

Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes April 14, 2016
Black Bear Resort, Port McNeill, BC
7:00 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Attendance: Kelly McMahon, WFP, Jack Miller, Labor, Trevor Egely, WFP, Stu Ellis, General Public, Chris Bowden-Green, Woss community, Pat English, Local Government, Steve Lacasse, Environment, Graham MacDonald, Town of Port McNeill

Regrets: Bill Nelson, Small Contractors, Jeff Jones, Mount Cain Alpine Park Society

Observers:

Advisor: Paul Barolet, MOFLNRO

Presenters: Will Sloan, Corporate Certification Coordinator, WFP, Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP

Facilitator: Annemarie Koch

Notes: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

1. Introduction and Safety Procedures:

Annemarie reviewed the safety procedures to follow in the event of a fire or medical emergency. She welcomed Chris Bowden-Green as a new NWAC member, representing the community of Woss. Annemarie let members know that, after several years of serving with the group, Bill Nelson had stepped down from NWAC for personal reasons. She noted her thanks for his dedication to NWAC and advised that efforts would be made to fill the logging contractor sector that Bill represented. Annemarie also noted that Jeff Jones would be stepping away from the committee until some current health issues are resolved.

Annemarie reviewed the objectives of the meeting, namely:

- To review the March 17th meeting minutes and selected action items;
- To hear the rest of a presentation from Kelly McMahon on the 2015 annual report;
- To review and confirm the Terms of Reference;
- Review and confirm 2016 meeting schedule;
- To hear a presentation from Will Sloan on the role of the public advisory group in the sustainable forest management process;
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

2. Review of Minutes and Action Items:

Annemarie reviewed the minutes and action items from the March 17th meeting. She reminded NWAC members that she would be assuming they had read the minutes prior to the meeting. There were no additions or changes to the minutes. She added that she would not be addressing action items that were ongoing but only items that were to be addressed in the shorter term. Given this, Annemarie noted that there were 12 action items to address from the March 17th meeting.

Annemarie reviewed the action items (including items that had been completed or revised) for which action was required in the short term, or for which reports were available.

Action Item 1: to follow up and see the feasibility of combining a number of targets for Indicator 5.1.1 that better reflect the economic and community benefits generated specifically in this DFA.

It was agreed that Kelly should work with Jack and Bill to develop an additional target for Indicator 5.1.1 that shows Englewood's productivity in relation to other divisions in WFP

Responsibility: Kelly/Jack/Bill

Due Date: After divisional amalgamations are complete

Annemarie noted that work was ongoing to consider revising Criterion 5 indicators and she noted that she hoped that WFP Corporate Certification Coordinator Will Sloan might be able to assist with this effort.

Action Item 2: Determine the feasibility of a cross division PAG meeting- in Port McNeill

Responsibility- Kelly and Trevor

Due Date- ongoing in 2015

Kelly confirmed that a cross-division PAG meeting would be held in Port McNeill on September 22-23 and she outlined some of the presentations that were planned and the proposed field trip itinerary.

She invited NWAC members to comment on the printed copy of the proposed itinerary that had been circulated with the agenda. Members agreed that the itinerary looked good. Annemarie thanked the WFP representatives for working so hard behind the scenes to bring the all-PAG gathering to the North Island this fall.

Action Item 3: Look at ways and means of generating greater awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of preventing loss of petroleum products such as oil.

Responsibility: Trevor/Kelly/Jack

Due Date: Ongoing.

Action Item 4: Refine Indicator 5.2.2 to include a greater scope of training opportunities available in the DFA, including training provided through contractors. Inclusion of the training completed by Bill 13 contractors. Information can come from the safety council audit at Randy's suggestion.

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon

Due Date: 2015 annual report

Annemarie noted that Kelly would be addressing this action item during her presentation on the 2015 annual report and with proposed revisions to the Criterion 5 indicators.

Action Item 5: support Youth Forestry Initiative

Responsibility: Kelly

Due date: Ongoing

Action Item 6: Continue to discuss membership and representation on NWAC to ensure that vacant sectors are filled and to see if any new sectors should be added.

Responsibility: Kelly and Annemarie

Due Date: ongoing

Action Item 12: Bring new draft targets including additional variance for Indicator 5.1.1. to NWAC for review and consideration

Responsibility: Kelly and Trevor

Due Date: For next annual report, to be reported under “Strategies and Implementation.”

Action Item 16 : Revisit the feasibility of combining a number of targets for Indicator 5.1.1 that better reflect the economic and community benefits generated specifically in this DFA after the CIFO amalgamation is complete.

Responsibility: Annemarie

Due Date: Sometime in 2016

Annemarie noted that the above two action items, like the other action items related to Criterion 5, would be dealt with throughout the year and brought forward to NWAC members for review.

Action Item 17: Talk to Ray Lutz about recommending an alternate to represent fish and wildlife interests until Ray can return to participate in the meetings.

Responsibility: Annemarie Koch

Due Date: early 2016

Annemarie asked if anyone had followed up with Ray. Members suggested that an alternate for fish and wildlife interests might be found through the June 2nd meeting in Woss. Steve noted the Quatse hatchery manager, Lorraine Landry was involved with salmonid enhancement and stream enhancement projects in the Nimpkish Valley and he offered to talk to her to see if she would be interested in representing the fish and wildlife sector on NWAC.

Action Item 18: Graham and Kelly and Steve to form a committee to see if WFP will prepare and provide a list of required supplies and services in the DFA that local suppliers and contractors can access to see if they can compete to offer these supplies and services.

Responsibility: Kelly, Steve, Graham

Due Date: June NWAC meeting

Annemarie noted that Kelly had discussed this initiative with senior WFP staff and then communicated with Steve about other ways he might consider working with WFP to find ways to ensure that local suppliers and service providers have an opportunity to bid on contracts and supply goods and services to the company.

It was agreed that Steve would follow up on this matter in discussions with Randy Boas and Trevor

Action Item 19: Revise draft 2016 meeting schedule and review and confirm final draft at the March 17,2016 NWAC meeting

Responsibility: Annemarie

Due Date: April 14, 2016 meeting

Annemarie noted that this action item was going to be addressed later in the meeting.

Action Item 20: Revise Criterion 5 target related to community investments along the following lines: ‘100% of the communities in and with interests in the DFA, namely Woss, Alert Bay, Hyde Creek and Port McNeill receive annual community investments of some type from WFP.’

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: April 14th NWAC meeting

Kelly noted that she was looking at incorporating this revision into the SFMP for the 2016 report, further to discussions at the March 17th meeting.

Action Item 21: revise 2016 schedule of meetings by adding an April 14th meeting (and dropping the May 19th meeting) to further discuss the 2015 annual report, discuss the all-PAG itinerary and discuss the Criterion 5 indicators with WFP's certification coordinator Will Sloan, and to make a 'certification primer' the topic of the June 2nd meeting and hold that meeting in Woss, with the intent of introducing new people to NWAC and engaging some new membership from the community of Woss. Post revised schedule of meetings on website and distribute to NWAC members.

Responsibility: Annemarie and Kelly

Due Date: March 20, 2016

Annemarie noted that these changes had been made and that the final 2016 meeting schedule was being presented at the April 14th meeting for review and confirmation.

Jack asked if meeting notices had been posted yet and he offered to help with promoting the meeting to Woss residents.

Action Item 22: add Chris Bowden-Green to the list of NWAC members, post this on the website and include him on the NWAC circulation list.

Responsibility: Annemarie and Kelly

Due Date: March 20, 2016

Annemarie noted that she had added Chris' name to the list of members on the website, and she welcomed him to NWAC.

Action Item 23: invite Woss residents to attend the June 2nd NWAC meeting in Woss, with a view to introducing residents to the work of NWAC and engaging them in the process

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: For June 2, 2016 meeting

Kelly thanked Jack for his offer to help get the word out about the meeting in Woss on June 2.

Action Item 24: talk to Pat English about deferring the EBM presentation from the June 2nd meeting to a future NWAC meeting

Responsibility: Annemarie

Due Date: March 18, 2016

Annemarie noted that she had talked to Pat and that he was fine with deferring the EBM presentation to a future meeting.

Paul asked why Pat would want an EBM presentation at NWAC. He noted that the subject was complex and that it was not practiced on the Nimpkish DFA. It was noted that Jonathan Armstrong had offered to talk about the socioeconomic impacts of EBM for small communities. Pat noted that his understanding is that EBM was coming and would likely become the standard, and he wanted to have a better idea of what was involved and what the implications might be for communities. He acknowledged EBM is complex, but he felt the education process needs to start.

Pat noted his ongoing concern for the impacts of loss, however small, of AAC on employees and communities in the region. He noted that socioeconomic studies are seldom done and need to be done in order to show the effects of the loss of timber harvesting base on our livelihoods on the North Island.

Paul provided some explanation of how EBM will work. He noted that socioeconomic issues had been taken into consideration in the development of management plans.

It was agreed that it would be worthwhile, where possible; to have a presentation on EBM in future, in order to learn more about how EBM works and what effects it might have on communities.

2. Completion of Review of 2015 Annual Report, Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP

Kelly noted that she was awaiting some inventory data but could report out on most of the indicator results. She picked up from her presentation at the March 17th meeting with a review of Indicator 1.4.2, noting 29 blocks were surveyed for cultural values.

Kelly reviewed the karst values that had been identified in logging blocks in 2015.

She reviewed the free growing requirements and noted this target had been met. Kelly noted that the target related to control of operationally-caused fires had been met, in that three small fires that had started had been controlled (and not put out, as had been indicated in the March 17th minutes) within 24 hours.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 2.2.1 regarding additions and deletions to forest tenure. Kelly reviewed the cut control target under Indicator 2.2.2. She reviewed the cut levels and noted that the amount of waste was trending down.

There was a discussion of the company has established targets to reduce waste levels and how efforts were being made to keep waste levels down.

It was noted that the Northland Power Chips plant takes a lot of the waste from the area and that this is a benefit as a means for salvaging waste and creating economic benefits for the communities.

Chris asked if there was a way to track and salvage that's being left from harvesting second growth in processor piles some distance from the road.

There was a discussion of how this waste might be made more accessible for Northland Power Chips and for local firewood cutters to access and use.

Action Item 25– track and learn more about the waste from second growth harvesting that is stacked in processor piles some distance from the road, and make arrangements for a future presentation on how this waste wood is tracked, and the potential for making more use of waste wood from these second growth processor piles

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: June 2, 2016

Graham noted that if we know how much waste is left behind, then we should know the value of that.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 3.1.1, noting that while there had been five slides; soil disturbance targets had been met.

Kelly reviewed the indicator (3.2.2) for downed woody debris and noted this target had been met.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 3.2.1 and referenced the different watershed concerns that have been identified in WFP's watershed management strategy, and how these are taken into consideration in harvesting plans. She noted WFP follows the watershed management plan very closely and that this target has been consistently met.

Kelly reviewed some of the key management concerns for this indicator, including active floodplains and alluvial streams.

Kelly noted that she did not yet have the data for net carbon uptake but that she hoped to get it soon.

Graham noted that the value of water far surpasses any other resource we have, so protecting water quality is of greatest importance.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.1.1, noting that WFP was within the variance for all harvesting profile categories this year, including helicopter logging. She noted that the target for yellow cedar had also been met, as the market for this species picked up this past year.

There was a discussion of the definition of second growth as a harvesting profile. It was noted that a 60 year age class was generally considered second growth.

Kelly reviewed the target around campsite maintenance and noted it had been met through an excellent program that employed local high school and college students.

Jack asked about the company's liability around campsite use. Kelly noted that danger tree assessments are done and that every effort is made to keep liability down. It was noted that the signs warn campers to use sites 'at their own risk'.

Kelly reviewed the target related to EBITDA. She noted that this figure had generally been rising since 2009.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.2.1, noting the targets had been met. Kelly reviewed how expenditures are distributed across communities in the North Island. Steve noted that Campbell River's share of the money spent was growing. He noted that Campbell River is not part of the DFA.

There was a discussion of how more services and good might be supplied from North Island communities within or closer to the DFA. It was agreed that these concerns should be taken into consideration when discussions regarding revisions to Criterion 5 indicators take place.

It was agreed that a specific definition of 'North Island' or region, that includes communities in or around the DFA north of Campbell River, should be given, and that this definition should be consistent throughout the annual report.

Action Item 26: ensure that the definition of ‘North Island’ is given and consistent throughout the SFMP and annual report and provide more information at a future meeting on how data for Indicator 5.2.1 is gathered

Responsibility: Kelly, Annemarie and Will

Due: 2016 annual report

Paul asked if DFA’s south of Woss spend money on the North Island. There was a discussion of the possibility that some work is done by Strategic Natural Resources for DFA’s south of Woss.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.2.2 and noted the targets had been met. She reviewed Indicator 5.2.3 and noted that a high percentage of WFP employees live on the North Island, north of Campbell River. She noted that the percentage of contractors and employees living on the North Island is sitting at about 62%, and the percentage of WFP employees alone sits at 75% living on the North Island.

Kelly reviewed the target around the volume harvested by contractors and noted this was dropping a little but the target had been met.

She reviewed the target around non forestry businesses in communities in the Nimpkish DFA (Woss) and thanked Chris for helping to supply this information.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.2.4, outlining the agreements that are currently in place with First Nations.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 6.3.1, noting the agreements with Northland Power Chips and special products sales, and logs sold to processing facilities in various communities like Sointula. She agreed to follow up and track any logs that might have been sold to the mill in Woss.

It was noted that much of this volume was ‘requested and fulfilled.’

There was a discussion of whether WFP has done any work in stream restoration and salmonid enhancement. Steve suggested that this information be tracked as part of the benefits under Criteria 5 and 6.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 6.4.1, level of satisfaction with the public participation process. Kelly reviewed the results and responses from the last survey and outlined some recommendations arising from the survey process.

Kelly encouraged members to respond to this year’s survey and to provide more detailed responses on how to make the process better, in the spirit of continuous improvement.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 6.4.2, noting the various educational presentations that had been made in 2015. It was noted that there had been more communication with senior WFP management and representatives of the public on the North Island following the CIFO amalgamation. It was agreed that it would be helpful in future to track presentations made by senior WFP representatives to NWAC and other North Island groups.

Kelly noted that educational outreach had been a bit slim in 2015 but efforts would be made to beef this up in 2016.

Kelly noted how information is shared with the public off the WFP website. It was suggested that some of this information might be more easily accessible off the PAG website.

Kelly noted that once information for the four outstanding indicators was collected, the report should be available to NWAC members. It was hoped that the report would be available to NWAC members by the end of May. Will explained some of the challenges in getting the data correct and then getting report out in a timely fashion. It was agreed that it was best to take the time to ensure the information was correct before getting the report out. WFP representatives committed to getting the report out in a more timely fashion next year, when the reporting systems have been streamlined.

3. Annual Review of Terms of Reference, Review and Confirmation of 2016 Meeting Schedule, Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP

Kelly noted that she had previously circulated the latest Terms of Reference with the agenda, and she noted that some suggested changes had been highlighted in yellow in the document. She asked members if they agreed with the proposed changes, and if they had any additional revisions to propose.

Kelly reviewed the changes had been proposed since the Terms of Reference were adopted in 2015.

The proposed changes included revisions to external communications, namely subsection 2) a and b, that are now based on the VINWAG model.

Kelly reviewed other changes, including 'suggested' interested parties, and the addition of a mechanism to measure participants' satisfaction through the annual survey.

Trevor noted he would like to see if more First Nations would participate with NWAC. It was noted that the mayor of Zeballos had expressed an interest in learning more about and participating in NWAC. It was noted that 'Namgis representatives do receive and comment on the minutes of the meetings from time to time.

Members agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference as presented and to have them posted on the PAG website.

Action Item 27: Confirm 2016 Terms of Reference as presented at this meeting and post on the PAG website and circulate with the April 14th meeting minutes

Responsibility: Kelly and Annemarie

Due Date: April 28, 2016

Annemarie noted that she had incorporated all of the revisions to the 2016 meeting schedule that were recommended at the March 17th meeting, including a June 2nd meeting in Woss that would be open to Woss and Nimpkish Valley residents generally. She noted that members might want to consider holding at least one meeting a year in Woss, as this community is central to the DFA. She asked members if they were prepared to confirm the schedule so that she could post it on the website.

Kelly asked if it might be useful to have a topic of interest to Woss residents to encourage them to come to the June 2nd meeting. It was suggested that the topic be along the lines of the role of NWAC members in the certification process and how certification works. Will noted he would

check his calendar to see if he was available to make a presentation along these lines. It was noted that various issues, such as stream restoration and watershed management could form part of the discussions of how NWAC participates in the development of the SFMP;

Action Item 28: Confirm and post 2016 meeting schedule on the PAG website

Responsibility: Annemarie

Due Date: April 15, 2016

4. Role of the Public Advisory Group in the Sustainable Forest Management Process, Will Sloan, Corporate Certification Coordinator, WFP

Will noted that the external audit for the Nimpkish DFA was coming up between June 6-9, for ISO 14000, EMS and CSA audits. He noted that the audit would be done by a new auditing firm, Price Waterhouse Cooper, and that this could mean there are some changes in the way the external audit is performed.

Will referred to the news releases regarding LEED recognition of CSA certification in the U.S. through PEFC. He noted that this was excellent news for WFP, where most certification is under CSA. He noted that this might open up some specialty markets for the company.

Will referred to some issues that had arisen around the MIFLAG process and noted that one of the responses to this had been to institute some changes (reviewed earlier in the meeting) to the Terms of Reference.

He noted that another of the responses to these issues had been to ask WFP staff to review the role of the public advisory groups with members, and that was partly why he was in attendance at the meeting, and providing his presentation on this subject.

Will noted that the role of the public advisory group is to provide input on the SFMP, and stressed that members needed to be careful to focus on the criteria and elements in the CSA standard, and not to drift into other political issues that might be better addressed through local government or other advocacy groups.

Will reviewed Criterion 5 on Economic and Social Benefits. The overarching description is “to sustain flows of forest benefits for current and future generations by providing multiple goods and services”. Discussion items for Criterion 6 are that the public participation process shall include, but not be limited to, discussion on the following topics:

- Benefits to local communities and Aboriginal Peoples (cultural, spiritual, economic, health etc...)
- Fair distribution of benefits and costs
- Proportion of goods and services sourced from local communities (to the extent that they are available and reasonably cost-competitive)
- The significant vulnerabilities for community sustainability linked to the forest and timber supply conditions over time.

There was a general discussion of what indicators and targets would be included under Criterion 5 and members of the group agreed to work on revisions to the targets in the spirit of the CSA standard.

5. Next Meeting:

Annemarie noted that, with confirmation of the 2016 meeting schedule, the next meeting was scheduled for June 2, 2016 in Woss, and that the topic would be the 'the role of NWAC members in the certification process and how certification works,' and a general discussion about the public advisory process. She thanked members for their ongoing commitment and bid them a safe journey home.