

Nimkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting  
Minutes April 9, 2015  
Black Bear Resort Port McNeill, BC  
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

**Attendance:** Kelly McMahon, WFP, Trevor Egely, Operations Planner, WFP, Stu Ellis, General Public, Pat English, Local Government, Dave Wall, Karst, David Jack, B.C. Parks Alternate, Jack Miller, Labour, Graham MacDonald, Town of Port McNeill

**Regrets:** Paul Barolet, Advisor, MOFLNRO, Jon Lok, Small Contractor, Bill Nelson, Logging Contractor, Steve Lacasse, Environment

**Presenter:** 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.

Annemarie reviewed the objectives of the meeting, namely:

- To review the previous meeting minutes and selected action items;
- To hear a presentation by WFP Area Planner Kelly McMahon on the 2014 Annual Report;
- To undertake the annual review of the Terms of Reference and membership;
- To provide a brief update on the CSA technical Committee's review of the standard
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

She then encouraged members to introduce themselves, for the benefit of the new Town of Port McNeill representative, Graham MacDonald, and B.C. Parks alternate David Jack, both of whom she welcomed to the meeting.

### 2. Review of Minutes and Action Items:

Annemarie reviewed the minutes and action items from the March 5<sup>th</sup> 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 five action items to address from the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Annemarie reviewed the action items from previous meetings, bringing attention to five items which had recently been completed, or 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:** May 21,2015

Kelly noted she had done some work on this action item and compared the indicators used in other divisions, such as mid Island and Port McNeill. She noted that Port McNeill uses net road access as one way of showing economic development, and added that mid Island uses how much is paid to contract services related to the division, as a way of demonstrating economic revenues generated in the DFA. She noted that number of working days was another way to look at how the division was doing. It was agreed that Kelly should target the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting to bring this back to NWAC members.

**Action Item 2:** Determine the feasibility of a cross division PAG meeting- in Port McNeill-just had an all PAG meeting in Powell River September 26-27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Responsibility-** Kelly and Trevor

**Due Date-** ongoing in 2015

**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

Kelly noted that it would be easy to implement a greater scope of training opportunities to include contractors. It was agreed she would have this done for the 2015 annual report.

**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 7:** Set up a presentation on the TSOL Joint Venture Between WFP and Atli Forest Products for a Future Meeting

**Responsibility:** Kelly

**Due Date:** Early in 2016

**Action Item 8:** Distribute a pdf copy of Trevor's presentation to NWAC members

**Responsibility:** Kelly

**Due Date:** With the minutes of the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, by March 31<sup>st</sup>

Annemarie noted that Trevor's presentation had been previously distributed on March 11<sup>th</sup> with the minutes of the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and posted on the website.

**Action Item 9:** Circulate draft outline of the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting to members with the minutes for consideration at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting

**Responsibility:** Kelly

**Due Date:** Distribute with the March 5<sup>th</sup> minutes, by March 31

Annemarie noted that the draft outline for the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting had been circulated on March 11, with the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

**Action Item 10:** Post 2015 schedule of meetings on PAG website

**Responsibility:** Annemarie Koch

**Due Date:** By March 12, 2015

Annemarie noted that the 2015 meeting schedule had been posted on the website.

### **3. Review of 2014 Annual Report: Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP**

Kelly noted that input from members was critical to the success of the review process. She distributed a hard copy of the draft plan for members to look at while she made her presentation. Kelly noted that the draft has been reviewed internally and that the final review would be made by members of NWAC, prior to publication on the PAG website, hopefully next week.

Kelly noted that her intent was to enhance the understanding of members, and she invited them to ask questions at any time.

Kelly started with Indicator 1.1.1, Ecosystem Area by Type and noted that the target of harvesting 50% or more of the mid to older age had been met for each biogeoclimatic zone. She explained what a seral stage is.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 1.1.2, Forest Area by Species Composition, noting the targets had been met.

There was a discussion of alder management, and how the species was considered more valuable now but that active eradication programs had been carried out previously.

It was noted that other species were seen to be more effective in supporting watershed management than alder.

Kelly noted that the target had been met for Indicator 1.1.3, Forest Area by Age Class. There was a discussion of the value of the wood at different age classes. Trevor noted that it was company policy to preserve, as much as possible, younger stands that were growing and putting on more volume than older stands.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 1.1.4, Degree of Within-Stand Retention and noted that the targets had been met. She explained the formulas that are used to determine retention levels.

There was a discussion of the relative merits of higher than required retention levels. It was noted that resource features on the stand often determine retention levels anyway.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 1.2.1, Degree of Habitat Protection For Focal Species, such as goshawks and marbled murrelets. Dave asked about the cave amphipod and noted that there was a joint proposal to protect it and Keen's myotis (bat). There was a discussion of how the goshawk nesting habitat can change significantly over time.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 1.2.3, Proportion of Regeneration Comprised of Native Species and noted the target had been met. She noted that hemlock was a prolific re-seeder, and that the big drivers are Douglas fir, cedar and yellow cedar. Graham asked about the success of planting trees when many are overtaken by native species such as hemlock. It was noted that planted stands can take hold but that native species can overtake certain areas. There was a discussion about the science around monitoring and ensuring that planted species do survive.

Graham noted his concern that we are not tinkering with the forest genetics and ecology too much. He added his concern for logging the alpine areas. There was a discussion of the issues involved with managing and logging alpine areas.

Graham asked about tree genetics and provenances for alpine trees.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 1.2.4, Percent Consistency With Management Practices For Habitat Features, such as karst and bear dens and noted that the targets had been met.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 6.1.3, Level of Management Protection For Culturally Important Areas, such as those containing culturally modified trees, and noted that the target had been met. She discussed way in which these features are protected, including spiral pruning and high stumping. She noted the work that the 'Namgis are doing to provide input on this. There was a discussion of the relevance of timing of aboriginal tree

use in relation to determining its cultural significance. Trevor noted that the company was developing a cedar strategy with the 'Namgis First Nation that could be incorporated into the retention strategy.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 2.1.2, Percent Consistency With Time To Control a Forest Fire and noted that the target of controlling the fires in a timely manner had been met.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 2.2.1, Additions and Deletions to the Forest Area and noted the target had been met.

She reviewed Indicator 2.2.2, Proportion of LTHL That Is Actually Harvested and noted that projections show WFP should be on target at the end of the five year term.

There was some discussion of relative merits of choosing higher or lower harvest levels in relation to markets and other considerations. Kelly reviewed percentage of billable old growth, second growth and utility logs and noted that waste levels were trending downward. There was a discussion of how the company tries to get the maximum amount of value of the fibre and how this relates to waste, such as flared butts, that may or may not be left for other purposes.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 3.1.1, Level of Soil Disturbance and noted the targets had been met. She noted there had been a slide below a constructed road, but that all appropriate measures had been taken to rehabilitate the site for future forest growth.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 3.1.2, Level of Downed Woody Debris and that the target, to provide enough debris for habitat and soil development for example, had been met. It was noted that downed woody debris includes billable and non billable waste.

Kelly reviewed the watershed indicator and noted that the targets had been met across the watersheds. She noted that WFP had been most active in the Davie, Kaipit and Upper Tsitika this past year.

Kelly reviewed some of the key management concerns, including flood plains in alluvial streams on the Davie. She pointed to how prescriptions are prepared to address the concerns that have been identified.

There was a discussion of the knowledge levels of practicing foresters and geoscientists around watershed management.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 4.1.1, Net Carbon Uptake and noted that the target had been met. She reviewed the causes of outputs, including burning of debris and fuel consumed, versus carbon uptake in growing trees.

There was a discussion of how chipping the wood might offset some of the carbon outputs produced by burning of debris.

It was noted that burning was done to create plantable sites and to reduce fire hazard.

There was a discussion of the different categories used to calculate net carbon uptake, for example, including tree age relative to rate of carbon uptake.

**Action Item 11:** Arrange for a presentation on the relative rate of carbon uptake at different seral stages.

**Responsibility:** Kelly

**Due Date:** Some time in 2016

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.1.1, Quantity and quality of timber and non timber benefits produced in the DFA. She noted that this was an indicator for which targets had not been met in the past. She noted that targets were not being met for the tree species, noting that Douglas fir was being overharvested in relation to the target and yellow cedar was being underharvested relative to the target. Kelly explained that there was a need for some flexibility in relation to markets and said she had put it to management to consider the need for this flexibility. Trevor noted the increased harvest of Douglas fir was in part in response to not harvesting the species in the tree settlement offer lands to First Nations.

There was a discussion of what the targets mean over short periods of time. Graham asked about the effects of clearcutting harvesting methods on which proportions of species are taken out. Kelly stressed that the company is using variable retention and not clearcut with reserves.

There was a discussion about the value of investing more in getting good inventories.

Kelly asked the group how they felt about adding additional variance to allow for market adjustments, e.g. having minimums for yellow cedar.

**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:** May 21,2015

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.1.1. EBITDA and that this target had been met, with the company being positive at the bottom of the market cycle.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.2.1, Level of Investment in Initiatives That Contribute to Community Sustainability and that this target had been met. Kelly explained that the 2014 revenues for Campbell River were much higher than in previous years and noted that this could have had something to do with the new accounting procedures used in 2014. There was a discussion of the issues involved and whether members might like to see where the revenues are and whether there might be more of them directed to the region. It was noted that there are fewer service companies located in the region and that the region should be focused on generating more jobs in order to enhance economic development.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.2.3, Level of Direct and Indirect Employment, and noted that the target had been met. Pat noted that there was a steady increase in the number of Campbell River contractors relative to contractors from the region. There was a discussion of the types of contracts undertaken by people out of the region, including treeplanting.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.2.4, Level of Aboriginal Participation in the Forest Economy and that this information had been tracked and the numbers were increasing.

Kelly reviewed the remaining indicators, including 6.3.1 and noted the targets were being met. Kelly reviewed the volumes of wood sold across the communities, noting that volumes were decreasing based on demand or availability of suitable product.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 6.4.1, Level of Satisfaction with the Public Participation process and reviewed the recommendations from the participant satisfaction survey, noting that she was looking for new membership, including a youth sector and perhaps a representative for Zeballos. She noted that it had been suggested that the meeting schedule be revisited and she reviewed some of the other recommendations.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 6.4.2, Capacity Development and Meaningful Participation and she reported out on this noting, for example, that a presentation had been made to the Regional District and to a retired foresters group. She reviewed some of the training opportunities that had been developed and delivered.

**Action Item 13:** Post 2014 annual report on the PAG website

**Responsibility:** Kelly and Annemarie

**Due Date:** April 30,2015

#### **4. Annual Review of Terms of Reference and Membership**

Annemarie reviewed the Terms of Reference with NWAC members. It was agreed to update the date in the footer of the document and note the review and revision date on the title page. It was agreed that item 'K' should be revised to read 'Mechanism to Adjust the Public Participation Process.'

Annemarie asked members if they wanted to see any changes to the current operating rules. There was a discussion of whether the DFA map needed to be changed.

Members agreed to make some minor changes to the dates and spelling in the Section K title and to adopt the terms of reference as reviewed with minor revisions.

**Action Item 14:** Revise and update Terms of Reference and post on PAG website

**Responsibility:** Kelly and Annemarie

**Due Date:** April 30,2014

There was a discussion of the need for innovation in the forest industry.

**Action Item 15:** Revisit biomass development opportunities with a future presentation at NWAC

**Responsibility:** Kelly

**Due Date:** Sometime in 2016

There was a discussion of membership. It was suggested that efforts should be made to broaden representation of karst interests and to talk to Ray Lutz and Buzz Walker to see if they wished to continue attending the meetings. It was also agreed to determine whether someone would represent interests in Zeballos, as this was an area of the DFA that was increasingly affected by forest management activities in the DFA. It was noted that it might be difficult for someone from Zeballos to attend the meetings, but that they should have the opportunity to be represented, if they wished.

## **5. Update on the Technical Committee's Proposed Revisions to the CSA Standard**

Annemarie shared public advisory group representative on the technical committee, Jane Cameron's update on proposed revisions to the standard as follows:

"The biggest proposed change now on the table is grouping all the aboriginal indicators in one area, instead of having those indicators spread out in other sections. There will also be more consistent wording in those aboriginal indicators.

You will also find smaller changes, including in our public participation process, e.g. we will be recommending that more information about CSA audits be made public and made more easily accessible. As well, we are proposing some easing of forecasting for certain indicators. There will be one new water indicator proposed."

Annemarie noted that the proposed revisions should be open for public review throughout the summer and that Jane had advised that she would keep PAG members posted on the review process.

## **6. Next Meeting:**

Annemarie noted that the next meeting would be on May 21, 2015 and that Bev Webber was scheduled to provide a presentation on the Lookout Trail. She added that discussion of the October 22 draft meeting outline would be postponed to the May meeting.

Annemarie thanked Kelly for a very comprehensive and informative presentation on the annual report. She thanked everyone for coming and bid them a safe journey home.