

Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes March 23, 2017
Black Bear Resort, Port McNeill, BC
6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Attendance: Kelly McMahon, WFP, Pat English, Local Government alternate, Stu Ellis, General Public, Chris Bowden-Green, Woss Community, Steve Lacasse, Environment

Regrets: Bill Nelson, Holbrook Dyson, Shirley Ackland, Town of Port McNeill, Cam Brady, Karst, Jack Miller, Labour, Paul Barolet, Advisor, MOFLNRO

Observers: Justin Kumagai, Contract Manager, WFP

Presenter: Kelly McMahon

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.

Annemarie reviewed the objectives of the meeting, namely:

- To review the February 9th meeting minutes and selected action items;
- To review of results in the 2016 annual report;
- To review Indicator 5.1.1 and 6.3.1 target revisions;
- To review some of the required transitions to the new CSA Z809-16 standard;
- To review the membership;
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

2. Review of Minutes and Action Items:

Pat English reported that, further to efforts he had previously outlined to members of NWAC, funding for the establishment of a forestry centre of excellence in Woss had been secured and work would begin on this initiative in the near future. It was noted that, as the centre becomes further established, some consideration may be given to developing a Criterion 5 indicator or target related to the operations of the centre.

Pat noted that a group would be meeting early in April to look at a management structure. He added that funding had been approved for a marketing and recruitment initiative, and that training programs wouldn't likely start up until the fall. He noted that the Woss Lake School might be renovated to accommodate the training centre. He pointed to the commitment WFP had made to supporting class spaces in the program and thanked them for their financial and administrative contributions to the initiative.

Annemarie reviewed the minutes and action items from the February 9th 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. Annemarie added that she would not be addressing action items that were ongoing but only items that were completed or to be addressed in the shorter term. Given this, Annemarie noted that there were eight action items to address or review from the February 9th meeting.

Annemarie reviewed the action items for which action was required in the short term, or for which reports were available.

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: 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: 2017 annual report

Kelly pointed to the difficulties associated with measuring training provided to contractors, and she asked if, for now, the target not be expanded to include training provided to contractors under Indicator 5.2.2. Annemarie asked members whether they would like to consider Kelly's request and drop this revision to the target for Indicator 5.2.2 for now.

Steve noted that he would like to see training of contractors included in the target and suggested that the easiest way to track some of the contractor training might be to include the safety certified training. Chris noted that the Bill 13 contractors are part of the operation and it seems like their training should be tracked. Justin asked what aspects of training needed to be tracked. He noted that the group should decide what aspects of contractor training they would like to see tracked.

It was agreed to commit to try to obtain at least safety and environmental training records for contractors for the 2017 annual report, and to continue to work with NWAC members to define the type of information about contractor training that they would like to track.

Action Item 5: support Youth Forestry Initiative

Responsibility: Kelly

Due date: Ongoing

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: For the 2017 annual report, to be reported under "Strategies and Implementation."

Action Item 16 : Revisit 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 after the CIFO amalgamation is complete.

Responsibility: Annemarie

Due Date: Sometime in 2017

Annemarie noted that there would be a discussion of the Indicator 5.1.1 targets later in the meeting.

Action Item 17: Talk to Lorraine Landry about representing fish and wildlife interests on NWAC.

Responsibility: Steve Lacasse

Due Date: November 24, 2016

Annemarie noted that Steve was still looking for a representative for fish and wildlife interests on NWAC. She added that it might be helpful to have an alternate Port McNeill representative attend Port McNeill meetings and the current Woss representative, Ray Lutz, attend the meetings in Woss.

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: Sometime in 2017

Action Item 26: ensure that the definition of 'North Island' is given and consistent throughout the SFMP and annual report and provide more information at a future meeting on how data for Indicator 5.2.1 is gathered

Responsibility: Kelly, Annemarie and Will

Due: 2016 annual report

Annemarie noted that Kelly had committed to dealing with this action item during the preparation of the 2016 annual report.

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

Responsibility: Pat English

Due Date: March 30, 2017

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 2016-17

Action Item 35: Bring together a panel of presenters, including Ben Isitt for UBCM, WFP and North Island community representatives for the joint October 26, 2017 meeting to discuss the UBCM resolution to ban all future logging of old growth on Vancouver Island, or arrange for Mike Davis to give a presentation on the management plans for TFL's 6 and 37, or arrange for Larry Henkelmann to give a presentation on the effects of the Softwood Lumber Agreement on the North Island forest industry .

Responsibility: Fred Robertson, Shirley Ackland, Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

Due Date: October 26, 2017

Action Item 37: Include a report on environmental issues such as non-reportable oil spills and slides in future operational updates.

Responsibility: Trevor Egely

Due Date: Ongoing

Annemarie asked members if they wished to maintain this action item, now that Trevor Egely no longer works for WFP. After considerable discussion, it was agreed to drop this action item for now, in that the history of the action item was actually to try to track use and waste of petroleum products, and there was no easy way to measure this.

Action Item 38: Distribute a copy of Derek's presentation with meeting minutes.

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon

Due Date: With circulation of the February 9th meeting minutes.

Annemarie noted that this had been done.

Action Item 39: Contact Rachel Dalton to advise her of any NWAC meetings that might be of specific interest to the 'Namgis and invite her to attend

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon

Due Date: Ongoing

Annemarie noted that Kelly had contacted Rachel about this and that Rachel had indicated her workload was very heavy and that, at this time, she could not recommend formal participation by the 'Namgis in the NWAC meetings. Kelly added that Rachel had committed to reviewing the plan annually and to meeting directly with WFP staff about the SFMP.

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

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon, Annemarie Koch, NWAC members

Due Date: Ongoing

Action Item 41: Revise the draft 2017 schedule of meetings as discussed at the February 9th meeting and post and circulate it

Responsibility: Annemarie Koch

Due Date: Post February 10th, circulate to members with February 9th meeting minutes

Annemarie noted that this had been done.

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

2. Review of the 2016 Annual Report: Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP

Kelly noted that the annual report was still in draft form and that she was still waiting for additional information for a number of the indicators. Kelly noted that, so far, only one of the targets had not been met. She reviewed some of the changes that had been made to the indicators in 2016, including a higher target for capital expenditures in the DFA under Indicator 5.2.1.

Kelly reviewed the Criterion One Indicators, starting with Indicator 1.1.1, ecosystem by type. She noted the target for this indicator had been met.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 1.1.4 degree of within stand retention, and noted that this target had been met. Chris explained why the targets are often exceeded for this indicator, in that allowances are made in case of losses through windthrow.

Kelly reviewed the indicator around habitat protection for focal species like the marbled murrelet and northern goshawk and noted that this target had been met.

Kelly noted that the target related to planting native species had been met. She noted that there were some elk browse challenges in the Vernon area affecting planting strategies. There was a discussion of whether and how climate change might be affecting planting strategies and Kelly noted that the overall strategy was to maintain biodiversity.

There was a discussion of whether there was an effective planting strategy to maintain biodiversity in the Nimpkish Valley. Kelly noted that she could discuss the silviculture strategy further at a future meeting.

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

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon

Due Date: Sometime in 2017-2018

Chris noted his concern that there seemed to be a push to plant more and more Douglas fir in areas where there had historically been western white pine and amabilis fir.

Kelly noted that the target for Indicator 1.2.4 regarding habitat features had been met. Kelly noted that the targets for Indicator 1.4.1 around identified sites with implemented management strategies had been met.

Kelly briefly discussed the management of karst features in the Nimpkish Valley, including the DANYA blocks.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 2.1.1 around reforestation success and noted this target had been met.

Kelly noted that the target around Indicator 2.1.2, operationally caused fires had been met.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 2.2.1 around additions and deletions to the forest area and noted this value had been well below the maximum target figure of 7% in 2016.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 2.2.2 around portion of LTHL actually harvested and noted that targets were in line to be met for this indicator.

Kelly reviewed the target around waste levels and noted that it had been met. It was noted that there appeared to be a lot of second growth waste that could be put to use as firewood or fenceposts or manufactured products. It was agreed that a future presentation on second growth utilization was still desired by the group.

It was noted that it would be useful, in the long run, to better understand how to utilize second growth residue, and it was agreed to continue to discuss second growth utilization at future meetings and to proceed with a presentation on utilization of second growth residue.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 3.1.1, level of soil disturbance, and noted that the first target for this indicator was within the variance allowed for the target, and that she was still gathering

information for target 2. It was noted that higher than usual snow levels were making monitoring of some of the targets difficult this year.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 3.2.1 around watershed management and reviewed how the watershed management strategy is used to monitor trends in watershed quality. She noted that she had reviewed the watershed management strategies for the top three watersheds in the DFA.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.1.1, quantity and quality of timber and non-timber forest benefits produced in the DFA and she noted that the first target around harvest profile of target species for this indicator was not met, by overachieving with Douglas fir, again this year. It was noted that this should correct itself over the next few years.

Pat asked why key targets had only been set for second growth and not old growth, for example. Kelly noted she would follow up on this.

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: May 25, 2017

Kelly noted that targets 2 and 3 for this Indicator had been met. She added that, normally First Nations have looked after the campsites but were unable to do so this year, so a contractor from Sayward had maintained the campsites this year.

It was noted that much of the capital invested in the DFA this past year had been in repairs to a railway bridge near Woss.

Pat noted that part of the rationale given for moving to continuous shifting was to maximize use of capital equipment, and he asked how this was playing out with recent investment in equipment for the DFA. It was noted that a number of capital investments had been made this year, including a truck hi-ab crane and a welding truck. It was agreed to have Randy or Brad to address Pat's question at the meeting in Woss on May 25th.

Action Item 44: Provide an explanation of how continuous shifting has maximized use of recently purchased capital equipment in the Englewood Division

Responsibility: Randy Boas or Brad Galeazzi

Due Date: May 25, 2017

Kelly reviewed how money was invested in communities across the North Island in 2016. She reviewed the indicator around training. Kelly then reviewed the location of where employees and contractors working in the DFA live. Kelly noted that the total number of employees and contractors had gone down this year.

Kelly reviewed the Indicator around CMT management in 2016 and noted that the target was met.

It was agreed to continue discussion of the 2016 annual report at the May 25th meeting in Woss.

Pat asked when members would be able to see a draft. It was agreed that April 10th would be the target to release draft.

Action Item 45: Send copy of draft 2016 annual report to NWAC members for review

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon

Due Date: April 10, 2017

3. Review of Criterion 5 and 6 Target Revisions: Annemarie Koch and Kelly McMahon

Annemarie advised members that Kelly and Will had been working on revisions to the Criterion 5 and 6 indicator targets and that Kelly would be reviewing proposed changes at meetings throughout the year. She noted that Kelly had prepared drafts of revised targets for Indicators 5.1.1 and 6.3.1 for discussion at the meeting. She invited Kelly to review these drafts with members.

Kelly explained that what had been proposed as target 5 of Indicator 5.1.1 and discussed at the November, 2016 NWAC meeting had been moved to target 2 of proposed new Indicator 5.1.2 under the CSA Z809-16 standard, because it was a better fit to measure 'open and respectful communication' than diversity of timber and non-timber resources in the DFA.

Kelly reviewed proposed new target 4 for Indicator 5.1.1, namely 50% of the Community Initiatives Fund for the division goes to communities located in the DFA. Steve asked why only 50% of the fund would go to communities in the DFA. Chris asked where the other 50% of the fund might be invested. Kelly noted that it was to support requests from employees who don't live in communities in the DFA. Steve noted he would rather see all of the funds go to communities in the DFA.

Kelly noted that there were far fewer people living in Campbell River who might be requesting the funds. Steve noted that, in that case, he would rather see the funds go directly to communities in the DFA. Kelly noted that she would take these concerns back to Randy and relate the request from members that 100% of the CIF go to communities in the DFA.

Action Item 46: Review proposed target 4 of Indicator 5.1.1 with Randy Boas and convey NWAC members request that it be '100% of the CIF invested annually in communities within the DFA,' as the fund is intended to be invested in communities in the DFA and not where the employees live.

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon

Due Date: May 25, 2017

Annemarie asked for feedback on the proposed revision to the definition and additional target for Indicator 6.3.1. It was agreed to add Christmas tree permits to the list of possible non-timber uses. Pat suggested that we work toward measuring and setting some specific targets for these permits and agreements over time.

Steve suggested tracking requests to the company for access to non-timber forest products, eg. '100% of requests for NTFP's considered'.

4. Review of Transition to CSA Z809-16 Standard: Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP

Kelly noted that there are two new indicators that must be created to meet the new standard, including 3.2.2 around protection of water features and 5.1.2 around evidence of open and respectful communications.

She added that Indicators that needed ‘beefing up’ to meet the new standard included 5.1.1, 6.4.2, 6.1.2 and 6.1.3. She noted that she would like to start looking at the new indicators at this meeting, to meet a fall deadline for implementation.

Steve noted that there was a lot of early work done on water protection and open and respectful communication and offered to look at his records of these discussions. It was agreed that drafts of these new indicators would be brought to NWAC members for discussion at future meetings.

Kelly started with discussions of proposed Indicator 3.2.2, namely consistency with prescriptions for protecting water features in a harvest block. She pointed to the use of riparian assessments and the watershed management strategy as a basis for guiding water protection measures under the indicator. Kelly referred to some of the indicators around this value that are in place at Stillwater and Port Alberni.

There was a discussion of how water quantity might be addressed. It was noted that the natural variability of this value would make it difficult to manage water quantity. Kelly noted that Port Alberni had developed an indicator related to retention around streams and that this might be another way to look at this. She noted that Ministry requirements around small streams might influence these efforts. It was noted that some existing management strategies might come in conflict with FREP requirements.

Action Item 47: Highlight parts of the new CSA Z809-16 standard that relate to protection of water quality and quantity and send out to members.

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon

Due Date: April 10,2017

Action Item 48: Prepare and bring draft Indicator 3.2.2 around protection of water quality and quantity to May 25th meeting in Woss for further discussion.

Responsibility: Kelly McMahon

Due Date: May 25,2017

It was noted that one of the new core discussion items under the standard was ‘wetlands’ and that arrangements would be made to address this topic at a future meeting.

5. Review of Membership: Annemarie Koch and Kelly McMahon

Annemarie noted that Bill Nelson was returning to NWAC to represent contractors, as he had been relocated to work out of Vernon. She thanked Cam Brady again for agreeing to represent karst interests, and welcomed Mayor Shirley Ackland, who been appointed in January by the Regional District Board to represent the region with Pat as her alternate. She noted that Steve was trying to source a fish and wildlife representative.

There was a discussion of whether and how there might be some form of First Nations involvement with the group from time to time.

Steve suggested that it might be good to have a representative of the education sector. Pat suggested Adrian Pendergast, the teacher overseeing the forest academy.

Action Item 49: Talk to Adrian Pendergast about representing the education sector for NWAC.

Responsibility: Pat English

Due Date: May 25,2017

Action Item 50: Talk to Jon Lok or someone else from Strategic Forest Management about representing forestry consultants on NWAC.

Responsibility: Steve Lacasse

Due Date: May 25,2017

6. Next Meeting:

Annemarie noted that, further to the 2017 meeting schedule, the next meeting was scheduled for 6 p.m. on May 25, 2017 at the Woss Community Hall and would include a presentation on the uses of second growth wood residue, a review of proposed Indicator 3.2.2 and a review of the terms of reference.

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