

Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes November 27, 2014
Black Bear Resort Port McNeill, BC
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Attendance: Kelly McMahon, Pat English, Jack Miller, Stu Ellis, Trevor Egely

Advisors: Paul Barolet

Regrets: Steve Lacasse, Gaby Wickstrom, Stu Abernathy, Jon Lok

Presenters: Jay Dixon and Kathleen McArthur, North Island Secondary School

Facilitator: Annemarie Koch

Notes: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

1. Introduction and Safety Procedures:

Annemarie 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 previous meeting minutes and selected action items;
- To hear a presentation on from NISS principal and newly elected Town of Port McNeill councilor Jay Dixon and Connections Coordinator Kathleen McArthur
- To distribute the participant satisfaction surveys and answer any questions associated with them
- To conduct the annual review of the Terms of Reference
- To hear an operational overview from Trevor Egely, and;
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

She invited members to introduce themselves for the benefit of the presenters.

2. Review of Minutes and Action Items:

Annemarie reviewed the minutes and action items from the September 18th meeting and the minutes from the October 23rd joint meeting with VINWAG. 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. She added that she would not be addressing action items that were ongoing but only items that were to be addressed in the shorter term. Given this, Annemarie noted that there were only three action items to address from the September 18th meeting.

Annemarie noted that, with results of the recent municipal election, Gaby Wickstrom had stepped down as the representative for the Town of Port McNeill. Annemarie added that she would be approaching the council of the Town of Port McNeill to solicit a replacement for this position. She noted her thanks to Gaby for her dedication to NWAC over the past few years.

Annemarie reviewed the action items from previous meetings, bringing attention to three items for which action was required in the short term, or for which reports were available.

Action Item 1: to follow up and see 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. It was agreed that Kelly should work with Jack and Bill to develop an additional target for Indicator 5.1.1 that shows Englewood's productivity in relation to other divisions in WFP, by the November 27th, 2014 meeting

Responsibility: Kelly/Jack

Due Date: This item was deferred to the next meeting on February 12, 2014

Action Item 2: Determine the feasibility of a cross division PAG meeting- in Port McNeill-to be revisited in 2014-just had an all PAG meeting in Powell River September 26-27th, 2012

Responsibility- Kelly and Trevor

Due Date- ongoing 2014-2015

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: Trevor/Kelly/Jack

Due Date: Ongoing.

Action Item 4: Solicit new members, and print a press release, highlighting the efforts of NWAC in the North Island Gazette.

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: January, 2015 after Municipal election material had circulated through the paper (upon Gaby's advice)

It was noted that a new Town of Port McNeill representative needed to be sought in the New Year, and that the Mount Cain representative should be confirmed for 2015.

Kelly suggested that it might be best to put this information out in the New Year and members agreed that she should send the press release into the Gazette in January, 2015.

Action Item 5: 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 McMahan

Due Date: March 31st, 2015

Action Item 6: Provide a presentation WFP's 20 year plan.

Responsibility: Trevor

Due Date: Sometime in 2015. It was agreed later in the meeting that this presentation be given by Trevor at the March 12, 2015 meeting.

Action Item 7: Obtain video footage of the Loki move to the Heritage Park and coordinate signage for the Park.

Responsibility: Trevor to let Pat English know a few days in advance so he is able to coordinate a video and put up Interpretative Signs.

Due date: to be determined

Kelly and Pat noted that the loci move had taken place and several people took videos, including the Gazette representative. Pat noted that he could make some video footage available to anyone who wanted to see it.

Pat noted that the area was going to be developed as a heritage park and added that photos and video would eventually be made available through the North Island Tourism group.

Action Item 8: support Youth Forestry Initiative

Responsibility: Kelly

Due date: Next meeting

Annemarie noted that the committee developing a forestry program for high school students was planning to meet on December 15th and she added that she had been advised that the school district would be making a commitment to have a forestry program of some kind started at the high school level by September, 2015.

Jay explained that a North Island high school forestry program would have to reflect the needs and resources available in the area. He added that, when this happens, the school district will be seeking partnerships throughout the community.

Jay noted his support for building some type of academy that provided for students to have intense experience with industry representatives locally.

3. NISS Partnerships With The Community: Jay Dixon- Principal, North Island Secondary School and NISS Connections Coordinator Kathleen McArthur

Jay noted that the school district was half the size of what it was when he was in school. He said that the school district had to do more with less and that this was actually providing a closer and custom education for students in this region.

Jay reviewed how the North Island economy had changed over the last 20 years, noting the region had diversified significantly.

He noted he would be discussing the Connections Program and Field Studies class as examples of how the school district was responding to the changing educational and

training needs of the region. He started with a review of the history of how the Connections Program came to be, to introduce young people to the community and prepare them for the workforce. Jay reviewed some of the experiences students had, including Tarkanen Marine Ways, Cape Scott Windfarms, Neucel Mill Port Alice, Port McNeill Hospital, Town of Port McNeill, RCMP Port McNeill, and Orca Sand and Gravel.

Jay referenced the great satisfaction of employers and students with the many experiences that students had on the North Island. He pointed to the very positive feedback from employers and students.

Kathleen noted that she takes the students out to look at areas where they have an interest. She noted there was great buy-in to the program, now that students and employers were becoming more familiar with it.

She noted how the program can be catered to small groups of students. Jay explained that the program allows for students to have hands on experience in businesses and industries here on the North Island, and provides for high quality learning and exploratory opportunities. Kathleen noted that the program helps students to determine which path they might want to take.

Jay reviewed some of the trips since 2013, including a visit to North Island Kayaks' operation in Telegraph Cove, Ken McGregor's woodlot in Sointula and Tarkanen Marine Ways in Sointula. Jay explained that Connections is the net that draws the students in and Field Studies is the program that gives them further experience in areas in which they show an interest.

Jay explained how students meet with company trainers to review workplace policies, requirements of employment, educational requirements and wage expectations.

Jay pointed to some of the partners in the community, like Harvest Foodbank, the Town Hall, local mechanics and forest companies. He pointed to how students can get school credits through working in the field as mechanics, for example.

Kathleen noted that a survey of students showed a high level of satisfaction with the program. Jay noted that the investment in students now will make it more likely that they will move back to the community after they acquire the skills they need to have to be employed.

Jay explained how Field Studies allows for more intense experience for students after they have explored opportunities through the Connections Program. He gave some examples of students who have gone through these programs and gone on to take jobs with employers in the community.

Jay described the Field Studies Program in more detail, noting the students research various fields and learn employment skills like preparing a resume. He noted that

students are matched up with mentors, where appropriate, or allowed to spend more and more time job shadowing and working in the field.

Jay noted that students are covered under WCB and given safety training.

Jay noted that the Field Studies course was unique to this area and had been developed specifically for this region. He noted that the program only works where there are partnerships. He pointed, for example, to the partnership with the Regional District to deliver the Connections Program.

Jay noted that the small number of students in the district could be used to advantage, in that more could be done to cater experiences and training through partnerships with the community.

Jay pointed to a partnership between North Island College and School District 85 to provide for training of older students in forestry and aquaculture in the high school. He noted that there was value for the younger students to see how this program works.

Jay reviewed the Transitions Program that allows high school students to take a variety of college courses prior to graduating from high school, to give them a head start on a certificate program such as early childhood education.

He hinted that other pathways might include training through industry partnerships.

Jay noted that we want to prepare students for university and college, trades and jobs. He noted that NISS was looking at pathways to reach all three of these goals.

Jay added that the school was offering a Co-op Program that, in partnership with the Regional District, would provide for a financial incentive for an employer to take on a student.

Jay pointed to the value of making education more relevant for students. He pointed to the value of bringing down silos and inviting the students to interact and work with the community.

Jay reviewed the evolving partnerships on the North Island, including businesses, Namgis First Nation, Lions, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, and Community Futures. He noted that the contributions might be financial or in kind, offering travel and experiences.

Jay pointed to the many opportunities that are presented to students who participate in the Field Studies Program. He invited more partnerships.

Trevor noted that he would support a program that introduced students to opportunities in the forest sector, including the shop and forestry department. Jay noted his willingness to meet with company representatives to talk and build a framework for students to get learn about local industry and get involved in some way.

Jay pointed to the number of young people coming back to this area because it was affordable and a beautiful place to live.

Kelly asked about any communication with Mount Cain and the need for ski instructors. Jay noted that the Field Studies teacher spends a lot of time up Mount Cain and that he would welcome information on opportunities for students on the hill.

Stu noted that this made the education system on the North Island look very good and appealing to people coming into the region.

Kathleen noted that niche educational opportunities exist.

Annemarie thanked Jay and Kathleen for their presentation.

4. Distribution of Participant Satisfaction Surveys

Annemarie distributed hard copies of the 2014 participant satisfaction survey to NWAC members and invited them to respond. She noted that feedback from members is critical to continuous improvement of the content and process of public input to the sustainable forest management plan.

Action Item 9: Distribute digital copies of the participant satisfaction survey to all members.

Responsibility: Kelly and NWAC Members

Due Date: Distribute copies of survey with November 27th meeting minutes and respond to Kelly or Annemarie within a week of distribution of the November 27th meeting minutes

5. Annual Review of Terms of Reference

Annemarie distributed hard copies of the most recent version of the Terms of Reference.

Kelly noted that there have been no changes to the Terms of Reference since 2012.

Pat asked how many people are on NWAC. Kelly noted there were 15 sectors. Kelly noted that WFP does an internal review of the process and the work of NWAC, so they are familiar with the process.

Kelly reviewed some of the initiatives taken to engage and inform First Nations, including one on one meetings with representatives of these groups.

There was a discussion of the karst representative. Paul noted that he would talk to the parks representative to see if she could attend more regularly or agree to an alternate, and added that he would approach the new conservation officer to see if he would attend.

Paul asked about representatives from other resource sectors operating on the DFA.

Jack asked about a youth representative.

Action Item 10: Continue to discuss membership and representation on NWAC to ensure that vacant sectors are filled and to see if any new sectors should be added.

Responsibility: Kelly and Annemarie

Due Date: ongoing

Members agreed to adopt the newly revised Terms of Reference, effective November 27, 2014.

Action Item 11: Distribute a copy of the most recent version of the Terms of Reference to all NWAC members.

Responsibility: Kelly and Annemarie

Due Date: Distribute with November 27th meeting minutes and post on PAG website.

6. Operational Update: Trevor Egely-Operational Planner, Englewood Forest Operation

Trevor noted that 2014 was winding down. He noted that there had been a large heli-logging operation at 26,000 cubic metres or 4% of the cut. He noted that harvest of second growth was sitting at between 38-39%. He reviewed the agreements for First Nations, pointing to a NRFL with the Namgis First Nation.

Trevor noted that they were looking at about 25,000 cubic metres for heli-logging next year. He noted that second growth harvesting would be going up to 45% of the cut next year. Trevor pointed out that the total cut for 2015 was set at 778,000 cubic metres total including 45,000 cubic metres outside the DFA. The 45,000m³ was within the Atluck Timber License that would expire in 2017. Trevor noted that there were ongoing discussions with the Namgis First Nation for future harvesting and management of lands.

There was a discussion of road-building plans. Trevor also talked about some opportunities (including use of the railway) to access tenures and volumes currently outside the company's tenure.

There was a discussion of how goshawk management requirements might affect harvesting plans.

7. Next Meeting:

Annemarie noted that the next meeting date had not yet been established and she suggested Thursday, February 12, 2015. She asked if March 12, 2015 would work for members as well, as this would be a good time for Kelly to get feedback for the 2014

annual report. It was agreed to set these two meeting dates in 2015. She invited members to identify speakers and topics they would like to hear about.

It was suggested that someone make a presentation on the reconstruction of the old forestry lookout and other heritage initiatives in the Woss area, including the heritage park at the February 12, 2015 meeting. Bev Webber was suggested as a possible speaker and Trevor noted that it could be a collaborative presentation.

It was agreed that Trevor would address the 20 year plan at the March 12, 2015 meeting.

Trevor noted that the Timber Supply Review could be a topic of a late fall presentation and he noted that Don Davis could address this subject.

It was noted there is an internal audit in September, 2015.

Annemarie noted that she would find a way to let members of the respective public advisory groups know about presentations made at each of the different meetings. She pointed out that there were quality presentations made to each group and that members of both groups, NWAC and VINWAG, should have the opportunity to access presentations that interested them, provided they notified the person organizing the meeting, so that they could make appropriate arrangements for dinner and seating.

It was suggested to invite John Deal to discuss the effect of the federal recovery strategy for goshawks on forest management in the DFA at a meeting later in the spring of 2015.

Kelly asked whether members of NWAC wanted to have an annual field trip. It was agreed, for now, to let NWAC members know about the annual VINWAG field trip in September and give them the opportunity to attend.

It was agreed to organize a panel session for the next joint meeting in October, 2015, including union, school district and industry representatives to follow up on the presentation made by Shannon Janzen this past October regarding replacement of retiring forestry workers in the region. Pat suggested determining whether the work that Patrick Marshall is doing on an industry-wide level might contribute to this initiative.

Pat agreed to provide a presentation on the regional sector strategy at a meeting in 2015.

It was agreed that a draft schedule of meetings would be ready for review at the February 12, 2015 meeting.

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