

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

***Western Forest Products Inc.*
Community Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting Held June 14th, 2018**

Attendance:

Jon Flintoft, NIFO, WFP	John Tidbury, District of Port Hardy
Vince Case, Suppliers	Elizabeth Aman-Hume, Business, Pt. Hardy
Steve Lacasse, Environment	Natasha Dickenson, Karst
Fred Robertson, Education	Lynn Iskra, Port McNeill Chamber alternate
Dave Trebett, Tourism & Recreation	Dale Dorward, Small Business
Chris Read, Aquaculture	Patrick Donaghy, Local Government Alternate

Presenters: Graham Cameron, District Recreation Officer, Recreation Sites and Trails B.C., Will Sloan, Certification Coordinator, WFP

Regrets: Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public, Ray Harper, Labour, Gunnar Wigard, Large Contractors

Advisors: Paul Barolet, MFLNRORD

Observers: Vince Devlin, Operations Manager for Jeune Landing / Quatsino DLS, Sandra McLaughlin, Business, Port Hardy alternate

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 April 26, 2018 meeting, hear a presentation from District Recreation Officer Graham Cameron on recreation sites and trails in the DFA, carry out the annual review of the Terms of Reference, hear an update on five-year harvesting plans and the external audit at Stillwater, revisit the results for Indicator 1.1.4, discuss the September field trip date and content, hear the answer to Kevin's 'name that car' contest and set the date of the next meeting.

Annemarie welcomed Port Hardy business representative Elizabeth Aman Hume and her alternate Sandra McLaughlin, new Port McNeill Chamber alternate Lynn Iskra and new aquaculture representative Chris Read and invited everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the new group members.

2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Annemarie asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the April 26th 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 six action items 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 item 237 had effectively been superseded by action item 246 and suggested it be removed. She invited Jon to address action item 244. Jon noted that the North Island forestry community routinely enters a booth at the regional fall fair and he invited members of the public advisory

group to participate in the event. It was agreed that members would be kept up to date via email on ways to participate in the fall fair. Fred asked about possible participation at UBCM and it was agreed to add this to action item 244.

Jon noted that he had spoken to Will about possibly making a presentation comparing CSA versus SFI at the joint PAG meeting in October. Members agreed to throw this suggestion into the mix for possible presentations at the joint session in the fall.

Annemarie noted that the remainder of the action items were ongoing and asked members if they had any comments or questions on the action items or minutes. There was no further discussion and the minutes were accepted as circulated.

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	October,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 in September,2018 and AVICC, and UBCM in September 2018	Jon Flintoft/ VINWAG Members	February 22,2018	Ongoing in 2018	Participation at AVICC April 13-14, 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	
247	Talk to Kelly about adding section on internal communications and use of email distribution list in NWAC ToR	Annemarie	June 14,2018	June 30,2018	
248	Consider holding a 'VINWAG open house' to let members of the public know about the group and its role	Annemarie/Jon/ All VINWAG Members	June 14,2018	Sometime in 2019	
249	Incorporate approved changes to Terms of Reference and distribute to members	Annemarie	June 14,2018	Distribute with June 14 th meeting minutes	
250	Provide more information on the planning processes around targets for Indicator 1.1.4	Jon Flintoft	June 14,2018	During 2019 annual report review	
251	Circulate public results of Stillwater external audit to VINWAG members	Will Sloan/Jon Flintoft	June 14,2018	September 20,2018	
252	Prepare September 21 st field trip itinerary and get out to members with the September 20 th meeting agenda	Jon Flintoft	June 14,2018	September 6,2018	

3.0 RECREATION SITES AND TRAILS IN THE DFA: GRAHAM CAMERON, RECREATION SITES AND TRAILS B.C.

Annemarie introduced Graham and thanked him for coming to talk about Recreation Sites and Trails B.C. and the recreation sites and trails in the DFA.

Graham introduced himself and then outlined his presentation. He provided a review of the Recreation Sites and Trails administrative structure. Graham reviewed the mandates of the division, including development and management of recreational sites and trails.

Graham identified the stakeholders for the division, including First Nations, communities, governments and other agencies and organizations such as the Outdoor Recreation Council.

Graham reviewed the inventory of trails and recreation sites in the program. He outlined various partnerships with First Nations, small business and other organizations, including industry.

Graham reviewed the workforce and organizational structure of RSTBC, including recreation technicians and recreation officers. He outlined the geographic regions, including the Coast and Northern Interior.

Graham reviewed how recreation assets are managed, including partnership agreements and volunteer service agreements.

Graham reviewed RSTBC's business structure, including legislative functions such as establishment of a recreation site and prohibition and authorization of uses of recreation sites.

Graham reviewed the authorization process for constructing and maintaining trails or recreation facilities. He reviewed the permitted actions on sites that aren't authorized and where permits are required.

Graham outlined further examples of activities that do not require permitting, including basic access or travel across forest or land. He reviewed the steps involved in establishing a recreational trail under Section 56 of the Forest Recreation Regulation. Graham pointed to the importance of ensuring that developed sites and trails can be maintained in the long term.

Graham reviewed how Partnership Agreements are administered, including use of schedules or conditions associated with the initiative.

Graham reviewed RSTBC's budget for the province, noting the average is \$9 million annually for operations.

Graham reviewed project spending for last year, including \$1.434 million in basic capital expenditures in 2017-18.

Graham pointed to some of the challenges and opportunities in meeting increasing public demand for recreational sites and trails. He noted there was increased traffic on the public roads and Forest Service Roads and increased use of back country. He pointed to increasing use of off road vehicles on trails and Crown lands and the need to manage for this.

Graham noted that RSTBC did not have the capacity to do long term planning at this stage.

Graham outlined additional challenges, including unauthorized trail construction, wildlife conflicts, long stays and site saving and use of Crown land outside campsites for 'social housing.'

Graham reviewed some key initiatives provincially, including campsite expansion, development of a trails strategy, avalanche safety, responses to the Adventure Tourism Strategy, mountain bike tourism and community engagement.

Graham reviewed key priorities for the North Island, including public safety, identifying recreation trends, waste management, fostering positive First Nations' relations, community engagement and stakeholder engagement. He pointed to the increasing number of people coming from urban areas to the North Island to access back country opportunities.

Graham reviewed some common misconceptions about RSTBC, noting the division has a very limited budget, it is not B.C. Parks, it does not have responsibility to protect land and it is only set up to provide rustic back country sites that are not developed to a high degree.

Graham pointed to recreation opportunities on the North Island, including the possibility of connecting the North Coast Trail to the Cape Scott Trail and ultimately down to Winter Harbour. He added that sites to accommodate paddling routes would benefit the area. He pointed to many opportunities to develop and expand camping opportunities in an area where there is so much space and so few people. He pointed to opportunities to provide greater access to lake and ocean fishing sites, access to spectacular scenic landscapes and old growth forest stands and more educational opportunities to show people how forestry is sustainably done.

Graham was asked about perceptions that people have about using the forest for recreation only. Graham noted that efforts would be made to ensure recreational users understood where a working forest would be the priority and where recreation was a shared or primary use, for example.

There was a discussion of the importance of ongoing maintenance of sites. There was a discussion of possible use of railway beds for recreational trails in the Nimpkish Valley. Graham outlined some of the challenges with this, including access over rail bridges, for example. Graham noted that rail trails have been successful in high use areas like Kelowna and Victoria, and that this area does not offer that same potential level of use.

There was a discussion of the Tahsis-Zeballos Trail and how it would cost millions of dollars to develop and so probably wouldn't fall under RSTBC.

There was a discussion of the Recreational Trails Strategy and the Vancouver Island Spine Trail.

Graham noted that RSTBC has the trail to San Josef Bay but that BC Parks looks after sites in Cape Scott Park and the North Coast Trail. There was a discussion of the possibility of developing the old wagon road in the San Josef Valley. There was discussion of the value of revealing the history of B.C. through some of the built landscape and artifacts such as wagons and old cabins. Graham noted that forestry activities often create access to these historic sites.

There was a discussion of trails apps and how hikers and mountain bikers, for example, use them to share information. Graham noted this often encourages people to build rogue trails.

Graham reviewed how referrals are used to deal with applications for recreational site and trail development. He noted that First Nations, for example, are consulted.

Annemarie thanked Graham for his presentation and wished him a safe drive home.

4.0 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE: ANNEMARIE KOCH AND JON FLINTOFT

Annemarie noted that proposed revisions to the terms of reference had been highlighted in yellow in the draft that was circulated to members with the agenda. She then went through the proposed changes with members.

There was a discussion about the proposal that requests for use of the email distribution list go through the facilitator and company representative. Members noted that they did not want this approach to result in censorship or limitation of their rights as members of the public group and the facilitator and company representative noted that they would do their best to be fair and ensure requests were related to and consistent with the roles and responsibilities of the members to provide input to the SFMP. After considerable discussion, members agreed to incorporate the proposed addition under internal communications and provide feedback to the facilitator and company representative on how well it is working.

Will recommended and members agreed that the proposed addition should be passed on to NWAC to consider including in its terms of reference.

There was a discussion around the proposed approach to deal with requests from members for guests to attend PAG meetings. Members noted that there were pros and cons to having invited guests at public advisory committee meetings. Some felt there should be no guests and others felt that this option should remain open to members for now. It was agreed to keep the proposed addition to the terms of reference that any requests from members to bring guests to meetings be directed through the facilitator and company representative. Again, it was agreed that members would provide feedback to the facilitator and company representative on how well the approach is working.

It was suggested that, one way to encourage more public input to members, outside the regular meetings, would be to hold a 'VINWAG open house' to let people know about the group and its role.

Members agreed that the proposed changes were acceptable to them for now and it was agreed to incorporate changes in the current draft of the Terms of Reference and distribute to VINWAG members.

5.0 DISCUSSION OF FIVE-YEAR HARVESTING PLANS AND UPDATE ON EXTERNAL AUDIT AT STILLWATER; JON FLINTOFT AND WILL SLOAN, WFP

Jon noted that operations went very quickly from winter conditions into fire conditions. It was noted that May had been a very dry month and the company was moving into its summer harvesting program already. He reviewed the helicopter logging plans and noted that there would be helicopter logging in Holberg in a few years.

Jon pointed to the professionalism of the road building and falling crews and how road building infrastructure was quickly and effectively established on the land base.

He reviewed the tree planting program this spring and noted that 1.5 million trees had been planted on TFL 6 this year. He reviewed monitoring activities that followed the survival rate of the newly planted trees. He talked about management of these trees.

Jon outlined some of the challenging weather conditions.

Vince Devlin then provided a background on his life on the North Island and his work with WFP. He noted that this year had been very challenging with some extreme weather conditions. He pointed to a move toward tethered harvesting in order to safely access more areas and increase operability. He pointed to other benefits of tethered harvesting, including increased productivity. Vince noted that the Thurburn dump had been shut down and that there was more direct hauling to the Quatsino dryland and to Port McNeill.

Vince noted that, in contrast to the very dry conditions experienced in May, there had been three days of rainout in June so far.

He thanked members of the public advisory group for their commitment and the work that they do.

Annemarie thanked Vince for his update and invited Jon to review the results for Indicator 1.1.4. Jon noted that he had reported that the targets had been met for this indicator but it was subsequently pointed out to him that the variance had not been met on one of the 5 zones for this target. He noted that he would make the required changes to this section of the annual report. There was a discussion about why the variance hadn't been met. There was a discussion of whether the retention zones were accomplishing what they were meant to accomplish. Jon noted that this approach was working, but it could be challenging to meet the targets at times, due to various factors. Some members expressed an interest in knowing more about how the planning process is carried out.

Will noted that Price Waterhouse Coopers had been engaged to carry out an external audit of the Stillwater Division to the CSA Z809-16 standard. He noted that certification had been achieved following the audit and that all five of the CSA certified areas would be under the new standard. He noted there would be a public summary report posted likely on the Stillwater website and that he would make the results available to VINWAG members through Jon. Will added that the external audit next year would be in Port Alberni and likely include field visits on the North Island.

Will reviewed some of the areas of non-compliance, for example, pointing to some areas where information had not made it through to the annual report properly.

He reviewed suggestions for improvement, including revisions to indicators, and to processes, such as getting the annual report out more quickly. He pointed to some good management practices including the Stillwater CAG website.

Annemarie congratulated Will and all of those involved in preparing for and passing the external audit to the new standard.

6.0 DISCUSSION OF DATE AND CONTENT OF SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP: JON FLINTOFT, WFP

Annemarie reminded everyone that she had requested that the proposed dates of the September 2018 meeting and field trip be changed in order to ensure Jon and elected officials attending UBCM could be in attendance. She noted that some members had responded with their preferences for an alternate set of dates for the September meeting and field trip and asked members in attendance whether September 6-7 or September 20-21 worked better for them.

It was agreed that September 20-21 would suit most members.

There was a discussion regarding the content of the September 21st field trip and Fred suggested having Annette talk about some of the research trials on the North Island. It was noted that members wanted to see tethered harvesting on the field trip, if there was any of this occurring on the DFA in September.

7.0 NEXT MEETING: ANNEMARIE KOCH

It was agreed that, further to the previous discussion, the next meeting take place on September 20 and that the meeting would include a presentation by John Deal on a variety of topics, including the WFP Strategy, SAR initiatives and the co-location project, as well as an update on the five-year harvesting initiative and a discussion of the role of forest ecosystems in the global carbon cycle. Annemarie reminded members that the participant satisfaction surveys would be distributed for a first time at the September meeting. It was agreed that the field trip would take place the day after the VINWAG meeting, on September 21st and that Jon would get an itinerary out to members two weeks ahead with the meeting agenda.

Jon reminded members of Kevin's 'name that car' challenge at the last meeting and, after providing additional clues, announced that the car was a 1969 Ford Custom, found near Pinch Creek (on the DFA).

Steve thanked WFP for donating all of the wood for the recent Port McNeill Legion woodcut fundraiser.

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

When: SEPTEMBER 20, 2018
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.