

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

***Western Forest Products Inc.*  
Community Advisory Group  
Minutes of Meeting Held April 26, 2018**

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**Attendance:**

Jon Flintoft, NIFO, WFP	Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public
Katherine Dolmage, Aquaculture	Patrick Donaghy, Local Government Alternate
Kevin Laird, NIFO, WFP	Vince Case, Suppliers
Steve Lacasse, Environment	Ray Harper, Labour
Natasha Dickenson, Karst	Dave Trebett, Tourism & Recreation
Fred Robertson, Education	

**Presenters:** Jon Flintoft, Senior Operations Planner, WFP, Kevin Laird, Stumpage Appraisal Supervisor, NIFO, WFP

**Regrets:** Dale Dorward, Small Business, John Tidbury, District of Port Hardy, Elizabeth Aman-Hume, Business, Pt. Hardy, Lone Brown, NICFLP,

**Advisors:** Paul Barolet, MOFLNRORD

**Observers:** Jim McDowell, Planning Manager, 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 action items and minutes from the February 22, 2018 meeting, review and discuss the 2017 annual report and SFMP, including the integration of new indicators 3.2.2 and 5.1.2 under the new CSA Z809-16 standard, hear an update on harvesting plans and a review of soil management practices, and set the date of the next meeting.

Annemarie welcomed new karst representative Natasha Dickenson and invited everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the new member.

## **2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS**

Annemarie asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the February 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 one 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.

Annemarie noted that action items 241 and 245 had been completed. She noted that action item 238 regarding integrating the proposed new Indicators 3.2.2 and 5.1.2 into the SFMP would be dealt with during the review of the annual report and SFMP, and she asked Fred to report out on action item 244 and his participation in the AVICC event April 13-14<sup>th</sup> in Victoria.

Fred noted there wasn't much discussion about forestry during the actual conference. He pointed out that WFP had a booth at the conference and that Kindry Mercer, Jane Cameron and he had spent time talking to people at the booth. Fred noted that he had an interesting discussion with a retired forester from Sooke. Fred noted that a number of people had visited the WFP Saanich nursery and seed orchard and he highly recommended the tour. Fred noted that he hadn't seen any follow-up on a suggestion to establish a round table on forestry practices but said he thought it would be a good idea.

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 2018	
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	
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 procedural efforts to address a UBCM resolution to ban all future harvesting of old growth on Vancouver Island	Fred Robertson, Shirley Ackland, John Tidbury	June 22, 2017	Ongoing	
213	Implement recommendations in 2016 participant satisfaction survey report	Annemarie Koch/Jon Flintoft/VINWAG Members	February 23, 2017	Ongoing in 2018	
237	Talk to the writers of the new CSA Z809-16 standard to determine whether the intent of the new Indicator 3.2.2 is to provide direct measures of water quality and quantity in the DFA	Jon Flintoft/Will Sloan	November 9, 2017	Discussion with Jane Cameron on February 22, 2018 and ongoing discussion with development of the SFMP	
238	Integrate the proposed new Indicators 3.2.2 and 5.1.2 into the SFMP	Jon Flintoft	November 9, 2017	For the 2018 SFMP	
242	Consider having Will make a presentation at the joint PAG meeting on CSA compared to SFI	Annemarie/Jon/PAG Members	February 22, 2018	September, 2018	
243	Implement recommendations in 2017 report on participant satisfaction survey	Annemarie/Jon/VINWAG Members	February 22, 2018	Ongoing	

244	Consider having a PAG presence at the forestry booth at the fall fair and AVICC	Jon Flintoft/ VINWAG Members	February 22, 2018	Ongoing in 2018	Participation at AVICC April 13-14 <sup>th</sup> , 2018
246	Continue to review and develop the targets for new Indicator 3.2.2	Jon Flintoft/Kevin Laird/ VINWAG members	April 26, 2018	Ongoing	

There was no further discussion and the minutes were accepted as circulated.

### 3.0 REVIEW OF 2017 ANNUAL REPORT AND SFMP: JON FLINTOFT AND KEVIN LAIRD

Kevin noted there were 59 indicators in the plan and six had been reviewed at the previous meeting.

Kevin reviewed the overall results, noting targets were met for 46 indicators, and 8 were within variance, and targets were not met for three indicators.

Kevin reviewed Indicator 1.1.1, ecosystem area by type, and noted that the target for this indicator, to have greater than 50% of each ecosystem type in the productive DFA within the mid to old seral stages at any one time, had been met.

Kevin reviewed Indicator 1.1.2, forest area by species composition, and noted this target had been met.

Kevin reviewed Indicator 1.1.3, forest area by age class, and noted this target had been met. There was a discussion of the factors that affect the percentage of productive forest area in the 81-120 year range. It was noted that factors beyond harvesting could influence these percentages, including establishment of OGMA's and areas set aside for species at risk.

Kevin reviewed Indicator 1.1.4, retention silvicultural system across the DFA, and noted retention targets were not met for some of the zones, but that the overall results were within the variance for the target.

Kevin reviewed Indicator 1.2.1, degree of habitat protection for protected species like marbled murrelet and northern goshawk and noted that the targets had been met.

Kevin reviewed Indicator 1.2.3, portion of replanting of native species, and noted this target had been met, with over 1.5 million trees planted on the DFA in 2017. There was a discussion of work that had been done on species that do better in anticipated drier conditions with climate change. It was noted that more blister rust-resistant white pine is being planted. It was noted that there is minimal planting of mountain hemlock.

Kevin reviewed Indicator 1.3.1, percentage of trees that are genetically modified and noted that the target of zero for this indicator had been met. It was noted that this target might merit further discussion in future, with a look at the potential benefits of using genetic selection and modification.

Kevin noted that the target for Indicator 1.4.2 for protection of identified sacred or culturally important sites had been met.

Kevin reviewed Indicator 1.4.3, identified karst features are protected under management plans, and he noted that the strategies were implemented successfully and the target had been met.

Kevin reviewed target one for Indicator 2.1.1, reforestation rate, and noted that this target was met within the variance. He reviewed target two for this Indicator and noted the free growing requirements had been met.

Kevin reviewed Indicator 2.2.1, target one around permanent access and noted that the variance had been met for this target, and target two for this indicator had been met.

Kevin reviewed Indicator 2.2.2, and the target around AAC harvest and noted things were on track to meet this target over the cut control period.

There was a discussion of whether the agreement on the central coast might be affecting the AAC.

Kevin reviewed the target for Indicator 2.2.3, treating 100% of high risk cutblock edges within a year, and noted the variance had been met.

There was a discussion of measures that are taken where sites are deemed at higher risk to windthrow.

There was a discussion of efforts to monitor major wind events. It was noted that there have been some increasingly strong northerly and northwestern outflow winds. It was noted that strong winds from the west or the south can be quite damaging.

It was noted that WFP does more topping and windthrow modification than any other company on the coast.

Jon reviewed the target for Indicator 2.2.4, hectares of land withdrawn from forestry uses in the DFA and noted this target had been met.

Kevin reviewed target two for Indicator 3.1.1, noting the target had not been met, but that there were plans to plant and re-seed two of the slide areas as soon as possible. It was noted that there are circumstances where it is best to wait before dealing with slides included in this indicator.

Kevin provided an example of a steep slide and demonstrated how it is sometimes difficult and perhaps not prudent to replant slide areas.

There was a discussion of whether stumps and the species of wood in woody debris should be taken into consideration in target two of Indicator 3.1.2.

Kevin reviewed the two targets associated with Indicator 3.2.1, proportion of watershed areas with recent stand-replacing disturbance, noting both had been met.

Kevin reviewed some photos demonstrating road erosion and maintenance issues and techniques, including a failing cutbank, use of a 'beaver puzzle' culvert, broken stringers on a log bridge, washouts, use of a steel bridge with a GRS crib and use of snooper trucks to inspect the undersides of bridges over steep ravines.

Kevin reviewed the target around Indicator 4.1.1, net carbon uptake, and noted that this target of being carbon positive had been met.

Kevin reviewed the six targets related to Indicator 5.1.1 and noted that all six targets had been met. Kevin showed a slide of a large metal pipe being installed through a non-fish-bearing stream, to ensure safe and environmentally acceptable road access. He showed a photo of an open-bottomed metal arch being installed on Keogh Mainline, again to ensure road access. Kevin pointed to the range of difficulty associated with road reconstruction.

Kevin reviewed the target related to Indicator 5.2.1. He noted that WFP had steadily increased investment in community projects like salmonid enhancement, the Rotary Trail and recreational development at locations like the Kathleen Lake. It was suggested that the road in the Kathleen Lake recreation site be maintained.

Jon reviewed the two targets around Indicator 5.2.2, noting the variance was met around training and that target two around summer student positions had been met.

Jon noted that the target around Indicator 5.2.4 had been met. He noted that the target associated with Indicator 5.2.5 had been met, and that 51% of money spent in 2017 had been invested in the Regional District.

Jon reviewed the target associated with Indicator 6.1.1 around evidence of understanding of aboriginal title and rights and noted that it had been met, through initiatives like meetings with several of the First Nations in the DFA.

Jon reviewed Indicator 6.1.2, reporting on documented opportunities for review of forestry plans and noted the target had been met. Jon reviewed the two targets around Indicator 6.1.3 and noted that both targets had been met.

Jon reviewed the two targets associated with Indicator 6.2.1 and noted that target one around an engagement protocol with the Quatsino First Nation had been met and that target two around management of monumental cedar requests had been met. Jon noted that First Nations from outside the DFA have made requests for monumental cedar and that these requests are sometimes referred to licensees where the First Nations reside.

Jon reviewed target two associated with Indicator 6.3.1 and noted that 100% of the Visual Impact Assessments were completed and the target had been met.

There was a discussion of how often the visual renderings match the final results following harvesting. Jon pointed to how the use of LiDAR has helped improve results.

There was a discussion of how and whether visual quality approaches might be revised to help support efforts to increase boat traffic use and tourism activities in the Port Alice area.

Jon reviewed the two targets associated with Indicator 6.4.1, noting that target one around level of participant satisfaction had been met, and target two around letters received and responded to had been met. Jon added that meetings with local government were also ongoing.

Jon reviewed the target associated with Indicator 6.4.2, noting meetings were ongoing with local government and other public groups.

Jon noted that target one for Indicator 6.4.3 would not be in next year's plan, as these meetings had not been held for some time and First Nations were not in support of their continuance.

Jon noted that the target for Indicator 6.4.4 had been met.

Jon reviewed the two targets associated with Indicator 6.5.1, noting tours and other events had been hosted, and information maps had been made available and both targets had been met.

Jon reviewed the three targets associated with Indicator 6.5.2 and noted all three had been met. He reviewed some of the research conducted by WFP.

It was suggested that WFP approach the tourism offices to determine level of uptake and usage by tourists of the mobile device recreational map developed by the company.

Annemarie thanked Jon and Kevin for their presentation. Steve thanked Kevin for summarizing the results so effectively on a spreadsheet.

Annemarie invited Jon to talk about the new Indicators, 3.2.2 and 5.1.2 that will be introduced in next year's SFMP, following direction from the new CSA Z809-16 standard.

Jon reviewed the proposed targets for new Indicator 3.2.2. It was agreed that these targets would be reviewed on an ongoing basis by members of VINWAG.

Jon reviewed the proposed targets for Indicator 5.1.2, evidence of open and respectful communication. He reviewed the description for target two, noting the expectation was that every second year, a manager at a level of the chief forester or a VP attend, potentially, the joint meeting with NWAC, to discuss issues of common interest to both PAG's.

#### **4.0 DISCUSSION OF FIVE-YEAR HARVESTING PLANS AND SOIL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES: JON FLINTOFT AND KEVIN LAIRD, WFP**

Jon noted that the cut control for TFL 6 was terminated as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017; January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 marked the commencement of a new cut control period. Jon noted that the plan was to harvest the entire TFL 6 AAC and about 100-120,000 cubic metres on the private land. He pointed to reconstruction of existing older roads and about 120 kilometres of new road construction in 2018. Jon pointed to a helicopter program planned in 2018 out of the Port McNeill area. Jon pointed to a helicopter program for 2019 in the Holberg area and one in the Port Alice area in 2020.

Jon talked about the tethered falling program, targeted to run at 80-100,000 cubic metres a year. It was noted that there might also be a tethered hoe-chucking program.

Jon talked about plans to harvest a forest licence, which includes areas east of Telegraph Cove at Kaikash, near Colony Lake and Klaskino. He talked about some of the challenges associated with developing the cutblocks in these areas.

Jon gave some examples of the importance of soils and the importance of good soil management in forestry. He noted that soil management affects slope stability and water quality and pointed to practices that WFP uses to minimize soil disturbance, such as use of puncheon to prevent rutting caused by use of heavy machinery. Jon provided an example of soil horizons above sandstone-like rock in the Waukwaas area and what is done to manage these types of soils. He reviewed soil management practices used in backspars trails. Jon pointed to the importance of dealing with ruts caused by backspars trails and how these ruts needed to be deactivated to prevent erosion. Jon reviewed how puncheon affects water flow.

There was a brief discussion of the new provincial report on acid rock and some of the Implications of the use of acid rock in road construction.

#### **5.0 NEXT MEETING: ANNEMARIE KOCH**

It was agreed that, further to the proposed 2018 schedule, the next meeting take place on June 14<sup>th</sup> and that the meeting would include a presentation on recreation sites and trails in the DFA, annual review of the Terms of Reference and a report on the external audit at Stillwater.

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

**When: JUNE 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Dinner: 6:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting: 7:00 p.m.**