

Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes March 27,2014
Black Bear Resort Port McNeill, BC

Attendance: Kelly McMahon, Ray Lutz, Buzz Walker, Pat English, Bill Nelson, Jack Miller, Gaby Wickstrom, Trevor Egely

Regrets: Rachel Dalton, Paul Barolet, Jessie Moore

Facilitator: Annemarie Koch

Notes: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

Introduction and Safety Procedures and Review of Minutes and Action Items:

Annemarie 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 previous meeting minutes and action items;
- To discuss the schedule of meetings and presenters for 2014;
- To review the annual report;
- To confirm the date of the next meeting.

Annemarie then reviewed the minutes and action items from the December12 meeting.

The following action items from December 12th were reviewed:

Action Item: Trevor to keep NWAC members posted on a possible presentation on WFP's sustainability metrics approach.

It was noted that the Chief Forester will be making a presentation on succession within the company on October 23, but that a date for a presentation on WFP's sustainability metrics approach had not yet been set. Kelly noted that she would keep NWAC members posted on this.

Action Item: It was agreed that Dean Hunchuk of MOFLNRO should be invited to make a presentation on wood waste policies and issues at one of the meetings in 2014.

Annemarie noted that this was a good time to discuss a possible list of speakers for 2014 and invited NWAC members for their input. It was agreed that Dean should be invited to the April 17th meeting to make a presentation on wood waste policies.

Pat noted he was engaging a consultant to look at strategic sectors in the region and noted that one of these would likely be forestry. He noted that either he or the consultant could make a presentation at the September 18th meeting.

There was a discussion of having a presentation on the youth forestry training initiative at the November 27th meeting. Bill suggested inviting other people and high school students to the presentation on November 27th.

It was agreed to try and get Dean to make his presentation on April 17th or June 5th.

Action Item: Keep NWAC members posted on the progress of WFP's sustainable metrics initiative.

Kelly noted that she did not have anything to report yet but that she would keep NWAC members posted on the sustainable metrics initiative.

It was agreed that this will be ongoing.

Action Item: come up with a satisfactory description for when SAFE company certification is required.

Annemarie noted that Kelly had followed up on this action item and would be addressing it during her review of the annual report.

Jack noted that he wanted to see people pay more attention internally to the loss of petroleum products in routine operations. He suggested that maybe some sort of policy that promotes better design and practices should be created to address the routine loss of materials such as oil.

Trevor suggested quantifying loss of petroleum products and what is recyclable.

The next meeting dates were confirmed as April 17, June 5, September 18, October 23, November 27.

The minutes were adopted as reviewed with the following action items:

- 1. Action Item:** Look at ways and means of generating greater awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of preventing loss of petroleum products such as oil.
- 2. Action Item:** Kelly to invite Dean Hunchuk to the April 17th meeting to make a presentation on wood waste policies, invite Pat English to coordinate a presentation on the region's forest sector analysis on September 18th, and invite a representative of the youth forestry training initiative to make a presentation on November 27th.
- 3. Action Item:** Annemarie to post the 2014 Schedule of meetings on the PAG website.

Review of 2013 Annual Report: Kelly McMahon

Kelly noted that she had dealt with the action item to provide a satisfactory description for when SAFE company certification is required in the current draft of the 2013 annual report.

Kelly noted that she would try to hit the highlights of the report but that she wanted to review all of the indicators, if time permitted. She started with Indicator 1.1.1. It was noted that second growth harvesting was reflected in the results of this indicator.

- 4. Action Item:** Kelly to distribute a pdf of the presentation on the annual report to members.

There was a discussion of how age classes are measured and what this means to sustainability and ecological diversity.

It was noted that the high percentage of 121-250 year old trees was currently inaccessible, e.g. at higher altitudes.

Degree of within stand retention was reviewed. Kelly noted that the targets were being met, but that retention was not as high in many of the EFZ zones.

Jack asked about the effects of blowdown on retention. It was noted that retention zones are generally designed to take wind into consideration, using windfirming.

Gaby questioned the applicability of variable retention in a region where wind is such a major factor.

Trevor noted that the company does want to continue with variable retention as a strategy.

Kelly reviewed the degree of habitat protection for species such as marbled murrelet. She noted that the reduction of area for murrelet habitat was reduced due to ground-truthing.

Kelly reviewed the degree of protection for suitable habitat for long term focal species and noted this hadn't changed.

Kelly confirmed that all trees planted in the DFA are native and not genetically modified.

There was a discussion of trials to produce a western red cedar that was unpalatable to deer. It was agreed this might be a great future presentation.

5. Action Item: Kelly to seek a presenter to review research on making cedar trees deer-resistant.

Kelly then walked NWAC members through an example of how a post harvest assessment relates to some of the indicators in the annual report. She noted, for example, how she confirms retention areas, location of bear dens (which are marked by high stumps) and karst features (which are marked with high stumps, to prevent debris going into sinkholes for example). She noted that a number of karst features were protected in the retention zone.

It was noted that good harvest instructions can allow for good recovery. It was noted that this particular block was heavily underlain by karst.

Kelly noted that the company had caught up with post harvest assessments and that habitat features had been protected on all of the blocks.

Kelly noted that the protected areas had remained much the same in the DFA, but that the spatial data from the year before had included a takeback from BCTS so a correction had been made.

Kelly reviewed the protection of sacred and cultural sites. She noted there were 8 blocks where management strategies had been put in place. She reviewed areas that had been managed as sacred sites and for karst and that the strategies had been followed.

Kelly reviewed reforestation success and that all obligations had been met.

Kelly reviewed percent consistency with time to control fires. She noted there had been three fires last year and that all had been responded to within 24 hours. There was a discussion of one of the fires caused by pile burning and it was noted that it was a judgment call as to whether the target had been met or not.

Kelly reviewed the deletions and additions to the forest area and that the target had been met.

Kelly reviewed the proportion of LTHL that is actually harvested and noted that the company was on track with cut controls.

Kelly noted that the second target around billable waste and residue, reflecting heli and conventional harvesting.

Kelly noted there were zero landslides to report in 2013. Trevor noted it was unseasonably dry and that the lack of landslides reflects the weather patterns.

Kelly reviewed the soil disturbance indicator and noted that targets had been met.

She noted that the target for the level of woody debris had been met. The report-out on watersheds She reviewed the amount of harvesting that has gone on in each of the watersheds in the DFA, noting some are more sensitive than others.

Kelly reviewed some of the management concerns within each watershed.

Kelly reviewed net carbon uptake. She noted the numbers were lower this year, noting this might have had to do with the heli log levels.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.1.1. Jack asked if there was a time when not harvesting the hembal heli was going to create a problem. Trevor said that efforts were being made to address this, e.g. partitioning, taking costs and markets into consideration.

Kelly noted that the campsite program is doing well and that local students are being hired to provide maintenance.

Kelly noted that EBIDTA has more than doubled, due to a rebounding U.S. and Chinese markets.

Kelly noted that capital spending increased quite a bit in 2013, and noted that the person collecting the data had done a meticulous job.

Kelly reviewed local spending and Gaby suggested putting all of the North Island areas together to clearly separate the region from Campbell River and the south Island.

- 6. Action Item:** put all of the North Island areas together to clearly separate the region from Campbell River and the south Island in the Indicator related to local spending in the next annual report.

Kelly reviewed the level of training, referring to the loggers fundamental training course.

Kelly reviewed a table of where employees live who work or contract for the company. She noted that the data from LeMare was missing.

Pat asked if the figures would change if part-time or seasonal employment were added.

Kelly reviewed volume harvested by contractors.

Kelly reviewed the First Nations-related indicators. She noted she had totally accurate man hours for First Nations employment in 2013. Kelly reviewed the agreements with First Nations. She reviewed the evidence of relationships with First Nations, including pre-treaty meetings.

Kelly reviewed the referrals to First Nations, e.g. for plan reviews.

She reviewed the protection of culturally important areas, noting the practices that are used.

She reviewed the indicator around support for the local economy, noting the locally sold volume was increasing slightly.

Kelly reviewed the salvage volume sold, including minor products to burn and windthrow salvage.

Kelly reviewed the health and safety indicator and noted that the intent had been met. She noted she had already addresses the SAFE certification.

Kelly noted that the participant satisfaction survey had been carried out and that it had been recommended that youth be engaged and that broader representation be sought.

Kelly reviewed the NWAC presentations, including one on goshawks and regional heritage.

She reviewed the efforts to engage First Nations, including invitations to attend meetings.

Kelly reviewed educational outreach activities, including National Forestry Week and a railway and dryland sort tour. She noted that Carihi had been taken on a tour thanks to Bill.

Kelly reviewed the SFMP availability and lists of research.

7. Action Item: Kelly to circulate a list of current research projects.

Next Meeting:

Annemarie noted that the next meeting was scheduled for April 17, 2014.

The following dates were confirmed for the 2014 meeting schedule: April 17, June 5, September 18, October 23 and November 27.

Annemarie thanked everyone for coming, bid them a safe journey home.