

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

***Western Forest Products Inc.***

**Community Advisory Group**

**Minutes of Meeting Held November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**

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**Attendance:**

Jon Flintoft, NIFO, WFP	Steve Lacasse, Environment
Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public	Patrick Donaghy, Local Government Alternate
Gaby Wickstrom, Port McNeill Mayor	Vince Case, Suppliers
John Tidbury, District of Port Hardy	Dave Trebett, Tourism & Recreation
Gunnar Wigard, Large Contractors	Fred Robertson, Education
Ray Harper, Labour	

**Presenters:** Jon Flintoft, WFP, Fred Robertson, VINWAG

**Regrets:** Chris Read, Aquaculture, Damaris Sadler, Port McNeill Chamber, Ione Brown, NICFLP, Sandra McLaughlin, Port Hardy Business Alternate

**Advisors:** Paul Barolet, MOFLNRO

**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 September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting, hear a presentation from Jon Flintoft on the impacts of fire in the DFA this past summer, hear a presentation by Fred Robertson on the proposed Festival of Forestry Tour on the North Island in 2019, discuss SFMP priorities and a proposed schedule of meetings in 2019, hear an update on the five-year harvesting plan, distribute and fill in the annual participant satisfaction survey, review the results of the September 21<sup>st</sup> field trip and set the date of the next meeting.

She welcomed Mayor Gaby Wickstrom and advised members that Gaby would now be representing the Town of Port McNeill and Damaris Sadler would be the Port McNeill Chamber representative. She also welcomed back recently elected councillors John Tidbury and Fred Robertson.

**2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS**

Annemarie asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the September 20<sup>th</sup> 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 two 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 items 251, 254 and 255 had been completed. She noted that plans were being made for action item 253 to be addressed at a joint meeting with NWAC members in May 2019.

Annemarie noted that the remainder of the action items were ongoing or in process 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 <sup>th</sup> , 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 <sup>th</sup> , 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 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Ongoing	
208	Provide for brief presentation on and Q&A on harvesting plans at each meeting	Jon Flintoft/Annemarie Koch	September 8 <sup>th</sup> , 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, Gaby Wickstrom John Tidbury	June 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2017	Ongoing	
213	Implement recommendations in 2016 participant satisfaction survey report	Annemarie Koch/Jon Flintoft/VINWAG Members	February 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 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 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Discussion with Jane Cameron on February 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 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 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	For the 2018 SFMP	
243	Implement recommendations in 2017 report on participant satisfaction survey	Annemarie/Jon/VINWAG Members	February 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 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 <sup>nd</sup> , 2018	Ongoing in 2018	Participation at AVICC April 13-14, 2018, efforts made to participate in UBCM in September, hope to do fall fair booth in 2019

246	Continue to review and develop the targets for new Indicator 3.2.2	Jon Flintoft/Kevin Laird/VINWAG members	April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	Ongoing	
247	Talk to Kelly about adding section under roles and responsibilities of members and use of email distribution list in NWAC ToR	Annemarie Koch	June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	June 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 email to Kelly and part of NWAC annual review of ToR in spring 2019	
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 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	Sometime in 2019	
250	Provide more information on the planning processes around targets for Indicator 1.1.4	Jon Flintoft	June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	During 2019 annual report review	
251	Circulate public results of Stillwater external audit to VINWAG members	Will Sloan/Jon Flintoft	June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	Circulated with November 22 <sup>nd</sup> meeting reminder	Completed
253	Revisit future of WFP's CSA certification programs on the North Island and the value of the public advisory process to WFP on the North Island at the joint meeting with NWAC in May, 2019 and ensure Kindry is advised of this	Jon Flintoft	September 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	Joint Meeting With NWAC in May 2019	
254	Provide annual participant satisfaction survey through Survey Monkey	Jon Flintoft	September 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	November 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2018	Completed
255	Circulate copy of Will's presentation on SFI and CSA certification systems to VINWAG members	Annemarie Koch	September 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	With October 25 <sup>th</sup> agenda	Completed
256	Revise and circulate the draft 2019 meeting schedule to VINWAG members with the November 22 <sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes	Annemarie Koch	November 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2018	December 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2018	
257	Submit responses to annual participant satisfaction survey	All VINWAG Members	November 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2018	December 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2018	

### 3.0 IMPACTS OF 2018 SUMMER FIRE SEASON ON THE DFA: JON FLINTOFT, WFP

Jon noted he would be talking about fires in relation to the CSA standard, fires on the DFA in 2018, fire rehabilitation, trends in fire activity and resources that come into play to deal with fire.

Jon reviewed the SFMP criteria that relate to fire, including Criterion 2, Ecosystem condition and productivity and 3, soil and water. He pointed to the impacts of fire on soil stability, for example.

There was a discussion of how putting monitoring stations in some of the water systems in the DFA could help to track the impacts of fire on water quality and quantity.

Jon reviewed the sequence of events following the August 11<sup>th</sup> lightning storm and how the incident command system located fires resulting from the storm, including the Larry Lake fire and fires around Zeballos. Jon pointed to a fire location map that recorded the lightning strikes and any resulting fires. He noted that response to fires was prioritized according to location and proximity to values such as communities, roads and power lines.

Jon explained that an incident command team monitored the fire locations and sizes and coordinated firefighting response.

Jon added that, toward the end of the fire season, an incident command team from Ontario was coordinating response. He noted that, with the rains coming in September, the fires died back.

He noted about 950 hectares in the DFA were burnt. He added that there were over 70 fires and over 6,500 hectares burned on WFP's tenures on the North Island. He noted that, in spite of the high number and intensity of fires on the North Island this year, only 2,500 cubic metres of felled timber were burned up on WFP's tenures. Jon compared how this impact related to fires in the province during the 2018 fire season.

Jon noted that, while the fire damage was small in relation to that which occurred throughout the Province, the fire activity on the North Island marked a major change and increase over past years in this area.

Jon reviewed slides of some of the fires on the North Island, including the Raging Main fire, which was difficult to control, due to steep terrain. Jon noted this fire was brought under control largely by the Coastal Fire Centre's crews.

Jon showed a slide of the Red Mountain fire and noted that response to this fire was coordinated to prevent damage to valuable communications infrastructure. He noted that this fire was located on the edge of the DFA.

Jon reviewed the Vanishing River fire and pointed to how it was of lower intensity as it was a wetter site. He noted that WFP was tasked to suppress this fire and outlined how the company responded, including use of tanker trucks, to put the fire out quickly.

Jon outlined some of the techniques used to fight fires, including the use of fire breaks. He pointed to how protection of adjacent resources, such as karst values and community forest tenure, can elevate priority of response.

He reviewed some rehabilitation techniques, including use of grass seeding. He noted that water management and slope stability are primary rehabilitation objectives.

Jon reviewed some of the salvage efforts that can be made following a fire, noting logs can still be usable, depending on how badly burned they are. There was a discussion of how planting hardwoods along trails or around communities might help with creating firebreaks in future.

Jon noted that some timber was felled to assist with fire control and that this formed part of the salvage efforts.

Jon reviewed different rehabilitation scenarios and the potential funding sources to support these. He pointed to Section 108 of FRPA and how this can be used to, for example, provide funding to bring an area back to where it was before the fire.

There was discussion of sources of funding to restore streams and other riparian areas affected by fire.

Jon reviewed the impacts of fire on karst, such as the Kinman fire in 2014 (outside of the DFA). He noted that fires impacting karst often are given higher priority for response, due to the long-term impacts of fire on karst. There was a discussion of the varying impacts of fire on karst in different places on the North Island.

Jon reviewed some trends on the DFA, noting there were 14 small fires on the North Island in 2009, but that there were over 70 fires on the North Island in 2018 and over four weeks of shutdown due to fire weather. It was noted that fires of this scope and number, and the length of shutdown in 2018 were much bigger and longer than in the past. Jon noted that forest fuels seem to be drying out sooner in the season and lightning storms seem to be happening with greater frequency and intensity.

Jon referred to resources to plan for and respond to increasing fire risk on the North Island, such as the Community Resiliency Investment Program, Forest Enhancement Society, Fire Smart Program and 2017 Provincial Wildfire and Flood Review.

There was a discussion of the potential for enhanced firefighting training for WFP employees and how this might help to respond to fires more quickly in future. It was noted that adequate supervision was required in order to ensure safety and efficiency of the crews.

Jon noted that all fire response action must be coordinated through the B.C. Coastal Fire Centre (if compensation is to be expected).

There was a discussion of the need for communities to plan for wildfire interface.

#### **4.0 PROPOSED 2019 NORTH ISLAND FESTIVAL OF FORESTRY TOUR: FRED ROBERTSON**

Annemarie thanked Fred for helping to bring the Festival of Forestry Tour to the North Island in 2019 and thanked him for offering to provide an update to VINWAG members on the proposed tour.

Fred provided some history on the Festival of Forestry, noting it was started by Bill Moore. He invited Jon to share a video on the goals and objectives of the Festival of Forestry, including increasing awareness of forest management in schools throughout the Province.

Fred noted that the tour was designed to bring teachers from urban settings out into the forests so that they could bring back knowledge of forest management to their classes in urban centres.

He pointed out that the tour is popular and well subscribed. Fred noted that costs for participants is covered by the Festival of Forestry. He added that the first meeting of the organizing group is set for November 27<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at WFP's office. Fred noted that the tour is normally scheduled for the end of August but will likely happen on the north Island near the beginning of July 2019. He thanked Paul for suggesting and circulating some possible options for a North Island tour.

Fred noted that he felt a North Island tour could really feature the knowledge and enthusiasm of forestry workers here.

#### **5.0 DISCUSSION OF 2019 SFMP PRIORITIES AND DRAFT 2019 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: JON FLINTOFT AND ANNEMARIE KOCH**

Annemarie referred members to the draft 2019 meeting schedule that had been circulated with the agenda and asked for input on the timing and content of the proposed meetings.

There was a general discussion of the proposed meeting schedule and it was agreed to ask Steve Platt to talk about innovative uses of LiDAR at the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

It was agreed to circulate final draft of the meeting schedule with the minutes and that the final meeting schedule be confirmed at the first meeting in 2019.

Jon noted that we would continue to include short presentations to address mandatory discussion items.

## **6.0 UPDATE ON FIVE-YEAR HARVESTING PLANS: JON FLINTOFT, WFP**

Jon reviewed some harvesting plans for the winter, noting there had been no snow yet and wood was being harvested in the areas where snowfall was imminent.

It was noted that there was a lot of hemlock coming out at this time. Jon reviewed the heli-log program, noting it was a single pass in 2018 and that there was more scheduled in the Holberg area in 2019. He noted that heli-logging was proposed near Yreka off Neroutsos Inlet in 2020.

Jon referenced proposed harvesting at Ledge Point in 2022 and asked for input from the group. He acknowledged there were visual, recreation and First Nations values to be taken into consideration. It was suggested by members that harvesting might increase the level of windthrow already experienced on that site. It was suggested that visual modelling be used to address concerns for scenic values. It was suggested that the tip of the point be left alone in order to preserve recreational and tourist values of the area. It was noted that the block closer to the head of the bay would present less of a concern to residents of the town and recreational users.

It was suggested that there be a public consultation session around any harvesting activities at Ledge Point. There was a discussion of the history of efforts to develop a booming ground on Ledge Point.

It was suggested that visuals to demonstrate scenic values be taken from the two hotels and the top end of Woodland Drive. It was suggested that perhaps another area could be harvested in lieu of Ledge Point. It was noted that the population is getting older and may have different views than before on harvesting activities in proximity to the town.

There was a discussion of the block that is currently being harvested in proximity to Coal Harbour to address windthrow concerns.

There was a discussion of illegal falling activities in the DFA and how this might be addressed.

Jon noted that Island Timberlands and TimberWest were moving toward a merger.

## **7.0 DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUAL PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION SURVEY: JON FLINTOFT AND ANNEMARIE KOCH**

Annemarie confirmed that members had received an email inviting them to respond to the annual participant satisfaction survey using Survey Monkey and thanked Jon and Kelly for making the survey available this way.

She invited members to respond to the survey either through use of the Word version of the survey that was circulated with the agenda, or by using Survey Monkey. She reminded members that the survey had also been circulated at the September meeting and suggested a deadline of December 1st for responses to be submitted. Members agreed to this deadline.

## **8.0 DISCUSSION OF SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> FIELD TRIP ITINERARY: JON FLINTOFT, WFP**

Annemarie thanked Jon for putting on such an informative field trip and invited him to provide a summary of the highlights of the trip for members.

Jon noted he had enlisted Lisa Lenarduzzi, Nick Russell and Melissa Gauchier to assist with the tour. He reviewed the highlights of the tour, including a visit to the Marble River hatchery and the Pinch Creek fire. Jon reviewed some of the points that had been covered during the tour. It was noted that the handrails on the trail at the Eternal Fountain needed to be repaired.

Jon reviewed the visit to the alder plantation. It was noted that the rotation age for alder can range from 35-50 years.

He pointed to the karst management measures being taken at Devil's Bath. John discussed the burned over site near Devil's Bath, noting there was very little in the way of regeneration on the site after close to eight years. There was a discussion of what might be done to restore burned over karst areas.

Jon reviewed discussions that took place around the bridge installation near O'Connor Lake. John noted it was a very informative tour.

## **9.0 NEXT MEETING: ANNEMARIE KOCH**

Annemarie noted that Jon had a few announcements to make prior to a discussion of the next meeting. Jon noted that early this week WFP rolled out its revamped website and he demonstrated the parts of the site that relate to sustainable forestry and the public advisory group.

Jon added that WFP has recently purchased a mill in Washington, the Columbia Vista Corporation, along the Columbia River. He noted that the mill cuts Douglas fir for the Japanese and Chinese markets. It was noted that timber for the mill will come from U.S. sources. There was a discussion of why WFP purchased the mill.

Annemarie noted that, further to the schedule, the next meeting would be February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and that the proposed topics would include a presentation on approaches to fuel management and fire response by a representative of the B.C. Coastal Fire Centre, an update on the five-year harvesting plan and a review of the results of the 2018 participant satisfaction survey.

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

**When: FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**Dinner: 6:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting: 7:00 p.m.**