

Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes November 24, 2016
Black Bear Resort, Port McNeill, BC
6:00 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Attendance: Kelly McMahon, WFP, Trevor Egely, WFP, Pat English, Local Government, Cam Brady, Karst, Jack Miller, Labour, Stu Ellis, General Public, Chris Bowden-Green, Woss community, Steve Lacasse, Environment,

Regrets: Shirley Ackland, Town of Port McNeill

Observers: Fred Robertson, VINWAG

Advisor: Paul Barolet, MOFLNRO

Presenters: John Deal, Corporate Senior Biologist, WFP, Tyson Berkenstock, Corporate Habitat Biologist, WFP

Facilitator: Annemarie Koch

Notes: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

1. Introduction and Safety Procedures:

Annemarie stressed the importance of safety to WFP throughout its operations and reviewed the safety procedures to follow in the event of a fire or medical emergency.

Annemarie reviewed the objectives of the meeting, namely:

- To review the June 2nd meeting minutes and selected action items;
- To hear a presentation by John Deal and Tyson Berkenstock on the Timber Harvesting Land Base Stabilization initiative ;
- To hear an operational update from Trevor Egely
- To hear an update from local government representative Pat English on the forest sector strategy initiative;
- To hear an update from VINWAG education representative Fred Robertson on the UBCM resolution to ban all future logging of old growth on Vancouver Island;
- To review one of the draft revisions to select Criterion 5 Indicator targets;
- To review the draft 2017 meeting schedule;
- To distribute, discuss and respond to the 2017 participant satisfaction survey, and;
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

2. Review of Minutes and Action Items:

Annemarie reviewed the minutes and action items from the June 2nd meeting. She reminded NWAC members that she would be assuming they had read the minutes prior to the meeting. There were no additions or changes to the minutes. Annemarie added that she would not be addressing action items that were ongoing but only items that were to be addressed in the shorter term. Given this, Annemarie noted that there were nine action items to address from the June 2nd meeting.

Annemarie reviewed the action items (including items that had been completed or revised) for which action was required in the short term, or for which reports were available.

Action Item 1: to follow up and see the feasibility of combining a number of targets for Indicator 5.1.1 that better reflect the economic and community benefits generated specifically in this DFA.

It was agreed that Kelly should work with Jack and Bill to develop an additional target for Indicator 5.1.1 that shows Englewood's productivity in relation to other divisions in WFP

Responsibility: Kelly/Jack/Bill

Due Date: After divisional amalgamations are complete

Annemarie noted that work was ongoing on this action item, and that one of the draft revised targets would be reviewed later in the meeting.

Action Item 2: Determine the feasibility of a cross division PAG meeting- in Port McNeill

Responsibility- Kelly and Trevor

Due Date- ongoing in 2015

Annemarie noted that this action item was now complete and thanked everyone who helped to put on a very successful all-PAG event in September.

Action Item 3: Look at ways and means of generating greater awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of preventing loss of petroleum products such as oil.

Responsibility: Trevor/Kelly/Jack

Due Date: Ongoing.

Jack noted the company has gone to a new set of hydraulic hose fittings which will reduce loss of petroleum products and save money over time.

Action Item 4: Refine Indicator 5.2.2 to include a greater scope of training opportunities available in the DFA, including training provided through contractors. Inclusion of the training completed by Bill 13 contractors. Information can come from the safety council audit at Randy's suggestion.

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon

Due Date: 2015 annual report

Annemarie noted that Kelly was working on this action item in the context of the proposed revisions to the Criterion 5 indicators.

Action Item 5: support Youth Forestry Initiative

Responsibility: Kelly

Due date: Ongoing

Action Item 6: Continue to discuss membership and representation on NWAC to ensure that vacant sectors are filled and to see if any new sectors should be added.

Responsibility: Kelly and Annemarie

Due Date: ongoing

Annemarie noted that Cam Brady had attended the joint NWAC/VINWAG meeting as an observer on October 27th and she thanked him for agreeing now to represent the karst sector for NWAC. She noted that Jeff Jones had resigned as the Mount Cain representative and suggested that this sector should be re replaced as soon as possible.

Action Item 12 : Bring new draft targets including additional variance for Indicator 5.1.1. to NWAC for review and consideration

Responsibility: Kelly and Trevor

Due Date: For next annual report, to be reported under “Strategies and Implementation.’

Action Item 16 : Revisit the feasibility of combining a number of targets for Indicator 5.1.1 that better reflect the economic and community benefits generated specifically in this DFA after the CIFO amalgamation is complete.

Responsibility: Annemarie

Due Date: Sometime in 2016

Annemarie noted that the above two action items, like the other action items related to Criterion 5, would be dealt with throughout the year and brought forward to NWAC members for review.

Action Item 17: Talk to Lorraine Landry about representing fish and wildlife interests on NWAC.

Responsibility: Steve Lacasse

Due Date: November 24, 2016

Annemarie noted that Steve was looking at someone from the proposed rejuvenated Nimpkish Watershed Advisory group to represent fish and wildlife interests on NWAC, and that he would keep members posted on this.

Action Item 20: Revise Criterion 5 target related to community investments along the following lines: ‘100% of the communities in and with interests in the DFA, namely Woss, Alert Bay, Sointula, Hyde Creek and Port McNeill receive annual community investments of some type from WFP.

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Sometime in 2016

Action Item 25– track and learn more about the waste from second growth harvesting that is stacked in processor piles some distance from the road, and make arrangements for a future presentation on how this wastewood is tracked, and the potential for making more use of wastewood from these second growth processor piles

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Sometime in 2017

Annemarie noted that this topic was proposed for the May 25, 2017 NWAC meeting in the draft 2017 meeting schedule. It was agreed that the material to be discussed should be referenced as ‘residue’ and not ‘wastewood’

Action Item 26: ensure that the definition of ‘North Island’ is given and consistent throughout the SFMP and annual report and provide more information at a future meeting on how data for Indicator 5.2.1 is gathered

Responsibility: Kelly, Annemarie and Will

Due: 2016 annual report

Action Item 30: When preparing the 2017 schedule of meetings, consider holding at least two NWAC meetings in Woss, on a Wednesday evening, in the Woss community hall.

Who: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

When: November, 2016, when preparing the 2017 meeting schedule

Annemarie noted that the draft 2017 schedule of meetings included a May 25 and a September 28th meeting in Woss.

At the conclusion of the review of the minutes and action items, Kelly noted her thanks to Jack Miller for his long standing service to NWAC and presented him with a vest. She noted that other long serving members of NWAC, like Steve Lacasse, had already received their vests at the all-PAG meeting that was held in September.

2. Timber Harvesting Land Base Stabilization: John Deal, Corporate Senior Biologist, WFP, Tyson Berkenstock, Corporate Habitat Biologist, WFP

Jon introduced Tyson to members of NWAC. He noted Tyson had an engineering background and was now serving as a third biologist on staff with WFP. He pointed out that biology issues were important to the company and added that Species At Risk issues were not going away any time soon.

He invited Tyson to present on the Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) stabilization initiative. Tyson noted that he had started with the company working on Old Growth Management Area (OGMA) units, identifying areas and their relationship to harvesting plans. He noted that, through THLB, there is an opportunity to amend and work with old growth management areas, and adapt and sustain these and other forestry values in relationship to ongoing harvesting plans.

He went on to review the pilot THLB initiative in the San Josef Landscape Unit. He described the San Josef Landscape Unit, noting WFP manages 47,000 hectares within this unit. He noted that the focus of the project is to look at the possibility of reconfiguring OGMA's within the landscape unit to preserve old growth and other values, while proceeding with harvesting plans. Tyson reviewed the identified values in the unit, including productive forest, First Nations values, Marbled Murrelet (MAMU) nesting habitat, Northern Goshawk (NOGO) nesting and foraging habitat, forest interior (how much OGMA is away from an edge) karst values, wildlife features, visuals and the harvestable area in relation to these values, and other considerations.

He noted, for example, that WFP worked with the Quatsino First Nation to identify, re-assess and protect cultural values within the landscape unit.

Tyson outlined the decision framework, moving from identifying the area for the pilot project, to determining primary and secondary values and metrics. He described how a GIS layer that outlines values and metrics was developed, and how this was used, for example, to assess whether areas within legally established OGMA's could be harvested, and to identify non-harvestable old growth areas outside legally established OGMA's. He then outlined how this preliminary assessment was followed by analysis and a decision process that was then incorporated in the harvesting plan.

Tyson reviewed the results for the San Josef THLB pilot project. He pointed out, for example, that more productive old growth forest was locked up in OGMA, there was more forest interior in the unit than had been measured during the time prior to the pilot, there was more marbled murrelet nesting habitat than previously measured (prior to the pilot study), e.g. 1,407 hectares after the pilot and closer to 1,300 prior to the pilot, and less harvestable area in OGMA's (1,695 ha) after the pilot as opposed to 2,510 hectares prior to the pilot.

Tyson reviewed what was learned through the pilot, including the value of holding early discussions with First Nations, MOFLNRO, BCTS and WFP to incorporate their interests, the value of monthly updates, the importance of the WFP planner making base decisions on harvestability and not generating these decisions through use of model, the value of a dedicated project lead and the importance of developing datasets for all values.

Tyson noted that early communications were very important to the success of the initiatives.

In summary, Tyson noted that the San Josef pilot was successful, with positive socioeconomic and conservation benefits, and stressed that there was an opportunity for future projects like the Englewood THLB stabilization project.

It was noted that there would be a media release about the San Josef project in future, and that the harvesting plan coming out of the pilot on the landscape unit was now legal.

Pat asked what the net impact on the harvest was, as a result of the San Josef initiative. Tyson noted there was about 1,500 hectares added to the harvesting plan.

Tyson went on to review the Englewood THLB stabilization initiative. He outlined the Englewood project area. He reviewed what makes Englewood a good candidate, including the fact that it has been over 10 years since the development of the existing OGMA plans, there are improved SAR planning opportunities (eg through co-locating of reserves) and an increased knowledge of the harvestable land base (eg through use of LiDAR).

Tyson reviewed the existing Upper and Lower Nimpkish landscape units from 2005. He noted these plans were very comprehensive. He pointed to new data in the areas of LiDAR inventory work, marbled murrelet nesting habitat and goshawk nesting and foraging habitat inventories, identification of karst sites and wildlife features, riparian inventories, operability constraints and increased use and quality of ortho-imagery.

John reviewed new SAR-related data, including a low level aerial survey in 2012 showing potential murrelet nesting areas, had provided information that forms a basis for a re-design of what constitutes nesting habitat for MAMU, and will give WFP the opportunity to provide THLB and Annual Allowable Cut impacts for different retention scenarios that will inform the anticipated BC Implementation Plan for MAMU. He noted that more needs to be known about population targets, for example, before plans can be finalized.

John noted that he could not say at this point what was going to happen or when with respect to the MAMU SAR strategy, but that he hoped additional information would lead to more informed decision-making.

It was noted that there a few new SAR's coming on stream, including a bat species and the western screech owl.

There was a discussion of how the SAR status is established through COSEWIC.

Action Item 31: Invite John Deal and Tyson Berkenstock back for the November 23, 2017 NWAC meeting to provide an update on the Englewood THLB stabilization initiative.

Responsibility: Kelly McMahan

Due Date: November 23, 2017

3. Operational Update: Trevor Egely, Operations Planner, CIFO, WFP

Trevor circulated a report on the 2016 harvesting plans. He noted that the storm event in November had taken out part of the railway and that this had affected recent production levels, but that an overall harvest of over 782,000 cubic metres was projected in 2016. He reviewed some interesting facts for 2016, including total road construction of 53.22 kilometres in the TFL, and he reviewed some of the challenges, including the recruitment of qualified hand fallers and yarding crews, and the management of volume forecasting during fire season and winter months.

Trevor reviewed some of the opportunities in 2017, including development of the cypress market and building more employment opportunities with First Nations and within North Island communities. He reviewed the effects of the rain event, including flooded roads and loss of infrastructure and loss of work time for following safety protocols.

Members thanked Trevor for his very comprehensive written update and verbal summary of operational activities. It was determined later in the meeting to include an update on environmental issues, such as slides and non-reportable oils spills.

4. Update on the North Island Forest Sector Strategy Initiative: Pat English, Local Government Representative, NWAC

Pat noted that the group had recently finished a strategic planning session and that the group would be developing a marketing plan to attract people to live and work on the North Island. He noted that the group was also working to develop a forestry training program on the North Island. He added that a partnership had been established to bring cash and other resources together to accomplish the goal of supporting the forestry sector on the North Island, through recruitment and training.

He noted that a funding target had been set to train individuals to work in the forest sector on the North Island. He added that various funding partners had made commitments, and that the group expected a decision on program funding by March. He noted that the group hoped to have a training session started in the spring or, at the latest, in the fall. He added that there was tremendous interest by First Nations in the initiative.

Action Item 32: Keep NWAC members up to date on the forest sector strategy initiative

Responsibility: Pat English

Due Date: March 30, 2017

5. Update on UBCM Resolution to Ban All Future Harvesting of Old Growth on Vancouver Island: Fred Robertson, Education Representative, VINWAG

Fred provided some background on the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) resolution to ban all future harvesting of old growth on Vancouver Island, noting it had first come to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC), through the community of Metchosin. He noted that some members from forestry communities on the Island had spoken out against the resolution but that it had passed handily at the AVICC.

Fred read the resolution in its entirety to NWAC members, noting it was a sweeping motion to stop all harvesting of old growth on Vancouver Island, and adding that it, if taken literally by the Provincial government, could have major economic impacts on North Island communities.

He pointed out that many motions do not make it to the floor at UBCM, but that this particular resolution had not only made it to the floor, but had been moved to an earlier part of the agenda, with the result that many forest community representatives who might have spoken to the motion were not present to do so and the motion passed at the UBCM.

He pointed to some of the problems with the broad language of the motion, noting that North Island harvesting plans still rely quite heavily on old growth. He added that NGO's had been quite successful in limiting harvesting activities on the central coast and were now setting their sights back on Vancouver Island.

He stressed that it was critical for North Island representatives to demonstrate the sustainable forestry practices that are currently in use, and the impacts that a cessation of logging of old growth would have on North Island communities.

Fred noted that he had spoken to Ben Isitt, a Victoria councillor who supported and was taking the resolution forward, and that Isitt had agreed to come up to learn more about harvesting practices on the North Island and the impact that the cessation of harvesting of old growth would have on North Island communities.

Fred pointed to the value of engaging people from the south Island and showing them our sustainable forestry practices and the importance of forestry to our communities.

There was a discussion of whether people at UBCM understand sustainable forest management and the CSA certification process. It was noted that the message that forest practices were changing was not getting out. Fred pointed to the value of finding common ground with the people who initiated the resolution.

There was a discussion of whether there was room for compromise with some of the NGO's. Fred noted that he felt that the UBCM representatives seemed rational and open to discussion.

There was a discussion of how the CSA PAG group might be involved in this process. It was agreed that the group might help to facilitate the sharing of information on sustainable forestry practices and help to maintain a dialogue between the proponents of the resolution and people in forest communities within and adjacent to the Nimpkish DFA.

Fred noted that efforts were being made to form a coalition of North Island industry, community and business representatives to address this issue.

Fred noted that he felt there was opportunity to talk to people like Ben Isitt about not overharvesting old growth, rather than stopping the harvesting of old growth entirely.

Fred noted that he and Shirley Ackland were looking at putting together a group of North Island representatives to work on a strategy and develop a communications plan, and bring people to the North Island to show them what we are doing in the way of sustainable forestry here.

Jack noted that the union has started a 'working forest campaign' to support the ongoing sustainable harvest of the forest.

Action Item 33: Keep NWAC members up to date on the initiative to form a coalition of industry, business and community representatives to respond to the UBCM resolution to ban all future logging of old growth on Vancouver Island.

Responsibility: Fred Robertson and Shirley Ackland

Due Date: Ongoing in 2016-17

6. Review of Draft Revisions to Criterion 5 Indicator Targets: Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP

Annemarie reminded NWAC members that, last year, they had requested that there be revisions to the Criterion 5 Indicator targets that better reflect the wishes of members. Kelly noted that she had been discussing these revisions with management and that she would be bringing more drafts for the group to review at future meetings. Kelly noted that one of the additional targets under Indicator 5.1.1 would include having a senior WFP representative meet with NWAC members at least once every two years, to discuss topics of interest to members.

There was a discussion of how many times senior management should be expected to attend meetings and it was agreed that the proposed target was reasonable, and that members could ask for a greater frequency of meetings with senior management on an as needed basis.

It was agreed to accept the proposed new target for Indicator 5.1.1, as discussed at the meeting, and to bring more proposed target revisions to Criterion 5 indicators to the February 9, 2017 meeting.

7. Review of Draft 2017 NWAC Meeting Schedule: Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP

It was noted that someone from quality control or fibre supply could address residue in second growth harvesting sites. It was noted that the use of waste residue in second growth should include a look at the ecological value of the residue to the forest and incorporate the concept of utilization generally.

Action Item 34: Source an appropriate speaker or speakers to address the role and use of waste residue in second growth harvest areas for the May 25, 2017 NWAC meeting in Woss.

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon

Due Date: May 25, 2017

Pat noted he would like a discussion of the UBCM resolution to ban all future logging of old growth on Vancouver Island at the joint NWAC/VINWAG meeting on October 26, 2017, and to have Ben Isitt be part of a panel to discuss this issue, along with representatives from WFP and North Island communities.

Action Item 35: Bring together a panel of presenters, including Ben Isitt for UBCM, WFP and North Island community representatives for the joint October 26, 2017 meeting to discuss the UBCM resolution to ban all future logging of old growth on Vancouver Island.

Responsibility: Fred Robertson, Shirley Ackland, Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

Due Date: October 26, 2017

Action Item 36: Confirm the presenters for the 2017 meeting schedule and bring back to the February 9th meeting for confirmation and adoption so the schedule can be posted on the PAG website and members can plan their attendance.

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch
Due Date: January 26,2017

8. Distribution and Discussion of 2017 Participant Satisfaction Survey: Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP

Kelly noted that the auditor had questioned the low participation in the survey in the past and she asked members to consider ways to increase their response levels to the survey, and how they would like to respond to the survey, for example, through an open discussion at the meeting.

Members agreed to fill out their surveys prior to leaving the meeting and to provide input on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

There was a discussion of how long it takes to address some of the action items, eg. the action item related to loss of petroleum products.

It was agreed to commit to dealing more consistently with ongoing action items in future and to review long standing action items in future to see if they can be addressed, and determine jointly whether the action items, if they can't be addressed, should remain on the list.

Action Item 37: Include a report on environmental issues such as non-reportable oil spills and slides in future operational updates.

Responsibility: Trevor Egely

Due Date: Ongoing

It was agreed that members would get their responses on the survey in to Kelly by December 8th.

9. Next Meeting:

Annemarie noted that, further to the draft 2017 meeting schedule, the next meeting was scheduled for February 9, 2017 at Black Bear Resort in Port McNeill, and would include a presentation on WFP's safety strategy and net carbon uptake.

Annemarie and Kelly thanked members for their ongoing commitment to NWAC and bid them a safe journey home.