

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

***Western Forest Products Inc.*
Community Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting June 26th, 2014**

Attendance:

Jon Flintoft, WFP	Gaby Wickstrom, Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce
Dave Steele, WFP	Steve Lacasse, Environment
Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public	Ray Harper, Labour

Presenter: Annemarie Koch

Regrets: Patrick Donaghy, Local Government, Dale Dorward, Small Business, Janet Dorward, Local Government, Fred Roberts, Education, Dave Trebett, Tourism and Recreation, Ione Brown, NICFLP, Dave Wall, Karst, Joli White, Tourism & Recreation Alternate, Jeff Houle, Small Contractors

Observers: Clint Cadwallader, Operations Manager, Holberg, WFP

Advisors: Paul Barolet, Stewardship Officer, MOFLNRO,

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 in 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 previous meeting, hear a presentation on the Port McNeill Economic Development Strategy (general information for Criterion 5 Economic and Social Benefits), hear an update on recreational sites in the DFA, continue discussion on the 2013 annual report and proposed revisions to SFMP targets and indicators, discuss an itinerary for the proposed September 12th field trip and confirm the date of the next meeting.

Annemarie asked if there was a need for introductions and members indicated that everyone knew each other and it was fine to proceed with the meeting without introductions.

2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Annemarie asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the April 24th 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 of 5 new 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.

ACTION ITEMS					
#	Item	Responsibility	Initiation Date	Target Date	Completion Date
140	Follow up on engaging youth in SFMP	Fred Robertson/Jon Flintoft/A. Koch	June 27, 2013	Ongoing, in 2014	
152	Invite a MOFLNRO representative to further discuss the role and purpose of stumpage	Annemarie Koch	November 28, 2013	Sometime in 2015	
154	Invite David Melville to participate in September 12 th VINWAG field trip	Jon Flintoft	February 20, 2014	September 12, 2014	
156	Make the target to produce a map for recreationalists a priority	Jon Flintoft	April 24, 2014	By 2015	
158	Invite local RSTBC rec officer to talk about future plans for sites within the DFA and working with partners like WFP	Jon Flintoft	June 26, 2014	Sometime in 2015	
159	Check the net road access increase in the annual report	Jon Flintoft	June 26, 2014	For 2013 annual report	
160	Include factors like loss of AAC and technological change in the section on justification for the targets and variances for Indicator 5.2.3 and talk to Patrick about whether he would like to take on making some revisions to the present target	John Flintoft and Annemarie Koch	June 26, 2014	September 11, 2014	
161	Add reporting out on requests responded to, in the target for Indicator 6.3.1	Jon Flintoft	June 26, 2014	For 2014 annual report	
162	Prepare itinerary for September 12 field trip using input from June 26 th meeting	Jon Flintoft	June 26, 2014	August 31, 2014	

Annemarie noted that action items 124 and 137 would be discussed later in the meeting, and that items 155 and 157 were completed on April 26th. She noted that Jon would be addressing action item 154 during his discussion of the proposed September 12th field trip itinerary. She noted that the remaining action items were ongoing.

Paul noted that he thought there had already been a presentation on stumpage and royalties from a MOFLNRO representative and it was confirmed that this had been the case, but that members had been very interested in the subject and had asked that there be another presentation from the MOFLNRO representative, perhaps in concert with WFP's employee responsible for overseeing stumpage, Kevin Laird.

Annemarie referenced the wall map Jon had posted for review during dinner asked if anyone wanted to comment on or ask questions about WFP's proposed harvesting plans in the DFA.

Annemarie added that, unless members of VINWAG wished to discuss any of these 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 PORT MCNEILL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: ANNEMARIE KOCH

Annemarie started with a brief history of the Port McNeill Economic Development Strategy initiative and invited Gaby to provide additional detail from Port McNeill council's perspective.

Gaby noted that some of council felt that it was time to initiate an economic development strategy for the Town, and added there were funds available through ICET to do this. She pointed out that council wanted a number of things to come out of the process, including public engagement and a set of deliverables at the end that were attainable within a reasonable timeframe. She stressed that council was looking at a holistic approach, spanning from infrastructure development to recreation to recruitment.

Annemarie then went on to summarize the community engagement process that has taken place to date, including the over 90 key informant interviews, meetings with representatives of organizations and local businesses as well as community meetings.

She then reviewed the basic structure of the strategic plan which will include a community vision, goals, core strategies and actions for council to consider.

She reviewed a draft vision, and draft goals, including 'a diversified and self-sustaining economy,' and 'a vibrant and globally savvy business community.'

She referenced some draft overall strategies, including 'multiple solutions' and 'regional coordination and cooperation.'

She then reviewed the draft core strategies, including 'placemaking and sense of community' and 'Port McNeill as a regional service hub.'

She noted that the strategies and actions needed to be realistic, in terms of the resources, particularly financial resources, available to the Town.

She then went on to discuss some possible actions related to the draft core strategies, noting that, under placemaking and sense of community, the Town could consider showcasing the community's history and undertaking a branding strategy.

She concluded with a discussion of next steps in the process, noting a survey would be going out to the community soon and that there would be another community meeting in September. She added that updates on the process would be posted on the Town's website and through the Town's FaceBook page.

Gaby added that the survey would be available online.

4.0 UPDATE ON FOREST RECREATIONAL SITES ON THE DFA: JON FLINTOFT

Jon noted that the Clint Beek site was going to have a nightly charge starting June 27th and ending August 31st. He pointed out that this was a requirement of Recreation Sites and Trails B.C. (RSTBC), following the large sums of money they had invested in upgrading the site. Jon pointed to day use sites at Maynard Lake and Three Isle Lake. Jon noted that the Reappearing River and Vanishing River sites were closed until some issues were addressed, as requested by RSTBC.

Jon noted that some harvesting had taken place near the O'Connor Lake recreation site. It was noted that the harvesting was not likely to attract local criticism. Jon noted that new stairs were put in several years ago at Cluxewe beach and some additional trail had been built at Lady Ellen Point. Jon noted that the Spruce Bay recreation site had been upgraded to include some new site and infrastructure. It was noted that the road to the site had been enhanced during recent harvesting.

Jon mentioned the Neroutsos Lookout recreation site and the views of Neroutsos Inlet. He mentioned that it may have to be cleared out to provide a better view of the Inlet. Jon noted that Mahatta River recreation site had been maintained. Jon noted that efforts were being made to make O'Connell Lake accessible again.

Dave noted that Spencer Cove was well used by locals in the Holberg area. He added that Cape Palmerston site had some elevated tent sites and a wilderness cabin. He added that the site offered easy beach access. He noted that a big parking lot had been put in and a revamped trailhead to Raft Cove.

Dave noted that the San Josef River day use area was not used as much these days, as access to the North Coast Trail was by a different means. It was noted that the upgrades to Cape Scott and Raft Cove Provincial Parks had brought more people into the area, as well as the opening of the North Coast Trail.

Dave added that the Brown's Bridge Trail was another recreational site near Holberg.

Gaby asked about the Cape Scott Trail and whether it was used as much as the North Coast Trail or the west coast trail. Dave noted that use might be higher if the access to the trailhead were easier. It was noted that the North Coast Trail is awesome, but that maintenance required was intensive.

It was noted that Marble River recreation site isn't used as much these days.

Jon noted there were a variety of Provincial Parks as well as regional parks and forest recreation sites available for visitors and locals to enjoy in the DFA.

Steve added that the history of some of these sites would be interesting to people. Dave noted that the old wagon road was of great interest and that it should have been maintained and highlighted.

It was noted that Europeans in particular were very interested in the wilderness trails in this region, and that trails were most often mentioned by visitors as their reason for coming to the area.

Tom asked whether WFP saw itself as still being in the rec site business ten to 15 years from now. Jon noted he would like to see the company still involved in partnership with other organizations like the RDMW in ensuring that recreational sites were developed and maintained over the long term. Tom asked whether Jon was aware of any future plans by other partners for developing and maintaining rec sites into the future.

It was noted that most development had been focussed on flagship sites such as Clint Beek, before moving to the other smaller sites.

It was noted that it would be useful for the various partners to talk more to one another about planning for future development and maintenance of rec sites and that a maintenance budget and strategy should be developed to ensure that these sites can be accessed and enjoyed in future.

It was agreed that Jon should invite the local RSTBC recreation officer to make a presentation to VINWAG in 2015 to discuss this possibility.

5.0 ONGOING DISCUSSION OF 2013 ANNUAL REPORT AND PROPOSED REVISIONS TO SFMP INDICATORS AND TARGETS: JON FLINTOFT

Annemarie noted that the annual report would be available on the PAG website within the next two weeks. Jon thanked Dave for pulling together data for the annual report. Jon noted he had been through most of the indicator results with members of VINWAG at previous meetings and noted he would review some additional changes to the report, and address proposed revisions to targets outlined in the action items.

Jon reviewed some of the changes in the 2013 annual report, including the removal of some timber licences which were no longer part of the DFA.

Jon noted that 2013 was the end of the cut control period for TFL's 39 and 6. He noted that he updated the performance levels for previous cut control periods in the 2013 annual report.

Jon noted that he now had a result for target one for reforestation success, adding that regeneration was catching up with harvesting levels.

He noted that he now had results for quantity and quality of non-timber forest benefits across the DFA, including EBITDA, net road access increase and limited entry tags.

It was agreed that Jon should check the net road access increase in the annual report.

Jon reviewed the level of investment in community and noted that the target had been met, through investments in areas like salmonid enhancement and recreation.

Jon reviewed the results for Indicator 5.2.3, level of direct and indirect employment, noting the target had been met in 2013. He noted that it had been suggested that the target be connected to the volume of harvest, e.g. jobs per cubic metre harvested. It was noted that the intent of the target was to try and maintain some sustainable level of employment from the DFA to support communities over the long term.

There was a discussion around whether the target for this indicator should be changed to better reflect employment levels in the context of volume of harvest, increasing technological efficiencies, and how many jobs and employees stay in the region. It was noted that, if a member of VINWAG wanted to take up this challenge, he or she was welcome to do so. It was noted that employment would likely continue to decrease in harvesting because of reductions to AAC and technological advances, but that new employment might be generated in other areas such as valued added.

It was noted that some of these factors and concerns that relate to the purpose of the target, namely community sustainability, could at the very least be incorporated in the section under the indicator on 'justification.'

Jon noted that he had dropped the target for volume of wood sold locally to 4,500 cubic metres. It was noted that it had been suggested that a target be added to report out on the number of requests for wood responded to. It was noted that requests could initially be tracked through the local sorts.

Jon noted he had re-introduced 'new hires that are local' as an indicator in the SFMP. It was noted that these results would probably be quite positive this year.

6.0 DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED SEPTEMBER 12TH FIELD TRIP ITINERARY: JON FLINTOFT & ANNEMARIE KOCH

A tour of recreation sites in the DFA was recommended. It was suggested that a review of forest health and management of the effects of the black-headed budworm, and terrain related to road-building be part of the tour. Jon noted that Dave Melville would be available to discuss terrain. A boat tour and review of viewscapes along Quatsino Sound was suggested as well. Paul suggested the Colonial alder plantation as a stop on the tour.

7.0 NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on September 11, 2014 as per the proposed schedule of meetings confirmed by the membership. Annemarie noted that the proposed topic was the monitoring and managing to prevent landslides, related to Criterion 3 and that the proposed speaker was Glynnis Horel. She added that the annual field trip would take place the day after the meeting, on September 12, and invited members to participate.

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

When: SEPTEMBER 11, 2014
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.