

**VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH WOODLANDS ADVISORY GROUP
(VINWAG)
Western Forest Products Inc.
Community Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting February 24, 2011**

Attendance:

Dave Trebett, Tourism	Vadim Stavrakov, Large Contractors
Jon Flintoft, WFP	Roland Emery, Education and Youth
Steve Lacasse, Environment	Dave Poilievre, WFP
Ray Harper, Labour	Miles Trevor, Port McNeill Chamber
Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public	Mac Willing, Fish and Game
Dale Dorward, Small Business	Fred Robertson, Education and Youth Alternate

Presenter: Terry Lewis, Lewis Consulting

Regrets: Marne Svennes, North Island Employment Foundations Society, Interested Observer

Observers:

Chairperson and Facilitator: Annemarie Koch

Minutes taken by: Jon Flintoft, 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 from Terry Lewis on soil productivity and site rehabilitation in areas of severe soil disturbance (including mandatory discussion items under Criterion 3 regarding soil productivity, seasons of operations and site rehabilitation), discuss the creation of a new indicator for opportunities for local contractors and suppliers, review and discuss the results of the 2010 participant satisfaction survey, to review and update membership and to confirm the date of the next meeting. Annemarie then invited everyone to introduce themselves to Terry.

2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Minutes of last meeting were reviewed.

Annemarie reviewed outstanding action items 44-88 with members and the results of the discussion are summarized in the table below, along with the addition of seven new action items developed during the course of this meeting. Action items that were completed or changed were dropped from the list.

The minutes were accepted as reviewed.

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 MOF appraisal staff to provide a presentation or information on how stumpage and royalties will be calculated in future	Dave Poilievre	October 14, 2010	Spring of 2011	
71	Talk to members who haven't attended and determine if they wish to continue coming or suggest someone else who might represent their sector	Dave Poilievre	October 14, 2010	Early in 2011	
76	Approach Gord Glover to address Criterion 5 mandatory discussion items	Jon Flintoft	February 24, 2011	April, 2011	
83	Establish subcommittee to review membership representation and requirements around meeting attendance	Dave Poilievre	December 2, 2010	Spring of 2011	
84	Provide an update on the status of carbon trading and carbon credits (S. Janzen)	Jon Flintoft	December 2, 2010	Sometime in 2011	
85	Investigate opportunities for local people to participate in company training programs	Jon Flintoft	December 2, 2010	Ongoing	
86	Establish a measurable indicator for benefits to local suppliers	Jon Flintoft/VINWAG	December 2, 2010	Ongoing	
87	Make arrangements for a presentation of First Nations joint ventures in the DFA (Quatern)	Jon Flintoft	December 2, 2010	During 2011	
89	Distribute a copy of Terry Lewis's presentation and his email to VINWAG members	Jon Flintoft	February 24, 2011	March 2, 2011	
90	Approach managers and purchasing agents regarding local suppliers and contractors and the development of an inventory of required services and supplies locally	Jon Flintoft and Dave Poilievre	February 24, 2011	April 14, 2011	
91	Bring the discussion of the purpose of VINWAG forward on a regular basis	Jon Flintoft	February 24, 2011	Ongoing	
92	Put together a Friday field trip that includes mechanical harvesting for VINWAG members to consider	Jon Flintoft	February 24, 2011	Sometime in 2011	
93	Remove Randy Black, James Furney, Scott Gibson and Greg Smithson from membership list	Dave Poilievre	February 24, 2011	April 14, 2011	
94	Send out schedule of 2011 meetings to all members with meeting minutes	Jon Flintoft	February 24, 2011	March, 2011	
95	Establish criteria for meeting attendance	Dave Poilievre	February 24, 2011	April 14, 2011	

Jon confirmed that he had added all the locally developed indicators that had been discussed at previous meetings, except the indicator related to local suppliers and contractors, which was under discussion in item 4 of the meeting agenda.

It was suggested that Jon approach Gord Glover as a possible speaker to address Criterion 5 mandatory discussion items.

Steve asked about opportunities for local people to participate in training opportunities. Jon noted he would ask managers to see if there were spaces available, and then notify members by email of any opening that were available.

Jon noted that he had approached a few of the directors of Quatern to see if they wished to make a presentation on that First Nations joint venture. He noted he would let VINWAG members know as soon as he was able to pull this presentation together.

3.0 SITE/SOIL PRODUCTIVITY NORTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND, SEASONS OF OPERATION AND SITE REHABILITATION: PRESENTATION BY TERRY LEWIS, LEWIS CONSULTING

Terry noted that site productivity was a result of many elements, including climate and temperature, which is favourable overall on NVI, and precipitation, which is more than adequate. He added that, on NVI, the key to site productivity is the ability to shed excess water, not the ability to store water.

Terry reviewed what constitutes healthy soil, including physical, chemical, biological and micro-topographic elements. Terry noted that most of our soils are derived from weathered parent material.

Terry noted that, on NVI, much of the organic material sits as a layer on top of the soil. He pointed to the importance of the organic layer to feed the mineral layer below, and he added that living parts of the soil, such as micro-organisms are essential to productivity.

Terry pointed to the diversity of topographic sites on NVI.

Terry reviewed the various kinds of soil disturbance, including natural disturbance such as fire, windfall (key on NVI), mass wasting (locally important) and surface erosion (rare on NVI). Terry noted that windfall reduces density and increases porosity. He added that windfall generally has a positive effect on soil productivity, e.g. by mixing root and mineral material.

Terry noted that mass wasting (e.g. landslides) can set back soil development by many years. He explained that surface erosion tends to be rare on NVI because of the large amount of organic material on top.

Terry reviewed various types of management disturbance. He noted that these disturbances are evaluated in relation to the healthy soil concept, e.g. effect on physical, nutritional, biological and microtopographic properties. He reviewed disturbances resulting from road construction to logging to silviculture site preparation.

Terry referred to a 'corridor effect' where there is productive forest alongside roads. He noted that some of it is drainage related combined with well-drained, nutrient-rich soils.

Terry referred to the effects of site preparation for silviculture on soil productivity, e.g. resulting from compaction.

Terry reviewed the various types of logging systems, and how they result in soil disturbance, e.g. cable yarding versus ground based operations. He illustrated the types of disturbance related to various logging

methods in slides of sites throughout NVI forest operations. The slides included some rehabilitated backspars trails

Terry reviewed some of the issues around ground based logging disturbance, including compaction, rutting, displacement, scalping, deposits, mixing, surface erosion and reduced microtopography.

Roland asked about the recovery possibilities in an area that has been scalped. Terry noted that, overall, sites and soils on NVI tend to be resilient and easier to rehabilitate than drier, hotter sites. He noted that, if scalping is sporadic and small, the impacts are limited. He noted that, for more extensive damage, it was useful to bring in organic material or grass legume seeding.

Terry noted our ecosystem is fairly resilient and the rainfall helps, as well as the presence of species like red alder.

Ray asked about debris piles. Terry noted that piles were not too bad, as long as they are spaced and fairly loose. He noted that, if piles were too big, they should be scattered and mixed, to allow for a reasonable planting pattern.

Terry reviewed the NVI perspective, noting with a wet coastal climate has specific effects on soil disturbance and productivity that are different from interior soils, for example. He reviewed the effects of hoe-chucking and skidders on NVI soil productivity and noted that guidelines had been developed and been backed up and modified by research on the effects on productivity. Terry reviewed some of the potential impacts of hoe-chucking, such as rutting and loss of microtopography.

Terry used slides to illustrate other effects of hoe chucking such as surface erosion.

Terry reviewed the results of the research on the effects of hoe-chucking. He noted that, on the track itself, there has been some impact on productivity.

Roland asked how productivity was measured. Terry noted that the disturbance was controlled for purposes of monitoring impacts of the hoe-chucking method on productivity. He noted that the performance of the trees was measured to determine productivity.

Terry pointed to some of the variables in sites, including the presence of brush as competition. He noted that, because salal is such a good competitor, site disturbance due to hoe-chucking needs to be viewed in this context of other variables. Dave asked about the effects of the organic layer.

Terry reviewed a slide of an area where there was serious salal competition and it showed how the disturbed site could be more productive than the site with the salal.

Terry reviewed a site in the Woss area showing how the linear compacted track can result in lower productivity.

Terry referred to the relationship between productivity and nutrition and how fertilization programs have been used to address this.

Terry reviewed the issues around seasons of operation, and noted that weather is variable on the North Island and that the operator needs to put together deleterious effects caused by weather effects of the time with the situation at hand and address them.

Miles asked whether WFP makes an effort to use native species to rehabilitate sites and Jon responded that they do.

4.0 CREATION OF NEW INDICATOR ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS:

Annemarie explained the background for the need to develop this indicator. It was noted that the new indicators under the CSA Z809-08 standard did not include such an indicator, so it had to be carried over

as a locally developed indicator. Jon noted that it had been difficult to meet the targets of this indicator when it was in place previously. Dale suggested that compliance to understanding an indicator, or reporting out on the indicator, or development of a policy, might become the target, e.g. to support the community as much as possible.

Dale noted that he and Steve and Miles had discussed this matter and they acknowledged the efforts that WFP makes to engage local contractors and suppliers. He noted that there seemed to be a disconnect between VINWAG and getting to the people who make the decisions around letting contracts and purchasing supplies. He gave an example of his experience with selling log-marking paint. He noted that he did not feel that the major purchasing agents for WFP have any idea of who the local suppliers and contractors are in this area. He noted that it would be helpful to connect the decision-makers with what is available on the North Island in the way of supplies and contractors. Dale noted that WFP does not have a full understanding about what the North Island has to offer, and that it would be useful not only to local suppliers but to WFP if there were more information on what was available locally. He put the challenge out to WFP to get the word out to local contractors and suppliers regarding what they need. Steve suggested putting out the needs for supplies and contracts on the company website, in the same way that BC Bid works. He noted that this would give locals a chance to see what services are needed. Miles added that the company was being certified, but there were obvious disconnects between the people involved in the process and the people making the decisions around purchasing. He noted there was no way for the local community to determine what WFP wants or needs. He added that purchasing agents should be made aware that they should look locally for a service or contract first. Dale noted that products were being sourced from cheaper suppliers and many of the suppliers who were on the North Island were no longer here. He noted this seemed to be a chicken and egg situation. He suggested setting targets for local supply and service and give the challenge to the purchasing agents to meet these targets. He stressed that 'local' is north of Campbell River.

Fred asked if anyone has put together an inventory of services and products on the North Island. He noted that local government might be willing to take this on. Fred suggested that a person familiar with the needs of the company should be involved in putting the inventory together.

Dale noted that WFP has a number of contractors who are not sourcing things locally. He suggested that, using chain of custody, WFP's contractors should be looking locally as well. Dale noted that the dialogue needed to start with WFP.

It was agreed that Jon and Dave should approach their new managers, and follow up with discussions with purchasing agents, to determine if a target, in relation to a locally developed indicator for local suppliers and contractors, can be developed, and if an inventory can be put together to list all of the supplies and services required locally by WFP.

It was agreed that this is part of the CSA process to develop awareness and communication with the needs of local community members (Criterion 5 - Economic and social benefits; Element 5.2 – Communities and sustainability from the CSA Z809-2008 standard).

5.0 RESULTS OF 2010 PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION SURVEY:

Annemarie reviewed the results of the participant satisfaction survey. She noted that there were seven responses, and that those who responded were positive about the process and felt that the date, times and length of meetings were good.

She noted that a review of the responses pointed to some benefit of addressing the following areas, in the context of continual improvement:

- a. Confirmation around membership and what members feel is adequate representation;
- b. Some discussion around how to support and ensure meaningful input into the process;
- c. Some discussion around the concern that WFP is leading the process and members and that the 'advice' is essentially 'one way';
- d. Some discussion and recommendations around the terms of reference that address clear structure and roles in the decision-making process and whether we are fulfilling the terms of reference (i.e. how would we know?)

- e. Discussion of and recommendations around accountability and feedback for the recommendations made by members of the group;
- f. Reference to efforts made to ensure First Nations' involvement? Role of FNIEG?

Fred asked what the value of the process was and what were the results of the process had been. It was noted that WFP's CSA certification might be helping with sales to Rona and Home Depot.

Steve asked whether anything the group had done had contributed to better forest management practices, for example. Jon noted that being certified certainly helped WFP in relation to agencies like the Ministry of Natural Resources. He added that a certified company was seen more as a company that was making efforts at improving forest management practices.

Roland noted that, at the beginning of the CSA certification process, there were significant positive impacts of participating in the CSA certification initiative. Jon noted that, from a marketing perspective, it was helpful.

Ray noted that the process had changed how things are done in the bush. He added that the people in the field were doing things much differently and better now.

It was agreed to bring the discussion of the purpose of VINWAG forward on an ongoing basis.

Jon asked whether members were interested in taking a field trip at some point this year.

It was agreed that Jon should put together a field trip package for consideration by members.

Fred suggested he would like to see the operation of feller bunchers and newer harvesting techniques. It was suggested that the trip take place on a Friday.

6.0 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF MEMBERSHIP:

Dave distributed a current list of VINWAG members and their contact information. He reviewed attendance for 2010, noting some people had attended minimally or on a limited basis and others that were attending more regularly. Dave suggested that it might be useful to have some criteria for membership, setting the expectations of an active member. Tom noted that there was a logic to track attendance, if meetings were scheduled on a regular basis. Miles noted that if a meeting schedule were put out to members, they would be able to determine when they could attend.

It was agreed that Randy Black, James Furney, Scott Gibson and Greg Smithson should be removed from the list of members.

It was agreed to send out a schedule of the meetings for the rest of the year with the meeting minutes. It was agreed that Dave should establish meeting attendance criteria, as long as there is a stable schedule of meetings for members

7.0 NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on April 14, 2011, as per the proposed schedule of meetings reviewed by the membership. It was noted that Mike DesRochers or Steve Bowker could be invited address the fire management mandatory discussion item.

Jon noted that Kevin Robinson would be addressing VINWAG on June 23 and going out with the FNIEG group on a field trip on June 24. VINWAG members were invited to attend the field trip if they wished. It was suggested that the field trip include karst. Jon and Annemarie thanked everyone for attending and noted they looked forward to seeing them on April 14.

When: April 14th, 2011
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.