



**Tsawak-qin Forestry Public Advisory Group**

Location: ACRD Boardroom

**Minutes – November 7, 2024**

**Advisory Group Members**

Y	Harold Carlson	Forest Recreation	Y	Bill Coates	Logging and Roads Contractor
Y	Judy Carlson	Naturalists	Y Y	Dave Poilievre Tristan Jordan	Forests, Lands Natural Resources Operations
Y	Stefan Ochman	Bamfield Road Safety Association		Solomon Schachner	General Interest
Y	Mike Sparrow	Alberni Clayoquot Regional District	Y	Brigitte Arndt	AV Hill Climbers
Y Y	Francois Warren Scott Lemkay	Small Business		Vacant	City of Port Alberni (Counsellors)
Y Y	Jane Morden Mike Stini (Alt)	Conservationist			

**Y = attended    R=regrets    blank=did not attend    V=vacant seat**  
 Quorum Present



## **Resources Present:**

### **Port Alberni Forest Operations (TFLP)**

Erin Badesso – Facilitator, Recorder for TPAG

Brian Marcus – Tsawak-qin Forestry, Silviculture Forester, guest

Will Sloan – Western Forest Products, Certification and EMS Manager, guest

## **Introduction**

1. Welcome
2. Safety
3. Review of the Agenda
4. Adopt Minutes from June 13 2024 – Adopted with a request to change the word “palpable to palpable” before posting to the website <DONE>
5. Action Item Review

### **1. Tsawak-qin Operational Update – Brian Marcus**

- Information on operational activities was shared about location and extent of road reactivation, road construction, and yarding/loading.
- A new stump to dump contractor K-West has replaced IFC.
- Log sorting will be shifting from Ship Creek Dryland Sort to Sarita Dryland Sort shortly.
- There was significant damage to roads and landslides resulting from October storms (note: Dave Poilievre shared that numerous slide reports have been received by government from other licensees). Rainfall at some weather stations exceeded 280mm in twenty-four hours.
- Annual timber production year-to-date of ~185,000 m3 is significantly less than the allowable annual cut (AAC). Poor economics and administrative access to timber are the main contributors.
- TPAG website is up and running. TPAG meeting documents, minutes, external audits to be posted.
- See the *List of Acronyms* distributed as a handout. There will be further periodic updates.

**Action Item: TPAG website link to be sent to TPAG members by Erin Badesso. <DONE>**

**Action Item: Brian Marcus to share the results of the May, 2024 external audit and ensure the results have been posted to the website.**

### **2. 2023 CSA Indicator Results Review – Brian Marcus**

- Postponed to next meeting.

### **3. Burning Project 2024 – Brian Marcus**

- Brian shared a presentation detailing the science, planning, reforestation, and execution of the 2024 burning of wood residue and how the program is linked to **Indicator 4.1.1. Net Carbon Uptake**.
- **Question:** Do you use government venting index data or customized data? **Answer:** A contractor provides site specific venting forecasts.
- **Question:** Do companies share with each other their daily burn plans? **Answer:** Yes, that is a requirement of the signatories to the West Coast Fuel Smoke Management Plan.
- **Question:** How many residue piles are burned by Tsawak-qin Forestry annually? **Answer:** Consistently about 1000-1100.
- **Question:** Why is there a moderate smoke sensitivity zone along the outer coast? **Answer:** At times, smoke may drift out to the coast resulting in coastal winds moving it to more populated centers on southern Vancouver Island.
- **Question:** Why do some piles not get burned? **Answer:** Poor pile construction, too close to timber or powerlines, poor burning conditions.
- **Question:** Are there repercussions for not burning piles? **Answer:** Yes, there are specific obligations under the Wildfire Act to abate a fire hazard (while there are other methods for abating a hazard, burning is the most practical on TFL44), government orders could be issued, and unburned piles may exacerbate a wildfire.

- **Question:** Are there benefits associated with not burning some piles? **Answer:** Yes, some benefits for certain wildlife species.
- **Question:** Is firewood available on cutblocks prior to pile burning? **Answer:** Yes, following the required post-harvest residue survey, most cutblocks are offered to government for posting on their firewood website.
- **Question:** How well do planted seedlings grow in burn piles? **Answer:** They have grown exceedingly well because of the nutrients released to the soil after burning. There is no known science on how long the growth benefits last but it is noticeable for several years.
- **Question:** What is a fire break? **Answer:** Could be a patch of less flammable timber or a cutblock/area where residual fuels have been removed. Firebreaks are designed to slow the rate of spread of a wildfire.

**Action Item: Brian Marcus to post his presentation on the TPAG website.**

#### **4. Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) – Will Sloan**

- Will Sloan gave an update to the upcoming implementation of the PEFC Canadian Standard
- Presentation included a history of certification, locations in the world (note: Canada leads the world by area), replacement of the CSA standard with PEFC, what will change/not change with the adoption of PEFC.
- Western Forest Products and its partners (e.g. Tsawak-qin) will have the highest timber volumes of any company under the PEFC standard.
- PEFC is expected to be formally endorsed by December 2024; there will be a 12–18-month transition period for registrants; implementation planned to be final by December 2026.
- **Question:** Is there a possibility that companies currently registered to other standards may endorse and join with PEFC? **Answer:** Yes, possibly. Some companies left CSA because of the stringent requirements associated with public advisory groups (PAGs). Because there is now more flexibility to maintaining PAGs additional registrants may embrace the standard.
- **Question:** Are more factors going to be included in defining **Indicator 4.1.1. Net Carbon Update?** **Answer:** Yes, while the indicator is more rigorous than other standards, updates are expected.
- **Question:** Why does the SFI standard appear to get treated the same as the CSA standard by PEFC? **Answer:** PEFC International has a “META” standard for SFI that applies to all registering countries. Some countries embrace “lower” and other “higher” standards within the “META”.
- **Question:** What is the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)? **Answer:** A lengthy answer (requiring too much meeting time for this agenda) is required.

**Action Item: Consider inviting Jonathan Flintoft to give a presentation on EUDR at a TPAG meeting in 2025.**

**Action Item: Brian Marcus to post Will Sloan’s PEFC presentation on the website.**

#### **5. Conclusion and Announcements**

- An all-PAG meeting is tentatively scheduled for 2025. Details to come.
- This meeting concludes the 2024 meeting schedule. Look ahead to the 2025 meeting schedule to be sent in late 2024 or early 2025.
- Thank you and good fortune to Dave Poilievre in his new career opportunity. His replacement to be announced at the upcoming meeting.
- Thank you and happy retirement to Will Sloan effective December 31, 2024.

**Action Item: Brian Marcus to prepare the 2025 TPAG meeting schedule and arrange for its circulation.**

**TPAG Action Items**

<b>#</b>	<b>ACTION ITEM AND PROGRESS</b>	<b>Date of request</b>	<b>Recommend Completion</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
12	Group to review 5.2.3. Dave to add another variance and will be reviewed at next meeting.	November 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	February 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2023		
18	Alexandra to create an Acronym list and circulate to the TPAG members at next meeting	June 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Alexandra Iannantuono
19	Change the word palpable to palatable from June 13 Meeting Minutes before posting to website	November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	November 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Alexandra Iannantuono
20	Provide TPAG website link to TPAG members	November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	November 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	November 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Erin Badesso
21	Share the results of the May 2024 external audit and ensure the results have been posted on the website	November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024			Brian Marcus
22	Post the burning presentation on the TPAG website	November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024			Brian Marcus
23	Consider inviting Jonathan Flintoft to give a presentation on EUDR at the TPAG meeting in 2025	November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024			Brian Marcus
24	Post Will Sloan's PEFC presentation on the TPAG website	November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024			Brian Marcus
25	Prepare the 2025 TPAG meeting schedule and arrange for its circulation	November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024			Brian Marcus