

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

**Western Forest Products Inc.
Community Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting September 11th, 2014**

Attendance:

Jon Flintoft, WFP	Gaby Wickstrom, Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce
Roger Briscoe, WFP	Steve Lacasse, Environment
Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public	Ray Harper, Labour
Janet Dorward, Local Government	Fred Robertson, Education
Dave Trebett, Tourism and Recreation	Jeff Houle, Small Contractors
Ben Trerise, Fish and Wildlife	

Presenter: Glynnis Horel, P.Eng Geo. Eng

Regrets: Joli White, Tourism and Recreation Alternate, Patrick Donaghy, Local Government, Lone Brown, NICFLP

Observers: Jessica Kessinger, WFP

Advisors: Paul Barolet, Stewardship Officer, 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 on monitoring and managing to prevent landslides (general information for Criterion 3 Soil and Water), have a general discussion on FNIEG, a retired foresters' tour, the Saanich Forestry Centre 50th anniversary celebrations and Pacific TSA Timber Supply Review, continue discussion on the 2013 annual report, discuss the September 12th field trip itinerary and confirm the date of the next meeting.

Annemarie invited everyone present to introduce themselves for the benefit of the presenter.

2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Annemarie asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the June 26th 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 3 new and one revised action item developed during the course of this meeting. For the benefit of new or recent members, Annemarie noted that she would be assuming all members had read their minutes and would not be taking additional time to go through them at the meeting, other than to deal with questions, changes and action items. Action items that were completed were dropped from the list and revised action items were retained as modified.

ACTION ITEMS					
#	Item	Responsibility	Initiation Date	Target Date	Completion Date
124	Use the 4,500 cubic metre target provided by Jon for the 2013 annual report, but work on a new target for volume of wood sold locally, for Indicator 6.3.1 that shows whether requests were responded to	J. Flintoft/A. Koch	June 14,2012	November 13,2014	
137	Use an increased variance for the 2013 annual report, but continue to discuss an appropriate target for Indicator 5.2.3, level of employment that reflects volume harvested	J. Flintoft/A.Koch	April 11,2013	November 13,2014	
140	Follow up on engaging youth in SFMP	Fred Robertson/Jon Flintoft/A. Koch	June 27,2013	Ongoing, in 2014	
152	Invite a MOFLNRO representative to further discuss the role and purpose of stumpage	Annemarie Koch	November 28,2013	Sometime in 2015	
156	Report on producing a map for recreationalists	Jon Flintoft	April 24,2014	November 13,2014	
158	Invite local RSTBC rec officer to talk about future plans for sites within the DFA and working with partners like WFP	Jon Flintoft	June 26,2014	Later in 2015	
160	Include factors like loss of AAC and technological change in the section on justification for the targets and variances for Indicator 5.2.3 and talk to Patrick about whether he would like to take on making some revisions to the present target	Jon Flintoft and Annemarie Koch	June 26,2014	November 13,2014	
161	Add reporting out on requests responded to, in the target for Indicator 6.3.1	Annemarie Koch	June 26,2014	November 13,2014	
163	Provide an update on the Pacific TSA Timber Supply Review	Jon Flintoft	September 11,2014	Later in 2015	
164	Incorporate new information available through digital aerial imagery in relevant indicators	Jon Flintoft	September 11,2014	For 2014 annual report	
165	Investigate getting a speaker to address new aerial imagery technology and LIDAR	Annemarie Koch	September 11,2014	Sometime in 2015	

Annemarie noted that she would be tackling action items 124, 137, 160 and 161 and trying to have draft targets ready for discussion at the November 13th meeting, and that items 154 and 162 had been completed prior to the meeting, though Dave Melville cancelled his attendance at the tour. She noted that the remaining action items were ongoing. She noted that there will be a new District Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) officer likely in December of this year so the target date for action item 158 should be moved to later in 2015. She noted that action item 159 had been completed and was in the 2013 annual report.

Annemarie referenced the wall map Jon had posted for review during dinner asked if anyone wanted to comment on or ask questions about WFP's proposed harvesting plans in the DFA.

Annemarie 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.

Paul asked to confirm that he still needed to source a speaker to address climate change at the November 13th meeting and Annemarie said yes, a speaker was needed to address this topic at the November meeting. Paul noted he was considering Andy McKinnon and Glynnis suggested Dave Spittlehouse at the research branch in Victoria.

The minutes were accepted as circulated.

3.0 MONITORING AND MANAGING TO PREVENT LANDSLIDES: GLYNNIS HOREL

Glynnis noted she had previously made a presentation in April and May 2007 to VINWAG on watershed management. She reviewed some of WFP's initiatives to address landslides, including the watershed management strategy and terrain risk management strategy.

Glynnis showed how a group of existing strategies relate to terrain management. She noted there were a variety of objectives that ranged from safety to environment to operations.

Glynnis reviewed some examples of values at risk, including safety, environmental and economic and social.

Glynnis noted that WFP now has new high resolution 3D digital photography of this region. She noted that this has provided an opportunity for an update of the landslide inventory. She pointed to how the imagery allows for very good assessment of windthrow and channel condition and windthrow-initiated landslides.

Glynnis pointed to the updates that had already been made, using the new imagery.

Glynnis reviewed the locations of landslides in the DFA, noting there had been a large number of slides in the area of LeMare Lake, for example. She noted that what happens with landslides is very closely related to climatic cycles, like the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) and El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO). She noted that the effects of climate change in our region had yet to be determined.

Glynnis reviewed the patterns of the PDO in relation to the storm patterns in this region and the resulting floods, landslides and windthrow.

Glynnis noted that ENSO is driven by a band of sea temperatures off the coast of South America that influence weather patterns in the North Pacific. She noted that in La Nina there is a cooling phase and in El Nino there is a warming phase. She explained that these climatic cycles affect the jet stream and this is what delivers weather systems to the west coast of North America.

Glynnis reviewed the types of triggers that cause landslides ranging from peak rainfalls to longer term rainfall. She noted that the critical threshold is 4mm/hr or 100mm over 24 hours.

She noted that rain events prior to a rainstorm can be a major factor in landslide initiation. She pointed to the influence of snowmelt.

Glynnis reviewed some of the climate data in this region, in Quatsino (back to 1895) and Port Alice (from 1924).

Glynnis reviewed information on the November 8, 1989 storm that caused a debris torrent in Quatsino. She noted that this storm was exceeded by a storm in September, 2010 that then became the 'storm of record'. She distinguished the average rainfall records versus the rare and extreme rain events. She noted that it was a management decision to determine at what level to address the risk.

Glynnis noted that records from the insurance industry show that damage from more extreme events seems to have risen.

Jon noted that there are endemic storms and then the catastrophic storms. He noted that, from a risk management perspective, WFP takes public safety into strong account near human settlement areas and transportation corridors and so manages for extreme events in these areas. Jon noted there were different ways to address the risk, including managing the cut block and designing structures to resist major events like debris flows. There was a discussion of how structures like culverts can be designed and placed to deal with 'normal' to extreme events. It was noted that the so-called 100 year events were happening much more frequently since 2000. It was noted that the professional communities are looking at this and determining how best to establish forecasts and design structures in view of what appears to be a major change in the frequency of extreme events.

Glynnis noted that sometimes the 24 hour rainfall isn't as important as the longer term rainfall, e.g. over three days. She pointed to the importance of short term rain intensity and noted that this has not historically been measured.

Glynnis noted there is a large degree of variation caused by high intensity cells in specific areas. She reviewed some specific areas where landslides had occurred, including on Hathaway Creek near Winter Harbour, and near LeMare Lake.

Glynnis then reviewed some data showing landslide origins in different blocks, in relation to areas of road construction and during pre and post Forest Practices Code (FPC) times.

Glynnis noted that there are a number of natural landslides that are recorded and probably many more that aren't recorded because they can't be seen in air photos.

Glynnis reviewed the landslides occurring in different watersheds, in relation to the fish sensitivity ratings that had been established for them. She noted that most landslides occurred in the most sensitive watersheds.

She pointed to how landslides are very closely related to precipitation levels.

Glynnis noted that it was looking like FRPA regulations seemed to be resulting in a positive trend toward better prediction and management for landslides.

There was a discussion of the effect of maturity of timber and canopy closure in moderating the number of landslides. Glynnis noted that canopy structure and closure seems to be a more important factor than root strength.

Glynnis reviewed data showing sediment loads in various systems. She noted she had been looking at number and size of landslides entering fish streams.

Glynnis noted that landslides originating from roads had tended to reduce in size since the Forest Practices Code was introduced. Glynnis reviewed the differences in road construction techniques before and after the FPC. She noted that before the FPC, many roads were constructed by sidecasting excessive material off the road beds. She noted that there was a requirement to endhaul on steep slope

roads after the FPC was introduced. Glynnis noted that foresters and engineers are doing a more refined job of road layout to reduce the amount and cost of endhauling required.

Glynnis noted that riparian buffers were one of the most positive outcomes of the FPC. She pointed to how riparian vegetation is far more able to handle new sediment from a slide and maintain stability in the watershed and the stream channels.

Glynnis noted that the new digital imagery allows her to better define the amount of steep terrain logged.

Glynnis noted that the added information about climate and weather patterns and steep terrain management allows better predictions and risk decisions to be made.

Glynnis noted that information on existing slides was helpful in managing against future slides.

There was a discussion of potential hydrophobic effects caused by the very dry summer we have had, and Glynnis noted this would tend to result in shallow landslides following rain events. Glynnis noted that with dramatic changes in the jetstream, extremes in weather could ensue (e.g. fire shutdown to flood/rainfall shutdown).

Glynnis pointed to a trend toward drier summers, normal winters, and increasing precipitation in the spring since 2000. She noted that these dry spells are bad news for salmon and community watersheds.

Glynnis explained the difference between debris floods and debris flows.

There was a discussion of rock mass failures, like the Hope slide, and their causes like earthquakes, road-building activity and permafrost. It was noted there are a number of potential rockfall sites in TFL 19.

4.0 GENERAL DISCUSSION, INCLUDING UPDATE ON FIRST NATIONS INFORMATION EXCHANGE GROUP, UPCOMING RETIRED FORESTERS' TOUR, PACIFIC TSA TIMBER SUPPLY REVIEW AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT THE SAANICH FORESTRY CENTRE: JON FLINTOFT

Jon noted that the FNIEG met on April 11 and toured the windfarm with Lone Brown. He noted that the next meeting was scheduled for the spring of 2015. Steve asked about the recent decision of the Supreme Court on June 26th. Jon noted it had changed a few things on what the Crown has to do with respect to consulting First Nations.

Steve asked whether the decision would help to bring First Nations to the table more. Jon noted it was too early to tell at this stage.

Jon noted there would be a tour of retired foresters on the North Island later this month. He noted that the group was made up of senior level foresters. He noted the tour would go out to Holberg and up to the windfarm, and include a stop at Quatse Salmon Centre. The tour would visit the Englewood Forest Operation including the Nimpkish railway. The tour would also spend a day in Port McNeill Forest Operation including a look at the SCHIRP site, some active harvesting as well as a presentation on WFP's public advisory groups.

Jon invited members to make comment on the Pacific TSA Timber Supply Review if they wished. He noted that he could ask for an update in 2015, should the group wish to have one. Jon reviewed what the Pacific TSA is, including takeback areas on the North Island and mainland.

It was agreed that a short update on the process in future could be of value.

Tom noted that the 50th anniversary celebrations at the Saanich Forestry Centre communicated optimism and a progressive approach by the company. He noted his appreciation to WFP's Don Demens for inviting representatives of the public advisory groups to attend. Tom noted that the forestry centre demonstrated well that it had contributed to superior genetics for tree species. He added that the staff had

done a good job of summarizing the work they had done, in the context of improvements to forest production.

Tom noted that WFP's CEO conveyed optimism for the company's future as a world class player in the forest industry.

5.0 REVIEW OF 2013 ANNUAL REPORT: JON FLINTOFT

Jon noted that the report was on the website. He noted he had reviewed all of the indicator results over the last few meetings.

Tom asked whether the new information resulting from the high quality aerial images would influence the indicators related to landslides. Jon reviewed Indicator 3.1.1 around soil disturbance and noted that he could add some wording under strategies and performance to be sure to capture the information available through the new imagery. It was noted that rehabilitation of these sites could add to more productivity.

It was agreed that Jon should take a look at the indicators related to soil disturbance that might be influenced by the new aerial imagery and advances in technology like drones.

It was suggested to bring in a speaker to talk about technological changes in aerial imagery and LIDAR. Paul suggested that Deidre Haight might be a good speaker to address LIDAR.

Jon asked if the group would like to see something web-based or paper maps to cover recreational options and access in the DFA. It was noted that a combination of both, including geo-referenced pdf's would be preferred.

Janet noted that the regional district and Tourism Vancouver Island could contribute information with respect to content. It was suggested that Jon work with Joli White on this. It was noted that WFP probably still has map information to serve as a basis for this. It was suggested that the BC Backroads Mapbook could also be used as a reference. It was noted that the search and rescue maps are also very good resources. Jon noted that WFP has a regional engagement strategy representative and that recreation was going to be a priority for the North Island. He noted that he would talk to this individual about working on the map initiative. Ben suggested coordination with use of radio channels for safety purposes.

It was noted that WFP's recreation sites were now being maintained through the government. Jon replied that recreation sites in Port McNeill and Jeune Landing Forest Operation were managed and maintained through a partnership between WFP, Recreation Sites and Trails BC and the Regional District. Often times, it is WFP equipment completes road maintenance (grading, brushing) on access roads to recreation sites. Dave asked about access to the sites and noted that it was important to ensure access was maintained to these sites. There was discussion of how these roads might be maintained, e.g. by volunteers.

6.0 DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED SEPTEMBER 12TH FIELD TRIP ITINERARY: JON FLINTOFT & ANNEMARIE KOCH

Jon asked that people arrive by 8:45 at the office in order to leave by 9 am. He noted that the tour would start with a high elevation site where there will be a discussion about log quality and road construction issues. Other tour topics will include forest health and debris salvage near Clint Beek Recreation site, where there have been a number of improvements made. The tour will end with a look at the dryland sort and finish by 3 p.m. He asked for participants to bring good footwear.

7.0 NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on October 23, 2014 and be a joint meeting with the Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee, as per the proposed schedule of meetings, at Black Bear Resort. Annemarie noted that the proposed topic was successional planning and training to meet future employment needs, and that the featured speaker would be WFP chief forester Shannon Janzen or her designate.

Annemarie and Jon thanked everyone for coming and wished them a safe journey home.

When: **OCTOBER 23, 2014**
Dinner: **6:30 p.m.**
Meeting: **7:00 p.m.**