

**VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH WOODLANDS ADVISORY GROUP  
(VINWAG)  
Western Forest Products Inc.  
Community Advisory Group  
Minutes of Meeting September 13th, 2012**

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**Attendance:**

Jeff Houle, Small Contractors	Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public
Jon Flintoft, WFP	Patrick Donaghy, Local Government
Dave Trebett, Tourism and Recreation	Dale Dorward, Small Business
Ian Roberts, Aquaculture	Vadim Stavrakov, Large Contractors
Ray Harper, Labour	Fred Robertson, Youth and Education Alternate
Steve Lacasse, Environment	

**Presenters:** Jon Flintoft, WFP, Paula Galloway, Marine Harvest

**Regrets:** Ralph Wallas, Observer, Paul Barolet, MOFLNRO, Mike Pitre, WFP, Rod Negrave, MOFLNRO

**Observers:** Paula Galloway, Certification Manager, Marine Harvest, Chrissy Chen, Kwakiutl First Nation

**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 Jon Flintoft (including mandatory Criterion Two discussion item, the proportion of naturally disturbed area that is not salvage harvested), hear an update on the First Nations Information Exchange Group, review and discuss the proposed 2013 schedule of meetings, discuss the proposed all-PAG workshop in Powell River and the September 14<sup>th</sup> field trip and confirm the date of the next meeting. She asked that, since Mike Pitre was away, and as Jon had prepared a revised Indicator 3.1.2 regarding coarse woody debris, the invitation to attend the external audit next spring be deferred to the next meeting and that there be a review of the revised indicator in the context of the discussion of the field trip, since the indicator was part of the field trip itinerary. She added that MOFLNRO presenter Rod Negrave sent his apologies for having to cancel his presentation on short notice as he was called away to help fight a fire near Peachland. She pointed out that Rod had agreed to reschedule his presentation for some time in 2013. She also welcomed Ian Roberts' guest Paula Galloway and noted that she would be making a short presentation on Marine Harvest's certification process following Jon's presentation on the Criterion 2 mandatory discussion item.

## 2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Minutes of last meeting were reviewed.

Annemarie reviewed outstanding action items 44-125 with members and the results of the discussion are summarized in the table below, along with the addition of 4 new and 2 revised action items developed during the course of this meeting. Action items that were completed or changed were dropped from the list.

ACTION ITEMS					
#	Item	Responsibility	Initiation Date	Target Date	Completion Date
44	On-going review of discussion items	All Members	May 4, 2009	Ongoing	
69	Ask MOFLNRO appraisal staff to provide a presentation or information on how stumpage and royalties are calculated	Jon Flintoft	October 14, 2010	Confirm by Nov. 8, 2012 – increase efforts with MOFLNRO to address this sometime in 2013	
84	Provide an update on the status of carbon trading and carbon credits (M. de Bellefeuille)	Jon Flintoft	December 2, 2010	Sometime in 2013	
91	Bring the discussion of the purpose of VINWAG forward on a regular basis	Jon Flintoft	February 24, 2011	Ongoing	
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	
113	Review and refine locally developed indicators	Jon Flintoft and members of VINWAG	November 24, 2011	Ongoing	
119	Recommend possible energy sector representatives and a speaker for VINWAG	Dale Dorward Annemarie Koch	April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	Sometime in 2013	
123	Confirm whether Blk 4, TFL 39 has its own AAC	Jon Flintoft	June 14, 2012	November 8, 2012	
124	Draft new target for volume of wood sold locally, for Indicator 6.3.1 (old Indicator 36) that connects requests with volume	Jon Flintoft	June 14, 2012	November 8, 2012	
126	Order Cake for Dale	Annemarie Koch	September 13, 2012	November 8, 2012	
127	Discuss effects of BCTS blocks in DFA during internal audit	Jon Flintoft	September 13, 2012	Next Internal Audit	
128	Send out list of proposed 2013 meeting dates to all members with deadline of September 30 for feedback	Annemarie Koch	September 13, 2012	September 17, 2012	
129	Continue to make arrangements for VINWAG speakers, as per discussions at Sept. 13 meeting	Annemarie Koch	September 13, 2012	Throughout 2013	

The minutes were accepted as circulated.

Jon reviewed the sentence he had added to the Strategies and Implementation section of Indicator 5.2.5 and it was agreed that he had addressed action item 118. Dale stressed that the information relayed in

the SFMP regarding availability of local goods and services be communicated to the appropriate people in WFP to fulfill the intent of the target.

Patrick noted that he had approached Neil Smith about recommending a representative for the energy sector but that it was perhaps too soon to source a representative who could serve in an ongoing capacity. Dale agreed to find someone who could represent the energy sector in the long term, perhaps someone from the windfarm project north of Port Hardy. He also agreed to approach someone from the windfarm project to make a presentation to VINWAG.

Jon reviewed how he had addressed the exclusion of BCTS blocks from the DFA in the text of the SFMP. There was a discussion of the implications of having BCTS area within the DFA. It was noted that this might be an issue in the external audit and suggested to Jon that he bring this up during the internal audit.

Jon apologized for not having an answer on action item 123 and the matter was deferred to the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Jon reviewed a possible new target for Indicator 6.3.1. He explained why the previous target related to volume of wood sold locally hadn't been met. He noted he would like to take the target to 10,000 cubic metres and make the variance 8,000 cubic metres. Steve suggested monitoring requests and Jon noted that requests were harder to track. Fred asked whether the target should reflect whether the wood is available locally for purchase. Jon asked how WFP could report on this. Fred suggested reporting out on the number of requests for wood locally. Patrick suggested that there should be a way that requests could be forwarded to Jon. It was suggested that Jon come back with a new draft target that connects number and nature of requests to the volume of wood sold locally. Dale asked for reasons why the target had not been met since 2007. There was a discussion of the various reasons why the previous target hadn't been met consistently since 2007, including fewer mills in the region and whether the Port Alice pulp mill had been included in the past.

Dave asked whether most of the wood that had been sold was cedar. Fred noted that there was a time when nothing was being made available and that is why the target had been set in the first place. It was agreed that Jon should do what he could to come back with a revised target that somehow connected the number and nature of requests with the volume of wood sold locally.

### **3.0 A. PROPORTION OF NATURALLY DISTURBED AREA THAT IS NOT SALVAGE HARVESTED: JON FLINTOFT, WFP**

Jon reviewed what naturally disturbed areas are, including windthrow, landslides, pests and diseases. He reviewed how these events are accounted for at the landscape level. He noted that management at various levels provides for strategies to minimize losses due to fire, windthrow, pests and diseases. He added that TFL Management Plans also address the impacts of these events.

Jon talked about the effects of wind in the DFA. He noted that wind is the most prevalent stand-destroying natural disturbance factor in the TFL. He explained that WFP uses a windthrow management strategy and assessment to design cutblocks and treatments to minimize blowdown and adverse impacts to other resources. Jon noted that recently, about 40,000 cubic metres of trees were blown down, due to unusually high winds coming from a different direction than usual. He pointed out that WFP salvage harvested about 35,000 cubic metres of blown down timber in 2011-2012.

Jon reviewed some photos of the impacts of wind and the relative success of management treatments used to minimize loss due to windthrow.

Jon showed a photo of the tree topping that is done by helicopter.

Jon reviewed the effects of wildfires in the DFA. He noted that fire is generally not a large-scale natural disturbance in the DFA, usually affecting an average of no more than 10 hectares a year. He noted that there was evidence of a large-scale wildfire in 1911, but that we haven't seen a wildfire disturbance of this

scale since then. Jon showed how a fire-scarred red cedar had been studied and it was determined that the tree was 193 years old when the fire started, identifying the date of the fire to 1911.

Jon reviewed a person-caused fire from June, 2007 and demonstrated how the burned area had regenerated. Jon reviewed an area burned after a lightning strike. He noted there were a number of hazards and other access issues around rehabilitating this area.

Jon reviewed the effects of insect damage. He pointed out that we are in the second year of a black headed budworm outbreak. He noted that this pest appears to be affecting 20-40 year old stands. He noted that the budworm is always there and that every ten years or so there is an outbreak. He noted that it hasn't been a huge issue in the DFA, but there has been evidence of quite a large amount of top damage as a result of the budworm. Jon showed some photos of the impact of black headed budworm defoliation.

Jon reviewed the impacts of diseases in the DFA, including the most prevalent one - hemlock dwarf mistletoe. He noted that this is not a huge issue in the DFA, and showed some examples in photos of the effects of mistletoe. Jon showed the impacts of a root rot centre, noting this was more of an issue further south of the DFA.

Jon reviewed the effects and frequency of landslides in the DFA and general rehabilitation measures. Jon showed a photo of a natural rockfall event. Jon showed a photo of a landslide event from this past year that happened on a fairly level slope, as an example of the types of landslides that can occur in the DFA.

Patrick asked about leaving trees in an area for habitat restoration. Jon noted that this was part of WFP's retention strategy to leave trees down from natural disturbance, if they were serving an ecological or other purpose. Patrick asked whether landslide trees were worth salvaging. Ray noted that there were generally too many rocks and too much damage to the timber to process.

Ian asked what the point of the discussion of natural disturbed areas was. Jon explained that there were waste and ecological considerations. There was a discussion of the costs and issues around salvage harvesting these naturally disturbed sites.

## **B. MARINE HARVEST'S CERTIFICATION INITIATIVE: PAULA GALLOWAY, MARINE HARVEST**

Paula noted she was going to provide a general overview and history of Marine Harvest's certification initiative. She noted the MHC has been certified to ISO 14001 Environmental Standards since 2000. She noted that the types of certification MHC wants to employ include business and operations, food safety, organic aquaculture, animal welfare and environmental standards.

She noted that the environmental perspective is the one of most importance to MHC at this time, along with food safety.

Paula noted that MHC must be certified because the customers demand it, the industry is under scrutiny, it tells a story and raises the bar for the industry and establishes MHC as a leader and promotes continual improvement. She noted that MHC sees certification as a trend in the seafood industry and wants to be current with the practice.

Paula noted the certification provides for and encourages consistency and may promote product differentiation from competitors within the industry.

Paula reviewed the standards that are available to Marine Harvest Canada (MHC), including Global GAP, Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), Seafood Trust Certification, ISO and Best Aquaculture Practices. Paula reviewed some of the benefits and drawbacks of selecting one form of certification over another. She noted that some of the factors involved in assessing certification included what MHC is trying to achieve, e.g. responding to customers and offering assurance to customers. She noted that on

this basis, the company had chosen the Global Aquaculture Alliance Best Aquaculture Practices (GAA BAP) route for now.

Paula reviewed a comparison of standards, e.g. from the perspective of customers, ENGO's, the company and the government and communities. Paula noted that MHC had done a lot of work on ASC, but had decided for now to go with GAA BAP which includes processing (GFSI accredited), farm operations standards, hatchery standards in draft (ready in 2013) and a feed mill standard.

Fred asked how operations would change following certification. Paula noted, for example, that the standard would require the reduction of the use of copper treatments on nets. She noted that MHC started over a year ago not using copper treatments on their nets. Paula reviewed the standard and implementation requirements. Paula noted that GAA BAP had resulted from quite a bit of stakeholder input, including input from the Monterey Aquarium, Marine Conservation Society, Aquarium of the Pacific and New England Aquarium.

Paula reviewed various components of the standard, including community (property rights), environment (sediment and water quality, escapes), animal health and welfare (biosecurity) and food security (control of potential food safety hazards).

She noted that there are 115 standards in all. Ian added that MHC was very far ahead in fishmeal and fish oil conservation standards due to the large amount of work that had been done in B.C. on this over the past decade.

Paula reviewed the community relations clauses, including resource access, community interaction, and engagement with indigenous communities. She reviewed best aquaculture practices, processing standard and feed mill standards and added that the company was also looking at possible certification under Global GAP in 2014.

Paula reviewed some activities including a 2010 tour of representatives from the Monterey Bay Aquarium (MBA), provision of information to MBA to inform development of salmon reports that form the basis of Seafood Watch rankings.

Steve asked what the MHC public advisory process looks like. Paula noted this hadn't been set up yet but that the company was looking at how to undertake community engagement. She noted that the ASC asks for elected representatives, but that MHC might want to see a broader representation of community interests and members. Paula noted that the company was still looking at how to deal with the public engagement part of the process.

Patrick asked about events such as the regional fall fair and encouraged the company to participate as much as possible in community events such as this.

Ian noted that MHC was part of Orcafest and noted that they would like to be part of events such as the fall fair as well.

Dale asked if MHC would be pressing OceanWise for a response on their efforts to certify. Ian noted that they were being persistent with their approach to the representatives of OceanWise. Dale noted that Jimmy Pattison was contributing heavily to the OceanWise initiative.

#### **4.0 UPDATE ON FIRST NATIONS FOREST INFORMATION EXCHANGE GROUP: JON FLINTOFT, WFP**

Jon reviewed the results of the FNIEG meeting held earlier this summer and noted some of the action items that arose from the meeting, including revising some of the First Nations'-related targets. Jon noted, for example, that he would be looking at the wording around the indicator related to managing culturally modified trees and resources. Jon noted that Gord Glover had made a presentation on the community forest initiative at the FNIEG meeting.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED 2013 MEETING SCHEDULE: ANNEMARIE KOCH AND JON FLINTOFT**

Annemarie reviewed the draft 2013 meeting schedule with VINWAG members. It was agreed that she should send out the list of proposed meeting dates to members and give everyone a September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline to get back to her with any concerns about the proposed dates.

There was a discussion of proposed speakers and topics for the 2013 schedule. Tom suggested turning up the heat on MOFLNRO to provide a speaker to address the background on the calculation of stumpage and royalties, as this had been a longstanding action item.

It was agreed that Dale should try and help get someone from the windfarm north of Port Hardy to speak about their project and Annemarie should source someone from the Kokish run of the river project to make presentations to VINWAG sometime in 2013.

Ray asked if Glynnis Horel could be invited back to talk about watershed issues.

Jon noted that he was in the process of asking someone from WFP's corporate department to provide a presentation on the use of technical information in forest management, e.g. ortho photos, mapping.

Fred suggested asking someone to talk about marbled murrelet studies and offered to contact researcher Sally Lee Spencer about this.

Patrick asked for a presentation on climate change projections and adaptations on the North Island.

It was agreed that Annemarie would continue to make arrangements for speakers to make presentations in 2013, based on the draft schedule and input from this meeting.

## **6.0 SEPTEMBER ALL-PAG WORKSHOP IN POWELL RIVER: JON FLINTOFT, WFP**

Jon reviewed the agenda with members, including Don Demens' presentation on the importance of certification to WFP, and Tony Marra's on certification and the market. He asked if any members of VINWAG could attend and everyone present noted with regret that they could not. Tom noted he appreciated the invitation and said that he perhaps could have made it if he had more notice. Patrick noted that VINWAG members have many irons in the fire. Jon agreed to report back on the meeting to VINWAG members.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION OF SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> FIELD TRIP**

There was a discussion of the purposes of the tour and who might be attending.

Jon provided a history of the reasons for revising the coarse woody debris target, noting that there had been a previous audit recommendation to try and quantify the amount of coarse woody debris left after harvest, rather than just report out on this indicator. Jon noted Mike Pitre had taken this task on and suggested that the target be measured in second growth blocks only and that it be 100% of second growth cutblocks retain greater than or equal to 5 CWD pieces per hectare, where CWD is defined as 5 metres in length or more. Patrick asked how the target related to waste and residue surveys. Jon noted that the pieces under consideration were generally quite small and limited in number. Dave noted that some people might see pieces that look like firewood as being wasted if they were left as CWD and of limits to firewood gatherers.

There was a discussion of the role of coarse woody debris in the forest. Patrick asked if there were any studies on the role of coarse woody debris and whether these studies might help to provide a science-based CWD target. Jon noted that the target was based on and exceeds the ministry regulations already.

He added that if biomass became an issue on the North Island, the target might have to be revised. It was agreed that if the target already exceeds what the Ministry requires now, then it was acceptable.

Dave noted his concern for leaving waste in the forest. Jon agreed and noted that sometimes waste areas can stop new growth and can be an issue as fuel for fire in the forest.

Dave asked about beehive piles. Jon noted that many are burned and often don't burn completely. Dave asked if these would count as woody debris.

It was agreed to accept Jon's revised target for CWD and it was agreed that Jon, Tom and Annemarie would provide a report on the field trip to VINWAG members at the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, November 8, as per the proposed schedule of meetings reviewed by the membership. Annemarie noted that Bill Beese was presently scheduled to discuss conservation of old growth forest attributes, but that RDMW planner Jeff Long had agreed to make a presentation on local government planning processes and private lands in the DFA, as per Action Item 122.

Annemarie and Jon thanked everyone for coming.

<b>When:</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 8, 2012</b>
<b>Dinner:</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>