

PRESENT: Terry Hind, Chair
Al Jenkins
Jim Smith
Barry Smith
Elise Rudland
Tony Greenfield
Lynda Coote, Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Claudia Ferris, SCPI Director
Kevin Davie, SCPI Operations Manager
Gary Nohr, SCR D Director, Halfmoon Bay
John Bebbington, Concerned Citizens

1. Call to Order

Chairman Hind called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

2. Minutes

MOVED by Elise Rudland, SECONDED by Al Jenkins
THAT "The minutes of the June 17, 2008 Community Forest Advisory Committee Meeting be approved as circulated."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Operations Plan

Kevin Davie stated the Operations Plan was going ahead and is still on track. Once Brian is back, we will be working to that end. He would be completing an aerial tour on July 16, 2008 to look at other blocks on top of East Grey creek. The guidelines portion of the plan will be finalized soon and he will be sending a copy of what CFAC has to the Sechelt Indian Band regarding the proposed blocks as part of the consultation process.

Q: Any responses to the community comments from the Open House?

A: We have only received a few but have not gone through them yet; but once Brian gets back, all responses will be answered in writing and posted on the website.

Elise requested that her comments be documented as she had emailed them to Brian. Her concerns were regarding the establishment of special management zones, especially for Hidden Grove and the Crouston-Wormy lakes corridor including the Beaver Dam. Kevin Davie confirmed her comments were recorded and that everyone will receive a response.

4. Operations Update

Kevin Davie reported that nothing was happening at the moment. Cut block 007A will proceed again in October 2008. He stated they will be applying for another cutting permit for West Coast Log Homes who needs more trees in October and we have about five more loads of cedar house logs.

Q: Who is Doeker?

A: Sunshine Coast Forest Products on Field Road. He has taken one load and may need more in a couple of months. West Coast Log Homes has already taken six loads.

There was a brief discussion about the walkabouts, cutting the silvicultural slum and future logging. Kevin stated that logging is pending the current log market situation. While we may have an opportunity to address some of the silvicultural issues we still need to balance the cut with the timber profile and economics. Two-thirds of a block may be thinned at the same time timber requirements have been satisfied. In balancing the AAC, logging in the Wilson Creek area may include thinning using selected corridors.

Q: What about Howe Sound Pulp & Paper needs?

A: They just want hemlock. Up till now they have been taking logs through Terminal sort where it is chipped and barged to the mill. Sandy Gibb is still chipping for them.

Kevin also reported they had planted 75,000 seedlings.

Q: What about the implications of the drought?

A: The trees were planted early enough and they were recently checked and are doing fine. If there are any problems or loss from drought or deer grazing we will address the issue by doing an over plant after surveying the areas.

Elise Rudland raised her concerns about the lack of a mandate regarding the logging of old growth trees in the community Forest, especially in Hidden Grove. Kevin indicated there were about 14 old growth trees in Hidden Grove.

Kevin requested clarification from Elise about the old growth trees and whether it was species specific. Elise stated her concerns were for Class 9 trees, aged 350 years up. She also referred to the agreement with Terminal Forest Products where they agreed not to harvest Class 9 trees on the Sechelt Peninsula. Kevin noted that he talked to the Manager of Terminal who stated only on the peninsula has Terminal made that commitment. They also have little area with age Class 9 and retaining old growth fir is part of their plan. We also have done that on the peninsula blocks (WS043, WS062).

Al Jenkins requested clarification on the possible logging of yellow cedar and cypress in the high country. He expressed his serious concerns about logging in these environmentally sensitive sites and that it was about money than the environment. Kevin stated he was going to identify and sample the area to establish the feasibility of selective, helicopter logging. He confirmed he did not know how many trees would be taken, but it is a selective entry by helicopter. We may have a market for cypress timbers in Japan or Korea and any decisions would be based those requirements. Additionally, we have to manage all of our timber harvesting land base which includes high elevation areas.

Other comments included:

- CFAC needs to convince SCPI that we should not cut old growth trees
- Value Added Committee could look at this issue
- What are we saving the old growth trees for
- Yellow cedar has a high market value
- Use lower elevation stands for logging
- SCPI has to manage the entire chart area and balance the timber profile.
- Management should include a way to preserve the old growth forest.

MOVED by Elise Rudland, SECONDED by Tony Greenfield
THAT "The Community Forest Advisory Committee request that the SCPI Board undertake a discussion on the ramifications of logging Class 9, old growth trees, in the Community Forest."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Kevin also reported that a film crew had recently taken footage of log logging operations for the Olympics community series. This was done at EW007a which coincided with a donation of a cedar log to the Skookumchuk Museum.

5. Cut Block EW-007A

Al Jenkins read his written report and again raised his concerns about this cut block and accountability issues. Kevin reiterated his comments from the June 17, 2008 CFAC meeting and asked if there were any he was alleging legal violations. Kevin requested that if anyone sees anything in the woods or has specific concerns about the operations that they contact him directly or report it to one of the SCPI Directors. Kevin stated that the EMS policy determines what he has to work with, there is nothing to hide from the public and CFAC provides a valued advisory role on the proposed cut blocks. Kevin also requested that if a CFAC member has any concerns on the operations to immediately report them to the office or a director so they can be investigated.

Jim Smith referenced the circulated emails and photographs and received confirmation that there were no reports to the Board. Terry Hind did not report any incidents to the Board or to Operations.

Elise Rudland asked if there was a policy on new cuts, including information on the website and public input. Kevin referred to the successful process that had occurred with the previous four cuts and that this last cut was to facilitate the needs of two value-added customers. He also pointed out the commitment at the last meeting.

Barry Smith received clarification on the definition of a cut block versus the selective cutting of trees versus normal logging.

There was also a brief discussion about the involvement of the gravel pit in the cut block and PPA's recent announcement about their gravel extraction plans.

6. Logging Costs & Current Market

Jim Smith had four questions to ask Kevin:

Q: What is the cost of safety per cubic metre and where are the costs going?

A: The Safety Council is looking at redundancies, recertification of fallers and the duplication of documents. Some larger contractors have hired more staff to manage the new requirements at an added cost.

Q: Fuel costs, future tenders and how are you going to allow for this?

A: With the situation changing so quickly, we may use a base line when the tenders are submitted and if there is any delay in executing the contract, then the prices could change. Kevin's software program accounts for the current price of fuel.

- Q: Should the Community Forest be more mechanical rather than labour intensive based?
- A: Depending upon where the logging is taking place, the preference is for the more labour intensive, hand falling options as this does leave more money in the community. It also increases the selling price due to more quality control in cutting the logs.
- Q: What is the cost of all the meetings, tours etc? Can we afford to keep doing all this?
- A: We do know what each function costs us and based on market projections, there will be no harvesting for the next little while, unless we find some niche markets. But that could change anytime. The SCPI Board does have the ability to get a breakdown on the CFAC costs and they will decide what gets spent.
- Q: Can we get a report on what our meetings costs?
- A: Yes, I can release that with permission from the board.

ACTIONS:

- (a) Kevin will provide a general statement about what safety costs.**
(b) Kevin will provide a report on the costs for CFAC meetings.

7. Recreation Update

Elise Rudland reported the Committee had been waiting for the return of Tony as this was not a time sensitive issue.

Comments included:

- Need to come up with a proper trail map
- Request would be tendered out locally
- Once we have the basic information we need a facilitator
- Need to incorporate all users, multi use recreation
- Not restricted to the Community Forest area
- What is the SCRD doing about recreational mapping?
- What are the parameters of the grant?
- Would the SCRD partner with a society who could apply for the grant?
- SCPI has the money to support a facilitator
- Obligation to co-manage the Heritage Forest as it is within our chart area
- Establish a Recreation Plan or framework before looking at the pieces
- What has the Ministry of Forests done in the past?
- Don't know how the new ministry is focused.

ACTIONS:

- (c) Al Jenkins will provide Claudia with a copy of the grant so she can review the parameters.**
(d) Gary Nohr will ask the SCRD Parks Department for a trails map.
(e) Kevin Davie will look up the information on the Heritage Forest.

8. Surplus Funds

Terry Hind referred to an email that was distributed regarding the outline of surplus funds. There was a brief discussion about a community process to apply for funds and the difficulty CFAC will have in making recommendations about the potential requests.

9. Value Added

In the absence of Burns and Lanny Matkin, Terry Hind informed the group a meeting had been scheduled for July 24, 2008. There is an agenda and there will be three representatives from CFAC and three representatives from SCPI in attendance.

10. New Business

10.1. SCPI Advertising

Kevin Davie asked for any ideas on advertising as space as per the e-mail sent out. Space has been secured for the rest of the year in the Coast Reporter and The Local newspapers.

10.2. Draft Minutes

Jimmy Smith requested that CFAC members be sent a copy of the draft minutes as soon as they are available. Terry Hind agreed to facilitate this process.

11. Next Meeting

The next regular CFAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at 7 pm in the Sechelt Community Meeting Room.

The CFAC picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 16, 2008.

12. Adjournment

The regular CFAC meeting adjourned at 8.30 pm.

IN-CAMERA MEETING

The Chairman then requested that all non-CFAC members leave the room as the group proceeded to go In-Camera to discuss two items raised by Barry Smith.

.....
Terry Hind, Chairman

.....
Date

.....
CFAC Member

.....
Date