

Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes September 24, 2015
Community Futures Boardroom, Port McNeill, BC
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Attendance: Kelly McMahon, WFP, Trevor Egely, Operations Planner, WFP, Stu Ellis, General Public, Pat English, Local Government, Jack Miller, Labour, Bill Nelson, Logging Contractor, Graham MacDonald, Town of Port McNeill, Jon Lok, Small Contractors

Regrets: David Jack, B.C. Parks Alternate

Observer: Will Sloan, Certification Coordinator, WFP

Advisor: Paul Barolet, Stewardship Officer, MOFLNRO

Presenters: Randy Boas, Divisional Manager, Englewood, WFP, Jeanne Matthews, Forest Technician, WFP, Pat English, RDMW Economic Development Manager, Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, 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 April 9th meeting minutes and selected action items;
- To hear an update on the Central Island Forest Operations (CIFO) amalgamation from Englewood Divisional Manager Randy Boas, WFP
- To hear a presentation on the Woss Lookout Trail by Jeanne Matthews, Forest Technician, WFP
- To hear a presentation on the Loci and Woss Heritage Site by Pat English, RDMW Economic Development Manager
- To hear a presentation by Area Planner Kelly McMahon on proposed changes to the CSA Z809 standard;
- To discuss the October 8th field trip and possible alternate dates;
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

She then encouraged 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 April 9th 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. 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 five action items to address from the April 9th meeting.

Annemarie reviewed the action items from previous meetings (noting two items which had recently been completed) 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

Responsibility: Kelly/Jack/Bill

Due Date: May 21,2015

Kelly noted that there is currently no way of comparing the values measured in Indicator 5.1.1 between divisions. Englewood is the only division that reports out these metrics. Annemarie asked NWAC members whether they would like to choose another measure with which to compare the Englewood Division.

There was a discussion and it was noted that there was not a great interest internally in comparing divisions.

Jack suggested revisiting this issue after the divisional amalgamations are complete.

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 2016

Action Item 2: Determine the feasibility of a cross division PAG meeting- in Port McNeill

Responsibility- Kelly and Trevor

Due Date- ongoing in 2015

Annemarie asked Will whether it was time for an all PAG meeting, given the last one was hosted by the Stillwater PAG in the fall of 2012.

Will agreed to look into the possibility of holding an all-PAG meeting on the North Island in the fall of 2016.

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: 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 McMahon

Due Date: 2015 annual report

Kelly reported that this action item will be addressed in the 2015 annual report.

Action Item 5: Support Youth Forestry Initiative

Responsibility: Kelly

Due date: Ongoing

Annemarie reported that a forestry program was underway at NISS and PHSS this fall and that members would hear more about the details of this program at the October 22nd panel session.

Action Item 6: 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

Action Item 7: Set up a presentation on the TSOL Joint Venture between WFP and Atli Forest Products for a Future Meeting

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Early in 2016

Action Item 11: Arrange for a presentation on the relative rate of carbon uptake at different seral stages.

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Some time in 2016

Action Item 12: Bring new draft targets including additional variance for Indicator 5.1.1. to NWAC for review and consideration

Responsibility: Kelly and Trevor

Due Date: May 21, 2015

Kelly noted that she had discussed this request internally and it was agreed not to change the targets for Indicator 5.1.1(in order to provide more flexibility), but to change the

wording under ‘Strategies and Implementation,’ to note the effects of external market pressures.

Action Item 13: Post 2014 annual report on the PAG website

Responsibility: Kelly and Annemarie

Due Date: April 30, 2015

Action Item 14: Revise and update Terms of Reference and post on PAG website

Responsibility: Kelly and Annemarie

Due Date: April 30, 2014

Annemarie noted that Action Items 13 and 14 had been completed.

Action Item 15: Revisit biomass development opportunities with a future presentation at NWAC

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Sometime in 2016

The minutes and discussion of action items were accepted by the group.

2. Update on the CIFO Amalgamation: Randy Boas, Englewood Divisional Manager, WFP

Randy noted how the mid-Island, Gold River and Englewood divisions had been amalgamated into the Central Island Forest Operation to reduce overlap and encourage greater collaboration. He noted that many factors were taken into consideration in making the decision, including impacts on communities and First Nations as well as financial considerations. He noted that the current model was to have planning and administration out of the mid Island office. He pointed to the resulting staffing allocations, noting one planner would continue to operate out of Englewood.

Randy noted that Englewood is a high cost operation; a lot of costs due to seasonality and geography which are beyond our control. Englewood needs to manage and control what it can to ensure it is positioned to be able to withstand downturns in market cycles. Englewood needs to be efficient with less equipment that operates more with less need for capital. Englewood is currently feeling the effects of the poor cypress and pulp markets.

Randy noted that the change was made to ensure ongoing profitability and employment for the operation, including fewer seasonal shutdowns.

There was a discussion of the community impacts of the proposed shiftwork schedule. Graham pointed to the huge impacts on the community in the way of loss of residents who would choose to locate elsewhere. Randy noted the company would do its best to hire locally and to keep workers going year round.

Randy noted that some employees support the move to shiftwork and a number of them are local.

There was a discussion of wood flow. It was noted that wood flows from Gold River to Beaver Cove and some wood has been taken to Gold River from Englewood.

There was a discussion of whether the amalgamation would affect current timber transportation regulations.

Randy noted there was a plan to hire more people to fill the shifts and felt there would not be a net loss of employment.

Graham noted his displeasure with the constant decline in the industry. He challenged the industry to find a way to make more money. Randy noted that WFP was the only large coastal company still in the communities and investing in mills and cutting the profile. He noted it was a tough market out there.

It was noted that most of the other bigger forest companies have left the coast.

Randy noted that the changes had been made to ensure a stable future for the company such as investing in the mills. WFP is an integrated company and if the mills are efficient they can continue to cut lumber from the logs from our timberlands even in poor markets.

There was a discussion of the changes and it was noted that people would need to adapt and let the changes settle in. It was noted that the downturn in the oil industry was helping to bring back workers to the forest industry.

Graham pointed to the negative impact of shiftwork on Kitimat. He pointed to the benefits of using wastewood and challenged WFP to invest in wastewood initiatives.

Jon noted he shared concerns for the effects of shiftwork and changes to the flow of wood from this area. He noted he understood why the decision had been made but encouraged the company to continue to try to hire people from this region, people who would live in and support our communities. He cautioned the company to make the long term decisions that benefit this area. He stressed that hiring employees from this region was critical to the longterm success of North Island communities.

It was noted that there is no change in the flow of wood from this area other than the small volumes that flow back and forth from Englewood and Gold River.

Jon asked how relationships with the Namgis would go as a result of the amalgamation. Randy noted that much work had been invested in nurturing this relationship and assuring the Namgis that the company representatives who currently have relationships with the Namgis on the North Island would continue to do so.

Graham noted the North Island had seen big declines in the number of companies operating in forestry on the North Island and he stressed the need to find some kind of sustainability in the industry to support communities. He called for innovation and new ways to use land to support jobs in our communities, e.g. agroforestry.

Randy noted he loves small communities and he would hate to see them go, but he felt the movement of people away from small communities was more indicative of societal changes and not the forest industry.

3. Update on the Woss Lookout Trail and the Loci Heritage Site: Jeanne Matthews, Forestry Technician, WFP and Pat English, RDMW Economic Development Manager

Jeanne acknowledged the work that Bev Webber had done on the project and thanked her for her work.

She noted that the Woss lookout tower had been erected in 1948. She pointed out that the tower had deteriorated quite a bit by 2012 and it had been determined that the tower needed to be rebuilt. She noted that funding of \$80,000 was sought from a variety of sources, including Island Coastal Economic Trust and FIA, and that support had been offered by the 'Namgis First Nation, RDMW, MOFLNRO, wildfire crews and the Woss Residents Association among others, including individual volunteers. Jeanne noted that the project had been completed this year. She noted that the building was rebuilt to historical specifications, with the exception of the location of the stairs, which were changed to meet safety standards.

Jeanne outlined the trail location and parking area and noted that the tower had been registered as a heritage site. Jeanne explained why the trail location was chosen, to meet safety and maintenance concerns.

She used photos to review the progression of the project from demolition of the old structure in 2013, to construction of a replica by Abernethy Construction, and installation of the building and signage in 2015.

Jeanne shared some photos of the trail. Jeanne noted that a brochure outlining the project and some history of the tower was being printed. She reviewed some older photos taken from the tower over 50 years ago. Jeanne thanked all of the individuals and groups who helped to complete the project.

Jack asked if anything was salvaged from the old tower to put in the new tower. Jeanne noted some of the window frames were salvaged but had not been re-installed.

Jon asked if all of the original materials had been carried up on foot. Jeanne noted that there was some signage illustrating the history of the site.

Pat English- Loci Heritage Site Update:

Pat provided an update on the steam loci project, noting the loci had recently been moved from its old spot to the proposed heritage site. He noted that some of the old fuel had to be removed from the engine to avoid leakage in future due to corrosion. Pat noted that he had a crew scrubbing and cleaning the engine so that it could be painted, possibly this fall or during the next clear window. Pat noted the original color scheme would be kept, where possible.

Pat reviewed the proposed location of the loci at the heritage park in a roundhouse type structure that would include educational material on the train and other heritage sites on the North Island, including the Woss lookout. He reviewed the design for a proposed platform for the engine. He noted that most of the work would probably take place next year while the planning was done this year.

Pat noted that some local volunteers, including Al Kollmann, had been a great help with the project.

Jack noted that his brother-in-law could perhaps help with advising on the painting as he was a certified coating specialist

4. Review of Proposed Changes to the CSA Z809 Standard: Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP

Annemarie provided a history of revisions to the CSA standard and invited members of NWAC to offer their input individually, using the website link circulated earlier by Kelly.

Kelly reviewed the highlights of the proposed changes to the CSA standard, referencing a document that was available off the CSA website.

She noted, for example, that aboriginal indicators had been placed in a separate Criterion. She added that soil and water had been separated as elements. She pointed out that headings in the public involvement section are now more descriptive, and that the content required in audit reports had been expanded.

There was a discussion of group certification. It was noted that while the requirement for an annual internal audit had been removed, this might not apply to WFP.

Kelly reviewed changes to SFM Plan implementation and there was a discussion of changes to the system requirements. Will noted there would be a lot of changes around communication and corrective action processes under ISO 14001.

Annemarie reviewed the proposed new discussion items, including forest connectivity and soil sensitivity. She noted that this might help to direct presentations for the 2016 meeting schedule.

Action Item 17: circulate pdf copy of the proposed revisions to the CSA standard and Jane's speaking notes to NWAC members as soon as possible because the deadline for submissions is September 30.

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: September 25, 2015

Stu noted that he felt things were going well with NWAC in relation to the proposed changes to the standard.

It was noted that Englewood has a good working relationship with the 'Namgis First Nation and that the minutes of meetings are circulated to and read by the 'Namgis forester. Graham asked if the 'Namgis have an office in Woss. It was noted that the 'Namgis have their own forester on staff and that she works closely with the staff at Englewood.

Will noted that there would be a few new indicators and some changes to and reorganization of existing indicators. He noted that it was uncertain how long of a transition period would be given for integrating the new standard. Will noted that a final draft of the standard was to be ready for review by early next year with the intention of having the final approved standard available for use in the spring of 2016.

Will explained how members of NWAC could individually make comments on the proposed revisions to the standard. He noted that it was more likely that many comments from different sources would have more influence on the process.

5. Discussion of October 8th Field Trip

Kelly noted that October 8th was not the best day for a field trip due to conflicts with other meetings. She asked for members' input on an alternate date.

It was noted that members were interested in having a field trip to look at the Woss Lookout but that the timing wouldn't work for them this October. Will suggested sending out a survey to members asking them for their feelings on future field trips. He noted that other groups have chosen to explore indicators like visuals and silviculture issues.

Action Item 18: Poll NWAC members regarding what field trips they might like to see and when best to hold them

Responsibility: Annemarie

Due Date: October 15, 2015

Paul noted he hadn't seen the Nimpkish Ecological Reserve yet and that there were many areas to look at in the Nimpkish Valley.

6. Next Meeting:

Annemarie noted that the next meeting would be a joint one with members of VINWAG, on October 22, 2015 and that it would be a panel session exploring recruitment and retention strategies to maintain a talented forestry workforce on the North Island over the next decade.

Annemarie thanked the presenters and meeting participants and bid them a safe journey home.