

Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes February 7,2019
Black Bear Resort, Port McNeill, BC
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Attendance: Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP, Adrian Pendergast, Education, Stu Ellis, General Public, Steve Lacasse, Environment, Trevor Egely, Large Contractors, Pat English, Local Government Alternate, Rod Sherrell, Local Government, Derek Koel, Town of Port McNeill

Regrets: Cameron Brady, Karst, Jon Lok, Contractors

Presenters: Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP, CIFO

Advisor: Paul Barolet, MOFLNRO

Observers: Jeanne Matthews, Field Planner, Englewood, WFP and Sebastien Lecours, Operations Planner, Englewood, WFP

Facilitator: Annemarie Koch

Notes: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

1. Introduction and Safety Procedures:

Annemarie welcomed everyone, stressed the importance of safety to WFP throughout its operations and reviewed the safety procedures to follow in the event of a fire or medical emergency.

She welcomed Port McNeill Councillor Derek Koel and Regional Director Rod Sherrell and invited those present to introduce themselves to them.

She noted that Will Sloan had been unable to attend the meeting and Kelly had agreed to present results from the annual report instead. She added that Will and Sebastien Lecours were scheduled to speak at the March 14th meeting.

2. Review of Meeting Objectives, Minutes and Action Items

Annemarie reviewed the objectives of the meeting, namely:

- To review the November 8,2018 meeting minutes and selected action items;
- To hear a presentation from Kelly on the 2018 annual report;
- To review the results of the 2018 participant satisfaction survey;
- To review and confirm the 2019 schedule of meetings;
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

Annemarie reviewed the November 8th minutes and reminded members that she would be assuming they had read the minutes prior to the meeting. She noted that she would not be addressing action items that were ongoing but only items that were completed or needed to be addressed in the shorter term. Given this, Annemarie noted that there were nine action items to address or review since the November 8th meeting:

Action Item 5: support Youth Forestry Initiative

Responsibility: Kelly

Due date: Ongoing

Action Item 32: Keep NWAC members up to date on the forest sector strategy initiative

Responsibility: Pat English

Due Date: Ongoing in 2019

Annemarie asked Pat if he had any updates on the forest sector strategy initiative.

Pat noted that VIU has one more recruitment session scheduled in Port McNeill on February 13th. He added that applications will close at the end of February and that he hoped that 12 students would be in place by the end of March to start the program.

Pat noted that two training sessions were planned, one starting April 1st and one in August. It was noted that the program is being promoted throughout the region, including Sointula and Alert Bay.

Action Item 33: Keep NWAC members up to date on the initiative to form a coalition of industry, business and community representatives to respond to the UBCM resolution to ban all future logging of old growth on Vancouver Island.

Responsibility: Pat English

Due Date: Ongoing in 2019

Action Item 40: Implement recommendations in 2016 participant satisfaction survey report.

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon, Annemarie Koch, NWAC members

Due Date: Ongoing

Action Item 43: Explain why key targets are not set for old growth and immature stand types for target 1 under Indicator 5.1.1

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon

Due Date: November 8, 2018

Annemarie noted that this item had been discussed at the November 8th meeting and that it had been agreed to update Target 1 of Indicator 5.1.1 to reflect the sustainability metrics presented by Mike Davis.

Action Item 54: Talk to the Woss Residents Association about more actively pursuing community funds from WFP through CIF and other corporate sources.

Responsibility: Chris Bowden-Green

Due Date: Ongoing

Action Item 64: Track and follow the potential water quality and quantity impacts of tethered feller buncher harvesting

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Ongoing

Action Item 65: Consider adding an education target around sedimentation management to Indicator 3.2.2, possibly for grader and hoe operators

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Ongoing in 2019

Action Item 66: Consider adding a data collection target to Indicator 3.2.2

Responsibility: Kelly and Steve

Due Date: Ongoing

Action Item 67: Retain and develop target 4 under Indicator 6.1 to communicate information about what NWAC does specifically

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Ongoing in 2019 and for 2019 SFMP

Action Item 71: Invite management to provide operational reports from time to time.

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Throughout 2019

Action Item 72: Try to source a recreation/tourism representative for NWAC, possibly someone from a tourism adventure company, fishing guide or Mount Cain Board

Responsibility: Jon, Steve, Pat, Kelly

Due Date: February 7, 2019

Annemarie asked whether any of the NWAC members tasked with this action item had anything to report.

Kelly noted that she had sent a note to the Mount Cain board asking them to consider sending a representative to NWAC.

Action Item 73: Talk to Jon Flintoft about the possibility of including NWAC members in the annual VINWAG tour and including a look at tethered harvesting

Responsibility: Annemarie and Kelly

Due Date: September, 2019

Annemarie noted that the VINWAG field tour was scheduled for September 13, 2019. NWAC members noted that, if they were to participate in a joint field trip, they would like to see cultural features, karst, tethered harvesting and management of northern goshawk habitat.

Action Item 76: Bring concerns communicated by forest users and members of the public generally, e.g. karst issues to members of NWAC to discuss from time to time

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Ongoing

Action Item 77: Report back to NWAC on the cause and effects of an anticipated reduction in company and contractor harvest

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Provide Updates early in 2019

Annemarie noted that Sebastien Lecours was scheduled to address this item during his operational update at the March 14th meeting.

Action Item 78: Talk to Rob Shambrook about whether the target can be increased to more than 50% of the CIF being invested in communities in the DFA

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Mid 2019

Annemarie encouraged NWAC members to make application to fund community projects through CIF and to share information about the program with community representatives.

Kelly provided background on the CIF and explained how applications could be made. She too encouraged communities in the DFA to apply.

Action Item 80: Talk to members of VINTAC about providing a representative for the tourism and recreation sector on NWAC

Responsibility: Pat English

Due Date: Ongoing in 2019

Annemarie noted that Pat had indicated he was still working on gaining VINTAC representation on NWAC. Pat noted there were some new directors on VINTAC who might show interest.

Action Item 81: prepare a promotional piece on the community investment program for members of NWAC to distribute to their networks

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: March 14,2019

Annemarie noted that the promotional pieces had been distributed at a previous meeting and added that Kelly would be summarizing any resulting program applications through the annual report.

Action Item 83: Report out on current Indicator 5.1.1 for 2017 reporting year and develop new Indicator and associated targets for 2018 reporting year

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Early in 2019

Annemarie noted that Kelly would be addressing this item during her discussion of the annual report.

Action Item 84: Complete and submit responses to 2018 participant satisfaction survey

Responsibility: All NWAC members

Due Date: November 30,2018

Annemarie thanked NWAC members for responding to the survey and noted that the results of the survey would be discussed later in the meeting.

Action Item 85: Send CIF application forms out to members with the February 7th meeting minutes.

Responsibility: Kelly and Annemarie

Due Date: March 1,2019

Action Item 86: Send NWAC Terms of Reference to new members Derek Koel and Rod Sherrell

Responsibility: Annemarie

Due Date: February 8,2019

There were no further questions or comments on the minutes or action items and the minutes were accepted.

3. Review of 2018 Annual Report: Kelly McMahon, WFP

Annemarie thanked Kelly for moving ahead preparation of the annual report and invited her to proceed with her presentation.

Kelly noted that this report was normally due at the end of March but she had bumped things up so that she could start her presentation at this meeting.

She noted that she would be finishing the report at the March 14th meeting.

Kelly started with a review of Indicator 1.1.4, degree of within stand retention. She explained the history and purpose of the indicator and how the zones originated with the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan. She noted that Englewood was doing very well in the retention category and had met the targets for this indicator. Kelly noted that Englewood was one of the best divisions with respect to meeting retention targets.

Kelly briefly reviewed a new retention tool that most of the planners were using now, using forest edges to help generate forest influence.

Sebastien noted that, using this new approach, the difference between a retention block and a clearcut would be much clearer.

Kelly reviewed the calculations that are done, using LiDar, to determine retention plans under the Western Forest Strategy.

There was a discussion of the planning done around retention.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 1.2.3, around planting of native species. She noted that Douglas fir and western red cedar were planted in highest quantities, followed by yellow cedar and hemlock and balsam. There was a discussion of the planting of noble fir (currently non-native to B.C.) and how climate change might impact planting strategies.

There was a discussion of whether the indicator should be changed to accommodate the planting of non-native species like noble fir.

There was a discussion of the history of this indicator. It was noted that Douglas fir had consistently been a good producer and met the native species requirement.

Kelly reported out on Indicator 2.1.1, reforestation success. It was noted that the number of free growing commitments seemed to be falling since 2009. There was some discussion of the possible reasons for this trend.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 2.1.3, additions and deletions to the forest area and noted that the target had been met. It was noted that the percent permanent access was trending upward. It was noted that this might be the result of harvesting activities moving up and out of the valley bottoms and an increase in heli-logging.

It was noted that it looked like the blocks were getting smaller and the number of roads growing.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.1.1, quantity and quality of timber and non-timber benefits produced in the DFA. She reviewed results for target 2 of this indicator, noting there were seven campsites maintained in the DFA, including Kinman Creek, Anutz Lake and Woss Lake. She noted there was a total of 32.1 hectares of recreational area represented by these campsites and 94 camping pads.

Jeanne reviewed the work that had been done to upgrade existing sites and identify potential development of new sites, potentially in collaboration with First Nations.

There was a discussion of the Englewood recreational map. Kelly explained some of the work that still needed to be done and noted that she hoped to get back to this initiative this summer.

Action Item 87: get Englewood digital recreation map out by summer of 2019

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Summer of 2019

Kelly reviewed target 2 of Indicator 5.2.1, level of investment initiatives that benefit North Island communities. She pointed to local spending patterns, noting the greatest percentage of the funds were spent in Port McNeill at 55.79%, followed by 27.53% of expenditures on goods and services in Campbell River.

Action Item 88: provide more detail of the nature of spending on goods and services associated with Indicator 5.2.1, target 2

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: March 14, 2019

There was discussion of the previous commitment to provide information on goods and services that could be provided by local businesses and contractors. Kelly committed to continue the work that was started in this area.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.2.3, level of direct and indirect employment in the DFA, target 2. She noted that the total number of employees living and working on the North Island was 115 people or 71% of the Englewood workforce. She noted that the division was intent on hiring people from the North Island. It was noted that the overall number of employees in the division was declining.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 6.1.1, level of satisfaction with the public participation process and noted that the results of the 2018 participant satisfaction survey would be discussed next on the agenda.

4. Review of Results of 2018 Participant Satisfaction Survey: Annemarie Koch

Annemarie referred NWAC members to the summary and recommendations that had been circulated with the agenda. She reviewed the recommendations arising from the survey results and asked if there were any questions or comments on the results or recommendations.

Members agreed generally with the recommendations made as a result of the survey and to implement them as best possible.

Kelly noted that members would have another opportunity to express their views during an external audit May 21-31st.

Annemarie noted that interested members were welcome to talk to the auditor during the review period.

5. Review and Confirmation of 2019 Meeting Schedule: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

Annemarie referred members to the draft meeting schedule that had been circulated with the agenda and asked NWAC members if they had any comments or questions about the proposed schedule. She encouraged members to provide input on the dates, times and content of the meetings.

She suggested that it would be best to provide input now and confirm the schedule as soon as possible, so that members could plan their attendance and so that the schedule could be posted.

Action Item 89: talk to Harry Alfred about joint presentation to NWAC and VINWAG on knotweed projects in DFA's on the North Island on October 24th

Responsibility: Sebastien Lecours

Due Date: March 14,2019

Sebastien asked what members would like to hear about in his operational report at the March 14th meeting. Pat asked about the permitting issues and what has been done to get harvesting activities up and running.

Sebastien noted that some progress was being made in getting permits moving again. He noted that markets were not good at this time and that this was influencing harvesting activities as well.

Steve asked how this slowdown was affecting workers and community stability, and whether there was a way of tracking this. Sebastien noted that it would be a good idea to monitor these impacts and added that there were already impacts on the workforce, such as the loss of hooktenders who were moving to other jobs.

Trevor asked Sebastien to address what was going to happen with the railway. Sebastien noted that he was aware that the rolling stock would be removed from the railroad in the spring but he added that this question would be best addressed by Kindry or Alex.

There was a discussion of the tenures associated with the railway. There was a discussion of what the railbed will look like when the stock is removed.

There was a discussion of whether the right of way might be rehabilitated and returned to productive growing area.

There was a discussion of what might be done with the yellow cedar ties, e.g. construction materials for campsite improvements.

Action Item 90: continue to work with Jon Flintoft on a joint field trip on September 13th with VINWAG

Responsibility: Kelly and Annemarie

Due Date: May 23,2019

Action Item 91: distribute and post 2019 meeting schedule

Responsibility: Kelly and Annemarie

Due Date: March 14,2019, after joint October meeting is confirmed

Next Meeting:

Annemarie noted that, further to the proposed 2019 meeting schedule, the next meeting would be on March 14,2019 at Black Bear Resort and include a presentation by WFP certification coordinator Will Sloan on comparisons between CSA and SFI certification, and an operational report from Sebastien Lecours. She added that Kelly would be finishing her presentation on the annual report and that this could make for a longer than normal meeting, so she asked members if they would be all right with an earlier start for that meeting, say 6 p.m. Members agreed to having dinner at 6 p.m., starting the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and adjourning at 9 p.m.

Members adjourned the meeting and had an informal discussion. Annemarie and Kelly thanked members for their ongoing commitment to NWAC and bid them a safe journey home.