info but no detailed info on mature forests.
- May be more meaningful to commit to planting only ecologically suitable species and native species
- All PAG members present approved the following Value, Objective, Indicator, Target and Variance that will be added to the SFM plan:

Value	Objective	Indicator	Target	Acceptable Variance
Ecosystem Biodiversity	Conserve Ecosystem diversity at the stand and landscape levels by maintaining the variety of communities and ecosystems that naturally occur in the DFA	Forest Area by type or species composition	Regenerate with 100% ecologically appropriate, native species	Zero

C1.1.3 Forest Area by Seral Stage or Age Class (revised)

- This draft indicator was developed by combining three existing indicators: H1-1 Old Growth Representation (originally developed by SIPAG); F1-1 Retention of Old Forest and F1-18 Old Growth Management Areas (originally developed by FPAG). Chris reviewed the current Landscape Unit goals and co-related them with the existing indicators (for both SIPAG and FPAG). There have been no net changes to the any of the draft or established OGMA. This indicator has been tracked since 2005 for the Renfrew Aggregate Landscape Units (Caycuse, Gordon, Nitinat, San Juan and Walbran) and since 2007 for all other Landscape Units. Commonly several minor amendments for boundary adjustments are completed each year, according to the OGMA Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (Integrated Land Management Bureau) Coast Region Policy. No concerns have been identified during Ministry of Forests and Range inspections.
- Noted that we could track and create targets for all age classes but it may be difficult to create meaningful or realistic targets for age classes other than old growth without a lot more analysis. It was determined from past meetings that old growth is one of the most important targets to the PAGs and general public.
- Kirstin asked if there were any other management goals with regards to seral stages or age classes? Mark noted that the Walbran Landscape Unit requires 25% mature or old growth. Also within Goshawk WHA a certain percentage of older stands must be present. There are no other goals that apply across the DFA.
- Sandy asked if it was wise to commit to meeting draft objectives? Mark noted that the drafts are fairly well established, Chris extrapolated that there is a lot of dialogue between the ministries, licensees, First Nations, and other stake holders before drafts are established. She also noted that since these drafts are not legally established Teal would potentially be within their legal rights to put a cutblock within the draft OGMA, however, as a management strategy that would disregard several other forest values (i.e., other than timber) and would potentially create poor working relationships with other stakeholders
- Landscape Unit Plans are approved for a large portion of the DFA. It is estimated that the retention targets for those portions of the DFA that are covered by Landscape Unit Plans will be met and remain stable throughout the future. Old growth retention for those portions of the DFA that are not currently covered by Landscape Unit Plans will also likely be relatively stable as many are under

draft planning processes. It is not anticipated that government policies regarding retention of old forests will change in the near future. It is anticipated there will be continuous minor changes to the location of OGMA boundaries for operational reasons (where authorized), however, there will be no net area change.

- All PAG members present approved the following Value, Objective, Indicator, Target and Variance that will be added to the SFM plan:

Value	Objective	Indicator	Target	Acceptable Variance
Ecosystem Biodiversity	Conserve Ecosystem diversity at the stand and landscape levels by maintaining the variety of communities and ecosystems that naturally occur in the DFA	Forest Area by seral stage or age class	Meet Old Growth Management Area representation by Landscape Unit (LU) as defined in legally established and draft Landscape Unit Plans	Zero

C1.1.4 Degree of within stand structural retention (revised)

- This indicator was developed by combining two existing indicators: H1-2 Stand Level Retention (WTP) (originally developed by SIPAG); and F1-2 Stand Level Retention (WTP) (originally developed by FPAG).
- One member commented that numbers are more meaningful to general public than a reference to the Forest Stewardship Plan. Can't list specific targets anymore as they are approximately a page or more (different with each LU) and wouldn't fit with the currently formatted VOIT table. Also change according to changes in legislation, however FSP is required to be amended to be consistent with changes in legislation.
- Landscape Unit Plans are approved for a large portion of the DFA. It is estimated that the stand level retention targets for those portions of the DFA that are covered by Landscape Unit Plans will be met and remain stable throughout the future. Stand level retention for those portions of the DFA that are not currently covered by Landscape Unit Plans will likely be established in the near future as planning processes are near completion. It is not anticipated that government policies regarding stand level retention will change in the near future.
- All PAG members present approved the following Value, Objective, Indicator, Target and Variance that will be added to the SFM plan:

Value	Objective	Indicator	Target	Acceptable Variance
Ecosystem Biodiversity	Conserve Ecosystem diversity at the stand and landscape levels by maintaining the variety of communities and ecosystems that naturally occur in the DFA	Average annual percent of stand level retention in all cutblocks as a percent of total cutblock area	Meet retention targets as specified in Teal's Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP)	Zero

C1.2.1 Degree of Habitat Protection for Selected Focal Species, Including Species at Risk (revised)

- Different species in different portions of the DFA. Spotted owl only found in Fraser portion of the DFA, this indicator was originally developed by Fraser PAG. Alternatively the PAG could work on HBO specific example, however WHA and UWR have been designated for HBO portion of the DFA (species at risk).
- All PAG members present approved the following Value, Objective, Indicator, Target and Variance that will be added to the SFM plan:

Value	Objective	Indicator	Target	Acceptable Variance
Spotted Owl habitat (Species at Risk)	Maintain habitat in Special Resource Management Zones established by government	Degree of Habitat Protection for Selected Focal Species, Including Species at Risk	100% Compliance with the Spotted Owl result and strategy in the approved Fraser Valley Operation Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) section 7.2.2.2	Zero

C1.2.2: Degree of Suitable Habitat in the Long Term for Selected Focal Species, including Species at Risk (revised)

- This indicator was developed by combining five existing indicators: H1-3 Wildlife Habitat Area; H1-4 Integrated Wildlife Management; and H1-5 Ungulate Winter Range (originally developed by SIPAG); F1-17 Wildlife Habitat Area and F1-19 Ungulate Winter Range (originally developed by FPAG).
- All PAG members present approved the following Value, Objective, Indicator, Target and Variance that will be added to the SFM plan:

Value	Objective	Indicator	Target	Acceptable Variance
Species at Risk	Maintain critical habitat as established by government	Degree of Suitable Habitat in the Long Term for Selected Focal Species, Including Species at Risk	Zero net area reduction of WHA and UWR	Zero

C1.2.3 Proportion of Regeneration Comprised of Native Species (revised)

- This indicator was developed by combining two existing indicators: H1-11 Reforestation Seed Source (originally developed by SIPAG); F1-14 Registered Seed (originally developed by FPAG).
- This indicator was developed in 2006 for the Honeymoon Bay portion of the DFA and 2007 for the Fraser portion of the DFA. Annual reporting indicates that this target has been met for 100% of the DFA: all seedlots that have been planted since 2006 (HBO) and 2007 (FVO) are confirmed to be registered seed within the SPAR database.

- All PAG members present approved the following Value, Objective, Indicator, Target and Variance that will be added to the SFM plan:

Value	Objective	Indicator	Target	Acceptable Variance
Healthy forests with genetic diversity; forest productivity and wood quality	Maintain genetic diversity of native tree species, forest productivity and wood quality	Proportion of Regeneration Comprised of Native Species	100% of seed used for reforestation registered according to the Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use	Zero

C1.4.1: Proportion of Identified Sites with Implemented Management Strategies (NEW)

- Requested interpretation from CSA on 'identified sites', however haven't received a reply and it is a formal process to get indicator specific information. The guidance document stresses an emphasis on government lead processes, which would include Ungluate Winter Ranges, Wildlife Habitat Areas, Cultural Heritage Sites, etc. Our interpretation is that all identified sites within the DFA are managed under the Forest Stewardship Plan, which has results or strategies for values and objectives identified through government processes. Again if we look at this indicator with international perspective it makes more sense.
- All PAG members present approved the following Value, Objective, Indicator, Target and Variance that will be added to the SFM plan:

Value	Objective	Indicator	Target	Acceptable Variance
Identified Sites	Manage rare or unique sites of ecological, geological, historical or cultural importance in a manner hat recognizes their unique special qualities	Proportion of Identified Sites with Implemented Management Strategies	100% of the DFA	Zero

C1.4.2 Protection of Identified Sacred and Culturally Important Sites (revised)

- This indicator was developed by combining three existing indicators: H1-12 and H5-5 Sites of Special Significance (originally developed by SIPAG); and F1-20 Special Biological Sites (originally developed by FPAG).
- Chris read an email received by Tom who could not attend the meeting: Tom would like to see stand level identification and conservation of special sites as a process of what the engineers do every day. He provided some examples. The group agreed that the current wording can be maintained but we could incorporate these ideas into the strategy for implementation
- All PAG members present approved the following Value, Objective, Indicator, Target and Variance that will be added to the SFM plan:

Value	Objective	Indicator	Target	Acceptable Variance
Special sites	Manage rare or unique sites of ecological, geological, historical or cultural importance in a manner that recognizes their special qualities	Protection of Identified Sacred and Culturally Important Sites	Spatially track all special sites identified (outside of OGMA, WHA, etc.)	Zero

8. Review Existing Indicators

Those indicators that are unique to the Southwestern Vancouver Island portion of the DFA were reviewed and it was noted that they will be retained in Appendix 2a:

- H1-6 Bear Dens
- H1-7 Cedar/ Cypress Trees
- H1-8 Public Access (to be retained, however removed from Criterion 1 and retained under Criterion 5 as H5-6 as it is a repeated indicator)
- H1-10 Hardwoods

The group agreed that these indicators were developed for values that they would like to see retained in the Sustainable Forest Management Plan.

Chris noted that FPAG did not finish the discussion on Biodiversity, however the Fraser portion of the DFA will likely have an additional one or two locally developed indicators that are not covered by the core indicators.

9. Next Scheduled meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled in February, likely the 24th, however members will be contacted to confirm. Discussion topics will be the second Criterion Ecosystem Condition and Productivity, homework packages will be distributed prior to the meeting. .

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m. Minutes recorded by Chris Harvey