

Southwest Island Public Advisory Group (SIPAG) Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order

Chris Harvey, Environmental Programs Advisor, called the 1st meeting of 2006 to order, of the Southwest Island Public Advisory Group, at 4:35 p.m. on **February 22, 2006** in Shaker Mill Restaurant, Lake Cowichan, BC.

2. Members

Present:

- Tom Jones, Pacheedaht First Nation
- Vince Callander, Local business
- George William, Ditidaht Band
- Sandy Peters, Valley Fish & Game Club
- Tim McGonigle, TFL 46 Worker
- Harry Williams (alternate), Cowichan Tribes
- Dennis Martel, Wilderness Watch Committee
- Jim Humphrey, Chamber of Commerce
- Pat Weaver, Lake Cowichan Town Council, Cowichan Lake Community Forest Co-operative

Support:

- Mark Carter, Operations Planner (TJG)
- Teresa Burton, Recording Secretary (TJG)
- Chris Harvey, Environmental Programs Advisor

Regrets:

Ted Burns, Fisheries Biologist, currently away

3. Meeting Agenda – Audit Results

Chris Harvey presented the agenda for the meeting.

4. Reviewing minutes from Previous Meeting

A draft copy of the minutes of October 26th, 2005 meeting were distributed. Chris Harvey briefly reviewed the meeting, including the action items resulting from the meeting that were recorded in the minutes. Chris asked the members if they had any concerns or comments regarding the meeting or minutes and there were none. The minutes were accepted as written.

5. Current Events / Management Issues

Mark Carter presented the following current events and management issues of TFL 46.

- As a result of the Forest Revitalization Act 28% of the landbase was removed from the TFL 46 to be reallocated to BC Timber Sales and First Nations. Legislation was for 20% take-back, however TimberWest negotiated this deal before the sale to Teal.

- This reduction in the harvesting landbase will be reflected in employment levels. So far Teal has been able to sustain existing jobs because additional volume was available, coming from an undercut in previous years. Next year is the last year of the five year cut so there will be an impact to our work force and we will see job reductions.
- Before you can compensate people for lost jobs, you have to demonstrate the impact of the reduction of cut to the government – Teal has been working on this. Approximately 100,000m³ will go to BC Timber Sales. A five year cut of 15,000m³ per year will go to First Nations, 12,000m³ per year will go to Woodlot licensing. We are still working on one area in the lower San Juan for the take back program, so allocation of that cut is still to be determined.
- Dennis Martel asked what options are there for Teal to sustain future jobs?
- Mark replied that improved utilization and potentially bidding on BC Timber Sales, but markets haven't been ideal for this in the past year. As well, Teal manages the Cowichan Lake Community Forest Cooperative
- Tim McGonigle explained the take back process for employee buy outs, however, also stated that even the organization set up to steer the process do not have decisive, solid answers to the many questions and situations that have been asked by industry.
- Tom Jones asked how the TFL faired with all the weather events this past winter? Mark said that there were a couple of slides reported that were not a result of failed roads or logging activities. And otherwise there was enough of a break in between heavy rain storms to prevent a shut down for us.
- Mark Carter mentioned that Teal's Log Supply is finding some monetary benefits to having the certified lumber in European markets.

6. CSA Z809-02 Audit Results

Chris Harvey presented a detailed review of the Registration Audit Report for the CAN/CSA – Z809-2002 standard audit conducted Dec 13-16, 2005:

- The review began with the preamble on the purpose and scope of the audit, which is to evaluate the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of SFM, and to audit all activities of the organizational and functional units or processes and activities as identified in the Audit Plan.
- The audit team interviewed 3 staff in the office regarding SFM Indicator performance, 27 Indicators were verified. The auditors visited 10 cut blocks and 11 Indicators were audited to assess SFM Indicator performance in the field.
- The audit team reviewed the PAG process documentation, reviewed the SFM system documentation and interviewed company crews and contractors on active sites.
- Audit findings: all of the applicable requirements of the CAN/CSA – Z809-2002 were audited and considered to be adequately implemented with the exception of one non-conformance – NCR # 2005-01, Clause # 7.5, Checking and Corrective action. Review of the non-conformance report explained that an incident of a landslide (block 7081) did not generate an Incident Investigation form as per requirements of the CMS. No documented action plan with timeline for tasks to address professional geoscientist consultant recommendations. Chris explained that Teal took appropriate actions during the event. A professional geoscientist was hired to review the root cause of the event and recommendations for corrective and preventative actions of his assessment were carried out. However, documentation was inadequate (geo report action items were not entered into tracking system). Part of the problem is outdated forms – Teal had

planned to improve the CMS format for reporting slides to better suit our needs. Also the system is fairly new to Teal employees and further clarification how the system works is required

- Positive Aspects of the management system noted by the auditors were reviewed. These included Awareness of the Teal crew and contractor is very good. The tracking matrix used to verify completion of operational “fix-it” items and administrative tasks is used. Block files well maintained, organized and complete. Operational mapping, quality and detail is very good. Requirement to report all spills is good.
- Opportunities for Improvement noted by the auditors were reviewed. Chris asked the members of the group if they would be interested in a field trip in the future? Response was mixed, Tim McGonigle mentioned he thought it would be a really good learning experience. Chris asked if any members of the group would be interested in observing on future audits (for the field portion of the audit)? Some members nodded that it may be of interest if the timing was suitable. Chris suggested that perhaps these two suggestions could be combined in the future. Chris asked the representatives for First Nations if they would like to receive copies of the meeting minutes? Nobody requested extra copies as they receive printed copies at the meeting. Chris reminded members that they may request more copies at any time. Chris noted that those opportunities for improvement associated with the SFM indicators would be discussed later in the meeting.

Notify members of upcoming opportunities to accompany auditors during field trips.
Environmental Department December 2006

- Synopsis of the comments from the interviews with SIPAG members were reviewed.
- Compliance issues with BC MoF South Island Forest District, Compliance & Enforcement were reviewed.
- Based on the audit results review Teal Cedar Products Ltd. (TFL 46) were recommended for registration to the CAN/CSA – Z809-2002 standard and have since received certification.
- Tom Jones asked if the Shop Facility was included in the audit? Chris Harvey replied that no it was not because it is on private land. Teal had just recently moved onto the property and have a lot of work to do on the shop so the decision was to implement the CMS (i.e., standard operating procedures and emergency preparedness & response plans) including conduct internal audits. No further questions

7. 2006 Potential Discussion Topics

Chris presented the members with a short list of potential discussion topics for 2006, saying the list originated from concerns or outstanding action items of the previous meetings and interviews with the auditors. Members were free to suggest any other sustainable forest management topics that they felt were relevant or revisit topics from previous discussions:

- Access: The group began commenting on Access issues after the topic of the public access road between Mesachie Lake and Port Renfrew was mentioned. Dennis Martel explained that where the Wilderness Watch cannot access behind gates, others have keys and you get poaching and problems behind gates. One area that is particularly bad is Tuck Lake. Mark Carter added that access control to Tuck Lake is part TimberWest and part Teal. The group agreed it is a high priority for future discussion, however it has been discussed in detail in the past and members have generally agreed that the existing procedures suit the various needs of recreation and wildlife.

- The group agreed that the Economic impacts of Teal operations would be discussed in approximately a year after Teal has had time to compile some data
- Ungulate Areas: Members agreed that this was a high priority topic and that the guest speaker last fall was very interesting and informative. Teal mentioned that the ministry may be revisiting the topic of winter range quality and winter range for elk in the near future. Members asked to be kept in form of any news regarding winter ranges.
- Invasive Plant Species, Coarse Wood Debris Management, Hardwood Management and Sites of Special Significance: Chris said we will group these items as they are all linked with the Forest Stewardship Plan and we will review them during the next scheduled meeting. Harry Williams spoke about objectively targeting invasive species management. Saying that broom needs a lot of light so once the forest canopy grows up this eliminates the problem. But that there are 2 species which are becoming invasive in forests that are shade plants, English Ivy and Daphnie Laurel which needs to be looked at.
- Annual report on performance of indicators and subsequent revisions of the indicators is also a topic for 2007. Chris asked the group for any further suggestions?
- Tom Jones asked if we would provide a brief review of Teal's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's). Chris noted this is a good idea as it does provide a lot of background the procedures we have been discussing throughout the last year or so.
- Tim McGonigle sees potential impacts on the TFL of adjacent timber sales logging versus the TFL logging practices. The group discussed this topic, then Mt. Arrowsmith was targeting as a potential adjacent timber sale area that could be monitored.
- Sandy Peters suggested that Forestry/Fisheries interactions and monitoring any significance findings could be an added topic. Chris mentioned that Ted Burns may be a potential guest speaker on this topic as he has a fair bit of experience in the TFL area and he is a fisheries biologist

List of Discussion Topics for meetings in 2006 will include:

- Summary of standard operating procedures
- BCTS adjacent license audit result summary
- Fisheries Forestry interactions

The topics of Invasive Plant Species, Coarse Wood Debris Management, Hardwood Management Invasive Plant Species and Sites of Special Significance will be discussed at the next scheduled meeting.

8. 9. Sustainable Forest Management Plan Revisions

Review of the draft Sustainable Forest Management Plan Revisions resulting from auditor comments (opportunities for improvement) was presented by Chris Harvey.

- Acknowledgement added to the introduction (approved) Clarification that participation by First Nations will not prejudice aboriginal or treaty rights added to the public participation section (approved)
- Defined Forest Area clarified (approved)

- A new section on Alternate Strategies was added (approved)
- Draft changes to Indicators 1-1, 1-8, 1-9, 3-4, and 5-1 were reviewed as per the recommendations in the audit report - opportunities for improvement. Regarding indicator 1-9, Tom Jones asked if road access had been risk ranked? Teal responded that it had not been formerly ranked, however roads where poaching of elk have been problems in the past were identified by the MoE. Regarding indicator 3-4 the group discussed making the target and variance more specific to annual goals. Chris mentioned that this year's budget will be allocated within approximately a month. Some of the problems identified were that the target and variance would need to be updated annually. Also priorities sometime change within one year which may prevent Teal from meeting a specific target. The group agreed to defer changing this target & variance until it can be assessed at the annual report time. Regarding indicator 5-1: target and indicator will be updated with specific numbers when they are available (i.e., when THLB of TFL is finalized) at the latest after the annual report is completed. Regarding indicator 5-3 the group agreed to leave the wording as is for now. Regarding

The following changes will be made to the SFM Plan:

- Indicator 1-1: variance will be changed to zero
- Indicator 1-8: variance will be changed to zero
- Indicator 1-9: variance will be changed to zero
- Indicator 5-7: the timeframe of April 2007 will be added to the target

Environmental Department May 1, 2006

- Combining similar indicators such as 1.13 & 5.5. The group discussed and debated this recommendation. During the process Tom Jones suggested we take our indicators where the measurement or wording isn't working out and revisit these. The group discussed that this could be pre-mature as we can get a better evaluation once the reporting takes place and decided to make any changes at this time. Chris Harvey suggested that after the year end report we can re-evaluate the indicators. The group agreed that this is a good approach.

9. Forest Stewardship Plan Update

Mark Carter presented the one page summary on the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP). It covers a little on the requirement, scope and content of the FSP.

- Mark explained the change in legislation is so that the Regulations aren't so prescriptive, they have moved to more results based.
- The FSP will cover the Cowichan Lake Community Forest Cooperative Licence, Ditidaht Forest Products cut area and TFL 46
- Chris explained that the FSP is written in fairly technical, legal language but supporting information will be available.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 4:30 pm, at Shaker Mill Restaurant on April 5, 2006. The topic will be review of the Forest Stewardship Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.