

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

**Western Forest Products Inc.
Community Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting February 23rd, 2012**

Attendance:

Jeff Houle, Small Contractors	Ray Harper, Labour
Jon Flintoft, WFP	Miles Trevor, Chamber of Commerce
Mike Pitre, WFP	Steve Lacasse, Environment
Mac Willing, Fish and Game	Dale Dorward, Small Business
Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public	Janet Dorward, Local Government
Dave Trebett, Tourism	

Presenters: Jane Hutton, Curator, Port Hardy Museum, Mac Willing, Retired MOE Ecologist

Regrets: Annemarie Koch, Facilitator, Ed Jackson, Observer, Ralph Wallas, Observer, Fred Roberts, Youth and Education, Paul Barolet, MFLNRO Observer, Bill Dame, Small Contractors, Roland Emery, Youth and Education, Vadim Stavrov, Large Contractors

Observers: Linda Philipp, prospective parks/recreation representative, Clint Cadwallader, WFP, Glenn Piggott, BCTS

Chairperson and Facilitator: Jon Flintoft

Minutes taken by: Mike Pitre and Linda Philipp

1.0 SAFETY AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jon 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. Jon reviewed the objectives of the meeting, namely to review the minutes and action items from the previous meeting, hear presentations by Port Hardy Museum curator Jane Hutton and retired MoE ecologist Mac Willing (including mandatory discussion items under Criterion One, namely locally available processes and methods for identifying sites with special biological and cultural significance), review updates to the SFMP and indicators, discuss results of the 2011 VINWAG participant satisfaction survey, review membership and contact information and confirm the date of the next meeting. Jon then invited everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the presenters.

2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Minutes of last meeting were reviewed.

It was noted that in the previous meeting's minutes, on pg. 7 (3rd paragraph), it should read "brood stock," not "broom stick."

Jon reviewed outstanding action items 44-115 with members and the results of the discussion are summarized in the table below, along with the addition of 1 new action item developed during the course of this meeting. Action items that were completed or changed were dropped from the list.

ACTION ITEMS					
#	Item	Responsibility	Initiation Date	Target Date	Completion Date
44	On-going review of discussion items	All Members	May 4, 2009	Ongoing	
69	Ask MOFLNRO appraisal staff to provide a presentation or information on how stumpage and royalties will be calculated in future	Jon Flintoft	October 14, 2010	Lorne Voysey, Sometime in 2012	
76	Approach Gord Glover to address Criterion 5 mandatory discussion items	Jon Flintoft	February 24, 2011	June 14, 2012	
84	Provide an update on the status of carbon trading and carbon credits (S. Janzen)	Jon Flintoft	December 2, 2010	Sometime in 2012	
91	Bring the discussion of the purpose of VINWAG forward on a regular basis	Jon Flintoft	February 24, 2011	Ongoing	
97	Add reference to page 106 of SFMP to reflect current practice of responding to member concerns as they arise	Jon Flintoft	April 14, 2011	Next draft of SFMP	Reviewed February 23, 2012
105	Establish a target that deals with the 'awareness' of or by WFP of or for local suppliers	Dale Dorward, Steve Lacasse, Miles Trevor and Jon Flintoft	June 23, 2011	Sometime in 2012	
106	Carry over the number of new hires as a locally developed indicator and make the target a reporting out initially	Jon Flintoft	September 22, 2011	Sometime in 2012	
108	Further investigate a new target for woody debris	Jon Flintoft	September 22, 2011	Next draft of SFMP	
110	Distribute a pdf copy of Ernie Sellentin's presentation	Jon Flintoft	November 24, 2011	February 23, 2012	Completed February 23, 2012
111	Review the tracking procedures for Indicator 27	Jon Flintoft	November 24, 2011	February 23, 2012	
112	Review WFP contributions under Indicator 45 to include assistance to Holberg fire dept., stickleback research, Hornsby and other areas for 2011 SFMP	Jon Flintoft	November 24, 2011	Next draft of SFMP	Reviewed February 23, 2012
113	Review and refine locally developed indicators	Jon Flintoft and members of VINWAG	November 24, 2011	February 23, 2012	
114	Distribute participant satisfaction survey to all VINWAG members digitally	Jon Flintoft	November 24, 2011	December 5, 2011	Completed
115	Respond to participant satisfaction survey	All VINWAG members	November 24, 2011	December 8, 2011	Completed
116	Investigate whether WFP contractors and sub-contractors are bound to the social parts of the SFM Plan.	Jon Flintoft	February 23, 2012	April 26, 2012	

The minutes were accepted as circulated/amended.

3.0 LOCALLY AVAILABLE PROCESSES AND METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING SITES WITH SPECIAL BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: PORT HARDY MUSEUM CURATOR JANE HUTTON AND RETIRED MOE ECOLOGIST MAC WILLING

Cultural Sites:

Jane Hutton's presentation focused on sites of special cultural significance, and the history of the North Island in general. Many of the historic settlements on the North Island are not very visible anymore. You may find some foundations, fences, holes in the ground, machines and graves, but the buildings are mostly gone. There used to be up to 1000 people living in the area between Holberg and Cape Scott. Fort Rupert was an early settlement settled by the Danes (American Danes) in 1897. They established a community and by 1909 there was ~60 residents. They left shortly thereafter since there was no road. Some of them moved to Holberg.

The Colony Land Grant brought some settlers and homesteaders. In 1912, the government opened up the entire North Island for homesteaders. The Norwegians came looking for gold. They opened a school near Holberg. Shushartie Bay had a really good harbour. People moved in during the 1890's and they had a store and a cannery in the early 1900's. This area was very isolated.

Some other settlements included San Josef Bay (cannery) which supplied logging / mining camps. Stranby (used to be called Cache Creek) had a small school. Sea Otter Cove had a post office, a school (1915) and they "borrowed" kids from Topknot to keep the school open. Telegraph Cove had a box making factory.

Port Hardy was originally on the opposite side of the bay, but it was eventually moved to the other side – where it sits now. During WWII, there was a large population boom. There were several crashes of military aircraft on the North Island during WWII. Recently, the 101 Squadron (of the Air Force Association of Canada) has been erecting cairns at or near several of these crash sites; they are now heritage sites.

Mining had a lot to do with the settlement of the North Island. Benson Lake had 60-70 men and several families. Coal Harbour, which had no real coal to speak of, had about 1500 people and a whaling station. Before the whaling station, there was a Royal Canadian Air Force seaplane station located here during WWI. Suquash was a big hope for the Hudson Bay Company, but the coal wasn't very good. From 1908 to 1932, the Pacific Coast Mines operated and has left lots of obvious relics.

Beaver Cove had a pulp mill and a saw mill by 1920. Englewood, in 1925, had 30 families and hundreds of families in the '50's. Port Alice had a post office and a pulp mill in 1917. Nimpkish Lake – the first aid man was the school teacher. There were 3 schools in the area by 1950.

It is difficult to find some of these places as there is no definite map. Jane has been working on trying to sort out where these are. There were some maps from the mines, but they need to be pieced together. Most traces of the settlements are gone now, or are difficult to find in the dense North Island brush. A person could walk right by some of these things and never know they did.

Biological Sites: (Directly quoted from presentation)

The identification of biological and cultural resources is one of the primary planning steps in preparing a Forest Stewardship Plan. Features of biological or cultural significance need to be located prior to any activity in order to ensure they are given the appropriate level of protection during road building and harvesting activities. A written plan detailing any actions required to protect these features must be prepared before any road building or harvesting takes place.

Forest Stewardship planning needs to consider more than the area covered by the proposed cut blocks. Biological and cultural resources in close proximity to the actual cut block may be impacted by road building or changes in drainage pattern brought about by harvesting activity.

A stand of trees is usually originally identified for harvest via air reconnaissance. A closer ground inspection follows to confirm the species mix, age and quality of the timber. During this ground recce, an inventory of riparian resources is made, mapping all streams and wetlands within the proposed block. Any riparian resources in close proximity of the proposed block are also mapped.

Streams: Once these riparian resources have been mapped, a closer inspection is made in order to classify each of the water courses. Some factors noted are:

- Wetted width of the stream channel
- Gradient
- Fish presence (species)

If a stream is identified as fish bearing, it is protected to ensure harvesting has a minimal impact on the resource.

Birds: During the initial block survey, staff also look for other biological features such as stick nests. These are usually found in old growth or larger 2nd growth trees. These nests are often identified by the presence of bird droppings on the bole of a tree as well as evidence of past meals found near the base of the tree. In the case of larger birds, like eagles, "plucking sites" are often in close proximity to a nesting tree.

Bears: Good denning sites are an essential component of black bear habitat. Dens are usually in bigger trees, particularly old growth cedar and fir. Den openings often have scratch and claw marks around the entrance with evidence of bear hair inside the opening.

Sometimes a forest stand is considered to be a valuable biological resource as it is a necessary component of an endangered species' habitat. Stands with specific characteristics are preserved as wildlife habitat areas or ungulate winter ranges. Many species, like the Marbled Murrelet and Spotted Owl, are secretive. Their habitats are often protected on a landscape basis. A percentage of the suitable habitat is reserved in higher level plans, such as the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan, as prescribed by Provincial regulation. These areas are usually identified by radar surveys and ground based observation.

Ungulate winter range stand characteristics include:

- a southerly aspect to capture solar radiation
- structure that provides rocky outcrops and openings for sunning
- adjacent areas of 70% closed canopy for snow interception
- presence of suitable forage species: elderberry, devil's club, sword and deer ferns, vaccinium/huckleberry and lichen droppings

Marbled Murrelet, a species at risk, have very specific nesting habitat requirements. These include:

- old growth hemlock / spruce or fir
- multi tiered canopy
- large diameter limbs for landing and nesting
- heavy epiphyte and moss growth on the branches
- stands are located between 500m to as much as 50 km inland from tide water .

Karst features are always identified and protected as biological resources. Several listed species are often associated with karst formations. Fish live in and move through karst formations. Several species of amphibians are specifically associated with karst. Karsts may be impacted by increased sediment loads in streams flowing into the karsts.

An awareness of the types of geographic locations where cultural and biological values may be concentrated will assist in improving the opportunity to add to information needed for stewardship planning. For example, First Nations cultural resources are often found in conjunction with important biological resources. Archaeological evidence of First Nation villages are often found near particularly productive riparian areas.

4.0 REVIEW OF UPDATES TO SFMP PLAN AND INDICATORS:

Some recommendations and areas of improvement were identified in recent audits (both internal and external) on the North Island SFMP. These updates include a review of the shared responsibility section of the SFMP to improve clarity and the inclusion of Management Review Conclusions. There were also some updates to indicator descriptions of indicators 2.2.1, 2.2.4, 6.4.1 and several others. Most were to improve clarity and the description of the indicators or how they are being managed. The indicators themselves were not changed.

Jon reviewed the 2011 results for indicators 1.3.1, 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 6.3.2, 6.3.3, 6.4.1, 6.4.2, 6.4.3, 6.4.4 and 6.5.1. A more thorough description of the results is attached to these minutes.

5.0 REVIEW OF 2011 PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION SURVEY: JON FLINTOFT, WFP

Jon reviewed the summary of the 2011 VINWAG Member Survey. This included some of the comments received as well as some recommendations drawn from the comments. A copy of the Summary of Results is attached to these minutes.

6.0 REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Jon reviewed the current VINWAG membership list. Jon gave an update on several members who have not attended recent meetings.

7.0 NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, April 26, 2012, as per the proposed schedule of meetings reviewed by the membership. Jon noted that Gord Glover would not be available until the June 14th meeting to address Criterion 5 mandatory discussion items, so he was making arrangements for Rod Negrave, MOFLNRO silviculture research manager, to address Criterion 3 mandatory discussion items on soil productivity, long term nutrient levels, shallow soils and best management practices for soil protection at the April 26th meeting.

Jon and Mike thanked everyone for coming.

When: APRIL 26, 2012
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.