

Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes September 27, 2018
Woss Community Hall, Woss, BC
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Attendance: Kelly McMahon, Area Planner, WFP, Stu Ellis, General Public, Pat English, Local Government, Cameron Brady, Karst, Trevor Egely, Contractors, Jack Miller, Labour, Steve Lacasse, Environment, Adrian Pendergast, Education

Regrets: Jon Lok, Contractors, Mayor Shirley Ackland, Town of Port McNeill and Regional District

Presenters: Rob Shambrook, Operations Manager, Englewood, Sebastien Lecours, Operations Planner, Englewood, Paul Kutz, Senior Operations Planner, CIFO, WFP, Jeanne Matthews, Field Planner, WFP

Advisor: Paul Barolet, MOFLNRO

Observer: Stuart Glen, Manager of Forest Stewardship, WFP

Facilitator: Annemarie Koch

Notes: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

1. Introduction and Safety Procedures:

Annemarie welcomed everyone, 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 welcomed Rob Shambrook, Sebastien Lecours, Paul Kutz and Jeanne Matthews and invited everyone to introduce themselves to the presenters.

2. Review of Meeting Objectives, Minutes and Action Items

Annemarie reviewed the objectives of the meeting, namely:

- To review the May 24, 2018 meeting minutes and selected action items;
- To have a discussion with Englewood Operations Manager Rob Shambrook about the operational curtailment and hear a presentation from Operations Planner Sebastien Lecours on the production plans for 2019;
- To hear a presentation by Paul Kutz and Jeanne Matthews on WFP's silviculture strategy, the 2018 fire season and invasive plant species;
- To distribute and respond to the annual participant satisfaction survey;
- To discuss the proposed agenda for the October 25th joint PAG meeting;
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

Annemarie reviewed the May 24th minutes and reminded members that she would be assuming they had read the minutes prior to the meeting. She 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 13 action items to address or review since the May 24th meeting:

Action Item 5: support Youth Forestry Initiative

Responsibility: Kelly

Due date: Ongoing

Action Item 32: Keep NWAC members up to date on the forest sector strategy initiative
Responsibility: Pat English
Due Date: Ongoing in 2018

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 2018

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, Paul Kutz
Due Date: Scheduled for September 27, 2018 Meeting

Annemarie noted that this action item would be addressed later on in the meeting with Paul's presentation.

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 8, 2018

Annemarie reminded members that Mike Davis had offered to attend a future NWAC meeting to address this item.

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 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: Ongoing in 2018

Action Item 66: Consider adding a data collection target to Indicator 3.2.2
Responsibility: Kelly and Steve
Due Date: Ongoing

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

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Ongoing in 2018 and for 2019 SFMP

Action Item 69: Send dates of engagement sessions on train to NWAC members

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: As soon as information is available

Annemarie noted that correspondence on the train engagement sessions had been sent out to members and that a report on the results of the consultation process was proposed for the joint PAG meeting on October 25th.

Action Item 70: Offer the 2018 annual participant survey through survey monkey as well as in Word.

Responsibility: Kelly and Annemarie

Due Date: September 27, 2018 and November 8, 2018

Annemarie thanked Kelly for preparing and distributing the Survey Monkey version of the annual participant satisfaction survey. She asked members if they had received the link to the survey and members noted that they had and that they appreciated being able to respond in this way.

Action Item 71: Invite management to provide operational reports from time to time.

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Throughout 2018 and 2019

Annemarie noted that the presentation on curtailment later in the meeting would partially address this action item and she added that Kelly had promised to ensure there would be more operational updates at future meetings.

Action Item 72: Try to source a recreation/tourism representative for NWAC, possibly someone from a tourism adventure company, fishing guide or Mount Cain Board

Responsibility: Jon, Steve, Pat, Kelly

Due Date: November 8, 2018

Annemarie noted that she had added Ben McGibbon's email to the distribution list. Cam noted he had talked to Ben and he had indicated he might not have time to attend due to work commitments. Pat noted he would be putting a request to VINTAC on October 18th at their strategic planning meeting to see if they could provide a tourism/recreation representative.

Action Item 73: Talk to Jon Flintoft about the possibility of including NWAC members in the annual VINWAG tour and including a look at tethered harvesting

Responsibility: Annemarie

Due Date: September, 2019

Annemarie noted that, with the uncertainties created by wildfires in the DFA this summer, it had not been possible to set up a tour of tethered harvesting. She noted that she would talk to Jon about the possibility of including NWAC members in future VINWAG field trips.

Action Item 76: Bring concerns communicated by forest users and members of the public generally, e.g. karst issues to members of NWAC to discuss from time to time

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: Ongoing

Action Item 77: Report back to NWAC on the cause and effects of an anticipated reduction in company and contractor harvest

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: September 27, 2018

Annemarie noted that this action item would be addressed later in the meeting during the discussion of the operational curtailment.

Action Item 78: Talk to Rob Shambrook about whether the target can be increased to more than 50% of the CIF being invested in communities in the DFA

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: September 27, 2018

Annemarie asked Kelly if she had anything to report on this item. Kelly noted she had talked to Rob about this and they would discuss this further as more information on where the majority of grant proposals are originating comes in.

Action Item 79: Approach Ben McGibbon about representing the tourism and recreation sector on NWAC

Responsibility: Cam Brady

Due Date: September 27, 2018

It was agreed to remove this item from the action list as it was redundant.

Action Item 80: Talk to members of VINTAC about providing a representative for the tourism and recreation sector on NWAC

Responsibility: Pat English

Due Date: November 8, 2018

Pat repeated that he would be approaching VINTAC about providing a representative on NWAC when he meets with the board on October 18th for a strategic planning session.

Action Item 81: prepare a promotional piece on the community investment program for members of NWAC to distribute to their networks

Responsibility: Kelly

Due Date: November 8, 2018 Meeting

Kelly noted she would get to this at the next meeting. It was noted that a key determinant whether to increase the percentage of the CIF funds going to communities in the DFA would be the number and quality of proposals coming from communities in the DFA and so the program should be promoted locally.

Action Item 82: send 2017 annual report out to NWAC members

Responsibility: Kelly and Annemarie

Due Date: as soon as the report is published

Annemarie confirmed that this had been done and that the 2017 annual report had also been posted on the PAG website. She thanked Kelly for preparing the report and reviewing it with NWAC members.

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

3. Englewood Operational Curtailment and Operational Plan for 2019: Rob Shambrook and Sebastien Lecours

Annemarie welcomed Rob Shambrook and Sebastien Lecours and invited them to make a presentation on the Englewood Operations curtailment and Operational Plan for 2019.

Rob detailed the reasons behind the operational shutdown occurring at the Englewood Forest Operation. Rob noted that Englewood will be resuming operations in September following a summer shutdown in August due to fire risk with a subsequent plan to suspend operations in November.

Rob discussed that September 17th, operations are fully resuming after a summer shutdown and the division was going to harvest current blocks and build roads in support of next year's harvest. He noted that in Mid-November there would be a suspension of operations with timing influenced by weather conditions. Rob also noted that the division will resume operations mid-March 2019 while pursuing opportunities to advance this date.

There was a general discussion around impacts to employees/contractors, harvest levels, seasonal constraints, and maintaining a skilled workforce at the Englewood Forest Operation.

Annemarie thanked Rob and Sebastien for their presentations and invited them to stay for the rest of the meeting.

4. WFP's Silviculture Strategy: Paul Kutz, Senior Operations Planner, WFP

Annemarie thanked Paul for attending and invited him to make his presentation on WFP's silviculture strategy.

Paul thanked Kelly and Jeanne for helping him prepare the presentation. He noted that he had helped out a lot with the fire situation and offered to provide an update on the fires in the DFA as part of his presentation.

Paul opened his presentation with a look at how silviculture management strategies are developed and applied, based on ecology and standard units. He noted that the planning anticipates what the future is going to look like for the forests. He pointed to how factors like topography are taken into consideration.

Paul then reviewed reforestation strategies, including when planting is used and when natural regeneration is allowed to take place. He pointed to the different factors involved in choosing to plant, including road access, high value heli blocks, typically less than 600 metres elevation, and larger openings.

Paul reviewed when natural regeneration is selected as a reforestation method, including 600-800 metre elevations and on retention blocks that can provide adequate seed. It was noted that Englewood does not employ natural regeneration very often. It was noted, for example, that high value cypress is planted.

Paul reviewed reasons for species selection, noting it was primarily based on the ecology of the site, e.g. yellow cedar is planted at higher elevations.

Paul looked at a few of the species that are planted, including western red cedar. He noted western red cedar is versatile and grows well in salal sites, but deer browse is a major challenge.

He pointed to the effects of climate change on species like western red cedar and how this is affecting which species are planted and where. Paul noted there were guidelines in place to attempt to address the effects of climate change.

There was a discussion of the challenges of long-term survival for western red cedar, in view of the cultural importance of this species to First Nations. It was noted that seedling numbers and survival are tracked carefully and reports are given to the First Nations.

There was a discussion of the effects of slash burning on regeneration. It was noted that, historically, sites that were slash burned grew well.

Paul talked about western hemlock, noting it was also versatile, tolerates poor sites and has high genetic gain. He noted that WFP plants hemlock, even though it is a very prolific seeder. It was noted that some control of quality can be assured through planting, and tracking planting and survival rates is possible.

There was a discussion of whether planting should be connected to future markets. It was noted that, planting according to ecological type resulted in the best productivity and growth and that markets could be found in future.

Paul reviewed some of the features of sitka spruce, noting it grows on rich and wetter sites. It was noted that most sitka spruce in this DFA is in the Beaver Cove area.

Paul noted Douglas fir was a primary species in the DFA. He noted the species tolerates dry sites and grows best in well drained soils. It was noted Douglas fir is about 56% of what WFP plants in the Englewood DFA.

Paul noted that amabilis and grand fir were planted in certain ecological sites on the DFA. He added that western white pine is planted in elk-prone areas, but the species is subject to white pine blister rust. He pointed to work on blister rust resistant seed. He pointed to the use of low branch pruning to help stop blister rust.

Paul noted that small amounts of red alder are planted in rich areas where it is difficult to manage conifers. He noted alder is a commercially viable species. It was noted that alder is more valuable than hemlock right now.

It was noted that alder is a difficult species to grow well but when it does, the rotation is very short.

Paul reviewed planting densities in old growth and second growth. He noted that Douglas fir and cedar are fertilized when planted. There was a discussion of whether to fertilize heli blocks. It was noted that safety and cost were potential issues on heli blocks.

Paul reviewed the stock type and size of seedlings. He talked about some of the forest management strategies associated with alder management, including brushing treatments. He discussed where not to promote alder, including areas prone to frost. He reviewed what to consider when planting alder, including preparing the site where possible.

Paul reviewed various approaches to managing elk, including planting high densities, mixed species planting and waiting to replant to allow other vegetation to grow and be available for browse.

Paul talked about applying elk stocking standards. He noted that some sites need to be continually replanted to ensure success. Paul noted that elk hazard and brushing history is tracked in order to guide where measures might have to be taken to manage for elk.

Paul reviewed some approaches to vegetation management, including manual and chemical treatments. He reviewed when not to prescribe vegetation management, e.g. when leaving an area for biodiversity, or where browse is expected to be a significant factor.

Paul reviewed when to use chemical treatments, e.g. in densely planted areas. He talked about some of the regulations associated with chemical treatments. Paul reviewed the use of ground foliar techniques and basal bark on species such as alder.

Paul reviewed manual treatments such as alder girdling. It was noted if there are no conifers in an area, treatment should not be applied and the area can be left for biodiversity.

Paul reviewed some of the manual treatment approaches on species such as salmonberry broadleaf maple and elderberry.

There was a discussion of hazard abatement and logging debris management, e.g. to reduce risk of fire. Paul noted that one of the requirements under the wildfire act is to reduce the hazards, e.g. by piling debris for burning and reducing fuel accumulation throughout the forest.

Paul reviewed some pile burning projects, noting some fall burning would be taking place, before the really heavy rainfall sets in.

Paul reviewed the use of silviculture surveys and the company's silviculture obligations, including restocking (up to 6 years) and bringing to free growing (up to 20 years).

Paul provided a slide on regimes and timelines for regeneration.

There was discussion of the growing effects of drought and the loss of young Doug fir, and the impacts of elk browse. It was noted that Swiss needle cast may be a possible challenge in future.

Paul provided a summary of the 2018 fire season. He noted that there was over 6,000 hectares burned in North Island tenures this year and 67 fires on WFP tenures on the North Island.

He noted that the fires started August 11th and were only just subsiding in mid to late September. Paul reviewed the Quinsam fire base organizational structure, noting there was a tremendous

number of resources that were mobilized to respond to the fires. Paul showed a picture of the fire camp in Woss and noted the community provided amazing support to the crews.

Paul reviewed the Pinder fire, noting it was caused by a lightning strike and grew to 333 hectares. He noted that the fires burned hot but fast so regeneration was likely to be more successful. There was a discussion of how fire breaks were used to manage the fire.

There was a discussion of insurance costs associated with the fires and how and when companies can be reimbursed for burn damage.

Paul reviewed the Vernon fire, noting it was started by a lightning strike on August 11th and grew to 630 hectares. He noted this fire burned up some prime helicopter harvested wood. There was a discussion of the safety issues associated with working on a burned over site like this one.

Paul closed his presentation with a look at the Nimpkish knotweed project. He invited Jeanne to talk about this. She noted that knotweed had spread from old Vernon Camp and was introduced to the Nimpkish River system and had spread along the river for a number of years.

She noted that special permission had been granted to allow the company and First Nation to treat the knotweed areas in the riparian zone with chemicals, using stem injections. She noted that 40 of 70 known sites along the Nimpkish River had been successfully treated. She added that high water levels had limited access to some of the sites. Jeanne noted it would take at least ten more years to eradicate the knotweed along the Nimpkish River but noted the knotweed is not moving very quickly down the river anymore. Staff and contractors were congratulated for their excellent work on this project.

It was noted that some broom management has been carried out on the DFA, using chemical treatment.

5. Distribution of and Response to Annual Participant Satisfaction Surveys: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

Annemarie reminded members that Kelly had circulated a link for them to respond to the survey through Survey Monkey, and she added that they were also welcome to respond with the Word document that had been circulated, either in digital format or by printed copy.

Members noted their satisfaction with the use of Survey Monkey.

6. Discussion of Proposed Agenda For October 25th Joint PAG Meeting: Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

Annemarie noted that Kelly and Jon had met earlier this month to discuss possible topics for the joint meeting and that an update on the public consultation around honoring the Englewood train had been suggested, along with WFP's harvest profile strategy, with added reference to log distribution networks. She noted that VINWAG members had subsequently asked that a discussion of the future of CSA certification on WFP's North Island DFA's and a discussion of the value of the public advisory process to WFP be put on the agenda. She asked NWAC members if they would like to have a discussion of CSA certification and the value of the public advisory process on the joint meeting agenda instead of or in addition to the presentation on WFP's harvest profile strategy.

Members discussed this and then decided they would like to hear presentations on the train legacy and harvest profile and sustainability metrics, and postpone a discussion about the future of CSA certification on WFP's tenures on the North Island until after they had heard a presentation comparing CSA to SFI certification.

7. Next Meeting:

Annemarie noted that, further to the proposed 2018 meeting schedule, the next meeting would be the joint PAG meeting on October 25th at Black Bear Resort, starting at 6 p.m., and that the topic would be WFP's report out on the results of the Englewood Train Legacy public consultation process and a look at WFP's harvest profile strategy and sustainability metrics, with added reference to log distribution networks.

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