

**VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH WOODLANDS ADVISORY GROUP
(VINWAG)**

**Western Forest Products Inc.
Community Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting Held June 22nd, 2017**

Attendance:

Jon Flintoft, NIFO, WFP	Gaby Wickstrom, Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce
Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public	Michelle Baker, NIFO, WFP
Leith Paganoni, Aquaculture	Eric Moffat, Alternate, Labour
John Tidbury, District of Port Hardy	Patrick Donaghy, Local Government Alternate (RDMW)
Fred Robertson, Education	Jeff Houle, Suppliers
Dale Dorward, Small Business	Dave Trebett, Tourism & Recreation
Steve Lacasse, Environment	

Presenter: Megan Hanacek, ABCFP

Regrets: Shirley Ackland, Port McNeill/RDMW, Ione Brown, NICFLP, Ben Trerise, Fish and Wildlife, David Stewart, Large Contractors, Gunnar Wigard, Small Contractors, Natasha Dickinson, proposed primary karst representative, David Wall, Karst representative,

Advisors: Paul Barolet, MOFLNRO

Observers: Vince Devlin, Operations Manager, Jeune Landing and Quatsino Dryland Sort, NIFO, WFP, Kelly Hall, NIFO, WFP, Planning Summer Student

Chairperson and Facilitator: Annemarie Koch

Minutes taken by: Jon Flintoft and Annemarie Koch

1.0 SAFETY AND INTRODUCTIONS

Annemarie welcomed everyone to the meeting, stressed the importance of safety throughout WFP's operations and reviewed the procedures to follow in the event of an emergency. Annemarie reviewed the objectives of the meeting, namely to review the minutes and action items from the April 13, 2017 meeting, hear a presentation on the role of the Association of B.C. Forest Professionals, review new and revised indicators required under the new CSA Z809-16 standard, hear an update on WFP's harvesting plans in the DFA, discuss the September 15th field trip itinerary and set the date of the next meeting.

Annemarie noted that Dave Wall had recommended that Natasha Dickinson be the primary karst representative with him as the alternate. Annemarie added that Dave had indicated that the BC Speleological Federation had agreed that she would take his place as the primary karst representative on VINWAG. Annemarie noted that Natasha had been invited to the meeting but was unable to attend because she was away on the meeting date, and that she hoped to be able to attend the September meeting.

Annemarie noted that Ben Trerise had recommended Matt Clark, who had in turn recommended Lukas Malvet to be his replacement as the primary fish and wildlife representative for VINWAG. She noted that Lukas worked for Strategic Natural Resource Consultants and had a background in fish and wildlife. Annemarie noted that Lukas had been invited to the meeting but was unable to attend because he had a scheduling conflict, but that he hoped to be able to attend the September meeting.

Annemarie welcomed Ray's alternate for the labour sector, Eric Moffat.

Annemarie invited Jeff Houle to report in his efforts to find a representative for the Port Hardy business sector.

Jeff noted he had spoken to Port Hardy Chamber executive director Elizabeth Aman-Hume about recruiting a member of the Port Hardy Chamber to represent the Port Hardy business sector and that she was interested in the group and had agreed directly to consider joining VINWAG. Annemarie asked VINWAG members if they agreed with replacing the Port Hardy business sector position with the Port Hardy Chamber executive director and they agreed. It was agreed then that Jeff should invite Elizabeth to the next VINWAG meeting and encourage her to sit with the group.

Annemarie then invited everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the presenter.

2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Annemarie asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the April 13th meeting and reviewed action items requiring updates or immediate attention with members, and the results of the discussion are summarized in the table below, along with the addition or modification of nine action items developed during the course of this meeting. For the benefit of new or recent members, Annemarie noted that she would be assuming all members had read their minutes and would not be taking additional time to go through them at the meeting, other than to deal with questions, changes and action items. Action items that were completed were dropped from the list and revised action items were retained as modified.

Further to action item 195, Annemarie asked Michelle if she was able to find out how many animals were taken as a result of hunting activities in the DFA in 2016.

Michelle reviewed the Limited Entry Hunting areas for elk in the DFA and noted there were a number of authorizations and only one elk harvested in the DFA in 2016.

Michelle also reported out on her efforts to deal with action item 216, noting she sent a link to the digital map to all of the tourism offices and followed up with a phone call to let them know she could answer any questions they had about using the app. She noted she would follow up at the end of the tourist season to see if people were using the map app. It was noted that the number of hits on the app could be tracked, and Michelle was encouraged also to talk to Joli White about promoting the app and following up on the use of the product over the tourist season. Gaby noted the District of Port Hardy had the link on their website and Michelle noted she would also continue to use social media to further promote the map.

Further to action item 208, Annemarie noted that Jon would be talking about WFP's five-year harvesting plans later in the meeting.

Annemarie added that action item 217 would be dealt with later in the meeting.

Annemarie invited Dave Trebett to report out on the status of action item 218. Dave noted that he had followed up with Dave Steele about the heritage values of the trail. Dave Trebett noted he had spoken with Dave Steele about moving the boundaries and said he hoped that something more could be done to protect the trail. Dave Trebett noted that, presently, the proposed cut block goes right over the trail. There was a discussion of whether the trail could be re-established within the cutblock at the completion of harvesting. There was discussion about the length of the trail that was overlapped by the proposed cutblock, Dave T. noted that a small portion of the overall trail was overlapped. Dave T. noted that Graham Cameron of Recreation Sites and Trails B.C. might be interested in establishing the trail and marking it with a map notation to identify it to further development.

There was a discussion of the compromises that might be made to protect the heritage values in the trail.

Annemarie noted that action items 215 and 219-223 had been completed.

ACTION ITEMS					
#	Item	Responsibility	Initiation Date	Target Date	Completion Date
140	Follow up on engaging youth in SFMP	Fred Robertson/Jon Flintoft/ Kindry Mercer/A. Koch	June 27,2013	Ongoing, in 2017	
191	Follow up on recommendations 4-5 of the 2015 participant satisfaction survey in mutual consultation	Members of VINWAG and WFP	February 25,2016	Ongoing	
196	Consider ways to enhance communication of what VINWAG does to the public, integrate with WFP's communications strategy	Annemarie Koch	April 28,2016	Ongoing	
208	Provide for brief presentation on and Q&A on harvesting plans at each meeting	Jon Flintoft/ Annemarie Koch	September 8,2016	Ongoing	
210	Update VINWAG on procedural efforts to address a UBCM resolution to ban all future harvesting of old growth on Vancouver Island	Fred Robertson, Shirley Ackland, John Tidbury	June 22,2017	Ongoing	
213	Implement recommendations in 2016 participant satisfaction survey report	Annemarie Koch/Jon Flintoft/VINWAG Members	February 23,2017	Ongoing in 2017	
216	Contact Joli White and continue to promote the use of WFP's digital map on social media	Michelle Baker	June 22,2017	September 14,2017	
217	Prepare and discuss new indicators required under new CSA Z809-16 standard	Jon Flintoft/ Michelle Baker	June 22,2017	September 14,2017	
218	Continue to recommend ways to protect heritage values of the Hecht/Ronning trapline trail along the west coast	Dave Trebett	June 22,2017	September 14,2017	
224	Invite Port Hardy Chamber executive director to represent Port Hardy business sector on VINWAG	Jeff Houle	June 22,2017	September 14,2017	
225	Bring draft new and revised indicators required under new CSA Z809-16 standard for VINWAG members to review	Jon Flintoft/Michelle Baker	June 22,2017	September 14,2017	
226	Post completed 2016 annual report on PAG website and circulate to members with minutes of June 22 nd meeting	Michelle Barker/A. Koch	June 22,2017	June 30,2017	

227	Look at ways to include place of residence of employees as part of the revision of indicators required to comply with the new CSA Z809-16 standard	Jon Flintoft/Michelle Baker	June 22,2017	September 14,2017	
228	Develop and circulate a September 15 th field trip itinerary with the September 14 th meeting agenda	Jon Flintoft	June 22,2017	August 31,2017	

Annemarie added that, unless members of VINWAG wished to discuss any of these ongoing items, and unless there were any comments or changes, she would ask members to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were accepted as circulated.

3.0 THE ROLE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF B.C. FOREST PROFESSIONALS: MEGAN HANACEK, FOREST STEWARDSHIP SPECIALIST, ABCFP

Annemarie introduced Megan and thanked her for agreeing to talk about the role of the ABCFP and how this relates, for example, to forest management and educational initiatives in the DFA.

Megan introduced herself and noted that she was the forest stewardship specialist with ABCFP, based in Vancouver, but working out of the North Island. She provided some background on her education and noted her interest in and passion for working outdoors. She noted her previous work on the North Island with VINWAG, and with BCTS over the last 20 years.

Megan reviewed some of the planning legislation that influences forest management, and how there seemed to be an increasing disconnect with community involvement, so she applauded the work that WFP was doing with public advisory groups through the CSA certification process.

Megan noted she would like to talk about the role of the forest professional under the realm of professional reliance, dealing with the expectations of the public, and ways of encouraging more dialogue with the public, professional independence and the influence of our changing climate.

Megan pointed out that there was a lot of public forest land under management in Canada. She noted that, to her, the causes of climate change were moot, and that adaptation to these changes was critical over the next few decades.

Megan reviewed the role of the ABCFP, noting it is the organization that registers and administers foresters. She noted the organization was established in 1947, and that it sets minimum standards for professional service of RPF's and RFT's.

Megan noted that the association has about 25 years of survey data for forest professionals, and that the profession ranks very high in terms of the public's trust. Megan explained that foresters have the exclusive right to practice and to title in BC.

Megan referred to how the association is responsible for the practice of professional forestry, under the Foresters Act. She added that the act strongly supports stewardship practices, specifically to advocate and uphold the principles of stewardship of forests, and to promote good forest stewardship.

Megan reviewed the issues that had been identified as priority by the association, including cumulative effects, riparian management, forest inventory and growth and yield work.

She noted that association members can pass resolutions, e.g. around managing in the coastal Douglas fir zone.

Megan reviewed the association's code of ethics, including the responsibility to act conscientiously and diligently.

She reviewed the 'forest office', including the number of members of the association and the areas of forest managed by members throughout the Province.

Megan reviewed the different areas of responsibility for those involved in forest management, from the foresters to the political representatives to the public.

Megan reviewed the responsibilities of foresters, including management objectives, application of latest science, oversight of activities and confirmation of results of forest management approaches.

She reviewed the practice of professional forestry, and listed some of the myriad of legislation that foresters work under, including the Water Sustainability Act, Forest and Range Practices Act, Heritage Conservation Act and Financial Administration Act.

Megan noted that foresters will often consult with outside expertise, e.g. to deal with Species at Risk.

She reviewed some of the issues covered by foresters, including forest disease identification and management. Megan noted that the forester provides information for decisions around land use.

Megan reviewed further responsibilities of foresters, including knowledge of science, innovation, professional guidance and verifying proper practices.

Leith asked whether foresters were ranked highest in terms of trusted professionals in the Province. Megan noted that foresters were ranked very high as trusted professionals, but that she couldn't say whether they were ranked highest. There was a discussion of the role of the chief forester in the Province, including the review of AAC's, and the impact of the beetle kill on the AAC in the Interior.

Megan reviewed how political decisions can affect forest management and how this can exacerbate the effects of climate change on sustainable management plans. Megan noted that years of fire suppression in the province were now influencing the number of forest fires occurring annually. There was a discussion about the possible causes of decline of ungulates in the province, including predators, disease and habitat changes.

Megan reviewed some of the statistics around the effect of the changing climate on forests. She noted that forests were a sink as well as an emitter of carbon. She noted that 99% of forests are replanted in Canada. She pointed to the economic benefits of forestry in Canada and B.C.

She reviewed the models showing increases in global temperature and noted that this would appear to be related to the number of forest fires and severe rain events around the world. Megan pointed to some of the economic losses that will result from climate change. She reviewed the models showing what forests were expected to look like in future, including negative impacts on the distribution of yellow cedar, for example. She pointed to efforts that were being made in 'assisted migration' to plants species in anticipation of what conditions would be like for trees growing in future.

It was noted that models show that by 2070, Vancouver Island would likely not be as hospitable a habitat for western red cedar. There was a discussion of how trends associated with climate change will impact reforestation plans, the growth of trees and the make-up of forests.

Megan noted that some of the research included looking at genetics of the trees and how and whether they may adapt to changing climate.

Fred asked what was happening south of the border with respect to reforestation and efforts to adapt sustainable management to a changing climate.

Megan reviewed how the forest can be a carbon sink or a carbon emitter. She noted that, if more buildings were made of wood, this would help create a larger sink for carbon.

Megan reviewed the ABCFP's position statement on climate change, noting that it is based on the application of science. She reviewed surveys showing that a majority of members believe climate change is an important issue and requires a response.

She reviewed some of the survey findings, showing support for the need to respond to climate change. Megan reviewed the eleven values under B.C. Forest & Range Protection Act, and how climate change influences the management of these values, which include wildlife, water management and biodiversity.

Megan reviewed more opportunities and challenges in forest management resulting from climate change, including forest health, wildfire and timber management issues.

Megan reviewed the costs of fire suppression in the Province. She pointed to the loss of bridges due to high rain events, preceded by severe drought. She pointed to the loss of forest harvest and marbled murrelet habitat, due to fires or floods, probably caused by extreme weather events associated with climate change.

Megan pointed to shifts in species distribution as a result of climate change, and pointed to how the ABCFP was collaborating with other natural resource professions to look at ways of adapting to the effects of climate change.

Megan used the Harrop Proctor Community Forest as an example of what might be done to plan for climate change, including ways to minimize risk and develop tools to anticipate and respond to the changes. She pointed to how community values were being integrated into the plans being made.

Megan pointed out that planting trees resistant to the pine beetle might be another way to help to buffer against the effects of climate change.

Megan pointed to the association's efforts to improve communication between groups and to use existing tools more effectively. She pointed to the resources available to professionals in the association.

Megan concluded her presentation on the ABCFP and then referenced briefly her efforts personally to help establish a forestry school of excellence on the North Island.

Annemarie thanked her for her presentation and Megan agreed to stay for the rest of the meeting and sit in on the discussion of new and revised indicators.

4.0 REVIEW OF NEW AND REVISED INDICATORS REQUIRED UNDER THE CSA Z809-16 STANDARD: JON FLINTOFT, MICHELLE BAKER, WFP

Annemarie reminded everyone that Jon had pointed out at the last meeting that there would need to be some revisions to the existing indicators and targets to meet the new CSA Z809-16 standard, and she invited Jon and Michelle to go over these proposed revisions with members of VINWAG.

Jon pointed to the timeline that he was hoping to implement to work toward meeting the new standard. Jon noted that the new standard was not hugely different from the last, but that some changes were required in order to comply. He noted that there would be an internal audit of all WFP SFMP's in the fall and that, by January 2018, the SFMP would be updated to the new standard, with input from VINWAG on the new and revised indicators. He noted that, in early 2018, there would be an external audit, to ensure the plan is in compliance with the new standard. Jon pointed to some work that Michel de Bellefeuille had done to review the current plan. Some of the gaps identified included the need for a new indicator around water quality and quantity, and the need to revise some of the existing indicators related to First Nations, for example. Jon referred to a table prepared by Michel, showing, for example, the addition of geological and heritage values to Indicator 1.4. Jon noted that the First Nations indicators have been brought together under a new Criterion 7. There was a discussion of how 'open and respectful communication' might be measured and reported on through the SFMP.

Steve asked about the FNIEG process and Jon noted that group has been idle for the last several years, as participation had been declining. Patrick asked about the QFN's referral process and Jon noted this was a separate process.

There was a discussion of the new indicator that was required around water quality and quantity. Steve noted that some basic water quality and quantity data might need to be collected as baseline, in order to

be able to determine potential impacts of forest management activities. There was a discussion of the current data collection options in the DFA, including the collaboration with organizations such as the RDMW.

It was agreed that Jon would bring back some draft indicators and revisions to indicators for VINWAG members to review at the September meeting.

Michelle noted that the annual report was complete and it was agreed that it would be posted on the PAG website and circulated to members with the minutes.

Michelle reviewed where the indicators were not met and where indicator targets met the variance in 2016, for example she noted that the SFMP annual report had not been advertised in 2016 but that this would be addressed in 2017.

Fred asked Michelle to review the variance on the level of investment in training and skills development. He also asked about the new hires that are local and Michelle noted that there was a challenge determining whether local applicants were qualified, so the numbers had fallen short of the target but were still within the variance. Fred asked about the level of direct and indirect employment and it was noted that the variance had been increased to allow for the effect of market variation on harvesting levels and the resulting levels of employment.

There was a discussion of whether place of residence of employees could be tracked. It was noted that people tend to live locally if they have full time jobs.

Fred noted that he would like to see some data on place of residence for full time employees. Jon agreed to explore the possibility of including information on place of residence for full time employees in the DFA as part of the revisions to indicators required to comply with the new standard.

Tom asked that, in the interests of full and informed participation, and in the spirit of continuous improvement, group members make sure that their sectors are well represented by a primary or alternate representative for the discussions about the proposed revisions and additions to indicators, or be prepared to accept the outcomes of these discussions.

5.0 DISCUSSION OF FIVE YEAR ANNUAL HARVESTING PLANS AND THE ANNUAL FIELD TRIP ON SEPTEMBER 15TH: JON FLINTOFT AND MICHELLE BAKER, WFP

Jon noted that most of the snow has melted and this has allowed access to higher elevation areas. He added that preparations were being made for fire weather conditions and that heli-logging operations were being planned for the next year. Jon pointed to metal salvaging initiatives that were being undertaken for disposal of some older equipment.

Jon noted that, with respect to a question that had been previously asked about harvesting next to park boundaries, WFP contacts BC Parks about the proposed harvesting during the planning process and before a block is harvested.

It was noted that the access to Palmerston is currently blocked.

Annemarie asked if there were any other questions about the five-year harvesting plans. There being no further questions, she invited Jon to talk about the proposed annual field trip itinerary.

Jon noted that he would like to do a boat trip on Neroutsos Inlet, including a look at some wetlands on the way to the boat tour. Jon noted that Tyson Berkenstock was scheduled to speak the day before the field trip, so he could come along and talk about wetland management. Vince noted that a dryland sort and bush tour could also be accommodated.

Annemarie asked for input from members on the itinerary and it was agreed to let Jon go ahead and put together an itinerary including a look at wetlands, the Quatsino Dryland Sort and possibly heritage values in Quatsino. It was also agreed that the itinerary would be circulated with the agenda, two weeks ahead of the September 14th meeting.

Patrick asked about action item 210. Fred noted that Port Hardy would be placing a procedural motion to attempt to deal with the motion that was made at AVICC around banning the harvest of old growth on Vancouver Island. He noted that this would be on the agenda for UBCM in the fall. There was a discussion of whether members of VINWAG might need to be involved and John thanked members and said that their help would be taken into consideration. There was a discussion of the type of information that might be needed to address any initiative for a total ban on old growth harvesting on Vancouver Island.

6.0 NEXT MEETING: ANNEMARIE KOCH

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on September 14, 2017 and that the proposed agenda items would include a presentation on the nature and role of wetlands, an update on five-year harvesting plans, distribution of the annual participant satisfaction surveys and a further discussion of the annual field trip on September 15th.

Annemarie, Michelle and Jon thanked everyone for coming and wished them a safe journey home.

When: SEPTEMBER 14, 2017
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.