

Southwest Island Public Advisory Group (SIPAG) Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order

Jillene West, Environmental Programs Advisor, called the 4th meeting of 2006 to order, of the Southwest Island Public Advisory Group, at 4:30 p.m. on **November 22nd, 2006** in Shaker Mill Restaurant, Lake Cowichan, BC.

2. Members

Present:

- Vince Callander, Local business
- Sandy Peters, Valley Fish & Game Club
- Tom Jones, Pacheedaht First Nation
- Tim McGonigle, TFL 46 Worker
- Pat Weaver, Lake Cowichan Town Council,
Cowichan Lake Community Forest Co-operative
- Dennis Martel, Wilderness Watch Committee

Support (TJG):

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

Regrets:

- George Williams, Ditidaht Band
- Larry George, Cowichan Tribes
- Jack Smith, Lake Cowichan First Nation
- Jim Humphrey, Chamber of Commerce
- Ted Burns, Fisheries Biologist

Jill West introduced herself again to the group. She is replacing Chris Harvey while away on maternity leave.

3. Handouts

The following materials were distributed to the group:

- Meeting agenda
- Updated SIPAG active members list & contact information (Nov-06)
- Draft meeting minutes from September 13, 2006 meeting
- Honeymoon Bay Operation Tracking System to maintain SIPAG action items (list of incomplete & completed tasks)
- Draft Targets & Indicators for Conservation of Soil & Water (riparian management zone retention & FIA budget for fisheries related projects) and Society's Responsibilities (cultural cedar)
- Presentation notes (Corporate Management System)

4. Meeting Agenda– Fisheries / Forestry Interactions & Corporate Management System

Jill West presented the agenda for the meeting.

5. Reviewing minutes from Previous Meeting

Time was given (20 minutes) for the group to review the minutes from the September 13, 2006 SIPAG meeting.

- Tom asked if we were going to have a discussion on the minutes. Jill replied 'yes'.
- Meeting minute's discussion opened with Tom Jones saying that the <10 % of site occupation of invasive species is too high a target if we are not including roadsides.
- Jill replied that road edges are included in the cutblock area and that the current SFMP Indicator only includes cutblocks (and not roads outside of cutblocks) because cutblocks are more easily measured since Teal conducts surveys on all cutblocks. We would not be able to measure invasive plants as a proportion of site occupancy for roads outside of cutblocks because there is no area (hectares) associated with them. However, it was mentioned that for roads outside the cutblock, there is still a legal requirement for licensee to stop the spread of invasive species as a result of forestry activities (FPPR s17).
- Tom asked how do you distinguish between different species? For example, if 1 to 2% gorse is found inside cutblocks it is a failure. Where broom seems to be prevalent in every cutblock.
- Mark said that Teal has a good Forest Stewardship Plan Result and Strategy for this so we will look at this at our next meeting.

Action item 13-A: Teal will provide content of the Forest Stewardship Plan for Invasive Species at the next SIPAG meeting and the group will review the invasive plants indicator and target to determine if the tolerance level should be lowered.

Environmental Department February 21, 2007

- Tom said that they have a problem with gorse on Pender Island.
- Pat said why don't they just get at it? Why do they always have to wait.
- Tom said that with the alder average of 25 per hectare, at different elevations is there not a variance of what the presence of alder is at different elevations?
- Both Jill and Tom agreed it should be achievable.

Jill 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.

6. Review SIPAG Member List

- Tim McGonigle's tel. number was corrected and Harry George corrected to Larry George.

7. HBO Task List

- Teal will provide copy of HBO Task List for meetings and will number the action items and the tasks in future so they will correlate. For example meeting 13 the first action item will be numbered 13A.

8. Current Events / Management Issues

FSP Approval

- The Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) for TFL 46 and the Lake Cowichan Community Forest Cooperative (CLCFC) licence was approved September 30. That means we now are operating under new legislation requirements (Forest and Range Practices Act).
- We will be meeting with the Ministry of Forest & Range (MoFR) and Compliance & Enforcement (C&E) people to confirm our interpretation of the implementation of the FSP is the same.
- The new MoFR District Manager, Trish Balcaen, came for a tour of TFL 46. She said under the FSP it is now easier to approve cutting permits (CP's).
- Tom asked if we have an approved CP under the FSP.
- Mark replied that Teal submitted first CP under the FSP November 14th.
- Dennis asked how many CP's are required each year. Mark replied it takes about a dozen.
- Tim asked if Teal received any comment on the FSP. Mark replied yes from mineral tenure holder Inspiration Mining; having a tenure at 4 Mile in the Caycuse operating area. Some talked followed about mineral claims (tenures) in the Tuck Lake area. Mark said the mineral claim holders are mostly concerned about road access.
- Vince asked if the company has to provide access for mineral claims and be held with liabilities? Mark replied that we can seasonally deactivate roads and also we can deactivate and remove roads from permit to relieve ourselves of responsibility.
- Jill announced Teal has the CSA External Audit coming up the week of January 22nd, 2007, before our next SIPAG meeting. Pat Weaver will be attending. Pat asked to be notified before hand of the date(s) so she could arrange time off work (refer to action item 12B).

Internal Audit Summary

- Four possible non-compliance findings were 1) Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations, 2) Tidy Tanks and labelling, 3) means for identifying training requirements and found some training requirements were out of date; Training Database upkeep and monitoring records, 4) ensuring spill kits' are present and contents are replaced after use.
- Good points of the audit were 1) really good file organization, 2) really clean and tidy around office, camp and woods, 3) windthrow and stream assessments for cutblocks are detailed and very good, 4) tracking system for the SFMP Indicators is set up electronically and is accessible, organized and easy to update and track progress.
- Vince asked if the people who audit make suggestions on your benchmarks being too high or too low? Jill replied that auditors would review targets as part of the scope if both internal and external audits. Mark said that at their last audit there was a lot of discussion on our Indicators and some recommendations were made.

Rainfall Levels / Landslides

- At Truck Road 2 we did have a failure on an old crib board and several slides. Mark said next time we might consider more caution because once we called off the crew all kayos let loose.

- Tim said it was wonderful how the crew stuck together as a team to ensure everyone got out safely.
- Someone said the amount of rain was more than they could ever remember seeing, probably over 5 years worth.
- Tom said that maybe we should consider increasing the number of slides on our Indicator, or review the indicator to ensure that it only applies to slides determined to be caused by Teal activities.
- Mark said the indicator is for number of slides caused by our activities and as yet we didn't find there were any.
- Mark said on Truck Road 2 there were 3 slides over the road caused by historic roads and failures but if we had unclean culverts that caused problems then that would be a case where they were caused by our activities.
- Tom said he's not sure if this event reached the 100 year flood level. Tom said he remembers hearing from a GeoTech that all gulleys slide and clean themselves out on an average of every 35 years.
- Tim said that day was very scary and it took about 3 hours to get home. He said to see water run down C9 road like a creek, we just had to drop everything and look after each other to get out.
- Tom asked if we can change our target half way through or how do we handle that?
- Pat added that who is to say this isn't going to happen again?
- Vince asked what the auditor is going to look at? Mark replied the auditor will look at the root cause analysis.
- Pat said that now because the ground is too saturated with water; because what happens with crazy water events like this is the soil is not shedding enough water as fast as it is coming in to keep up to it.
- Jill said that we can review the indicators.
- Tom asked if we could see some of the requirements under Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and look at the slide reports.
- Tim said they were looking at Wilson Creek that morning and there was no water in it; then after the storm water and debris was running right over the bridge.

Action item 13-B: Teal will provide information and summary of the recent slides and review the landslide indicators to ensure that it specifies only landslides caused by Teal activities (consider revising the wording to provide clarity).

Environmental Department February 21, 2007

9. SFM Plan – review of draft indicators and targets

Jill reviewed the Draft Indicators and targets for Fisheries Values and Cultural Cedar

Criterion 3 – Conservation of Soil & Water Resources; Element 3.2, Water Quality and Quantity;

Value (Fisheries), Objective (Protection of fisheries resources)

Draft Indicator: Retention in Riparian Management Zones

Target: 25-100% basal area retention within the RMZ of all stream classes S1-S4.

Variance: Zero

- Tom said another indicator we might want to have is for Riparian Reserve Zones. Jill noted that there is already an indicator for reserve zones.
- Tom said we might want to give some consideration for S4 Streams as they can be problematic for windthrow. Maybe just have S1-S3 included.

Draft Indicator: Management of Fisheries Sensitive Features

Target: 20% of the annual FIA budget for TFL 46 to be spent on fisheries related projects.

(e.g. water quality, watershed restoration projects, gully restoration, fish inventories, hydrometric station measurements, stream mapping & classification, riparian treatments).

Variance: 10%

- Jill said the group had said they wanted to see indicator for FIA work done on Fisheries and watersheds.
- Tom said the Pacheedaht Band places a very high value on fisheries.
- Jill looked back on the last 7 years on FIA projects and money spent from that and came up with a future target and said this is a minimum threshold and we can go as high as we want. Other FIA monies for next year are going to be spent on inventories and research.
- Tim suggested we could have a water quality restoration for streams mapped.
- Jill said that you cannot spend FIA money on anything that is a legal requirement. An inventory is okay, but if your layout to log requires an assessment for example, this is not intended for FIA.
- Tom asked whether money collected from TFL 46 is used within the TFL or if it could be spent anywhere. Jill and Mark responded that they believe in most cases it is used within the same area that it is collected from, but that transfers could be approved by the third party company that administers the FIA funds and grants project approvals.

Action item 13-C: Teal to review the FSP commitments for retention on S4 streams, consider revising the retention targets to accommodate windthrow issues on some S4 streams. Modify the Fisheries Indicator in relation to RMZs if the FSP is changed. Review the target for FIA funding, considering the proposed budget for 2007. Present new drafts at the next meeting.

Environmental Department March 31, 2007

Criterion 6 – Society’s Responsibilities; Element 6.2, Respect for Aboriginal Forest Values, Knowledge, and Uses;

Value (Cultural Cedar), Objective (Work with First Nations to identify a current and/or future supply of cedar and cypress suitable for traditional use)

Draft Indicator: Number of First Nations requests that are responded to for establishing a protocol for identifying a current and/or future supply of cedar and cypress trees suitable for traditional use.

Target: 100%

Variance: Zero

- Mark said that we have a number of First Nations (FN) requests for Cedar.
- Tom asked if Teal would respond to all native groups that do not have territorial land within the TFL or would they be excluded.
- Tom said should tie indicator to "FN with Traditional Territories within the TFL".
- Mark said he had a conversation with the new District Manager of MoFR on this.

Action item 13-D: Teal will add a reference for asserted traditional territories of First Nations within the TFL to the Cedar indicator (Perhaps just a reference with commitment to work with First Nations to identify a solution).

Environmental Department March 31, 2007

10. Corporate Management System (CMS) refresher

Jill presented a PowerPoint presentation she prepared to review Teal's CMS. The presentation is also a handout.

- Tim asked if Teal could explain the internal audit's finding on lack of training.
- Jill said that Teal has a tracking system and it showed that some review training was out of date, e.g. review of SOP's.
- Tom asked if there is an Environment Committee at the crew level. Jill and Mark replied yes.
- During the presentation, Jill noted that she forgot to include the Petroleum Handling SOP in the slide showing SOPs.
- Vince asked if Hayes also follows the SOP's. Mark replied yes, and that they also have their ISO standard they have to follow as well.
- Pat asked if the CMS also looks at percent of accidents, what is safe procedures and look at safety records. Typically safety is outside of the CMS, but there are safety procedures (JSBs) etc in place. The CMS makes a commitment to safety as the primary priority during all activities and the SOPs also consider safety. Safety statistics are not collected under the CMS, but Teal does collect and review that information. Mark reported that there were no lost time accidents in 2006.
- Tim said safety has been very good this year and fatalities in the industry plummeted.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. and the next SIPAG meeting will be February 21, 2007.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 4:30 pm, at Shaker Mill Restaurant on February 21, 2007.

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