

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

Western Forest Products Inc.

Community Advisory Group

Minutes of Meeting Held April 13, 2017

Attendance:

Jon Flintoft, WFP	Damaris Sadler, Chamber Alternate
Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public	Michelle Baker, WFP
Leith Paganoni, Aquaculture	Ray Harper, Labour
Dave Trebett, Tourism & Recreation	

Presenters: Jon Flintoft, Michelle Baker, WFP

Regrets: Patrick Donaghy, Local Government Alternate, Fred Roberston, Education, Gaby Wickstrom, Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce, Shirley Ackland, Port McNeill/RDMW, Jeff Houle, Suppliers, Ione Brown, NICFLP, Ben Trerise, Fish and Wildlife, Dale Dorward, Small Business, David Stewart, Large Contractors, Steve Lacasse, Environment, Gunnar Wigard, Small Contractors, John Tidbury, District of Port Hardy

Advisors: Paul Barolet, MFLNRO

Observers: Roger Briscoe, Operations Manager, Holberg, NIFO, WFP

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 throughout 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 February 23rd, 2017 meeting, discuss the results of the 2016 annual report, hear an update on WFP's harvesting plans in the DFA, review the terms of reference and set the date of the next meeting.

Annemarie welcomed Damaris Sadler, the new Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce alternate for Gaby Wickstrom. She noted that the former Chamber alternate, David Mitchell, was no longer on the Chamber Board and that Damaris, as the new vice -president of the Chamber, would be taking his place.

Jon noted that a recent article in The Eagle newspaper, regarding the establishment of a forestry centre of excellence in Woss, had made a very positive reference to the supportive role of the WFP public advisory groups, NWAC and VINWAG. Annemarie added that a copy of the article could be downloaded off the PAG website home page.

2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Annemarie asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the February 23rd 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 or modification of nine action items 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.

Annemarie noted that WFP certification coordinator Will Sloan had reviewed the minutes of the February 23rd, 2017 meeting and asked that the following clarification be made around the description of the audit results and what they mean:

“The 2016 audit of NIFO and EFO was actually a 24-month surveillance audit; the audit done in January 2017 at Mid-Island/MIFLAG was the CSA re-registration audit; the audit summary for that is not yet available but we are recommended for re-registration.”

Annemarie reminded members that they had agreed at the last meeting to discuss action items 177 and 195 at this meeting, during the review of the annual report.

Jon pointed out that Michelle took the lead on preparing the results for the 2016 annual report and that she had followed up on action item 177 and been able to track the number of slides, so there was no longer a need to revise this target under Indicator 3.1.1. It was agreed that, as a result of Michelle’s efforts to work with the existing mechanism to track slides, action item 177 could now be dropped.

Annemarie noted that, further to action item 195, Michelle had not been able to get the number of animals harvested from the MFLNRO Wildlife Biologist in charge, but that she would continue to try to get this information for the report.

Further to action item 208, Annemarie noted that Jon would be talking about WFP’s five-year harvesting plans later in the meeting.

Annemarie asked Jon whether he had an update on action item 210. He noted that the AVICC had met recently and that there was considerable discussion regarding the UBCM motion from last year on harvesting of old growth on Vancouver Island. It was agreed to explore this further when the local government representatives are available to address questions.

Jon referenced a press release from the TLA on support for forestry in coastal communities. Paul offered to circulate a map showing the location of OGMA’s in the Province.

Annemarie noted that action item 214 had been completed and that parts of action item 213 had been completed.

ACTION ITEMS					
#	Item	Responsibility	Initiation Date	Target Date	Completion Date
140	Follow up on engaging youth in SFMP	Fred Robertson/Jon Flintoft/ Kindry Mercer/A. Koch	June 27, 2013	Ongoing, in 2017	
191	Follow up on recommendations 4-5 of the 2015 participant satisfaction survey in mutual consultation	Members of VINWAG and WFP	February 25, 2016	Ongoing	
195	Include how many animals were actually taken as a result of hunting in the DFA	Jon Flintoft	April 28, 2016	For the annual report, as information becomes available	
196	Consider ways to enhance communication of what VINWAG does to the public, integrate with WFP’s communications strategy	Annemarie Koch	April 28, 2016	Ongoing	

208	Provide for brief presentation on and Q&A on harvesting plans at each meeting	Jon Flintoft/ Annemarie Koch	September 8, 2016	Ongoing	
210	Update VINWAG on efforts to form a coalition of industry, community, business and professional stakeholders to address an initiative to ban all future harvesting of old growth on Vancouver Island	Fred Robertson/ Shirley Ackland/ John Tidbury	November 3, 2016	Ongoing	
213	Implement recommendations in 2016 participant satisfaction survey report	Annemarie Koch/ Jon Flintoft/ VINWAG Members	February 23, 2017	Ongoing in 2017	
215	Post the MFLNRO brochure on coarse woody debris on the PAG website	Paul Barolet/A. Koch	April 13, 2017	April 30, 2017	
216	Confirm that WFP's digital map is being promoted by local tourist info centres and monitor use of this valuable resource by tourists and residents	Michelle Baker	April 13, 2017	September 15, 2017	
217	Prepare and discuss new indicators required under new CSA Z809-16 standard	Jon Flintoft/ Michelle Baker	April 13, 2017	June 22, 2017	
218	Meet to discuss heritage values of the Hecht/Ronning trapline along the west coast	Dave Trebett/Dave Steele	April 13, 2017	June 22, 2017	
219	Talk to Dave Wall and Natasha Dickenson about a karst alternate or replacement	Dave Trebett	April 13, 2017	June 22, 2017	
220	Talk to Jeff Houle about business sector representation for Port Hardy	Annemarie Koch	April 13, 2017	June 22, 2017	
221	Drop BCTS from the list of VINWAG advisors	Annemarie Koch	April 13, 2017	April 30, 2017	
222	Add latest review date to Terms of Reference and post on PAG website	Annemarie Koch	April 13, 2017	April 14, 2017	
223	Contact Megan Hanacek re: June 22 presentation and if she is not available, talk to local government reps about old growth harvesting presentation	Annemarie Koch	April 13, 2017	April 30, 2017	

Annemarie added that, unless members of VINWAG wished to discuss any of these ongoing 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 REVIEW OF 2016 ANNUAL REPORT: JON FLINTOFT AND MICHELLE BAKER, WFP

Michelle provided an overview of what she would be covering during her presentation, including the results for targets associated with 59 indicators in the SFMP. She started with Indicator 1.1.1, ecosystem area by type, and noted that this target had been met.

There was a question and discussion about the definition of 'productive' DFA.

Michelle noted that Indicator 1.1.2 was within the variance. She noted that Indicator 1.1.3 had been met.

Michelle reviewed Indicators 1.1.4 and 3.2.1, degree of within stand structural retention, and noted that the target here had been met in two out of five zones and that three zones were within the variance.

Michelle reviewed Indicators 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 and noted that the targets were met. She noted that there were increases in Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA's) areas set aside as northern goshawk habitat.

Michelle noted that Indicator 1.2.3 had been met, and 1.3.1 had been met. She noted that Indicator 1.4.2 and 1.4.3 targets had been met. She provided an example of karst management near the Marble River.

Michelle reviewed Indicator 2.1.1 targets 1 & 2 and noted that the first target was met and the second target would be monitored and reported on after the snow has melted. She indicated that there was every indication earlier that the target would be met.

Michelle noted Indicator 2.2.1 had been met, and Indicator 2.2.2 had been met. Jon pointed to the increase in AAC between 2014 and 2015, noting this was due to primarily to an administrative change associated with the amalgamation of TFL 39 Block 4 into TFL 6.

Michelle noted Indicator 2.2.3 was within the variance, and Indicator 2.2.4 was met. Jon reviewed the types of requests that had been received, including applications for recreation tenures, an inquiry around gravel extraction, and the Quatsino First Nation investigating a run of the river project.

Michelle reviewed Indicator 3.1.1 and noted target one had been met, and she was looking at whether target two had been met, and investigating ways to measure the slides so that the existing target could be defined and met.

There was a discussion of the remediation efforts made in slide areas, including use of alder (slide alder).

Michelle noted that Indicator 3.1.2 was met. She noted that the two Indicator 3.2.1 targets had been met.

Michelle noted that Indicator 4.1.1 had been met. There was a discussion of burning practices and other ways to deal with wood waste. It was noted that burn authorizations are getting harder to obtain. It was noted that climate change was probably driving drier seasons and reducing the windows of opportunity to burn. It was noted that waste wood is often animal habitat, and that people don't generally like the smoke generated, or the risk associated with open burning. Paul offered to share a brochure on coarse woody debris and it was agreed to post this on the PAG website.

Jon noted that four of the five targets for Indicator 5.1.1 had been met, save the last one, and Michelle is looking into the data for this. It was noted that the 153 km of road construction in 2016 was a typical year. Jon noted that 5 of the recreation sites hadn't been maintained and had been subject to prohibitive flood damage and access issues.

It was reiterated that the MFLNRO Wildlife Biologist had not yet provided information on the number of animals taken from the limited entries for elk.

There was a question regarding the Mahatta elk relocation initiative and Jon reported that it seemed like the herd was doing well and not impacting planted trees too much.

Jon noted that targets for Indicator 5.2.1 had been met, pointing to investments in salmonid enhancement, a new shelter at Marble River rec site and the work of the Holberg volunteer fire department, and over \$40,000 invested in community initiatives in 2016. There was a discussion of whether this dollar figure might be revised upward in future, given the trend in positive EBITDA. Jon noted that the WFP Community Enhancement Fund had been announced at the all-PAG meeting last September and that some of this money had been invested in NIFO recreation initiatives during 2016, over and above the funds in the recreation maintenance budget.

There was a discussion of which students are hired during the summer and what is the nature of their work. There was an inquiry regarding how many of these students come back to take on permanent work in forestry on the North Island. It was noted that some students do return to work in forestry on the North Island, e.g. to work in the shop. It was noted that most of the jobs require some form of certification and training, and that there are few permanent entry level type jobs in the industry anymore.

Jon noted that Indicator 5.2.2 had met the variance, and that missing the target may have been a documentation issue. Jon noted that there are seven heavy duty mechanics apprentices working in the NIFO shops right now.

There was a discussion of the decision made earlier that Port McNeill shop would be taking on some of the major rebuilds for NIFO equipment after the NIFO amalgamation was announced. Jon noted that this was coming to fruition, in the form of a few major rebuilds, but it was a challenge finding appropriate skills and numbers of labourers to carry out this work consistently. Jon noted that things were trending toward there being a dedicated rebuild crew in place. Roger noted that there was a full slate of work and that the shop is at capacity right now. It was noted that T-Mar would be handling any extra work required in the near future.

Jon reviewed Indicator 5.2.3 and noted that the variance had been met. He pointed to poor weather in Q4 that tended to pull the number of FTE's down.

Jon reviewed Indicator 5.2.4, noting the level of aboriginal participation was steady since 2015 and that this target had been met.

Jon referenced the participation of the 'Namgis in the Orca Sand and Gravel operation on the DFA.

Jon reviewed Indicator 5.2.5 and noted that 54% of funds had been invested locally, in communities in the DFA.

Jon reviewed Indicator 5.2.6 and noted that the variance had been met. He added that every effort was being made to hire qualified local applicants, but noted that this target can be difficult to track and turns on the definition of 'qualified' applicant.

Jon reviewed Indicator 6.1.1 and noted that this target had been met. He reviewed the meetings that had taken place between WFP management and aboriginal representatives.

Jon reviewed Indicator 6.1.2 and noted that this target had been met. He reviewed the documented opportunities provided to local First Nations, including review of the pesticide management plan with the Quatsino First Nation (QFN).

Jon reviewed Indicator 6.1.3, noting both targets had been met. Jon noted that efforts had been made to revise the wording for target 2 but no progress had been made to date. He pointed out that, with the transition to CSA Z809-16, there should be some progress with this effort.

Jon reviewed Indicator 6.2.1 and noted that the variance for target 1 had been met and target 2 had been met. He noted that only one WFP-First Nation protocol is in place with the QFN.

Jon reviewed Indicator 6.3.1 and noted that target 1 had been met. He reviewed the main buyers of wood locally, and noted that, since 2015, Neucel was no longer in operation and so not buying the large volumes of wood that they did previously. It was noted that North Island Chipping was a large buyer at this time.

There was a discussion of the sustainability of the current sales volumes locally. Jon noted that there was a commitment to support local buyers as much as possible, but that WFP has commitments to supply its own processing facilities.

Jon reviewed target 2 of Indicator 6.3.1, regarding visual quality, and noted that it had been met.

Jon reviewed Indicator 6.3.2 around safety and noted this target had been met. He reviewed the number of Occupational Health and Safety meetings held during the year.

Jon reviewed Indicator 6.3.3 and noted the target to maintain SAFE Company certification had been met.

Jon noted that both targets for Indicator 6.4.1 had been met. He noted that WFP continues to meet with local governments in the DFA to keep them up to date on what is happening.

Jon reviewed Indicator 6.4.2, noting this target had been met, including meetings with the Coal Harbour LCC and Regional District.

Jon reviewed Indicator 6.4.3 and noted that no FNEIG meetings had been held, due to low participation and limited interest from First Nations.

Jon reviewed Indicator 6.4.4 around number of VINWAG meetings held per year and noted this target had been met.

He reviewed Indicator 6.5.1 and noted that both targets had been met, adding that ten forest tours, open houses and/or workshops had been held.

There was a question about access to the digital map produced by WFP (Indicator 6.5.1 Target 2). It was suggested that WFP confirm that this resource is being made fully available to local tourist centres and to track the use of this digital mapping resource.

It was suggested that the map provide some indication of where active logging is taking place. It was noted that there are many active logging areas and signage and gating is used to stop people from entering these areas. It was noted that the individuals working at the tourist info centres should be trained to make reference to active logging areas and encourage people to use caution.

Jon reviewed Indicator 6.5.2 and noted that target 1 had met the variance and efforts would be made to meet target 2. He noted that the third target around communicating corporate research projects had been met.

Michelle noted that, overall in 2016, the variance was met on 12 of the targets. All other targets were met in 2016.

It was noted that new indicators under the new standard need to be in place by September 2017 and that these would be discussed at the June 22nd, 2017 meeting.

4.0 UPDATE ON WFP'S FIVE-YEAR HARVESTING PLANS IN THE DFA: JON FLINTOFT, WFP

Annemarie reminded everyone that the purpose for placing regular updates on the harvesting plans on the agenda was to provide an opportunity for public advisory group members to offer input and to get feedback and ask questions about the plans before they are implemented.

Jon talked about the increasing use of LiDAR and how it would be used to provide inventory information and to assist with the preparation of cutblocks and harvesting plans. He pointed to how LiDAR is going to help reduce the amount of time planners need to spend determining where roads go and which areas can be harvested. He noted LiDAR would be used to prepare foundational drafts that would then be used to help guide what type of roads and crossings would be built, for example.

There was a discussion around whether LiDAR would displace conventional methodology. It was noted that the new technology would be used to streamline conventional methodology. There was a discussion of whether the added information and greater certainty available through use of LiDAR might support higher harvesting volumes in the long run.

Jon referred to the wall map showing harvesting plans over the next five years.

Dave noted his interest in maintaining the heritage values associated with the old Hecht-Ronning trapline.

It was suggested that Dave meet with Holberg Operations Planner Dave Steele about some of his concerns along the Willie Hecht-Ronning trapline.

There was a discussion of where visual quality issues might arise.

It was noted that one of the proposed blocks was adjacent to the Raft Cove boundary and that WFP might wish to talk to BC Parks about this. Jon noted he would follow up on this.

There was a discussion of heli-drops near the Spruce Bay recreation site and Jon agreed to look into this and other potential heli-drop sites near recreation areas.

Jon noted that WFP's pest management plan was up for review and he provided some background on the plan and how to access it on the web and provide input to the company. He included reference to advertisements in the local paper and links on the WFP website. It was noted that alder is one of the 'pests' defined in the plan.

There was a question around protection of microbials in the forest. It was noted that the trees need these microbials to survive and thrive. It was suggested that this might form part of WFP's corporate research and perhaps be the basis of a future presentation.

5.0 ANNUAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE: ANNEMARIE KOCH

Annemarie reminded members that a copy of the most recent terms of reference was posted on the PAG website, and had been circulated with the agenda in late March.

She invited members to provide comment on the Terms of Reference and to indicate whether they wished to make any changes at this time.

She noted that she and Jon had reviewed the attendance records in 2016 and had made some changes and approached a number of members who had not been at meetings, as a result of this review. She noted, for example, that Josh Hiebert had left LeMare Lake Logging and been replaced by Dave Stewart as the primary representative for large contractors. Ben Trerise had recommended a replacement for the fish and wildlife sector, Matt Clark, and Matt could not make this meeting but planned to attend the June 22nd meeting. She added that she had asked Dave Wall to recommend someone to act as an alternate or replace him as the karst representative for VINWAG, but she had not heard back from him yet. She noted that Janet Dorward had stepped down and asked if members of VINWAG felt there was a need to fill the general business sector from Port Hardy and, if so, how they would like to go about that.

Dave Trebett agreed to contact Dave Wall and talk to him about a replacement or alternate for the karst sector. Roger suggested approaching Natasha Dickenson to see if she was interested.

Ray offered to find a labour alternate to mentor, in preparation for his retirement from the industry.

Annemarie was asked to talk to Jeff Houle about whether he was willing to represent broader business interests in Port Hardy (to replace Janet Dorward's position), or whether he felt someone else should be approached to do this.

She asked members what they thought of removing the BCTS advisory position, in view of the fact that this was a carryover from when VINWAG was a joint BCTS/WFP advisory group, and there hadn't been a BCTS advisor attending the meetings for quite some time.

It was noted that the MFLNRO representative brought a considerable amount of information from the Provincial government.

It was noted that BCTS is a licensee operating outside the DFA and that the inclusion of BCTS on the list of advisors was really a historic relationship and no longer current, so it was agreed to drop BCTS from the membership list as an advisor.

She reminded members that, if they represented a constituency, it would be helpful if they could advise her of any changes in representation to ensure continuity.

Jon noted that we have some sectors for which we have not been able to get representation, including mining and alternate energy. He asked if the group wished to continue to have representatives for these sectors. It was agreed to keep these sectors in the list of possible areas to be represented in future.

It was agreed to adopt and post the Terms of reference with no changes, other than to add the latest review date.

6.0 NEXT MEETING: ANNEMARIE KOCH

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on June 22nd, 2017. Annemarie noted that, as the anticipated changes to the legislation that governs stumpage have been deferred until after the provincial election and likely won't be in place until after the June 22nd meeting, and there have been no major changes to the Softwood Lumber Agreement yet, it might not be useful to have Larry Henkelman and Kevin Laird present on these topics at the June meeting (and so defer this presentation to a future meeting), and she asked whether members would be interested in hearing a presentation from ABCFP representative Megan Hanacek on stewardship and the role of ABCFP in forest management or, alternately, a presentation on the Sierra Club initiative to ban old growth logging on Vancouver Island. It was agreed to approach Megan and ask if she was available to make a presentation to VINWAG on June 22nd and, if not, to talk to local government members on VINWAG about a suitable presentation on the initiative to ban harvesting of old growth on Vancouver Island.

Jon noted that, following a recommendation from Clint to do something to acknowledge all the good work and dedication of the VINWAG members he had some VINWAG bags for members and he handed out bags to those in attendance.

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

When: June 22nd, 2017
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.