

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

Attendance: Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP, Stu Ellis, General Public, Steve Lacasse, Environment, Trevor Egely, Contractors, Jack Miller, Labour, Cam Brady, Karst

Regrets: Pat English, Local Government alternate, Jon Lok, Medium-sized Contractors, Adrian Pendergast, Education

Advisor: Paul Barolet, Advisor, MOFLNRO

Presenters: Tyson Berkenstock, Stewardship Forester, WFP, Randy Boas, Operations Manager, Englewood

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 noted that Randy Boas had offered to, during dinner, provide NWAC members with an update on the recent decision to stop the train operation and haul a greater number of logs with highway trucks. Members agreed they would like to hear an update from Randy and Annemarie thanked Randy for coming and invited him to proceed.

Randy noted the decision to discontinue the train operation had been a very difficult one for WFP. He explained that cost was a factor, along with the need for increased flexibility to haul logs in multiple directions at any time. He reiterated the decision weighed heavily on the people who made it.

Randy said an increased number of highways trucks has already been used to haul logs while the train operation was down, and more trucks would be added, as needed, to transport logs to processing facilities and markets. He added that negotiations with the union were ongoing and efforts were being made to place as many people displaced by the train closure as possible. Randy reviewed how the union process under 'Section 54' works, referring to training and movement of employees to other positions in the company.

Randy noted Clint was working on a road safety plan and focusing on how WFP could go above and beyond what is legally required to ensure the safety of employees and members of the public. He noted trucks would be monitored with dash cams, for example, and that hauling would be limited on more challenging and busy tourist traffic routes like the Telegraph Cove Road.

Stu asked how many people had been displaced and Randy noted 34 people had been affected by the closure. He said some of the employees had been moved into the shop, welders had found work, one employee was working in first aid and some had gone to yarding and loading.

Randy noted there would be 6-7 positions for displaced railroad employees in trucking. He added WFP had met with employees to determine where they wished to go within the company, and if they wished to transition out of the company and retire. Randy noted some employees had indicated an interest in working in the mills.

Paul asked what was making trucking more feasible than the train at this time. Randy noted the company had looked at a variety of factors and the decision was based mostly on the need for more flexibility to move the logs to and from a variety of locations and to get the wood to the mills faster. Randy said accountants would tell you wood sitting in the bush costs money and so it was important to keep it moving and to move it to the right place at the right time.

When asked about this, Randy added there was also analysis of whether to use logging roads versus highways and Randy noted it was determined that use of the highway was more economical, when wear and tear on the logging roads was taken into account.

There was a discussion of whether use of the train made the dryland sort at Beaver Cove more viable.

Steve asked whether there had been consideration and planning around what to do with the train and the track infrastructure. Randy noted WFP had no plans at this point about these things, and he suggested any decisions would likely be collaborative and that WFP could ask the people what they'd like to see happen to the trains and tracks.

Randy was asked if any other major infrastructure changes were anticipated at this time and he noted that, while he couldn't think of anything in the immediate future, change was always under consideration in order to keep the company competitive.

Randy reminded the group of a time when WFP was not sure it could make payroll and he stressed the company had to prepare for the next downturn in order to survive.

It was noted that the Softwood Lumber Agreement terms were going to have an impact on profit margins.

In response to criticisms that employees and community members found out about the train closure through the media, Randy explained how the announcement of the train closure had rolled out, as required by law and business practice, and stressed the company had tried to release the information respectfully.

Annemarie thanked Randy for his update and for answering questions from members of NWAC, and then reviewed the objectives of the meeting, namely:

- To review the September 28th meeting minutes and selected action items;
- To hear an update on Englewood's THLB Stabilization Initiative and presentation on wetlands, by Tyson Berkenstock, Stewardship Forester, WFP;
- To carry out a final review of the proposed new and revised indicators under CSA Z809-16 Standard with Kelly McMahon;
- To distribute and provide opportunity for response to the 2017 participant satisfaction response survey;
- To review a draft 2018 schedule of meetings, and;
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

2. Review of Minutes and Action Items:

Annemarie reviewed the September 28th 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 September 28th meeting:

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.

Annemarie noted that this item had come up during a review of operational issues at a VINWAG meeting. She pointed out that one of the recommendations that had been made, following a small hydraulic oil spill near a watercourse, was to institute regular hose inspections and to track and replace older hoses on a regular basis.

Jack added that some effort should be made to look at buying more expensive, quality fittings, as well as routine maintenance of equipment.

Action Item 5: support Youth Forestry Initiative

Responsibility: Kelly

Due date: Ongoing

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 reminded members that one of the new indicators, 5.1.2, required under the CSA Z809-16 standard, would be discussed later in the meeting and added that the discussions regarding Criterion 5 Indicators required under the transition to the CSA Z809-16 standard should address action items relating to Criterion 5 Indicators. She thanked members for their patience with this action item.

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

Responsibility: Pat English

Due Date: Ongoing in 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 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: Sometime in 2017-2018

Annemarie noted that the draft 2018 meeting schedule included a presentation on WFP's silviculture strategy.

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 23, 2017

It was agreed to address this action item when Kelly reviews the annual report with NWAC members early next year.

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: November 23, 2017

Annemarie noted that there had been a good discussion about this indicator and possible targets at the joint meeting with VINWAG members on October 26th, and noted that Kelly would be discussing the draft indicator she had prepared, using information from that discussion, later in the meeting.

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 55: Continue to revise Indicator 3.2.2 targets to possibly include a monitoring station at Gold Creek (where there is some historical data available) and try to capture sedimentation issues associated with existing roads, as well as new road construction. Also, consider including the taking of an annual or once every two-year sedimentation management course for road crew members.
Responsibility: Kelly McMahon
Due Date: November 23, 2017

Annemarie noted that this topic had been discussed at the joint meeting with VINWAG members on October 26th, and reiterated that Kelly would be addressing this item later in the meeting.

Action Item 57: Bring revised indicators 3.2.2, 5.1.1, 6.1.2, 7.1.2 and 7.2.3 to the September 28th NWAC meeting for further review
Responsibility: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

Due Date: September 28, 2017

Annemarie noted that this action item would be addressed later in the meeting.

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

Kelly apologized for not bringing this list and committed to sharing it with members of NWAC at the first meeting in 2018.

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 included in the draft 2018 meeting schedule.

Action Item 62: Provide input on proposed digital map of CIFO DFA to Kelly.

Responsibility: All NWAC Members

Due Date: November 15, 2017

Annemarie thanked those who had provided input to development of the map and noted she was looking forward to seeing and using the final product.

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

3. Update on Englewood's THLB Stabilization Project and Presentation on the Role of Wetlands: Tyson Berkenstock, Stewardship Forester, WFP

Annemarie reminded NWAC members that they had asked for an update on the THLB stabilization initiative, and she pointed out that the role of wetlands was a new mandatory discussion item under the CSA Z809-16 standard. She welcomed Tyson and invited him to proceed with his presentation.

Tyson noted he would start with an update on the 'colocation or THLB project'. Tyson reminded members of the designation of Old Growth Management Areas that was carried out several years ago and noted that efforts were being made now to shift OGMA's to areas of equivalent or better value to ensure more viability of the operable land base over time. He pointed to some of the factors that were taken into consideration to shift these areas and added that John Deal would be coming to provide further information and ask for input from NWAC members in 2018.

Tyson noted that First Nations, BCTS and Ministry representatives would be brought into the discussions to look at the Upper and Lower Nimpkish Landscape Units.

Jack asked if ungulate winter range would be included and Tyson noted that these areas would not be included in this particular process.

Jack noted he could see the need to look at ways of keeping the cut sustainable, as long as the process did not compromise environmental and habitat values. Tyson noted this process did not affect the AAC and that, while it was a licensee initiative, it was supported by the chief forester for the province.

Tyson noted it is challenging to rank values in order to make the shifts on the land base, and that this is complicated by competing interests.

There was a discussion of the San Josef process and it was reiterated that the process won't result in any changes to the AAC and isn't meant to impact the overall habitat and ecological values in the forested area, but is intended to take temporal changes in the forest into account. Paul noted that he would provide the results of the San Josef project to Annemarie for distribution to NWAC members.

Action Item 63: Distribute results of San Josef colocation/THLB initiative to NWAC members.
Responsibility: Annemarie and Paul
Due Date: November 30,2017

There was a discussion of whether proposed treaty lands would be included in the review of the Upper and Lower Nimpkish landscape units.

Tyson noted that one of the biggest challenges would be dealing with the many interests that would be represented around the table. It was noted that a proposed presentation on this subject in May,2018 would fit well into the timeline for the project.

There was a discussion of whether an analysis is done ahead of time to determine how much operable area might come out of the process. Tyson noted that an analysis is done, but that values on the land base need to be given high priority at all times throughout the process and that preconceptions about net THLB do not drive the process.

Tyson went on to discuss the role of wetlands in forest management. He reviewed the types of wetlands, as defined in the CSA standard, through a classification system based on nutrients, water flow and substrate, for example.

Tyson noted he had read a recent report by economists on valuation of wetlands. He noted that the economists had assigned values to wetlands in the billions of dollars, by placing a value on sequestration of carbon and water retention, for example.

Tyson provided a broad definition of wetlands, taken from 'Wetlands of British Columbia' by MacKenzie and Moran, 2004. He reviewed the carbon cycle and noted that wetlands act as a buffer or bank for carbon, which is stored often in the substrate under wetlands. Tyson reviewed some of the kinds of plants that grow in wetlands, including Labrador tea, and where these plants are found in wetlands.

Tyson reviewed the classification of wetlands, which is based on the soil moisture regime, soil nutrient regime and the hydrodynamic index. He then reviewed the types of wetlands, including 1. bogs (found in the central and west coasts), characterized by Sphagnum mosses, and by being stagnant and having poor nutrients, 2. Fens, which are slightly acidic to alkaline, associated with moving groundwater and nutrient rich compared to bogs (found around the Campbell River area), 3. Marshes, which are seasonally flooded, non- tidal and with mineral soils, 4. Swamps, which

are very dynamic and usually found in alluvial systems with high nutrient groundwater, often in spruce dominated flats.

Tyson reviewed some of the wildlife found in or near wetlands, including frogs and salamanders, herons and eagles.

Tyson reviewed wetland management at the landscape level, noting that wetlands can be included in and around old growth management areas and are generally high value habitats or ‘ecological hotspots.’

Tyson reviewed a red-legged frog WHA in the DFA. He reviewed a wetland complex in the Stafford area and noted it supported a very high population of trout.

Tyson reviewed site level management practices for wetlands, and how wetland classification is used to determine what level of management is to be used.

Tyson reviewed the use of buffers as a means of protecting wetlands.

Steve asked whether there was anything WFP was doing with wetlands that might complement some of the goals for water quality and quantity. Tyson noted that it was very important to preserve natural drainage patterns to protect wetlands. He agreed it would be useful to look at wetland management as a means of monitoring and protecting water quality and quantity.

Steve asked whether and how wetlands could be used as monitors of water quality and quantity. Tyson noted that maintenance of integrity of wetlands would go a long way toward ensuring downstream water quality and quantity. Steve suggested that wetland management might be incorporated into the targets related to Indicator 3.2.2.

There was a discussion of terrain stabilization studies that reference wetlands downstream and the buffering capacity of those wetlands to protect fish downstream.

Annemarie thanked Tyson for his presentation and wished him a safe journey.

4. Final Review of Proposed New and Revised Indicators under CSA Z809-16 Standard: Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP

Annemarie reminded NWAC members that they had agreed to have a final review of the new and revised indicators required under CSA Z809-16 at this meeting. She invited Kelly to start the review. Kelly noted she would also be covering changes to core indicators under the new standard and asking members if they wished to keep or drop indicators that were no longer ‘core’ under CSA Z809-16.

Kelly noted that the intention was to begin to report out on the new indicators in 2018, but to include reference to them in the 2017 SFMP.

Steve asked why the ‘Central Island Forest Operation’ had been added to the title of the SFMP. He asked whether NWAC would come under Campbell River in future. Kelly noted that, with the amalgamation, Gold River, Englewood and Campbell River operations had been combined into the Central Island Forest Operation. She said she did not think the addition of the title indicated any change to NWAC’s status and agreed to take reference to CIFO out of the title.

Kelly noted that the indicator around native species planted was no longer core under CSA Z809-16 and could be kept or dropped. Steve noted that we were only monitoring something that was required by law anyway. It was agreed to keep the indicator, as it provides information on the various types of species planted.

It was agreed to keep the indicator around percentage of trees planted that are GMO's.

It was noted that Indicator 1.4.1 had been amended under CSA Z809-16 to add heritage sites like the loci in Woss.

Kelly reviewed the indicator around operationally caused fires and noted it was no longer a core indicator under CSA Z809-16. It was agreed to keep this indicator, if only to ensure that the events are tracked and measures are taken to deal with any fire responses that not meet the target.

Kelly noted she had taken information from the meeting with Glynnis and given a lot of thought to Indicator 3.2.2 and was proposing to take a two-tiered approach to the targets, starting with ensuring inspections are done and then ensuring results of inspections are analyzed and any required response made.

She reviewed the target, '100% of forest management activities are consistent with prescriptions, measured as zero non-conformance, identified through the following EMS inspections'.

Jack asked who monitors the results of extreme weather events on watercourses following harvesting. He noted that machine operators need to clean out ditches, particularly if a major rainfall is forecast as imminent.

There was a discussion of how harvesting activities could be monitored and SOP's developed to help to avert the effects of weather events on watercourses.

It was noted that the indicator is problematic. It was noted that it is difficult to apply over the whole DFA and perhaps it might be applied to specific high value watersheds. Steve noted that CSA needs to define what they want from this particular indicator. There was a discussion of the planning that goes on before road construction and harvesting. It was noted that WFP covers off on many of the water quantity issues with its watershed management strategy.

Kelly noted that she was attempting to provide more checks and balances to protect water quality and quantity in the road construction and harvesting planning and operational processes.

Stu noted that it was still important to measure performance, e.g inspections aside, is the stream clear or brown and is it healthy for fish. He noted it was important for WFP to get this right.

Kelly once again pointed to designing and monitoring the process for 'getting things right' in road construction and harvesting.

Jack repeated that it was important to let operators know it is our responsibility to protect against sedimentation, for example, after a major rainfall event.

Kelly was asked whether there would be more off-highway hauling and the potential impacts of this on water quality and quantity in the DFA. It was suggested that there be a focus on major haul roads or problem areas.

It was noted that the grader operator plays a very important role in all of this. It was noted that educational targets might be set for hoe and grader operators.

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

Steve suggested that one of the targets be the collection of water data and not analysis of the results, just that the collection of data is done.

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

Responsibility: Kelly and Steve

Due Date: February 8,2018

Paul reminded NAWC members he had sent out information on the Ministry's monitoring of water quality. He noted the results could inform the discussion.

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.1.1, and noted the addition of four proposed new targets. It was agreed to modify target 7 to make user stats proportionate to days open.

Steve expressed concern around target 4 noting there was less than 100% of the CIF going to communities in the DFA. Steve noted that, if the intent of the fund was to support requests from employees for projects in their communities, that the name be changed to 'Employee Initiative Fund.'

Kelly reviewed Indicator 5.1.2 and noted this new indicator had already been accepted at the May 25,2017 meeting in Woss.

Kelly noted that Indicator 6.3.1 had been moved to target 3 for Indicator 5.2.1 because Criterion 6 had been changed.

It was noted that target 4 under Indicator 6.1 could be dropped as it wasn't a core target under the new standard. Kelly noted that actions under this target were now being handled by WFP's communications staff. It was suggested that this target be retained in order to share more information about what NWAC does specifically.

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

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: February 8,2018

Kelly noted that Criterion 7 had been added to include First Nations indicators only.

5. Distribution and Response to 2017 Participant Satisfaction Survey: Annemarie Koch

Annemarie reminded members that they had agreed to reduce the time available for this agenda item in exchange for taking more time on the indicators.

She noted that only one response had been submitted to date and encouraged members to fill out their surveys after the meeting. It was agreed that the deadline for submissions would be November 30,2017.

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

Responsibility: All NWAC members

Due Date: November 30,2017

6. Review of Draft 2018 Meeting Schedule and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date and Location: Annemarie Koch

Annemarie invited input from NWAC members on the draft 2018 meeting schedule that had been distributed with the agenda. She asked for a change to the proposed November meeting date from the 22nd (as VINWAG had taken this date) to either November 8 or 15th. It was agreed to change the date of the proposed November meeting to the 8th.

Apart from the change to the date of the November meeting, Annemarie asked NWAC members whether the dates proposed in the draft worked for them and they agreed to confirm the meeting dates. Annemarie noted that the content of the meetings and the proposed presenters might be subject to change, but that NWAC members would be consulted about this. She thanked NWAC members for their input and noted she would be bringing a final draft of the schedule for review and confirmation at the first meeting in 2018.

7. Next Meeting:

Annemarie noted that, further to the proposed 2018 meeting schedule, the next meeting would be February 8,2018 and that the topic would be forestry learning initiatives on the North Island.

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