

**VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH WOODLANDS ADVISORY GROUP  
(VINWAG)  
Western Forest Products Inc.  
Community Advisory Group  
Minutes of Meeting April 11, 2013**

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**Attendance:**

Jeff Houle, Small Contractors	Paula Galloway, Aquaculture
Jon Flintoft, WFP	Fred Robertson, Youth and Education
Dave Trebett, Tourism and Recreation	Dave Steele, WFP
Ray Harper, Labour	Dale Dorward, Small Business
Patrick Donaghy, Local Government	Steve Lacasse, Environment
Ione Brown, NICFLP	

**Presenter:** Jane Cameron, Stillwater Community Advisory Group, Member, CSA Technical Advisory Committee

**Regrets:** Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public, Vadim Stavrakov, Large Contractors

**Observers:** Charlotte Mellstrom, WFP, Kelly McMahon, WFP

**Advisors:** Paul Barolet, MOFLNRO

**Chairperson and Facilitator:** Annemarie Koch

**Minutes taken by:** Jon Flintoft and Annemarie Koch

## **1.0 SAFETY AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Annemarie welcomed everyone to the meeting, stressed the importance of safety in WFP's operations, and reviewed the procedures to follow in the event of an emergency. Annemarie reviewed the objectives of the meeting, namely to review the minutes and action items from the previous meeting, hear a presentation by Jane Cameron on the CSA public advisory process and its role in sustainable forest management (including mandatory Criterion Five discussion item, benefits for local communities and aboriginal people), review a draft of the 2012 annual report, review and adopt the updated terms of reference, receive an invitation to the upcoming external audit, discuss a possible role for VINWAG in establishing harvesting plans for specific and sensitive areas like Devil's Bath and confirm the date of the next meeting. She welcomed new VINWAG member Ione Brown (representing the North Island Community Forest Limited Partnership), Charlotte Mellstrom and Kelly McMahon of WFP, and Holberg WFP representative Dave Steele.

Annemarie invited everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the presenter, new VINWAG member Ione Brown and additional WFP representatives who were attending the meeting.

## **2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS**

Annemarie reviewed outstanding action items 69-136 with members and the results of the discussion are summarized in the table below, along with the addition of three new action items developed during the course of this meeting. Action items that were completed were dropped from the list and revised indicators were retained as modified.

ACTION ITEMS					
#	Item	Responsibility	Initiation Date	Target Date	Completion Date
69	Ask MOFLNRO appraisal staff to provide a presentation or information on how stumpage and royalties are calculated	Jon Flintoft	October 14, 2010	November 28 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	
106	Carry over old Indicator 38, number of new hires as a locally developed indicator and make the target a reporting out initially	Jon Flintoft	September 22, 2011	Next SFMP Update	
119	Recommend possible energy sector representatives and a speaker for VINWAG	Dale Dorward Annemarie Koch	April 26 <sup>th</sup> ,2012	Sometime in 2013	
124	Draft new target for volume of wood sold locally, for Indicator 6.3.1 that connects requests with volume	Jon Flintoft	June 14,2012	Next Annual Report	
130	Seek a new representative for fish and wildlife interests	Jon Flintoft and Annemarie Koch	November 8,2012	June 27,2013	
135	Consider adding a karst representative to the group, approach Dave Wall of Strategic Forest Management	Jon Flintoft/Dave Trebett	February 28,2013	June 27,2013	
137	Continue to develop an appropriate target for Indicator 5.2.3, level of employment	Jon Flintoft	April 11,2013	Next Annual Report	
138	Find a way to footnote ongoing changes to the Terms of Reference	Annemarie Koch	April 11,2013	Next update to Terms of Reference	
139	Obtain maps showing operating areas on the DFA that can be reviewed by VINWAG members prior to harvesting	Jon Flintoft	April 11,2013	June 27,2013	

Annemarie noted that Jon had addressed Action Item 69 by arranging for a presentation by Darren Rowsell at the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. She noted that Jon suggested that Action Item 106 be addressed throughout this year and that a new indicator be developed for the 2013 annual report. She noted that Jon had suggested that, for Action Item 124, a new target be developed that reports out on volume sold locally and include volume of pulp logs sold to Neucel. She noted that, while efforts were being made to source a new Fish and Wildlife representative for VINWAG, she and Jon had not been successful to date, and she invited members to suggest and enlist a representative for this sector. She noted that Action Items 131-133 had been completed and asked Dave Trebett if he had had a chance to talk to Dave Wall about being a karst representative on VINWAG. Dave said he would be sure to do that prior to the June meeting.

The minutes were accepted as circulated.

### **3.0 THE PUBLIC ADVISORY PROCESS AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT: JANE CAMERON, STILLWATER CAG AND MEMBER CSA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Jane noted she had been a member of the Stillwater public advisory group since 2000. She added that she had been invited to join the CSA Technical Advisory Committee. She noted that she would like VINWAG's input on the new CSA Z809-08 standard that had been put in place. She noted that Michel de Bellefeuille was also on the Technical Advisory Committee.

Jane explained how the CSA standard came about. She explained, for example, that there were a number of different interests represented on the committee and that she represented environment and general interest. Jane noted there were academics and industry people on the committee and that many of the representatives were very knowledgeable.

Jane provided a history of the development of standards and how consistency with international standards is maintained. She noted that the recent CSA Z809-08 standard has been thoroughly reviewed. She noted that CSA was unique in the world of certification because of its public advisory component and that this contributed greatly to a company's social licence to operate within a community.

Jane acknowledged that the introduction of new core indicators had proven very challenging but that it had to be done to address the requirements of meeting national standards. She noted that the technical committee has put off revisions to the current standard for up to three years. However, she noted that the standard was still subject to ongoing public review and revision, as circumstances change and so do the results of scientific research. She noted, for example, that there would likely be something on biomass and biodiversity over the next few years in the standard.

Jane asked VINWAG members how they like the CSA Z809-08 standard in comparison to the CSA Z809-02 standard. Dale noted that most things fit quite nicely. Steve noted that he felt that some of the environmental indicators seemed to be watered down because the indicators didn't fit into the standard anymore. Jane asked if local indicators were developed and Steve noted that many were carried over.

Jon noted that he struggled to find targets for First Nations indicators. Jane noted that this had been a common challenge.

Jane asked how the group managed with the First Nations indicators. Steve noted that First Nations observers do attend but that Jon handles the indicators directly with First Nations and brings their input back to the group.

Jane asked how often First Nations attend. It was noted that there is some attendance as observers. Steve noted that it's important that First Nations attend as there is no other way to get their perspective. Dale noted that First Nations don't attend because they don't have an overall voice for the multitude of First Nations that exist in the DFA. He noted that he would like to see them involved more. He noted that there was a parallel group that provided input to WFP on First Nations issues and indicators.

Patrick noted that it would be inappropriate for this group to establish indicators and targets for First Nations.

Steve asked if there was a way for the technical committee to address the fact that First Nations don't or can't attend public advisory group meetings because of concerns about consultation and representation of First Nations. He asked if there was some other way to address First Nations issues, in view of the fact that they don't or can't attend public advisory group meetings.

Jon described how FNIEG meetings work and noted that many participants insist that there be a clear disclaimer on consultation, which is government to government.

Jane asked if members of VINWAG had any suggestions for the next revision, e.g. more or less emphasis on certain issues.

Patrick noted that CSA was a Cadillac of certification approaches.

Steve noted that he could see the environmental indicators being integrated better over time.

Jane asked about the mandatory discussion items. It was noted that these discussion topics have been addressed through the use of speakers at VINWAG.

Fred noted that the scientific items of discussion tended to be challenging to wade through at times, but he noted he was learning a lot about the science behind forestry by being a member of VINWAG. He stressed that one of the great strengths of this particular certification process was how it involved and engaged the community. He noted that VINWAG was one of the ways that this engagement was maintained.

Patrick noted that the CSA process helps to communicate how the forest economy affects the North Island communities. Fred noted that the flip side of this was that the company actually listens to input from VINWAG.

Jane asked if VINWAG members were satisfied with their public advisory role as laid out by CSA. She asked if there were ways to strengthen this. Fred noted that VINWAG has invited participation from a variety of interests and groups inside and outside the forestry sector. He noted he had learned much from this process. Patrick noted that the opportunity to participate was often greater than the ability of members to contribute. He noted that, to WFP's credit, the opportunities they provided were substantial.

Fred noted that a good example of this was the dialogue that took place over an indicator related to opportunities for local goods and services providers. Dale noted that the process was comprehensive and that there was literally 'no stump left unturned'.

Steve noted that the current political climate had an influence of the group's priorities, e.g. carbon credits and greenhouse gases.

It was suggested to Jane that the local group be able to identify all or at least a portion of their mandatory discussion items. Jane noted there was nothing to stop the group from identifying appropriate ways to address their own mandatory discussion items. Jon noted that he had covered most of the mandatory discussion items required by the standard, and noted that he would like to see more opportunity for VINWAG members to choose their own discussion items.

#### **4.0 REVIEW OF 2012 ANNUAL REPORT AND REVISED SFMP INDICATORS AND TARGETS: JON FLINTOFT**

Jon reviewed all of the indicators and associated results in the 2012 annual report, starting with Indicator 1.1.1, Ecosystem Area by Type. He noted this target had been met for 2012.

Jon continued with a discussion of each Indicator in the annual report, noting the target was met for Indicator 1.1.2.

Jon reviewed the results with respect to targets and variance for a number of the indicators in the 2012 annual report, noting some of the challenges associated with meeting targets, e.g. the impact of the Timber Supply review in TFL 39 on the target for Indicator 1.2.2.

There was a question about GMO's in forestry and whether not allowing GMO's at all might not be the best for good forestry. It was noted that adaptations, e.g. weevil-resistant trees were acceptable while genetic engineering was not generally in use in forestry as it was in agriculture. There was a discussion of the relative benefits of genetic engineering for forestry and whether having no GMO's in forestry was relatively good or bad. Jane noted she would take points from this discussion back to the technical committee.

Jon went on to discuss results for Indicator 1.4.1

Jon explained how the karst indicator was now tracked and added that the Devil's Bath harvest block was included in this discussion.

There was a discussion of the value of roads under Indicator 2.2.1, e.g. for safety purposes and long term infrastructure.

Jon explained factors associated with cut control. There was a discussion of factors that affect percent compliance, e.g. challenging operating environments. There was a discussion of how partition cuts might be helpful, e.g. in more challenging environments.

Jon reviewed the results for indicator 2.2.3, around windfirming edges.

Jon referred to some mining permit applications, trail development and energy development proposals in relation to Indicator 2.2.4.

Jon noted WFP has invested quite a bit of money in imaging landscapes so that they can track what is going on in the way of slides and other disturbances. It was noted that the relatively mild winter was a factor with fewer slides this past year.

Jon noted how a new target for Indicator 3.1.2 had been added, and described the challenges around measuring this target.

Jon discussed some of the factors affecting Indicator 4.1.1 net carbon uptake, such as forest deletions and the amount of burning.

Jon noted there had been some talk among the other groups of making this a trend target rather than year by year.

Jon moved on to Indicator 5.1.1 and the various targets, including a positive EBITDA, management of recreation sites and net road access increase.

Jon noted that this was the first year in the past six that the target had been met for Indicator 5.2.3. He noted that there had been discussions in the past about tying the level of employment with the level of cut.

It was noted that this was a difficult target to set, e.g. because there are deletions to the DFA, changes in technology. It was suggested that the target should be attached to the level of cut, or some form of average at least should be incorporated in the target.

Fred noted that one of the primary focuses of the group was to maintain employment, so this had to be taken into account when establishing the target. It was suggested that WFP consider capturing employment for the subcontractors who don't currently report safety hours. It was agreed that Jon should continue to try and refine the target for this indicator.

Jon reviewed the First Nations' indicators and targets.

Jon reviewed indicator 5.2.5 and how it was difficult to carry this old indicator over in the new standard, and the work that was done with VINWAG to establish a target for this indicator. There was a discussion of why the amount of money spent locally appeared to be going down.

Jon reviewed the results of the last target related to protection of culturally important areas. He noted how recommendations from FNIEG would be used as a reference to refine the targets for this indicator.

## **5.0 REVIEW OF UPDATED TERMS OF REFERENCE AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING EXTERNAL AUDIT: JON FLINTOFT, WFP AND ANNEMARIE KOCH**

Annemarie noted that the Terms of Reference had been discussed at the previous meeting and that Jon had incorporated changes as requested by the group in the updated Terms of Reference that was distributed prior to the meeting. She asked if members of VINWAG were ready to adopt the updated Terms of Reference on this basis.

Steve asked whether the actual modifications to the Terms of Reference could be noted in the document, along with the dates on which the changes were made. Annemarie noted there were previous copies of the document that highlighted these changes but said she would work with Jon to try and find a way to footnote or otherwise reference ongoing changes to the Terms of Reference.

Jon then invited members of VINWAG to participate in the upcoming external audit on April 22-23. He noted Fred and Annemarie and possibly Tom were lined up already, but asked anyone else interested to let him know. Ray said he would be interested and Patrick offered that he would participate.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ROLE OF VINWAG IN ASSISTING WITH PLANNING FOR HARVESTING OF SPECIAL AREAS SUCH AS DEVIL'S BATH: JON FLINTOFT, WFP**

Annemarie reviewed Tom Doak-Dunelly's request to have this item considered by VINWAG, and noted Tom's regrets that he could not be at the meeting. Jon noted that he had followed up with Tom who had suggested that it might have been helpful if WFP had talked to VINWAG first about harvesting in sensitive areas such as the Devil's Bath. He noted that one of the ways to approach this was to use the Stillwater example of mapping areas of interest and sharing these with VINWAG members at meetings, prior to harvesting. He noted that these maps could show areas that were engineered, or planned for future logging, and that a similar mapping process for road planning could be made available. He noted that he felt it was a good tool he could share with the group at the beginning of the meeting, so that they could take some time to review areas of interest. Jon noted that he would work with the mapping department to try and have such maps available for the June meeting.

Jon noted that he would rely on the group's interest and knowledge to determine what areas might be of interest. Jane noted how the map is used by the Stillwater group and noted that if there are really sensitive areas, the harvesting plan is brought in and the group reviews it. Jane noted that the group mostly looked at known and recognized sites and that, once the group got used to doing this, not a lot of time was required to review the maps at each meeting.

## **7.0 NEXT MEETING:**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, June 27, as per the proposed schedule of meetings confirmed by the membership. Annemarie noted that Jeff Long had tentatively agreed to make a presentation on local government issues related to the privatization of lands. She added that, if Jeff is not able to attend, Mike Davis of WFP has offered to make a presentation on the Management Plan and Timber Supply Analysis for TFL 39.

She noted that Councillor Gaby Wickstrom had offered to represent the Town of Port McNeill and, potentially, the Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce as a member of VINWAG.

Annemarie and Jon thanked everyone for coming.

<b>When:</b>	<b>JUNE 27, 2013</b>
<b>Dinner:</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>