

Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes February 8, 2018
HaidaWay Inn, Port McNeill, BC
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Attendance: Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP, Stu Ellis, General Public, Steve Lacasse, Environment, Cam Brady, Karst, Jon Lok, Medium-sized Contractors, Adrian Pendergast, Education

Regrets: Trevor Egely, Contractors, Jack Miller, Labour

Advisor: Paul Barolet, Advisor, MOFLNRO

Presenters: Janet Amos, Manager of Learning and Development, WFP, Pat English, Manager of Economic Development, Regional District, Paul Mottershead, Vancouver Island University

Observer: Jon Flintoft, VINWAG, WFP, Kellie Spence, VIU (for Forestry Learning Initiatives Presentation), Vadim Stavrakov, SNRC

Facilitator: Annemarie Koch

Notes: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

1. Introduction and Safety Procedures:

Annemarie 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 thanked members for coming out early for the presentation on forestry learning initiatives. She invited those present to introduce themselves and noted that, in order to allow the presenters to attend their other meeting, and to accommodate visiting VINWAG members, the minutes and action items would be handled after the presentation.

2. Forestry Learning Initiatives on the North Island

Annemarie introduced the presenters and thanked them for taking time out from their open house, scheduled for later in the evening, to make a presentation to members of NWAC.

Janet reviewed the training initiatives to be covered, including a log truck training program and a basic forestry fundamentals program. She noted that the initiatives were being carried out in partnership with and delivered by Vancouver Island University.

Janet noted that nine of the people who had lost their jobs as a result of the railway closure had enrolled in the log truck driver training program. She reviewed how the program competencies had been developed and noted that this initiative would include classroom time, and have a focus on coastal conditions. Janet noted that the people who come out of the training will be matched with a mentor and gain a considerable amount of experience before they head out on the job on their own. She added that drivers would be continuously assessed for competency.

Janet noted that this was the first time a standard had been set for certified training for truck drivers, and noted that the program would be subject to third party assessment. Stu asked who the third party might be. Janet noted that the BC Safety Council was currently proving assessors to do things like pre and post trip inspections.

Janet reviewed the people involved with developing and delivering the truck driver training program.

It was noted that WFP is paying the wages and costs of the people participating in the driver training program.

Paul provided some background on the fundamentals of forestry harvesting practices program. He acknowledged the good work that WFP was doing promoting safety and competency in the work place. He pointed to how the company was leading the way in setting safety and operational standards in the field.

Paul noted that there was a huge need to train new drivers to fill the industry's needs and he commended WFP for taking the initiative and training these drivers.

Paul noted that the forestry fundamentals program would be taking place in Woss from April 16, 2018 to July 6, 2018. He noted that there will be 6 students in one class; one class in 2018 and two classes in 2019.

Paul outlined the essentials of the program. He noted there was 12 weeks of classroom and worksite training and that forestry industry safety training included fall protection, WHIMIS and Switchback. He reviewed some of the various positions for which training would be provided, including machine operators. He then played a video illustrating the opportunities and training needs in the industry.

Paul reviewed the program content, including subjects ranging from an overview of the forest industry, to rigging components, to hazards related to yarding, to applying hands-on chokerperson skills.

Paul reviewed the reasons for the program, including a need to fill a shortage of trained workers in the forest industry. He added that having the program in Woss would introduce young people to the opportunities of working and living in the region.

Paul pointed to the importance of the company showing due diligence in offering proper safety and competency training to save lives and enhance productivity.

Paul pointed to the ways that workers could 'ladder' their skills and advance through the industry. He reviewed the attributes of the ideal candidate, including physical fitness, a passion for working outside and the ability to work independently.

Paul reviewed the application process and timeline, including a basic skills assessment and evidence of critical thinking.

Paul reviewed the funding available through the initiative for applicants. He noted that tuition was about \$15,000 and that most of this was covered this year by program sponsors. He noted that a significant part of the funding for the initiative had come through the RDMW's Rural Dividend proposal.

He noted the classroom training would take place in Woss and that on-site housing would be available. He added that hands-on training would take place in and around Woss.

Janet noted that March 15, 2018 was the application deadline. She added that students who don't pass the written assessment may be re-evaluated by the program delivery agents through a process including interviews.

Pat noted that this initiative was a long time coming and had started with a conversation that took place at an NWAC meeting about engaging people to participate in the forest industry on the North Island. He noted that a society had been formed to oversee ongoing training initiatives in the region.

Paul noted that the instructor for the fundamentals program would be Dave Weymer. He noted that Dave was very capable, well respected and the right person for the program.

Paul noted that he hoped there would be wide interest in the program and that every effort would be made to attract at least 12 strong applicants. It was noted that there was at least one female taking the log truck training program.

3. Review of Meeting Objectives, Minutes and Action Items

Annemarie thanked Janet, Pat and Paul for their presentation and then reviewed the objectives of the meeting, namely:

- To review the November 23,2017 meeting minutes and selected action items;
- To hear a presentation on forestry learning initiatives;
- To review the results and recommendations from the 2017 participant satisfaction survey;
- To review and confirm the 2018 schedule of meetings, and;
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

She reminded NWAC members of the road safety plan update from 6-7 p.m. on February 22nd at the WFP North Island Forest Operation marshalling yard office and added that there would also be a presentation honoring the train during that time.

Kelly offered to provide a brief update on the road safety plan, noting an independent safety consultant with over 30 years of highway safety experience had been hired to oversee development of the plan, including road safety procedures and the use of pullouts and safety checks.

Kelly mentioned that a more detailed update will be given to the RDMW on February 20th, 2018 by Kindry Mercer and Clint Cadwallader.

Kelly noted that WFP would be working with communities to find ways to honour the train and its history on the North Island. She added that the public advisory groups are welcome to give feedback. Email kmerc@westernforest.com with your comments.

She noted that the decision about the longer term use of the rail line is more complicated. While WFP is open to a range of possibilities for the future use of portions of the right of way, safety and operational considerations are paramount. Kelly noted having a third party operate a train along the rail line is not something WFP envisions as a possibility. One of the reasons is there are six shared crossings where both the train and logging vehicles use the same bridges; she noted that these will need to be retained for operational uses to move logs from the hill to our sorts and WFP needs to have unobstructed access to those crossings. She noted that the Vancouver Island Spine Trail had expressed interest in the rail corridor from Woss to Beaver Cove.

There was a question on ownership of the rail right of way. There was a discussion of whether the land could be extracted for other purposes.

Action Item 69: Send dates of engagement sessions on train to NWAC members

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: As soon as information is available

Annemarie reviewed the November 23rd minutes and action items and 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 from the November 23rd meeting:

Action Item 5: support Youth Forestry Initiative

Responsibility: Kelly

Due date: Ongoing

Adrian asked about this action item and Annemarie explained that it was longstanding and meant to support the very initiative he was heading through the high school. Members offered their assistance to Adrian noting, for example, that his students were welcome to attend presentations he thought might be of interest to them.

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, Sointula, Hyde Creek and Port McNeill receive annual community investments of some type from WFP.’

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: March 22, 2018

Annemarie asked for confirmation that this recommendation had been integrated in the 2017 annual report. Kelly noted she would be able to provide this information during her review of the annual report on March 22nd.

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

Responsibility: Pat English

Due Date: Ongoing in 2018

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: Fred Robertson and Shirley Ackland

Due Date: Ongoing in 2018

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

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon, Annemarie Koch, NWAC members

Due Date: Ongoing

Action Item 42: Discuss WFP’s Silviculture Strategy for Englewood Division

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon

Due Date: Scheduled for September 27, 2018 Meeting

Kelly noted that Paul Kutz would likely be giving this presentation.

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: March 22, 2018

It was agreed to address this action item when Kelly reviews the annual report with NWAC members in March. Kelly noted that she would be reviewing this in the context of an updated approach using sustainability metrics, and noted that the table measuring this target might become outdated under the new system.

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 59: bring list of people who live and work in Woss to next meeting.

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon

Due Date: First Meeting in 2018

Annemarie asked for an update on this action item. Kelly noted she had compiled a list of people living and working in the region and noted, for example, that there were 44 people who live in Woss and work at Englewood, five from Alert Bay, seven from Port Hardy, 57 from Port McNeill and one from Sointula. She added that, for reasons of privacy, the names of the individuals could not be shared with the group.

Action Item 60: Put together a presentation on training options and directions for WFP to give to members of NWAC

Responsibility: Pat English and Janet Amos

Due Date: As part of 2018 NWAC meeting schedule

Annemarie noted that this topic had been addressed earlier in the meeting.

Action Item 63: Distribute results of San Josef colocation/THLB initiative to NWAC members.

Responsibility: Annemarie and Paul

Due Date: November 30, 2017

Annemarie noted that a copy of the report was emailed to NWAC members shortly after the November 23rd meeting.

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: February 8, 2018

Kelly noted she had talked to Randy about doing this and he had been supportive of the idea. She noted changes in Operations Manager (Rob Shambrook) at Englewood and she committed to approaching the new Operations Manager when he was more comfortable with his position.

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

Responsibility: Kelly and Steve

Due Date: March 22, 2018

Steve noted that he had quite a bit of data on Georgie Lake and that for the first time in over a decade the lower depths of the lake had become significantly more acidic. It was noted that this might have been due to the effects of road building and the acidic nature of the rock used to build the road. He noted that this was an example of the importance of having data collected in order to monitor change over time and reiterated his request to include data collection as a target under this Indicator.

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

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: March 22, 2018

Annemarie asked Kelly if she had updates on these items. Kelly asked that this be discussed at the next meeting.

Action Item 68: Submit participant satisfaction surveys to Annemarie or Kelly

Responsibility: All NWAC members

Due Date: November 30, 2017

Annemarie noted this action item had been completed and thanked NWAC members for submitting responses last year.

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

4. Review of Results and Recommendations from 2017 Participant Satisfaction Survey, Annemarie Koch

Annemarie reviewed the results and recommendations from the survey and asked for feedback. Some of the members indicated that they would like to be able to respond through survey monkey.

Action Item 70: Offer the 2018 annual participant survey through survey monkey as well as in Word.

Responsibility: Kelly and Annemarie

Due Date: September 27, 2018 and November 8, 2018

Steve noted he would like to see more communication with senior management and the WFP staff coordinating the PAG's.

Kelly noted that she had participated in a meeting to discuss this very issue with senior management and that she was confident there would be more communication in future. She noted

that the engagement on the road safety plan and the future of the trains and rail lines was a sign that senior management was listening and trying to respond.

Kelly talked about ways that information that could be shared ahead of time would be shared. There was a discussion of how the group could provide their feedback much in the way a focus group does.

It was agreed to proceed as normal for the group, with respect to information sharing and provision of input on issues of importance to members of NWAC, and to encourage NWAC members to continue to openly speak their minds.

It was agreed to invite Rob Shambrook to occasionally provide operational reports.

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

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Throughout 2018

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, Kelly

Due Date: March 22, 2018

5. Review and Confirmation of 2018 Meeting Schedule: Annemarie Koch

Annemarie reviewed the draft schedule with members. It was noted that Paul Kutz would likely be making the presentation on WFP's silviculture strategy.

Kelly discussed the possibility of having Jonathan Armstrong present on WFP's sustainability metrics, as this was of interest to both NWAC and VINWAG. She noted that the joint presentation could link sustainability metrics to a presentation on log flow. Paul suggested that there also be reference to where waste goes and how it is handled.

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

Due Date: February 22, 2018

Action Item 74: Set up a tour or visit with the forestry fundamentals training students in Woss in conjunction with the May 24th NWAC meeting there

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: May 10, 2018

6. Next Meeting:

Annemarie noted that, further to the proposed 2018 meeting schedule, the next meeting would be March 22, 2018 and that the topic would be a review of the 2017 annual report.

Annemarie and Kelly thanked members for their ongoing commitment to NWAC and bid them a safe journey home.