

Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes June 5, 2014
Black Bear Resort Port McNeill, BC
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Attendance: Kelly McMahon, Jack Miller, Pat English, Jon Lok, Paul Barolet, Stu Ellis, Trevor Egely, Gaby Wickstrom

Regrets: Bill Nelson

Presenter: Dean Hunchuk, Residue and Waste Coordinator, MOFLNRO

Observer: Jon Flintoft, WFP

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 wood waste policies by Dean Hunchuk;
- To hear an operational overview from Trevor Egely and have a general discussion, and;
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

Annemarie then asked members of NWAC to introduce themselves for the benefit of the presenter. She introduced Dean Hunchuk and thanked him for attending the meeting.

2. Wood Waste Policies Affecting TFL 37: Dean Hunchuk, MoFLNRO

Dean introduced himself and described the role he plays with MoFLNRO as the residue and waste coordinator.

Dean reviewed some background on the current policies for residue and waste monitoring, starting in the 1960's and working through to the 1980's, when there was a public outcry against high waste levels, through the 1990's when waste benchmarks were established, through to the 2000's and the Forest Revitalization Plan and development of a 'Take or Pay' policy.

Dean reviewed the benchmark and how it allows some avoidable waste to be left on site without monetary penalty. He pointed out how this contributes to coarse woody debris.

Dean reviewed an example of how the benchmark is calculated and worked into the stumpage rate. Dean explained what the grades mean, starting with lumber grades and moving on to Y and Z grade logs that are of the least quality.

Dean reviewed the definitions of waste classes: avoidable versus unavoidable waste. He noted , for example, that unavoidable waste included fibre not harvested for safety or environmental reasons. He noted that unavoidable waste still counts toward AAC and may include bucking waste, high stumps, or standing wood that was inaccessible due to an event such as a landslide.

Dean then reviewed some statistics on waste by class and grade in this forest district from 2013-2014, noting there were 672,091 cubic metres of avoidable sawlogs (x grade or better). He noted that over the course of the year, 90% of waste was avoidable, and that there was \$56,320 was paid out from TFL 37 for avoidable waste.

Dean reviewed the results for waste residues, in comparison to total volume cut over the past five years. He illustrated the ratios of avoidable to unavoidable waste in relation to total cut over the five year period. Dean then showed the portion of avoidable sawlog waste in TFL 37 was between 11%-25% of the total cut over the five year period. Dean cautioned that these figures can be misleading, in that there are a variety of factors involved in determining waste levels in any year.

It was noted that the average waste level for TFL 37 is about the same as the district average at about 10%.

Dean noted that some high grade waste can be found in surveys, but that this was not typical. He explained that high grade would be placed within the avoidable sawlog category.

Dean reviewed the timelines required for waste wood surveys. He noted that there was a shortage of people to conduct the surveys and that there are also seasonal access issues associated with snow in TFL 37.

Jack asked what happens to logs that are felled but not harvested for a season. Dean noted that the assessment and grading is done as of the date of the primary harvesting.

Dean reviewed a chart of waste in TFL 37 in relation to district-wide waste levels. He noted that waste levels in TFL 37 are generally lower than district levels. He compared waste levels by harvest type, noting heli waste was generally higher in relation to waste associated with conventional logging. He provided a breakdown of the type of waste associated with heli-logging. There was a discussion of how TFL 37 is doing in relation to avoidable waste on second growth. Dean noted that TFL 37`s utilization rates look good in this category.

Dean reviewed the heli-log waste statistics and noted that TFL 37 has a relatively small heli-log program.

Dean pointed out that TFL 37 is generally right in line with waste levels for all licensees across the North Island Central Coast Forest District.

One of the graphs showed an unusually high level of waste in 2010-11 for TFL 37 and it was noted that a volume of timber had been surrendered and left standing as waste by the company in TFL 37 in 2010-11 and that WFP had paid for this.

Dean reviewed the portion of billing that TFL 37 paid for waste over the past five years. It was noted that TFL 37 contributes between 5-6% of the waste billing for the district.

Dean reviewed some photos showing waste in the district. It was noted that there is no longer a policy to force a company to re-log an area and that the policy is now strictly `take or pay`.

It was noted that, along with the requirement to pay for waste left on site, cut control and the cost of planning and positioning to log are factors that help to ensure areas are harvested thoroughly.

It was noted that, in old growth, the allowable waste for heli-logging is 35 cubic metres per hectare.

3. Review of Minutes and Action Items:

Annemarie reviewed the minutes and action items from the April 17th 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.

The following action items, from the cumulative list for 2013-2014 and the minutes of the April 17th meeting, 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. Annemarie noted this item was ongoing.

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 and Jack

Due Date: Ongoing. Annemarie noted this item was ongoing. Jack noted that there were many ways to reduce the loss of petroleum products. Trevor agreed that WFP was looking at ways to reduce loss of products such as hydraulic oil. Kelly suggested working with Jack on this initiative.

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

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: June 30, 2014. Annemarie noted Kelly would post the advertisement in the newspaper this month.

Action Item: Post Annette's presentation on tree seed and other research in TFL 37 on the PAG website.

Responsibility: Annemarie

Due Date: June 6,2014

Kelly noted that had been a request for Shannon Janzen to speak to the 'way forward' for WFP, and it was agreed that perhaps a discussion of the company's recently completed 20 year plan would cover this topic.

Additional Action Items:

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

Responsibility: Kelly and Trevor

Due Date: Sometime in 2015

Action Item: Circulate a copy of Dean's presentation on wood waste policies.

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Before the September 18,2014 meeting

Action Item: Include an operational review in future NWAC meetings to allow for members to ask questions and seek information about activities in the DFA.

Responsibility: Kelly and Trevor

Due Date: Ongoing

4. Operational Overview For TFL 37, Trevor Egely

It was noted that Stillwater provides an operational overview at their meetings and suggested that this might become a general practice at NWAC meetings. Members agreed that this was a good idea.

Trevor noted that operational maps are available on WFP's website and in the public domain. He noted that the maps provide general information, assist with safety and recreational access and generally support transparency for the company's operations.

Trevor noted that the company was working with the 'Namgis on potential business partnerships for their Forest Licence cut and for TFL 37 AAC equivalency in light of current Treaty and Settlement area status. It was noted that discussions with the 'Namgis were ongoing on a number of levels and that relations had generally been good with the First Nation.

Trevor reviewed cut proposed cut levels in the coming year and noted the various contractors that were involved in harvesting volume in the DFA.

There was a discussion of Bill 13 contractors and the cut levels to which they are entitled.

Trevor noted WFP would be cleaning up some areas around Beaver Cove and pointed to the area where the training tower would be placed for students in the entry level program.

Trevor noted that the maps show future projections and logging plans. Trevor reviewed the heli-shows that were planned for 2014. He noted that some cedar pre-poling was planned later in the year.

Trevor noted that approximately 73 kilometres of road was proposed for construction this year comprised of development with TFL 37 and the Atluck TL. It was noted that generally harvest levels were going to continue to decline over the coming years and that WFP was looking to expand its harvesting operations to include, for example, bidding on BCTS sales.

Trevor noted that the replica of the fire tower was going to be assembled on top of Lookout Mountain this year. Trevor added that Stu Abernethy built the tower and that Bob Isaac was helping with this.

Trevor noted that WFP would be open to helping to coordinate forestry tours and support educational tourism in the region. It was noted that reinstatement of the train as an attraction in a heritage park in Woss would support tourism in the region.

There was a discussion of the challenge of recruiting future workers for the forest industry.

Pat noted that there was a focus group meeting and workshop on June 11 at the Community Futures office in Port McNeill to discuss strategic sectors in the region and how these sectors can be supported. He added that there will be a public meeting on this subject to follow on June 12 at Seven Hills Golf Course.

5. Next Meeting:

Annemarie noted that the next meeting was scheduled for September 18, 2014. It was noted that Pat English was scheduled to speak about the regional sector strategy currently being prepared.

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