

Meeting Notes – Community Forest Public Information Meeting
January 29, 2005, 9:00am

Attendance: (Public Sign in)

Richard Barry	Christine Wood	David Bakewell
Rob Fredricksen	Wayne Rowe	Bill Hubbs
S, Marchand	Adriene Carr	Robin MacGregor
B. Pearson	Gertrude Pacific	Jason Herz
Gray Waddell	Rick O'Neill	Al Mulholland
Ray Clayton	Brad Benson	Tony Pinfold
Bob Janis	Claude Boisvert	David Jefferies
Rick Hamilton	Debbie Osler (sp)	Daniel Bouman
Michael Davidson	Andrea Goldsmith	James Smith
Mike Shanks	Warren Allen	Barry Poole
Vel Anderson	Alan Bangay	Ray Giza
Bill Brown		

(Estimated 35-40 attendees throughout the day)

Presenters

Mayor Cameron Reid	Gavin Perryman	Ray Parfitt
Greg Hemphill	Bob Clark	Cathy Bartkai
Kevin Davie	Brian Kukuleis	

Opening Remarks – Mayor Reid/Gavin Perryman

Presentation by Greg Hemphill/Brian Kukuleis, Ministry of Forests

Questions:

Adriene Carr – Question regarding whether or not the Province is flexible on allocation of community forest tenure based on Annual Allowable Cut volumes.

Response (Hemphill) – Did not believe there would be an opportunity to alter the Province's allocation terms. He noted that the tenure is being offered as an economic opportunity and the community would have to apply its values in the management of the tenure (i.e. Community Forest licence holder may decide not to use all of its AAC).

Bill Hubbs – Request for clarification of area defined as the Sunshine Coast.

Response (Hemphill) – Clarified that the Sunshine Coast area spans from Howe Sound to Butte Inlet and that in this area two invitations for Community Forest applications have been issued, one to the Community of Powell River and one to the District of Sechelt.

Al Bangay - Asked if a Community Forest would be permitted to cut trees in the Gray or Chapman Creek Watershed.

Response (Hemphill) Noted that the Chapman and Gray Creek watersheds are in the Provincial forest area. He also noted that the watersheds are not major contributors to the Provincial Forest base on the Sunshine Coast.

Ray Giza – Asked if a Community Forest AAC would be flexible on the land base from where the cut can be taken.

Response (Hemphill) Noted that licence holders have flexibility in the management of their forest areas.

Vel Anderson – Asked if the area for the District of Sechelt Community Forest had been identified.

Response (Hemphill) Area is not yet identified. Ministry of Forest has done analysis on areas where Sechelt could access the 20,000 cubic metre volume in proximity to the community. He also noted that Sechelt will likely also do analysis/due diligence on any areas offered to them by the Province to ensure the timber volumes exist and the area meets the goals and objectives of the Community Forest.

Christine Wood asked about agricultural uses of Community Forest Licence areas.

Response (Hemphill) Noted that the licencing process is a forest management process and not a Land Use process, and agricultural uses would not be a primary consideration in identifying areas for the Sechelt Community Forest licence.

Adriene Carr asked if the Province has considered adjusting annual allowable cuts and fee structures to allow Community Forests to use more environmentally sensitive harvest processes and remain viable.

Response (Hemphill) He noted that Community Forests are treated the same as other commercial small tenure holders and pay the same fees. He was not aware of any initiative by the Province to waive stumpage fees for Community Forest licences.

David Jefferies asked about other small tenure holders in the Sunshine Coast Forest Area and asked if the Squamish First Nation tenures were including in the Sunshine Coast forest area.

Response (Hemphill) Noted approximately 60,000 cubic meters AAC allocated to small tenures holders on the Sunshine Coast. He noted that although the

Squamish First Nation claim traditional areas on the Sunshine Coast, they have opted to seek tenures in other traditional areas.

Jason Herz asked how Community Forest tenure differs from purchasing forest tenure via BC Timber Sales.

Response (Hemphill) Explained BC Timber Sales accepts competitive bids for blocks of timber. Also noted that the tenures sold by BCTS are usually one to three years in duration.

Jason Herz asked if the Sechelt Community Forest licence would be granted for the more 'contentious' forest areas (i.e. watershed)?

Response (Hemphill) Noted that areas have not yet been determined. He also noted that one land areas are determined, a Community Forest Licence the community would have a greater impact on the forest management plan in a Community Forest area.

Brad Benson asked how the community has been involved in the Sechelt Community Forest Application process to date, and will be in the future

Response (Hemphill) Noted that the Province requires the applicant to show documentation of community involvement in their application for a community Forest, but that the Province does not dictate how that involvement take place.

Jason Herz asked if the AAC must be achieved each year to maintain the licence

Response (Hemphill) Noted there was flexibility in the cut control and a five year balancing process, to allow for economic cycles, environmental conditions, operational issues, etc. He also noted that the first licence period would be a probationary period and adjustments could be made in subsequent licence periods.

Response (Kukuleis) Noted that tenures can be re-assigned if the Licence holder does not meet its Forest Management Plan

Dan Bouman asked if the Community Forest would be held to the Department of Forest management standards or the Forest Practices Board goal to achieve excellence and put more emphasis on the community will.

Response (Hemphill) Noted that Community Forest licence embody greater opportunity for public consultation and direction on practices.

Gray Waddell requested some definition of the 20,000 cubic meter volume and asked to whom the invitation to apply for the Community Forest Licence was issued.

Response (Hemphill) Estimated an average logging truck loads contains 35-40 cubic meters, therefore 20,000 cubic meters would mean approximately 500-600 truck per year. He noted the Community Forest Licence invitation was issued to the District of Sechelt. He also noted that the Sechelt Indian and has been offered approximately 32,000 cubic meters under a separate program. He noted that these could be cooperation between the two tenure holders if this is what the community wants, but that these are two separate forest tenures.

Vel Anderson asked about revenue sharing agreements between a Community Forest and the Province.

Response (Hemphill) Noted that standard small tenure stumpage fees are paid by a Community Forest to the Province. Any profits made by a community forest belong to the tenure holder to disperse on community projects or re-invest in the community forest operation.

Christine Wood asked about private firms which have expressed interest in partnering with the District of Sechelt.

Response (Mayor Reid) Noted that this has not been determined and preliminary discussions cannot be disclosed. He noted that the District is seeking private industry involvement to provide greater business expertise to the venture.

Adriene Carr noted she had been involved in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding for the management structure of a Community Forest in Clayquot Sound and encouraged formalization of community involvement.

Presentation by B. Clark (Revelstoke Community Forest)

Question Responses

Revelstoke licence area was not directly in or adjacent to the community, was a steep area and was not unique recreationally (except for the adjacent ski lodges) to the area residents, so other recreational uses were not impacted by the forest management plan.

Explained the 25-60% the rate of success of local firms being the successful bidder for local log/timber sales. He noted that more value added wood processing businesses have started in their areas. He also noted that close to 100% of silviculture firms working with the Community Forest are now local, as well as close to 100% local contracting/employment for operations and road building contracts.

Noted that the log sort operation does increase the Community Forest operational costs. Sort creates two local jobs at the sort and provide better local access to logs.

Noted that the referendum held by Revelstoke was related to the investment of public money in the Community Forest Licence.

Noted that the Revelstoke Community Forest Licence is a 25 year licence with an opportunity to renew every five years.

Reviewed the Community Forest Board structure and appointment process, where the Town of Revelstoke accepted applications from the public for three of the Board positions.

Noted that the decision to purchase the Community Forest tenure took the community seven years to reach. After that decision was taken the application process took about six months.

Kevin Davie noted that the District has been given an application submission date of March 12, 2005. He noted that an extension can be requested and the Province has granted application extensions where a community can show that it is making progress on the application.

Cathy Bartkai Presentation

Questions

Noted the Powell River Community Forest Advisory Committee process is a given and take process, but that on very few issues has a compromise not been reached.

She noted that recreation groups, conservation groups, forest contractors, value added processors, and youth interests, among others sit on the Advisory Committee.

Lunch Break

Kevin Davie's Presentation

Questions:

Will there be ongoing consultation with other local governments on the Sunshine Coast?

Will the conservation community be consulted on area selection given the existence of critical areas requiring habitat protection?

Can the management plan include plans for other uses (i.e. use of logging roads to access Dakota Bowl ski area)?

How can we develop trust in this process that community concerns will be considered?

Need to balance representation on the Advisory Board and give Advisory Board Process the power to demand commitments from the licence holder.

How do we determine who is eligible to partner with the Community Forest Licence holder.

Who will be at the table for area selection?

Need to consider forest resources values not just forest product values?

Need access to other examples of Community Forest structures?

Difficult to know risks if the area is not defined.

Mayor Reid suggested that a core (suggested four to six individuals) group of interested parties meet on Tuesday February 1, 2005 to discuss and develop an action plan to move the application forward.

Group needs to look for ways to show that the application is moving forward, so that an extension to the application date can be requested, if necessary.

Points for February 1/05 discussion:

- Define consultation process(not direct the application process)
- Review application criteria
- Criteria for decision making
- Form of governance