

**VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH WOODLANDS ADVISORY GROUP
(VINWAG)**

**Western Forest Products Inc.
Community Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting Held April 22, 2021**

Attendance:

Derek Koel (Local Government)
John Tidbury (Local Government)
James Furney (Regional District)
Annemarie Koch (Community Forest)
Steve Lacasse (Environment)
Fred Robertson (Education/Labour)
Patrick Donaghy (RDMW)

Presenter(s): Jonathan Flintoft (WFP, Port McNeill), Roger Briscoe (WFP, Port McNeill)

Regrets:

Observer(s): Charlotte Mellstrom (WFP, Woss), Will Sloan (WFP, Environment Dept.)

Advisors:

Chairperson and Facilitator: Jonathan Flintoft

Minutes taken by: Cassidy Mannering (WFP, Quatsino Sound)

1.0 SAFETY, CHECK-IN AND INTRODUCTIONS (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

Jon started the meeting by doing a quick round of introductions so that any newcomers/guests could get acquainted with the group. After the introductions were complete Jon moved on to reviewing this meeting's agenda. Jon moved onto reviewing minutes from last meeting, no concerns were raised.

2.0 APPROVE MEETING MINUTES AND REVIEW/UPDATE ACTION ITEMS FROM FEBRUARY 25, 2021 MEETING (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

ACTION ITEMS					
#	Item	Responsibility	Initiation Date	Target Date	Completion Date
140	<i>Follow up on engaging youth in SFMP</i>	<i>Fred Robertson/Jon Flintoft/Kindry Mercer</i>	June 27, 2013	Ongoing, in 2019	Removed from Action Item list April 22nd, 2021
191	<i>Follow up on recommendations 4-5 of the 2015 participant satisfaction survey in mutual consultation</i>	<i>Members of VINWAG and WFP</i>	February 25, 2016	Ongoing	Removed from Action Item list April 22nd, 2021
196	<i>Consider ways to enhance communication of what VINWAG does to the public, integrate with WFP's communications strategy</i>	<i>Jon</i>	April 28, 2016	Ongoing	Removed from Action Item list April 22nd, 2021
213	<i>Implement recommendations in 2016 participant satisfaction survey report</i>	<i>Jon Flintoft/VINWAG members</i>	February 23, 2017	Ongoing	Removed from Action Item list April 22nd, 2021

243	<i>Implement recommendations in 2017 report on participant satisfaction survey</i>	<i>Jon Flintoft/VINWAG members</i>	February 22, 2018	Ongoing	Removed from Action Item list April 22nd, 2021
246	<i>Continue to review and develop the targets for new Indicator 3.2.2</i>	<i>Jon Flintoft/VINWAG members</i>	April 26, 2018	Ongoing	
248	<i>Consider holding a 'VINWAG open house' to let members of the public know about the group and its role</i>	<i>Jon Flintoft/VINWAG members</i>	June 14, 2018	Sometime in 2019	Deferred to later 2021 due to COVID-19
260	<i>Implement recommendations from 2018 participant satisfaction survey</i>	<i>All</i>	February 28, 2019	Ongoing	
270	<i>Revisit the target for Indicator 5.2.6 and possibly make it a reporting out target</i>	<i>Jon</i>	June 27, 2019	Ongoing in 2021	
281	<i>Arrange for a presentation on Fibre Recovery Zones</i>	<i>Jon</i>	July 23, 2020	June 24, 2021	In progress
286	<i>Send out proposed revisions to Indicators prior to meetings</i>	<i>Jon</i>	October 22, 2020	Upcoming meetings	Ongoing
288	<i>Arrange for a presentation/update on the Old Growth Strategy at the next joint VINWAG/NWAC meeting</i>	<i>Jon</i>	November 26, 2020	May 2021	In progress
290	<i>Look into question on wording of Indicator 1.1.4</i>	<i>Jon</i>	February 25, 2021	November 25, 2021	In progress
291	<i>Review and discuss VINWAG membership</i>	<i>Jon</i>	February 25, 2021	April 22, 2021	In progress
292	<i>Discuss status of older Action Items</i>	<i>Jon</i>	February 25, 2021	April 22, 2021	Completed April 22, 2021
293	<i>Revise the wording of Indicator 3.1.1</i>	<i>Jon</i>	April 22, 2021	November 25, 2021	In progress
294	<i>Revise the wording of Indicator 5.2.1</i>	<i>Jon</i>	April 22, 2021	November 25, 2021	In progress

Completed action items removed from the list:

- #268, 284, 287, 289, 292,

Action items that were covered:

- #140, 191, 196, 213, and 243- Jon proposed removing the first five action items from the list, they have been on the list for several years. Fred asked what the recommendations were from the public surveys (#191, 213, 243), Jon did not have them on hand. Annemarie proposed they be archived. After some discussion, the group concluded that having them archived in the previous minutes is adequate and if they are important, they will resurface again. Fred asked if the public survey results from action item #191 were documented in the meeting minutes on the VINWAG website. Annemarie and Jon believe they are not posted on the website, but Jon has a record and can be accessed. Patrick asked if we could have a living document with all of the public surveys added to easily assess how things are going. Jon confirmed they are currently stored electronically and chronologically. Patrick said he could look at the data and see if there is a way to compile into one table. Jon asked the group if it was okay to remove the proposed action items, everyone agreed they could be removed

3.0 OPERATIONS/DFA UPDATE Roger Briscoe (WFP, Port McNeill)

WFP is still in discussions with Quatsino First Nation and government to get an agreement in place. Progress has been made but there is still lots of work to be done and looking forward to a mutually beneficial agreement. There will be short term growing pains as we get through this.

Some downtime in operations due to weather and lack of permits. The Quatsino Dryland Sort was shutdown due to lack of volume; they were up and running in April, will be down next week and then back up and operating. When we have had down time, we are working on plans for sharing crews and equipment and avoiding new hires to utilize idle crews where we can. The tethered feller buncher is moving to Holberg from Port McNeill. The winch/tether helps the feller buncher to operate on slopes that were traditionally too steep, increasing worker safety as less hand fallers needed in the setting.

Harvesting activities: No more planned along highway corridor for this year. Some blocks are close but are buffered and will not impact traffic or be visible from the highway.

Patrick asked if more recreationalist on the roads, he heard Grant Bay is already fairly busy, does this effect operations. Roger confirmed it is busy but has not impacted operations, conversations with log truck drivers to drive with caution and not by the radio. We have helped some stranded tourists but nothing specific comes to mind. Rec sites will be opening up soon, fallers are completing clean up/removal of danger trees that were assessed by a danger tree assessor earlier this year. Clint Beek and Marble River Rec sites are still closed due to danger trees, plan in place to fall danger trees and open rec sites. Patrick said he has heard the garbage cans are overflowing at the Sanjo campsite and sites are busy and appreciated the update from Western.

4.0 REVIEW 2020 INDICATOR RESULTS (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

Jonathan went through the 2020 SFM Plan Indicator results presentation, reviewing 26 of the 65 indicators. 11 indicators were reviewed in February. Only reviewed indicators relevant to VINWAG that generate the most discussion. Once report is written it will be available for everyone to review. Overall, 38 of the 65 indicator targets were met, 6 met the variance, and 10 indicators/targets have not been met.

Indicator Results Reviewed:

1.1.3 Indicator – 2019 and 2020 areas are different between the age classes due to: trees growing, forest being harvested, updated and more precise forest cover data, definition of productive forest/ timber harvesting land base changes over time. In 2020, the definition of productive and non-productive forests was modified. As such, some areas that were classified as productive in the 2019 results have now flipped and are defined as non-productive in the 2020

forest cover. This would explain the area changes from 2019 to 2020. Thirty four percent of the timber harvesting land base is in the older age class (81-120, 121->250).

1.2.3 Indicator- 2019 had over 2 million trees planted on the DFA and 2020 had just over 1 million planted. Less trees were planted due to: the USW/WFP Strike resulted in programs being rescheduled and no harvesting for 8 months. Limited areas ready for planting, Western is waiting longer to plant after harvesting than it has in the past, the supply of trees coming was affected by the strike and trees were given to other operations or sold.

1.3.1 Indicator- Target met.

1.4.3 Indicator- Target met.

2.1.3 Indicator- The variance was met for target 1. It is worth noting that the 2019 indicator only had 9 cutblocks entered due to the USW/WFP strike. In 2020, 101 cutblocks were countable, many blocks started in 2019 were completed in 2020 after the strike, which is why the Permanent Access Structure percentage and area is greater in 2020. Harvesting on steeper ground requires more road to safety and effectively access timber.

2.1.5 Indicator- Variance met. The one block that did not have wind firming completed was planned for treatment in 2020 but could not be completed due to a safety conflict. The block is planned for treatment in the 2021 spring program. Manual tree topping prior to harvesting has been completed in some areas on the DFA where high risk values are present and windthrow is expected to be significant. Treating beforehand prepares the edge prior to harvesting and increases chances of survival. The DFA experienced catastrophic winds in October and November 2020. We do not generally manage for catastrophic winds. They often come from secondary or non dominant wind directions and are very hard to forecast in terms of timing and duration.

3.1.1 Indicator- Target 2 was not met. Two slide events were treated (grass seeding or planting). A number of these events were determined not to need grass seeding due to lack of productive soil, unsafe access, or they are naturally revegetating. As per the indicator, we have 2 years to complete grass seeding or planting after the slide occurred or was discovered.

3.1.2 Indicator- Target met.

3.2.1 Indicator- A risk-based approach was used. In 2020, there were 73 km of new road construction and 23 km of reconstruction across the DFA. Sediment control measures used during the Coal Harbour project were reviewed: the stream channel and bank were intact and vegetated, coarser rock on road (nothing to erode), and sumps, check dams and haybales in ditch will allow suspended sediment to settle out before flowing into stream. Since photo taken, excess material was excavated and removed from site, site has since been grass seeded. Target 2 was met.

3.2.2 Indicator- Target 1 nor the variance were met. cutblocks started in 2019 were completed in 2020 due to the USW/WFP strike, resulting in an increase in cutblocks considered for the reporting year. In cutblocks that did not have retention designated around riparian areas, the streams in the harvest area may have had prescription to retain saplings, or yard away and fall away and sections of stream outside of block still have timber.

Target 2 variance met. There were a few instances where inspections were not completed due to weather or scheduling constraints. Two of the roads/cutblocks had road inspections started but could not be completed due to the onset of snow. All four outstanding road inspections will be completed in 2021.

4.1.1 Indicator- Target met. Net carbon uptake calculation is complex and has several contributing attributes. The target has been met every year since it was created in 2011. The target or the calculation may be revised in the upcoming year. Refer to the previous presentation to VINWAG on Forest Carbon.

5.1.1 Indicator- There are 6 targets, 4 were reviewed in February. The 'net road access increase' target was met. The Limited Tags Entry target was met, data from provincial wildlife biologist reported 0 LEH tags were issued in the DFA due to poaching concerns and the stability of the population, this has occurred for several years. There are other elk herds in the DFA that are not in a LEH draw and are reporting promising numbers.

5.1.2 Indicator- Target 1 met. Discussions with VINWAG and local government on several cutblocks near Coal Harbour and harvesting near Orca Sand and Gravel. Target 2 was met. The chief forester and general manager met with the group in May 2019 to discuss CSA certification on the North Island's DFA. Due to the strike and covid-19, planning meetings can be challenging, but a meeting is currently planned for May 2021. We did have representatives from the DFA's Operations Management team, Roger Briscoe, provide an operational update for almost every meeting in 2020 and 2021.

5.1.4 Indicator- Target met. Visual Impact Assessments (VIA) are completed in Known Scenic Areas established by the provincial government. On the DFA, portions of Known Scenic Areas are located along Neroutsos Inlet, Quatsino Sound, Holberg Inlet, Queen Charlotte Strait, and certain areas along Highway. One block that was harvested in Holberg was on the fringe of a Known Scenic Area with no visual quality objectives designated for this area. A VIA will be completed post harvest. Without designated visual quality objectives, it is hard to determine what to measure against.

5.2.1 Indicator- Variance was met, similar to 2019 results. Does not include numerous services provided to community (supporting Cordy Creek Hatchery in Holberg, supporting the Marble River hatchery, supporting fire wood cuts for local non profit groups i.e. Baptist Church in Port McNeill and the Minor Hockey Association Port McNeill, donating loads of fire wood logs to first nation communities, donating heavy equipment for road maintenance of rec sites, WFP supporting employees who volunteer for volunteer fire departments and ambulance services, bursaries for secondary school graduates on the north island, corporate donated \$100,000 to indigenous and community groups along the coast and in Washington state in June and December of 2020, including groups in the DFA.

5.2.2 Indicator- Target 1 variance was met, approximately 99% of employees received full annual training. Traditional training has been challenged due to Covid-19, coming up with new ways to deliver training is underway. Five summer student positions were available in 2020, one 3-month term, three 8-month terms, and a 10-month term. The target is based on 5 students working on 4-month terms for a total target of 20 months, in 2020 there were 37 months of employment for summer students on the DFA. Four of the students in 2020 have moved on to full time employment, one with Western, and 3 with different companies. Four positions were in the Planning Department and one position was in the Finance Department.

5.2.5 Indicator- Target met, it has gone as low as 46% and as high as 64% in the past since reporting started on indicator in 2011.

6.2.1 Indicator- Target met, Covid-19 resulted in meetings having to be virtual. For the first two months of 2020 meetings were not held due to the USW/WFP strike and meetings were not held when operations were shutdown for weather.

7.1.1 Indicator- Target met, planning staff met with first nations virtually (due to Covid-19) for information sharing of cutblocks and roads, renewals of different tenures, and updates on operations. As a planning team, we had discussions around title and treaty, including UNDRIP and DRIPA.

7.2.2 Indicator- Target 1 variance was met. There were no face to face meetings in 2020 due to Covid-19, only one engagement protocol in place, discussions with Quatsino First Nation on engagement protocols ongoing. Target 2 was met. Cedar logs donated for carving 2 poles, one will be erected at Port Hardy Secondary School on June 21, and one has been erected at the Port Hardy airport.

7.2.3 Indicator- Target met, Jon reviewed a site-specific example of a site alteration permit used due to proximity of road construction to CMTs.

Questions: Questions were held until the end of the presentation.

Steve wanted to acknowledge a big thank you to WFP, for providing a danger tree assessment by a qualified assessor at the Quatse River Hatchery and it should be added to the community support indicator as well.

5.2.1 Indicator Questions:

Steve asked if there a way to get the monetary value for community donations, i.e. the value of firewood donated, to add to the indicator to show how Western is supporting local groups. Jon said it might be worth asking the groups.

Fred has been involved with the minor hockey league firewood cuts and said they charged between \$100 and \$175 a load and hoped to get 75 loads in a day or weekend. Western could potentially use that as a value.

Patrick also suggested noting the fuel and pay WFP provides for training, especially apprenticeships. Roger agreed we could do a better job tracking training for apprenticeship programs, WFP spends a significant amount of money on training annually.

Annemarie suggested changing how the indicator is reported out or adding a target if it is difficult to get monetary values for donations. Jon agreed it was a good idea, the report currently has the monetary value donated and a description of volunteer activities completed. The indicator could be revised to include 'report out on'.

Roger commented that tracking/reporting firewood cut donations should be curtailed at the log supply (front end). It would not be right for WFP to be take credit for a group's total profit because they put in a lot of work as well. Reporting on supply the logs and supporting local groups would be more realistic.

Patrick suggested adding support for the Woss Heritage Park to the indicator results for 2020 and 2021. Jon noted that Charlotte would include this in the NWAC SFM Plan Annual Report.

Steve commented putting a monetary value in for the target is not representative because its hard to track. We should consider updating the target to cover donations more broadly so they can be tracked in the indicator.

3.1.1 Indicator Questions:

Steve noted that the target for treating slides doesn't take into the account the slides that have been assessed as revegetating or unable to revegetate and treatment is not required, can it be changed to number of slides addressed rather than treated? Jon commented it is tricky when there is a time lag on treating because we have two years to treat or assess as revegetated from the time the slide is discovered.

Fred commented that a new category for naturally regenerating slides may be appropriate.

1.1.3 Indicator Questions:

Steve asked why the fourth age class is 121- >250, shouldn't it be >121? Jon confirmed that was an oversight on his part.

Annemarie wanted to confirm that the 81-120 age class was a part of the 34% of mature/old stands on the DFA, She wanted to know under the old growth management strategy, how much of the 81-120 age class is considered old growth. Jon said it would depend on how old growth is being defined, if it is strictly age or a qualitative approach based on structure, distribution and

other factors. Jon believes the old growth number would come out of the >121 age class. One thing to keep in mind is these numbers only consider the timber harvesting land base.

Fred referenced the government old growth discussions and asked what percentage of the 101 cutblocks harvested in 2020 would fall into >121 age class. Jon did not know the answer off hand.

Patrick commented that the 1908 hurricane and blowdown event reduced the number of stands that could be eligible for the >121 age class before we were harvesting on the land base and its worth noting that natural events also account for old growth hectares not being as high as they could be.

3.1.2 Indicator Questions

Fred asked if the Fibre Recovery Zones will impact the CWD indicator or if it will be harder to meet legislative requirements for maintaining CWD. Jon does not think the Fibre Recovery Zones will impact the indicator as there is still an obligation to leave 4 CWD pieces per hectare under FRPA. Removing every piece of CWD will not be realistic from an economic stand point.

Fred commented on the 'Namgis purchasing the chip plant and had heard they are planning to create a second shift and working on more fiber. Will that impact the fiber recovery? Jon noted there are several variables for getting material to the chip plant. There is most likely a variable radius around the chip plant that would determine where they can recover residual fibre and make a profit; piece size, road location, type of equipment used, haul distance, and the selling price of the product would all have to be considered.

There was some discussion about the biological function of CWD.

4.1.1 Indicator Questions

Fred asked about pile burning and was under the impression it was becoming less frequent due to CO2 emissions. Jon confirmed it was still a tool used to abate fire hazard, but it is managed under stringent regulations and is used less than previously.

Annemarie inquired about the revised carbon calculation. Will Sloan commented that WFP had hired a Carbon Forester last year. She is updating the models we are currently using; once she has something to present, she will make a presentation for the public advisory groups to explain where changes are headed. Will noted that WFPs existing carbon calculation used for CSA indicators is much more sophisticated than other companies he has reviewed.

5.0 REVIEW AND DISCUSS VINWAG MEMBERSHIP AND CONFIRM 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

Jon reviewed VINWAG membership from 2020 and 2021. VINWAG does not have representatives from the following sectors: Fish and Game; Small Contractors - Gunnar left the group in 2019; Large Contractors - Dave Stewart with Link River Falling stopped responding; Aquaculture - Chris Reid no longer works for Mowi, Jon has reached out to Mowi to try to find a new rep and has not heard back. The Port McNeil Chamber of Commerce has a designated rep, but they have not attended a VINWAG meeting yet.

Jon reviewed Sectors in which the representatives will likely be stepping away from VINWAG: Labour – Ray Harper; Tourism & Recreation - Dave Trebett.

Jon will follow up with a couple groups and send reminders and confirm if they are still interested in participating.

Jon also wanted to remind members: As the primary rep for the sector, please RSVP when you get the meeting invite. If you cannot make it, please contact Jon and your alternate and confirm if they can attend.

Jon asked members if they can think of suitable individuals to represent sectors lacking representation. John Tidbury recommended Vince Case. Jon Confirmed he is the Suppliers' representative. No other recommendations at this time.

6.0 NEXT MEETING (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

Joint meeting with NWAC

When: May 27, 2021

Where: Virtual Meeting

No questions on meeting schedule.