

**VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH WOODLANDS ADVISORY GROUP  
(VINWAG)  
Western Forest Products Inc.  
Community Advisory Group  
Minutes of Meeting June 27, 2013**

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**Attendance:**

Jeff Houle, Small Contractors	Lisa Lenarduzzi, Small Contractors
Jon Flintoft, WFP	Fred Robertson, Youth and Education
Dave Trebett, Tourism and Recreation	Dave Steele, WFP
Ray Harper, Labour	Dale Dorward, Small Business
Patrick Donaghy, Local Government	Steve Lacasse, Environment
Janet Dorward, Local Government	Tom Doak-Dunelly, Member at Large
Vadim Stavrov, Large Contractors	

**Presenter:** Jeff Long, Director of Corporate and Development Services, District of Port Hardy

**Regrets:** Chrissy Chen, Paula Galloway, Aquaculture, Gaby Wickstrom, Port McNeill and District Chamber of Commerce, Ione Brown, NICFLP

**Observers:** Clint Cadwallader, WFP, Matthew Tjepkema, WFP, Ann MacDonald, RDMW, Kathleen Janz, WFP Summer Student

**Advisors:** Paul Barolet, 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 by Jeff Long on the local government planning issues associated with the privatization of lands in TFL 6 (including mandatory Criterion Five discussion item, benefits for local communities and aboriginal people), review the results of the external audit held in April, review open membership positions and sectors, discuss a request from WFP to remove Block 4 from TFL 39 and add it to TFL 6, continue a discussion of SFMP indicators and targets and confirm the date and potential topics of the joint meeting with NWAC in September and discuss the September field trip.

Annemarie invited everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the presenter, and new observers who were attending the meeting.

## **2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS**

Annemarie asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the previous 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 five new action items developed during the course of this meeting. Action items that were completed were dropped from the list and revised indicators were retained as modified.

ACTION ITEMS					
#	Item	Responsibility	Initiation Date	Target Date	Completion Date
69	Ask MOFLNRO appraisal staff to provide a presentation or information on how stumpage and royalties are calculated	Jon Flintoft	October 14, 2010	November 28 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	
106	Carry over old Indicator 38, number of new hires as a locally developed indicator and make the target a reporting out initially	Jon Flintoft	September 22, 2011	Next SFMP Update	
119	Recommend possible energy sector representatives and a speaker for VINWAG	Dale Dorward Annemarie Koch	April 26 <sup>th</sup> ,2012	Sometime in 2013	
124	Draft new target for volume of wood sold locally, for Indicator 6.3.1 that connects requests with volume	Jon Flintoft	June 14,2012	Next Annual Report	
130	Seek a new representative for fish and wildlife interests	Jon Flintoft and Annemarie Koch	November 8,2012	September 12, 2013	
135	Consider adding a karst representative to the group, approach Dave Wall of Strategic Forest Management	Jon Flintoft/Dave Trebett	February 28,2013	Completed	
137	Continue to develop an appropriate target for Indicator 5.2.3, level of employment	Jon Flintoft	April 11,2013	Next Annual Report	
138	Find a way to footnote ongoing changes to the Terms of Reference	Annemarie Koch	April 11,2013	Next update to Terms of Reference	
139	Obtain maps showing operating areas on the DFA that can be reviewed by VINWAG members prior to harvesting	Jon Flintoft	April 11,2013	September 12, 2013	
140	Follow up on engaging youth in SFMP, e.g. make presentation to logger essentials training students	Fred Robertson/Jon Flintoft/A. Koch	June 27,2013	Ongoing - July 2013	
141	Add Dave Wall as karst representative	Jon Flintoft	June 27,2013	Completed	
142	Provide further information on the potential labour, cut distribution and Bill 13 implications of transferring TFL 39 Block 4 to TFL 6	Jon Flintoft/Clint Cadwallader	June 27,2013	Before September 12, 2013	
143	Invite a speaker to address the role of coarse woody debris in forest ecosystems	Paul Barolet	June 27,2013	For 2014 meeting schedule	
144	Add another table to the meeting venue	Jon Flintoft	June 27 <sup>th</sup>	October 24, 2013	

Annemarie noted that action items 119, 130 and 135 would be discussed later in the meeting under agenda item 5. She noted that Jon had asked that action item 139 be carried over to the joint meeting with NWAC in September, as the mapping department's priority has been WFP's 20 Year Plan project. She noted that the rest of the action items were ongoing, would be discussed in part under agenda item 7 later in the meeting, or pending and 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 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SALE OF FORMER PRIVATE LANDS IN TFL 6 : JEFF LONG, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, DISTRICT OF PORT HARDY**

Annemarie introduced the speaker and reminded VINWAG members that Neil Smith had requested a presentation on this topic about a year ago, when Jeff Long was still planner at the Regional District. She thanked Jeff for agreeing to make his presentation even if it was not technically within his current mandate as director of corporate services for the District of Port Hardy.

Jeff noted that he had a background in land use planning and had been with the Regional District of Waddington for three years prior to becoming the director of corporate services for the District of Port Hardy.

Jeff explained that his experience previously at the Comox Strathcona Regional District had introduced him to the impacts of privatization of TFL lands.

He noted that TFL's were generally outside the purview of local government planning tools. He outlined the planning tools that have been used historically to deal with pockets of private rural lands in the regional district. He then reviewed the lands that had been removed from TFL within the Regional District. He pointed to private lands still owned by WFP and others that had been sold by WFP to other parties.

He explained how Bylaw 21, the zoning bylaw for rural regional areas, works. He reviewed some of the media coverage on issues with private lands in the Comox Strathcona Regional District. He reviewed parts of the auditor general's report in July 2008 on the removal of private lands from TFL's, noting that the auditor general felt that removal was premature and that there was a lack of consultation. He noted that, from the Regional District's perspective, the question was whether they had enough planning regulations in place to deal with the resulting development on these private lands. He noted, for example, that developments that proceed without good planning controls could lead to stresses on the local government's ability to provide services.

Jeff noted that local governments would leave themselves vulnerable under these circumstances if they did not pursue and develop good planning practices and measures. He noted there was a need to work through design issues, access and possible servicing needs. He noted that one of the first things the Regional District looked at to address this was to make changes to rural zoning.

Jeff noted that the Regional District looked at increasing the lot size in the rural zone in order to prompt a rezoning process for any major developments, and allow time to deal with development issues.

Jeff reviewed how regional government operates on the North Island. He acknowledged that we don't have the same development pressures here on the North Island that there are on the south island. He added that this did not mean that local government shouldn't be prepared for these development pressures.

He noted that another approach of pre-zoning lands was suggested and added that, while this approach might have been ideal, there weren't the resources to implement this over such a large area as this region.

He concluded that the planning approach to increase minimum lot size became the preferred approach.

Jeff went on to discuss how the subdivision approval process works. He explained that, the subdivision process is overseen by the Ministry of Transportation. He noted that this makes it challenging for local government to oversee and manage development. He gave the example of a development on Alice Lake initiated by Brookfield Residential Properties Inc. in 2011. Jeff described the development plan and noted the challenges of topography, flooding and slides, and pointed to environmental sensitivities around sewage disposal and potable water on the lake. He noted that the Ministry of Transportation undertook the subdivision referral, and the Regional District submitted a subdivision referral report that included comments reflecting concerns in the regional plan and the rural zoning bylaw, such as concern for the impact and implications of the proponent's maximization of development density, e.g. access, servicing, terrain, determination of property boundaries, environmental issues such as sewage disposal and potable water.

Jeff noted that the developer did not seem to want to look at suggested planning controls and alternatives and wanted to proceed on the basis that there were limited development restrictions on the property. He pointed to some of the things for local government to consider, e.g. is this good long term economic development? Is road access to the site acceptable and public? Is the development good planning?

Dale asked whether the developer was looking at a water access only subdivision. Jeff noted that this was exactly what the developer was looking at.

Jeff referred back to the Regional District's report to the Ministry of Transportation. He asked Ann to address to road access issue. She noted that one of the conditions was to ensure legal access to the campground. Jeff noted that neither the Province nor the Regional District wanted to take over the roads. Ann noted the forest company did not want to give up control of the road either. Ann noted that the road is now a Forest Service Road.

Jeff noted that it was better for developers to come into an area with a view to listening to and addressing local concerns.

Patrick drew attention to the issue of forest service access road to Winter Harbour from Holberg. He asked what the service to maintain the road would be once there was no industrial activity in the area.

Jeff stressed that it was the role of the planner to identify and address issues such as ongoing maintenance of access, for example.

Jeff noted that many of the issues should have been addressed by the developer but weren't. He felt the problem arose from a couple of sources including lack of notice to local government that these lands would be removed from the TFL.

Jeff noted that staff brought forward suggestions to make changes to the rural zone to build provisions to give developers some options to consider, such as cluster zones in exchange for access to potable water, management of environmental concerns, e.g. riparian habitat and establishment of reserves.

He noted Bylaw 832 amended the rural zone to include provisions for allowing flexibility to developers that would contribute to their marketing. He noted the new bylaw was more a carrot than a stick to manage development.

He stressed that, if the Alice Lake developer had cooperated with local government in the first place, the project would likely have proceeded much faster and would likely have cost less.

Steve asked about regulation around environmental concerns, e.g. overlapping what forest companies currently do.

Ray asked why anyone would buy a lot when they could lease one on Victoria Lake. Jeff noted some people like to own their land.

Fred asked about Camp Henderson, noting that it had been privatized and was now owned by Brookfield Residential and that insurance was now required for the use of the site and it is no longer feasible for most groups to use the site. He lamented the loss of this previously community resource.

Jeff noted that Camp Henderson is also under application for subdivision by Brookfield Residential. He acknowledged the potential loss of this previously public asset.

Patrick noted that it was Camp Henderson that first brought the issues of the privatization of forest lands to the Regional District's attention, e.g. consideration of the future of recreational areas in the region.

Dale noted that people aren't used to privately owned lands up here and that this is the situation elsewhere. Dale noted that the forest companies own the land and that we have been using the lands at the good graces of WFP up until now.

There was a discussion of whether the lands were a community resource. Jeff noted that the RD might have picked up some of these lands, had there been more opportunity for consultation. He noted that the prices that the land went for were very affordable.

Annemarie thanked Jeff for his presentation.

#### **4.0 REVIEW OF 2013 EXTERNAL AUDIT RESULTS: JON FLINTOFT**

Annemarie thanked everyone who participated in the audit. Jon noted that WFP had retained its certification. He reviewed the EMS and CSA results with the group.

He noted that the auditor only found one opportunity for improvement with the CSA review, and had suggested a wording change on the indicator related to safety. He noted that the auditor felt the indicator wasn't descriptive enough. He noted that the auditor suggested adding a reference to contractors for this target. Jon noted that his response was to take the suggestion under consideration. Dale wondered whether it set a precedent to include contractors in the target. Jon noted that it did not necessarily mean that contractors would have to be added to all targets.

Fred asked what the impact would be if contractors were added to the target. There was a discussion of the implications of adding contractors to the target. There was general agreement from members that the target was adequate as it is now.

Jon noted that, under EMS, there were a couple of issues that arose during the audit, including opportunities for improvement around how tanks are inspected and an area of concern for a tank that had not been inspected. He noted that, as a result of this audit, all the operations now have a detailed inspection checklist and that routine monitoring and follow-up take place. Jon referred to a matrix that was being used so that the area of concern does not arise again.

Jon noted a few areas of opportunities for improvement in EMS, including plans for reporting of spills. Jon noted that the response was to make room on the form for documentation of discussions with PEP and MOE.

Jon noted the chain of custody was clean.

Tom noted he had participated in the field tour for this audit and that he was impressed with the thoroughness of the auditor. He noted there have been general questions in industry at large as to audit rigor (particularly given the short timetables for audits) and whether anyone with certification will ever see it pulled. He presented a discussion about a bridge approach on Marine Drive 100 as an example of good attention to detail, pointing out that the auditor demonstrated that he was looking for situations where there were non-conformances and, hence, illustrating and employing the strength in the audit process.

He added a second example of the auditor's attention to detail, pointing out how the auditor was watching a grader operator very closely on approach to and over another bridge on Marine Drive Main so that he could examine the operator's technique (was material being carried onto the bridge deck?, was material

being pushed over the side into the waterway? etc.). He added that the auditor followed up by interviewing the operator and, in answer to a later question, demonstrated from the interview that he had examined performance on eight points across the three standards being audited. Tom noted this again demonstrated a high level of care and skill of the auditor to validate objective performance to the standards, from what otherwise seemed to be a casual conversation.

Tom concluded with his observations on a discussion on a harvested area in the DFA across from Port Alice Marina and the viewscape considerations which went into determining the cut block boundaries. He noted that Western had retained expertise and undertaken modelling which indicated a larger area could have been acceptable though ultimately chose to go with a smaller area. Tom observed that if the original boundaries had been adopted, there would have been a far greater likelihood of negative feedback from residents of Port Alice or visitors (the latter in turn who may leave negative comments about the area on travel websites & blogs). In reducing the area taken at this time, he felt it was a good example of what he would call "a common sense test" which Western should consistently employ as a cross-check to what more detailed technical analysis may yield, to consistently ensure good outcomes.

Tom said he felt WFP should be very satisfied with the day, that he felt everyone had done their jobs very well and that it was a good result for the company.

Jon noted the auditor was very impressed with the high level of environmental awareness throughout the operation.

## **5.0 REVIEW OF OPEN MEMBERSHIP SECTORS: JON FLINTOFT, WFP AND ANNEMARIE KOCH**

Annemarie reviewed the sectors that had been filled, and noted that, while she had sent her regrets for this meeting, Gaby Wickstrom had agreed to represent the Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce and Town of Port McNeill and had indicated she would be at the next meeting. She welcomed Lisa Lenarduzzi of Strategic Forest Management and noted she would be filling the small contractors sector, added that lone Brown would be representing the North Island Community Forest, and advised members that tourism and recreation sector alternate Linda Philipp had passed away recently. Members of VINWAG expressed their appreciation for Linda's participation in VINWAG from its inception, first as a parks representative and finally as a representative for tourism and recreation. All expressed sadness at Linda's passing.

Annemarie then summarized the sectors that still needed to be filled, including energy, youth and karst.

Dale noted that Dave Cousins of the wind farm project would likely represent the energy sector.

Fred noted that he was a little reluctant to represent youth on VINWAG and he noted he had looked at some other ways to represent youth on VINWAG, other than asking them to attend meetings. Fred noted that he had talked to a number of people to try and establish a target group for youth. He noted that he talked to Jay Dixon at NISS about a career prep program and to Randy Boas about the logger essentials training program. He added that he would also approach North Island College to try and engage young people in a dialogue about where they see themselves in the industry on the North Island. He suggested that VINWAG help guide a discussion with young people about how they might see themselves in the industry in future. Fred suggested talking to different groups of youth to increase their awareness of sustainable forest management.

Steve asked whether someone from the school district might like to sit at the table. Fred noted that the intent was more to engage youth directly. Patrick agreed that this direct exposure would be helpful. Fred noted that WFP was way ahead of schools and colleges with its training initiatives.

Fred noted that listening to youth about issues related to sustainable forest management would be what was intended. Tom noted that this type of engagement and fresh perspectives might lead to development of some new indicators and targets.

It was agreed to work with Fred to first of all make a presentation to Randy Boas' logger training students about the role of VINWAG in the sustainable forest management process and to follow up with the

schools and North Island College with efforts to engage and make youth more aware of sustainable forest management.

Dave said Dave Wall had agreed to sit as a karst representative and that he would likely attend the next meeting.

Patrick noted that Neil Smith had left the Regional District. Annemarie noted that, with Neil's departure from the Regional District, there might be a need to fill the alternate position for that sector.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION OF WFP'S REQUEST TO REMOVE BLOCK 4 FROM TFL 39 AND MOVE IT TO TFL 6: JON FLINTOFT, WFP**

Annemarie noted that she had circulated a copy of WFP's request to VINWAG with the agenda two weeks ago and explained that the company was seeking input from the public advisory group on the proposed transfer of Block 4 from TFL 39 to TFL 6, as the block is already, for all intents and purposes, within the Defined Forest Area for VINWAG's Sustainable Forest Management Plan. She invited to Jon to add any further explanation of the request.

Jon described where the TFL 39 blocks are, including Block 4. He gave a history of the blocks in TFL 39. He explained that Block 4 will have its own determined AAC and that the timeline for this management plan is likely November of this year, with a determination late this year or early next year. He noted that the transfer was essentially an administrative change that would make the management more seamless under one TFL. He noted nothing would change from VINWAG's perspective and that the block would still be part of the SFMP and the DFA.

Dale asked if this would affect any sales of land, should WFP decide to sell parts of their TFL. Jon noted he wasn't certain of the implications in this regard under the Forest Act, but he noted that the pieces could still be subdivided for future sale.

Patrick asked how cut levels for each block are calculated. Jon noted that AAC's would be blended following a transfer and that Mike Davis does this sort of thing and could speak to this at a future meeting. Patrick noted that VINWAG should know about this transfer if it were to result, for example, in movement of crews within the different divisions in the DFA.

Tom asked if there were any labour agreements in place that could be affected. Jon noted that potentially this could be the case with some of the contractors. There was a further discussion of the labour implications. Ray explained how the system worked and did not see an immediate issue, though he acknowledged there might be one in future.

Tom asked whether there was a mandatory public process for consultation. Jon noted that WFP was getting out in front of this issue by taking the request to First Nations and representatives of the public.

Fred noted that this seemed to be a little more than a simple administrative transfer of lands and asked for further information. It was agreed to request further clarification from WFP around potential issues related to the transfer such as labour, cut distribution levels and contractors' Bill 13 rights. It was agreed that this information would be distributed to members by email, prior to the next VINWAG meeting.

## **7.0 ONGOING DISCUSSION OF SFMP INDICATORS AND TARGETS: JON FLINTOFT, WFP**

Jon noted that he and Paul had been talking about a new target for coarse woody debris. He reviewed the two existing targets for this indicator. He invited Paul to talk about ways to perhaps revise and develop these targets. Paul described how coarse woody debris is currently measured and reported out by Ministry staff. He noted that the Ministry does have data, including waste and residue data. He added that, if the group was only concerned about 4 or five pieces per hectare, this target would essentially be achieved by default every year. He noted that, if the group was interested in the role of coarse woody debris in forest ecology, he could bring someone in to talk about this, and then the group could determine whether they even want to keep this target, in that there are many qualitative as well as quantitative aspects to the management of coarse woody debris, e.g. wildlife mobility, soil pH.

Steve noted that CWD was already something that WFP had to manage anyway. He agreed that there might not be much sense having this target in the plan. It was noted that the target was auditable in any case.

It was agreed to ask Paul to invite someone to address the role of coarse woody debris for the 2014 schedule of meetings.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING:**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, September 12, as per the proposed schedule of meetings confirmed by the membership. Annemarie noted that the September meeting would be a joint meeting with the Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee, and that it would be held in the meeting room at Black Bear Resort. She noted that the proposed topic was a Criterion 4 mandatory discussion item, biomass energy initiatives. She pointed out that the presentation was going to be about one and a half hours and that there wouldn't be much time to discuss regular VINWAG business. In light of this, Annemarie asked if members would consider another meeting on October, 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss regular business such as SFMP indicators. Jon offered to invite Mike Davis to talk about TFL 39 and the implications of the proposed transfer of Block 4.

Annemarie noted that the joint meeting in September would be an opportune time for members of VINWAG and NWAC to discuss indicators and targets of joint interest, such as EBIDTA and coarse woody debris. She invited members of VINWAG to let her know by email if there were any other agenda items of joint interest that they might like to see on the agenda for the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Annemarie also reminded members of the annual field trip on September 13<sup>th</sup> and asked members for suggestions of what they might like to see on the field trip. Tom noted he would like to visit the dryland sort again and hear more about operations there. Steve asked that the Marble River Hatchery be included in the tour and it was suggested that the tour include a look at and discussion of bridge work.

Ray noted that there were a lot of people attending the meetings and suggested that there be a bigger venue. It was agreed to add a length of table to the room to accommodate four to six more people.

Annemarie and Jon thanked everyone for coming and wished them the best over the summer break.

<b>When:</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 12, 2013</b>
<b>Dinner:</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>