

Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes April 17, 2014
Black Bear Resort Port McNeill, BC
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Attendance: Kelly McMahon, Dave Wall, Jon Lok, Paul Barolet, Stu Ellis,
Regrets: Pat English, Bill Nelson, Gaby Wickstrom, Trevor Egely
Presenter: Annette van Niejenhuis
Facilitator: Annemarie Koch
Notes: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

1. Introduction and Safety Procedures and Review of Minutes and Action Items:

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 by Annette van Niejenhuis on WFP's research projects and the seed orchard work that's being done;
- To have a further review of the results in the 2013 annual report;
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

Annemarie then reviewed the minutes from the March 27th meeting.

The following action items, from the cumulative list for 2013-2014, were reviewed. Annemarie noted that she would only be going over the action items that were time sensitive, and not dealing with the ones that were ongoing over the long term or completed prior to the last meeting:

Action Item: 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.

Responsibility: Trevor and Kelly

Due Date: Ongoing

Kelly noted that this matter is related to EBITDA target 3. The target is under review and she is looking for input on how to better reflect economic and community benefits specifically generated in the DFA.

Action Item: 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 and Kelly

Due Date: Ongoing

Paul noted that there are existing examples of approaches to reducing cumulative loss of small amounts of petroleum products, including tracking non reportable spills. There was a discussion of how safety practices have been refined to reduce accidents to zero tolerance, and how there could be parallels for environmental practices.

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

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: May, 2014. Kelly noted the press release is complete and that she just needs to post the advertisement in the newspaper.

Action Item: Kelly to circulate a list of current research projects.

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: ASAP

It was noted that Kelly circulated the list of research projects with the meeting agenda and that the meeting presenter would be elaborating further on the research initiatives.

2. Tree Seed and Research Projects within TFL 37: Annette van Niejenhuis

Annette noted that she was pleased to share information from the Forest Policy and Practices Group on tree seed and research projects in TFL 37.

Annette noted that she has a masters' degree in forest genetics, that she provides advice on research programs and the seed orchard for WFP.

Annette pointed to how WFP chooses the best seed for their forest plantations, using a variety of criteria to ensure quality and productivity. Annette explained the role of the tree breeders from the Ministry. She noted that no gene therapy or gene modification is used in the process, to improve the quantity and quality of stock being regenerated.

Annette noted that traditional breeding practices are generally used and discussed some of the germination processes, including stratification.

Annette described the concept of gain, being a comparison of the results of wild seed and seed that is crossed and cultivated or 'bred'. She discussed the relative gain produced as volume of maturing stock in the field, at rotation age 60.

Annette noted that gain is measured in weevil resistance for Sitka spruce. She stated that there is demonstrated gain in cultivated Sitka spruce in the field. Annette discussed gain in the context of western white pine. She noted that stem pruning is an issue for blister rust resistance in white pine. Annette reviewed information on major gene resistance for western white pine.

She noted that no genetic modification is allowed and that tree improvement is carried out under strict guidelines. Oversight comes through bodies such as the Seed Transfer Committee, and Conservation Committee.

Annette reviewed concepts such as provenance, seed conservation and progeny testing (choice of superior parents for the orchard program). She noted the importance of broad adaptability.

Annette reviewed the locations of Ministry and industry orchards on the Saanich Peninsula, along with a private orchard at Yellow Point.

Paul asked about hemlock on Haida Gwaii and whether it had been shown that production couldn't be exceeded by genetically improved stock over natural stock there. Annette noted that this may be the case, but these trees had not been tested and cultivated on Haida Gwaii.

Annette noted that WFP is the leading company to plant hemlock, because the company knows there is gain with this species.

Annette reviewed the seed map function put out by the provincial government and how it shows all of the government research trials, e.g. stand management cooperative research trials, Sitka spruce controlled cross, Douglas fir provenance trials.

Annette referred to western red cedar trials and how the breeder has been developing cedar that is high in terpenes as protection against deer browsing. She noted that pen trials have shown that deer with options will not tend to browse high terpene cedar. She noted that elk is a horse of a different colour in this matter.

Annette talked about leaf blight on cedar and the volume gain research done in relation to cedar affected by leaf blight. Annette noted that wood rot resistance is also being investigated.

Annette reviewed research in the area of climate change, including a site near Holberg, investigating extremes (like wetness) and the generation of information on transfer limits. Annette referred to the webinars that are available to learn more about the effects of climate change, particularly in the Interior.

Annette discussed the company's use of seed orchards and nurseries. She noted about 80% of seed is orchard seed now. Annette noted that producing true fir seed is challenging so there is no gain with these species presently.

Annette noted that tree seed extractions are done at a centre in Surrey where the seed is registered. She pointed to the value of the seed registry.

Annette reviewed the technical standards for seedlots.

Annette reviewed the silviculture research that is going on in TFL 37, including work with Rod Negrave on sapling fertilization trials near Port McNeill and Port Alberni, with plans to expand to other operations.

She pointed to variable retention adaptive management studies that had been undertaken. Measures include regeneration levels. Annette pointed to the SCHIRP trials that take place on the North Island, including the Suquash drainage trials (that created excellent beaver habitat).

Annette showed a photo of a northern goshawk in second growth and discussed some of the research on species at risk that is being done, including nest inventories, breeding bird surveys and owl surveys (e.g. for the screech owl). She also addressed work on ecosystems at risk, and timber inventory using Lidar.

It was suggested that Chris Clements should perhaps be invited to talk to Englewood about timber inventory needs.

Annette finished with a photo of white fireweed.

Jon asked whether the current research program came from and where it's at now. Annette noted that, following the merger, the market crashed, and it's only now that the company has been able to really pick up on some older and develop new research initiatives. She noted that the current program was partly a result of amalgamation, but that other parts of the program were new and distinct. She pointed to the importance of working on residue and waste issues.

It was noted that gain can always be valuable, the question is, whether and how much to pay for it.

Annette noted that there is value to undertake further research into what our decisions cost us. She noted that the best bang for the buck is generally in genetic work, e.g. versus fertilization.

3. Review of Recent Updates to the 2013 Annual Report

Kelly noted that the 2013 annual report was reviewed by the management group and that there was a request to review a few areas of change with members of NWAC, including:

1. Indicator 1.2.1-Degree of habitat protection for focal species: The legal hectares for Marbled Murrelet Nesting Habitat have been ground truthed and have decreased. This information will now serve as the baseline data in future reporting.
2. Indicator 2.1.2- Percent Consistency with time to control a forest fire: Englewood's Resource Management Burn Plan is now included within the verbage for this indicator. Paul asked about the alternative of not piling the wood

- but distributing it within the cutblocks. It was noted that perhaps not all sites require pile burning.
3. Indicator 5.1.1- Quantity and Quality of timber and non-timber benefits produced in the DFA: there is no minimum value target for harvesting yellow cedar, table shows trending toward the target, which is permissible.
 4. Indicator 6.3.3- Worker safety program implementation and review: Kelly reviewed some minor wording changes.
 5. Indicator 5.2.1- Level of investment in initiatives that contribute to community sustainability: related to level of investment contributing to community sustainability- Kelly clarified the request from Gaby at the last meeting and agreed to change the table accordingly. It was agreed that Kelly should remove Port Alice from the west island and move it to the North Island.

Kelly noted that the annual report would be reviewed with the 'Namgis First Nation as well, and that every effort would be made to address their concerns.

4. Next Meeting:

Annemarie noted that the next meeting was scheduled for June 5, 2014. It was noted that Dean Hunchuk was scheduled to speak about wood waste policies.

The following dates were confirmed for the 2014 meeting schedule: June 5, September 18, October 23 and November 27. Annemarie reminded members that the meeting schedule was posted on the PAG website under meeting schedules and agendas.

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