

Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting  
Minutes February 12, 2015  
Black Bear Resort Port McNeill, BC  
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

**Attendance:** Kelly McMahon, WFP, Pat English, Local Government, Jack Miller, Labour, Jon Lok, Small Contractor, Steve Lacasse, Environment, Bill Nelson, Logging Contractor

**Advisors:** Stu Ellis, NICFLP

**Regrets:** Paul Barolet, Advisor, MOFLNRO, Jessie Moore, Parks, Trevor Egely, WFP, Dave Wall, Karst

**Presenter:** Mike Davis, Planning Forester, 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 Planner Mike Davis on strategic planning;
- To review the results of the participant satisfaction survey;
- To review the draft schedule of meetings in 2015, and;
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

She invited members to introduce themselves for the benefit of the presenter.

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

Annemarie reviewed the minutes and action items from the November 27th 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 six action items to address from the November 27th meeting.

Annemarie reviewed the action items from previous meetings, bringing attention to six 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, by the November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting

**Responsibility:** Kelly/Jack/Bill

**Due Date:** This item was deferred to the February 12, 2015 meeting

Kelly asked if this item could be deferred to the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, after she has had a chance to make some headway with the 2014 annual report.

**Action Item 2:** Determine the feasibility of a cross division PAG meeting- in Port McNeill-to be revisited in 2014-just had an all PAG meeting in Powell River September 26-27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Responsibility-** Kelly and Trevor

**Due Date-** ongoing 2014-2015

**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:** Solicit new members, and print a press release, highlighting the efforts of NWAC in the North Island Gazette.

**Responsibility:** Kelly

**Due Date: January, 2015** after a new Town council representative is appointed and combine with solicitation of a new Mount Cain representative

Kelly indicated she would have this done prior to the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Action Item 5:** 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:** March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

**Action Item 6:** Provide a presentation WFP's 20 year plan.

**Responsibility:** Kelly and Trevor

**Due Date:** Sometime in 2015. It was agreed later in the meeting that this presentation be given by Trevor at the March, 2015 meeting.

It was noted that this presentation was now scheduled for a March 5, 2015 NWAC meeting.

**Action Item 8:** support Youth Forestry Initiative

**Responsibility:** Kelly

**Due date:** Next meeting

Kelly noted that VINWAG had been spearheading the youth forestry initiative and that she would keep the group posted on any new developments since Jay Dixon's presentation at the November meeting.

**Action Item 9:** Distribute digital copies of the participant satisfaction survey to all members.

**Responsibility:** Kelly and NWAC Members

**Due Date:** Distribute copies of survey with November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and respond to Kelly or Annemarie within a week of distribution of the November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes

It was noted that this item was completed in December, 2014.

**Action Item 10:** 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

Annemarie noted she had approached the Town of Port McNeill for a representative for VINWAG and that Councillor Graham MacDonald had been appointed. She noted that she follow up with Jay Dixon to see if he was still willing to sit with NWAC.

**Action Item 11:** Distribute a copy of the most recent version of the Terms of Reference to all NWAC members.

**Responsibility:** Kelly and Annemarie

**Due Date:** Distribute with November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and post on PAG website.

It was noted that this action item had been completed in December,2014.

### **3. Strategic Planning For the DFA: Mike Davis, Planning Forester, WFP**

Mike described his role with WFP, noting that he was preparing Timber Supply Analyses for the company. He noted he had previously worked for MacMillan Bloedel and Weyerhaeuser.

Mike reviewed the general outline of his presentation, noting he would be describing how the AAC determination process works, timber supply inputs, and corporate sustainability indicators and metrics, including harvest profiles. Mike noted he would be referring to some of the indicators in the NWAC SFMP throughout his presentation.

Mike reviewed the planning context, starting with operational plans, and their relationship to corporate forecasts. He noted that efforts were being made to gather and

use better information to ensure operational plans were consistent with corporate forecasts and targets.

Mike pointed to the different levels and scales of planning used, including forest inventory, growth and yield models, timber supply models, available land base and AAC, and 20 year operational plans.

Mike reviewed approaches called optimization initiatives, using wood supply modeling as a basis for determining the best 20 year harvest priorities, volume by operation, forest profile and harvest system, all leading to a 20 year operational plan. He stressed that there is constant feedback to determine how best to implement the plan practically in the field. Mike pointed to various information sources and tools used in the planning process, including data improvement plans, tactical optimization and annual plans. He added that another model is being developed to determine the long term implications of implementation of the plan in relation to environmental sustainability of the plan.

Mike reviewed the TFL AAC determination process that is carried out every ten years, starting with submission of a draft Information Package (IP), followed by agency, public and First Nations reviews. He pointed out the connection to indicators in NWAC's SFMP.

Mike noted that once the IP is accepted, the Timber Supply Analysis (TSA) begins, followed by development of a draft Management Plan (MP), TSA Review and further consultation and information sharing with agencies, the public and First Nations.

Following this review, the government determines whether to accept the TSA and the proposed MP is submitted. The Chief Forester then reviews the MP and other information and then determines the AAC, at which time the MP is generally concurrently approved.

Mike reviewed some of the factors influencing timber supply, including: 1. how much land is available, 2. are there constraints on the land and 3. how fast do the trees grow.

Mike noted the current MP number for TFL 37 is #9, the total land base is 196,725 ha and the Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) is about 46% of that total. It was noted that some of the land base was lost to BCTS in around 2006.

Mike reviewed the constraints within the THLB including landscape level biodiversity, watershed management and economic factors such as harvestable tree size.

Mike reviewed some of the ways of modeling how fast the trees grow, including aggregate stands and analysis units, Variable Density Yield Projection (VDYP) for unmanaged stands and Table Interpolation For Stand Yields (TIPSY) for managed stands. He reviewed ways that growth of future stands can be forecast.

Mike noted there is an allowance for the effects of variable retention on growth rates.

Pat asked about the effects of climate change on tree growth rates. Mike noted that he didn't think there was enough time and data on the coast to determine measurable trends. He noted that everything he had read suggested that the jury was still out on the coast. It was noted that, generally speaking and in relation to the Interior, forecasted growth rates for the coast were good, with warmer, wetter winters anticipated.

Jon asked how significant the shading impact is with variable retention. Mike noted that research he had seen was that it was having an effect within 15 metres of an edge, but that there was conflicting data out there.

Mike reviewed the harvest profile indicators that are being developed to provide a consistent measure of sustainability. He noted there were many parallels with the indicators being used in the NWAC SFMP.

He explained that the intent of the approach was to develop a meaningful framework to evaluate forest inventory through time, using indicators such as species profile, age class, harvest system, seasonality and utilization and waste.

It was noted that markets have an influence on the implementation of the plan and that, because of this, many of the measures are taken over a rolling five year average, for example.

Mike noted that the harvest profile indicators were used to compare how the 20 year plan fared in relation to the profile of the entire forest. With respect to species profile for example, in second growth, the forest is 50% hembal and 44% fir, whereas in old growth, the forest is 71% hembal and 4% fir.

Mike reviewed some of the considerations for managing for value over the short and long term. He noted that the WFP strategy is to maximize value over the long term, and so there is a tradeoff between harvesting for volume versus value.

Mike reviewed the lumber marketing strategy and how logs are matched to products and markets. He reviewed the mills on the Island and how they are designed to handle different log sizes and supply different markets.

Mike discussed the implications to processing facilities when AAC is lost for various reasons. There was a discussion of how WFP sources logs from other tenure holders to supply their mills on the Island.

Mike reviewed the harvest season indicator noting that, overall, 65% of old and mature inventory is not accessible in winter, but that this seasonality varies by operation, e.g. Holberg has more low elevation sites and can log year-round, whereas Englewood can harvest a smaller percentage of high elevation wood in the winter months.

Mike reviewed the next steps for the 20-year indicators, noting they would be used to develop strategies and performance metrics to support strategic initiatives, and to direct innovation efforts.

Mike added that efforts were being made to access better tactical planning tools.

Steve asked about the difference of harvesting of species profiles in old growth versus second growth.

There was a discussion of managing for climate change. Mike noted that WFP is participating in a study that ranges down to California and noted that some trials were being carried out, including planting trees from southern regions in regions further north to see how they fare.

There was a discussion of the effects of natural disturbances such as the pine beetle. Steve noted that the current SFMP calls for us to plant the species mix we have now and that this might not be in the best interests of planning for climate change in future.

It was noted that the company was looking at maintaining biodiversity as a strategy. It was noted that western red cedar will grow across a range of sites.

Jack asked when we are going to hit the wall with the heli-logging program, with respect to having to log hemlock on these sites. It was noted that the heli-logging question needs to be looked at in the context of the company's future harvesting plans generally.

It was noted that local management decisions are made on the basis of what is being measured and that this isn't always optimal for the forest or the company as a whole. Mike acknowledged the suggestion from the group that a longer term view of the world would work better for the forests and the company and communities.

Jon asked how much corporate commitment there is to the strategic plan over an annual time frame. There was a discussion of how scenarios are used to establish outlooks. It was noted that strategic planning was likely to become more and more of a determinant in corporate decision-making over time.

It was noted that the closure of Neucel would change things somewhat on the North Island.

There was a discussion of the feasibility of a small log mill on northern Vancouver Island.

Annemarie thanked Mike for his presentation.

#### **4. Review of Results of Participant Satisfaction Surveys**

Annemarie noted there were three responses to the participant satisfaction survey distributed in 2014. She said that respondents seemed to be satisfied with the meeting format and level of input, and she shared a list of recommendations arising from the survey, as follows:

1. Solicit a representative or representatives for youth for NWAC, and continue to ensure that there is broad representation of sectors, e.g. parks, karst and local government in the group, and more consistent attendance of the meetings.
2. Revisit the meeting schedule to further try to ensure the timing of the meetings is agreeable to the majority of members.
3. Discuss whether NWAC is fulfilling the terms of reference during the next annual review.
4. Build on suggestions from the November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to engage a broader range of speakers.

Steve asked what we could do to encourage young people to sit in on the meetings. It was noted that attendance at NWAC meetings might be considered part of the forestry training course being developed by School District 85, and that participants could receive credits for attending the meetings.

Annemarie noted that she would follow up with Jay Dixon about asking a youth representative to sit with NWAC.

**Action Item 12:** Follow up with Jay Dixon to see if he will represent the Town of Port McNeill on NWAC and if he will help to source a youth representative for NWAC and help to find ways to engage youth with NWAC.

**Responsibility:** Annemarie Koch

**Due Date:** March 5, 2015 Meeting

## **5. Discussion of 2015 Meeting Schedule**

Annemarie reviewed the draft 2015 meeting schedule and proposed speakers with members of NWAC.

There was a discussion of who might make up the panel for the October 22 meeting. It was suggested that Cheryl O'Connell of North Island College, Jay Dixon of School District 85, Randy Boas and Lisa Perrault of WFP, Bill Nelson of Holbrook Dyson, and Jon Lok of Strategic Natural Resources Consultants, and Megan Hanacek for the Port McNeill Rotary be considered as panel participants.

Pat said he would get back about community and government representation and Jack said get back about a labour representative for the panel.

It was suggested that the panel session would be more productive if there were an outline and purpose to the discussions, e.g. a series of questions that could be put to the panel.

**Action Item 13:** Develop a draft program for the October 22 panel session.

**Responsibility:** Annemarie Koch

**Due Date:** April 9,2015

**6. Next Meeting:**

Annemarie referred to discussions previously in the meeting and noted that the next meeting would be on March 5, 2015 and that Trevor Egely would provide a presentation on Englewood's 20-Year Operational Plan.

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