

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

***Western Forest Products Inc.*
Community Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting November 13th, 2014**

Attendance:

Jon Flintoft, WFP	Gaby Wickstrom, Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce
Steve Lacasse, Environment	Ray Harper, Labour
Ione Brown, NICFLP	Jeff Houle, Small Contractors
Patrick Donaghy, Local Government	Fred Robertson, Education
Dave Trebett, Tourism and Recreation	

Presenters: Bryce Bancroft, Symmetree Consulting Group and Kevin Astridge, MOFLNRO

Regrets: Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public, Ralph Wallas

Observers: Brian Smith, Operations Manager, Port McNeill; WFP, Kindry Mercer, WFP Regional Engagement Coordinator

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 September 11th meeting, hear a presentation on forest management adaptations to climate change (general information for Criterion 4, Role in Global Ecological Cycles), discuss revisions to Indicator 5.2.6, distribute the 2014 participant satisfaction survey, review the draft schedule of meetings for 2015 and set the date of the next meeting.

Annemarie invited everyone present to introduce themselves for the benefit of the presenters, and asked WFP Regional Engagement Coordinator Kindry Mercer to start the introductions.

2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Annemarie thanked those who attended the October 23rd joint meeting with NWAC and noted that the presentation by Shannon Janzen and Clint Cadwallader was very informative. She asked whether members might be interested in a panel discussion, including labour, industry and education sector representatives, on the same topic at the next joint meeting. Members agreed that this would be a productive topic for the next joint meeting.

Annemarie asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the September 11th 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 five 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/ Kindry Mercer/A. Koch	June 27,2013	Ongoing, in 2015	
152	Invite a MOFLNRO representative to further discuss the role and purpose of stumpage	Annemarie Koch	November 28,2013	2015 Meeting Schedule	
156	Update on producing a map for recreationalists	Kindry Mercer	April 24,2014	Early in 2015	
158	Invite local RSTBC rec officer to talk about future plans for sites within the DFA and working with partners like WFP	Annemarie Koch	June 26,2014	2015 Meeting Schedule	
163	Provide an update on the Pacific TSA Timber Supply Review	Jon Flintoft	September11,2014	Later in 2015	
164	Incorporate new information available through digital aerial imagery in relevant indicators	Jon Flintoft	September11,2014	For 2014 annual report	
165	Invite a speakers to address new aerial imagery technology and LIDAR	Paul Barolet/ Annemarie Koch	September11,2014	February 26,2015	
166	Distribute revised draft Indicators 6.3.1 and 5.2.3 to members for feedback	Annemarie Koch/VINWAG Members	November 13,2014	Distribute with November 13 th minutes /Respond by December 4,2014	
167	Post pdf copies of November 13 th presentations on climate change on the PAG website	Annemarie Koch	November 13,2014	At the time of distributing the November 13 th minutes	
168	Submit responses to 2014 participant satisfaction survey	VINWAG Members	November 13,2014	November 21,2014	
169	Ask Miles Trevor or Mike DesRochers of Strategic Natural Resource Consultants if they will represent the small contractors sector	Annemarie Koch	November 13,2014	February 26,2015	

Annemarie noted that she had prepared draft revisions to Indicators 5.2.3 and 6.3.1, as per action items 124, 137, 160 and 161. She noted she would be replacing action items 124 and 161 (which both deal with revisions to Indicator 6.3.1) and action items 137 and 160 (which both deal with revisions to Indicator 5.2.3) with action item 166. She noted that, due to the fullness of the agenda for this evening's meeting, she had only included time for discussion of revisions to Indicator 5.2.6, and she proposed that, if it was agreeable to members, she would distribute the draft revisions to Indicators 6.3.1 and 5.2.3 to them with the minutes of the November 13th meeting and ask for feedback from members by a December 4th deadline, so that Jon could incorporate the revised Indicators in the SFMP for the 2014 annual report. Members agreed with this proposed approach to dealing with revisions to Indicators 6.3.1 and 5.2.3.

Annemarie noted that action items 152, 158 and 165 would be addressed later in the meeting during the review of the proposed 2015 meeting schedule.

Annemarie noted that Jon had invited WFP Regional Engagement Coordinator Kindry Mercer to provide an update on action item 156, and noted that the rest of the action items were ongoing. She added that tourism alternate Joli White of Vancouver Island North Tourism had sent an email regarding the subject of a recreational map, noting the following:

Vancouver Island North Tourism has a reprint of the regional visitors map in the 2015 budget being recommended to the RDMW Board next week. Assuming the budget is approved, we will look to have a new map designed and printed by the end of March 2015 in advance of the summer season.

This would be the third edition of the map that highlights parks, trails & recreation sites within the region. You can see a pdf version of the map at: http://www.vancouverislandnorth.ca/wp-content/uploads/VINT_2012_map_LR.pdf, or the Google Maps online version at: <http://www.vinmap.ca>.

I wonder if there might be an opportunity for partnership if Western feels there is a way that this regional product could achieve the goals they would be trying to achieve by producing a map of their own.

Western used to have a map link on their website at <http://www.westernforest.com/nature/nvir.html> but this link has been "Not Found" for quite a while now.

Kindry reviewed some of the existing and previous tourist and recreational maps produced by WFP. She noted that she was not able to locate the digital formats for these maps, but added that the level of detail provided by these previous maps was one that serious recreationists wanted. She noted that there were more recent iterations of the maps from 2006, but that these were now out of date and needed to be updated. She reviewed some of the other guide maps that are available, including the map produced by Vancouver Island North Tourism. She noted that while the tourism maps were very good, serious recreationists demand more detail. She noted that there were some opportunities for WFP to work with the tourism group, but added that WFP would probably want to develop its own map and provide at least the level of detail that was offered in previous maps. She pointed to the recreation maps produced by WFP Stillwater as an example of what WFP could produce in this region. She noted the Stillwater map was produced by technology that WFP currently has. She noted that a similar map for this region could be made available affordably to the public, at the cost of production.

Kindry referred to a Search and Rescue map, based on information from a variety of sources, that is available at different places throughout town.

She noted that WFP would likely look at a developing a printed map for recreationists, but she also referred to digital maps that might be available in future using technology like iPhones, using geo-referenced pdf's, and free software called 'pdf maps'. She invited members of the group to contact her with questions and information.

Annemarie thanked Kindry and 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 ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE FOREST SECTOR: BRYCE BANCROFT, SYMMETREE CONSULTING GROUP AND KEVIN ASTRIDGE, MOFLNRO

Bryce provided some background about his involvement in climate change research and monitoring. He noted that it was important to frame appropriate questions about the risks and benefits associated with a changing climate.

Bryce reviewed climate trends, noting the IPCC is a source of much of this data across the globe. He referred to global circulation models that are used to forecast climate change patterns. He noted the use of a tool called 'Climate WNA' which allows gaming with different scenarios to generate plausible climate futures. He noted that, in the face of huge complexity, this modeling tool provides possible scenarios over time, taking into account such things as proximity of the earth to the sun, and decadal scales experienced on earth like El Nino. He noted that all data points to the fact that the temperature continues to climb on the planet.

Bryce reviewed a number of scenarios that have been used based on levels of greenhouse gases emitted, for example, and what this might do to future temperatures on earth. He noted that some of the models predicted what might happen if human behaviour changes and greenhouse gases are reduced, or increased, or kept the same.

Bryce reviewed the different scenarios where carbon levels go up at varying rates and what this will do to the earth's temperature in future.

Bryce reviewed some of the things that might happen with temperature increases, for example, changes in agricultural productivity, extreme weather events, changing river levels and seasonal changes in precipitation. He noted that drier summers could lead to wildfires, while greater precipitation in winter could lead to flooding.

Bryce referenced the biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification scheme and how various climatic changes could influence ecosystems over time. He noted, for example, that warming climate could move some of the wetter zones into drier type zones that would support different species like Douglas fir.

Bryce noted a UBC researcher has looked at this, and has forecast ecosystem changes using the BEC scheme. He noted that others have looked at ecosystem types further afield to describe what the ecosystems in B.C. might look like with climate change over time.

Bryce reviewed some of the possible scenarios for forests by 2040 and 2050 and noted how this could affect planting programs today. He referred to a website called 'Plan to Adapt', where users can pick areas and get forecasts for climate in specific areas in 2050, for example.

Bryce pointed to how certain provenances of seeds could be planted in different areas in B.C., eg from southern California, in anticipation of warmer climate 40-50 years from now.

Bryce pointed to the online Climate B.C. map that can be used to look at different scenarios, e.g. Vancouver Island in 2050, showing Douglas fir moving up into northern Vancouver Island.

He noted that these models were meant to promote planning for future realities associated with climate change. He added that growing seasons will get longer and pests and diseases will probably increase (as with the mountain pine beetle), the nature of precipitation will be increasingly unpredictable, natural disturbances will change across the landscape and there will be drier soils later in the season.

Bryce reviewed historical trends using PCIC summaries for the west coast region. He noted that temperatures are increasing gradually, but inexorably.

Bryce reviewed some of the responses and adaptations and mitigation measures related to resource management, such as avoiding use of fossil fuels, use of biofuels, and promoting healthy ecosystems that sequester carbon.

Bryce noted that, to practically assess the impact of climate change on forest management, there needed to be a review of likelihood and consequences of change, in relation to risk and benefit.

Bryce reviewed a presentation on climate change, using a bell curve analysis, to show effects produced by an increase in mean and variance of temperature. He noted that these changes have significant impacts on species that have evolved under different climate regimes.

Bryce pointed to some of the things impacted by these potential futures under climate change, eg. stability of bridge construction and survival of trees.

Bryce pointed to how information like this, showing definitively that temperatures are increasing at particular rates, can and should be used to plan for the future.

Bryce pointed to how criteria and indicators were developed prior to a broad awareness of climate change and noted that it was important to discuss and consider how the SFMP system under CSA certification might be adapted to take climate change into consideration.

Kevin resumed the presentation with a discussion of how climate change might affect objectives and targets at the landscape level. He pointed to a silviculture paper addressing this, for example.

Kevin noted that the Province now has draft timber goals and objectives that better reflect the impacts of climate change. He noted that similar issues show up in the certification process, like timber quality. Kevin noted that the Province was setting targets or identifying desired trends for tree species composition at the stand and landscape level, in the context of the effects of climate change. He referenced a 2009 memo from the Chief Forester, showing, an emphasis on species diversity, for example, as a hedging mechanism against climate change.

Kevin reviewed some of the criteria and indicators in the CSA certification process, including biological diversity and core indicators like forest area by seral stage or age class, and the impacts of climate change that are outside the realm and control of forest management, eg pest outbreaks like the mountain pine beetle. He noted that it was important to distinguish what we can commit to and what we have control over under certification in the face of climate change.

Kevin noted how the effects of climate change might make the variance harder to meet for some indicators, like biological diversity.

Kevin talked about how species diversity might be used as a means to hedge against the effects of climate change. He noted that the current SFMP allows for some flexibility for what tree species might be planted to adapt to anticipated future climate.

Kevin reviewed the core indicator of reforestation success, noting that species needed to grow throughout the term of climate change, eg from now until 2050.

Kevin looked at forest ecosystem productivity under the lens of climate change.

Kevin reviewed some of the targets for species types, based on what is being harvested, what is being planted and what is actually regenerating.

As an example, Kevin reviewed the management of the CWHvm1 BEC, under a lens of climate change, and some of the recommendations that had been made, including expanded use of Douglas-fir in certain areas where drying trends were more pronounced.

Bryce noted that WFP has already prepared a draft report to forecast what climate change might look like, and developed some associated strategies to deal with this. Jon noted that Bill Beese had prepared the draft and that it was being reviewed by a group at WFP. Jon noted, for example, that WFP was looking at planting western white pine, as one way of adapting to anticipated climate change in this region.

Steve asked how these changes in approach can be incorporated into the SFMP, eg where there is no variance for planting new species. Jon noted that the indicator might be opened up to build in flexibility to allow some new species to be introduced. Steve pointed to the amount of additional work this would create.

Patrick questioned the desirability of planting species from other geographical areas. He asked whether genetically modifying native species might be a better strategy. Bryce noted that tree breeding is done and that this is on the 'soft side' of genetic modification.

Bryce admitted that there might be potential downsides to introducing new species.

There was a discussion of how the group might look at targets and variances to build for a future impacted by climate change.

Ray asked about overall temperature trends over time. Bryce distributed a report to the group on the impacts of climate change on criteria and indicators.

Annemarie thanked Bryce and Kevin for their presentations and noted that she would be posting pdf copies of the presentations on the PAG website for interested members of VINWAG to access.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF DRAFT INDICATOR 5.2.6, NEW HIRES THAT ARE LOCAL: ANNEMARIE KOCH

Annemarie explained that she had revised the indicator target to incorporate the number of local, qualified people who were applying, and had therefore reduced the variance to zero. She asked if the definitions of 'local' and 'qualified' were acceptable to members, and asked for further comments on the revisions, which were highlighted in yellow in the draft. Members agreed with the proposed revisions to the indicator but noted that they would like to see ongoing reporting out and evidence supporting training and other efforts to ensure there are qualified local applicants.

There was a discussion of what WFP is doing now to provide training, such as the Loggers Fundamentals Training program.

Fred asked about establishing an internship program to support educational programs and mentoring. Jon referenced some job shadowing work and the NISS Connections program. Fred asked whether WFP might contemplate an internship program to build capacity. Kindry asked at what level this would be instituted. Fred suggested that this might take place at a post secondary level. Patrick pointed to some of the benefits introducing forestry opportunities at the high school level.

Steve noted that it would be helpful to expose more young people to the opportunities locally, through a formalized process. Members supported the development of a local high school forestry program.

Fred noted that he was working on an initiative to develop a high school forestry program on the North Island and invited members to offer their input to him. He noted that the school district had made a commitment to have a program up and running by September, 2015.

5.0 DISTRIBUTION OF 2014 PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION SURVEY: ANNEMARIE KOCH

Annemarie distributed copies of the participant satisfaction survey and invited members to fill it out after the meeting, or to email or mail in the completed survey. She encouraged VINWAG members to fill out the survey and noted that their comments help to improve the process and content of the public advisory group. It was agreed that members should get their completed surveys to Annemarie or Jon by November 21st.

6.0 REVIEW OF DRAFT 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE AND DISCUSSION OF REPLACEMENT OF SMALL CONTRACTORS' REPRESENTATIVE: ANNEMARIE KOCH

Annemarie reviewed the draft schedule of meetings with members, noting that many of the presentation topics had previously been discussed and were chronicled as action items 152, 158 and 165. She noted that community representative Tom Doak-Dunelly had suggested that a fisheries representative talk about recent changes to the Fisheries Act and how these might affect forest management, for example, in riparian areas.

Patrick suggested Deidre Haight and Lisa Gibbons from MOFLNRO be invited to make a presentation on LIDAR at the February 26th meeting.

Jon asked that the June meeting date be changed to the 4th, as he would be away on the 25th of June.

Members agreed to proceed with the proposed schedule of meetings, taking into account the June date change and the proposed speakers for the February 26th meeting.

Annemarie noted that previous small contractors' representative Lisa Lenarduzzi was now working for Western and asked members to suggest someone new to represent the sector.

It was suggested that Annemarie approach Miles Trevor or Mike DesRochers of Strategic Natural Resource Consultants as possible representatives for the small contractors' sector.

7.0 NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on February 26, 2015. Annemarie noted that the proposed topic was 'Evolving Forest Management Technology and the Use of High Definition Aerial Imagery and LIDAR,' and that she would work with Paul to invite Deidre Haight and Lisa Gibbons at MOFLNRO to make a presentation on the use of LIDAR.

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

When: FEBRUARY 26, 2015
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.