

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

***Western Forest Products Inc.*
Community Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting Held April 25, 2019**

Attendance:

Jon Flintoft, NIFO, WFP	Fred Robertson, Education
Patrick Donaghy, Local Government Alternate	Vince Case, Suppliers
John Tidbury, District of Port Hardy	Gaby Wickstrom, Port McNeill Mayor
Dave Trebett, Tourism & Recreation	Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public
Dale Dorward, Small Business	

Presenters: Jon Flintoft, WFP

Regrets: Gunnar Wigard, Large Contractors, Ray Harper, Labour, Steve Lacasse, Environment, Larry Pepper, NICF, Damaris Sadler, Port McNeill Chamber, Natasha Dickinson, Karst

Observers: Jim McDowell, WFP, Planning Manager, North Island Forest Operation, Melissa Gauchier, Assistant Planner, WFP

Advisors: Paul Barolet, MFLNRORD

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 throughout 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 action items and minutes from the February 28, 2019 meeting, hear a review of the 2018 annual report on the SFMP, hear a brief update on the five-year harvesting plans and a summary of key changes to the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and professional reliance model that affect forest management on the DFA, discuss a proposed fall all-PAG meeting and set the date of the next meeting.

Annemarie invited everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the observers.

2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Annemarie asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the February 28th meeting and reviewed action items requiring updates or immediate attention with members, and the results of the discussion are summarized in the table below, along with the addition of five action items developed during the course of this meeting. For the benefit of new or recent members, Annemarie noted that she would be assuming all members had read their minutes and would not be taking additional time to go through them at the meeting, other than to deal with questions, changes and action items. Action items that were completed were dropped from the list and revised action items were retained as modified.

Annemarie noted that action items 261- 263 had been completed. She noted that she had not yet received a response from Jane Cameron on item 237 and would contact her again about the technical committee's intent with new Indicator 3.2.2. She noted that items 238 and 250 would be dealt with during the review of the 2018 annual report later in the meeting. Annemarie asked Jon to report out on items 258 and 259.

With respect to action item 258, Jon reviewed the harvest plans in the vicinity of Hecht Beach. He noted that Dave Trebett and Dave Steele had previously visited the site and review the concerns and take them into consideration during some revisions to the harvesting plan for the area near the trail. Jon reviewed how the plans had subsequently been revised to include setbacks to protect the trail and associated scenic values. Dave Trebett noted he was happy with the changes that had been made to the harvesting plan to accommodate his concerns. There was a discussion of possible use of topping of trees to minimize windthrow and protect the trail and fish streams in the area.

With respect to action item 259, Jon noted that he had been advised by MFLNRORD that they might be looking at opening the Forest Service Road (FSR) access to Side Bay in April but that, with no industrial activity in the area, there were no immediate plans or resources to clear out the slides that had blocked the road. It was suggested that travellers be notified that road access to Side Bay is currently blocked.

It was agreed that Annemarie should advise local visitor centres that FSR road access to Side Bay is currently closed and Jon should advise of the current road closure to Side Bay on WFP's road info site.

Annemarie asked Mayor Wickstrom if she would provide an update on the AVICC resolution to ban harvesting of old growth on Vancouver Island.

Mayor Wickstrom noted that a resolution to ban all old growth harvesting on Vancouver Island had surfaced again at this year's AVICC. She added that the resolution was withdrawn after the proponent saw the number of delegates who were prepared to speak against it. She called for those involved in forestry to educate people more about the good forestry practices that are in place.

Fred noted that the Wilderness Committee and Sierra Club were planning to make another North Island tour and meet with community representatives this year.

ACTION ITEMS					
#	Item	Responsibility	Initiation Date	Target Date	Completion Date
140	Follow up on engaging youth in SFMP	Fred Robertson/Jon Flintoft/Kindry Mercer/A. Koch	June 27, 2013	Ongoing, in 2019	
191	Follow up on recommendations 4-5 of the 2015 participant satisfaction survey in mutual consultation	Members of VINWAG and WFP	February 25, 2016	Ongoing	
196	Consider ways to enhance communication of what VINWAG does to the public, integrate with WFP's communications strategy	Annemarie Koch	April 28, 2016	Ongoing	
213	Implement recommendations in 2016 participant satisfaction survey report	Annemarie Koch/Jon Flintoft/VINWAG Members	February 23, 2017	Ongoing in 2019	
237	Talk to the writers of the new CSA Z809-16 standard to determine whether the intent of the new Indicator 3.2.2 is to provide direct measures of water quality and quantity in the DFA	Jon Flintoft/Will Sloan	November 9, 2017	Discussion with Jane Cameron on February 22, 2018. Annemarie to follow up with Jane in 2019	

238	Integrate the proposed new Indicators 3.2.2 and 5.1.2 into the SFMP	Jon Flintoft/Kevin Laird	November 9, 2017	For the 2018 SFMP/April 2019 Meeting	Completed April 25, 2019
243	Implement recommendations in 2017 report on participant satisfaction survey	Annemarie/Jon/VINWAG Members	February 22, 2018	Ongoing	
246	Continue to review and develop the targets for new Indicator 3.2.2	Jon Flintoft/Kevin Laird/VINWAG members	April 26, 2018	Ongoing	
248	Consider holding a 'VINWAG open house' to let members of the public know about the group and its role	Annemarie/Jon/All VINWAG Members	June 14, 2018	Sometime in 2019	
250	Provide more information on the planning processes around targets for Indicator 1.1.4	Jon Flintoft	June 14, 2018	During 2019 annual report review	Completed April 25, 2019
253	Revisit future of WFP's CSA certification programs on the North Island and the value of the public advisory process to WFP on the North Island at the joint meeting with NWAC in May, 2019 and ensure Kindry is advised of this	Jon Flintoft	September 20, 2018	Joint Meeting With NWAC in May 2019	
258	Confirm revised harvesting plans for area near Hecht Beach trail and report back to Dave about this	Jon Flintoft	February 28, 2019	April 25, 2019 meeting	Completed April 25, 2019
259	Check out status of road to Side Bay and determine when it will be open again	Jon Flintoft and Paul Barolet	February 28, 2019	April 25, 2019 meeting	Completed April 25, 2019
260	Implement recommendations from 2018 participant satisfaction survey	All	February 28, 2019	Ongoing	
264	Advise visitor centres that FSR access to Side Bay is currently closed/post on WFP road info site that road to Side Bay is currently closed	Annemarie/Jon	April 25, 2019	By April 30, 2019	
265	Report out to VINWAG members why stumps are not included as woody debris	Paul	April 25, 2019	June 27, 2019	

266	Find out why carbon produced in natural wildfires is not currently included in calculations of net carbon uptake	Jon	April 25, 2019	June 27, 2019	
267	Send contest questions to VINWAG members with minutes so they can respond by June 27 th meeting	Jon	April 25, 2019	May 4, 2019	
268	Revisit changes to FRPA and the professional reliance model as the implications of the changes begin to be better understood	Jon	April 25, 2019	June 27, 2019	

Dave noted his appreciation for the proposed harvesting blocks being taken out of Ledge Point. Jon noted that plans to harvest had been deferred, based on a number of considerations, including input from members of VINWAG.

Annemarie noted that the remainder of the action items were ongoing or in process and asked members if they had any comments or questions on the action items or minutes. There was no further discussion and the minutes were accepted as circulated.

3.0 REVIEW OF 2018 ANNUAL REPORT, JON FLINTOFT, WFP

Jon noted that he had put the results of the report into a PowerPoint presentation, including photos to illustrate factors taken into account to monitor indicator results.

Jon noted all the indicators that had been introduced in the new standard had been included in the 2018 report, making for a total of 65 indicators and associated targets. Jon thanked Melissa for all her help pulling information together for the report.

He noted that the target for Indicator 1.1.1 had been met, in that fifty percent of the ecosystem types were within the mid to old seral stages. He noted that the target for Indicator 1.1.2 had been met, in that the forest area by species composition had remained within 2% of the baseline on a five-year basis.

Jon noted that the target for Indicator 1.1.3 had been met. There was a discussion of the causes for slight reductions in the percentages for the older growth classes.

Jon noted that the target for Indicator 1.1.4 had not entirely been met but that efforts were being continually made to ensure retention silviculture system is represented across the DFA, particularly in the Enhanced Basic, General Basic and Enhanced Windy zones.

Jon reviewed efforts made to better describe why retention targets had not been met in certain zones. He discussed various reasons for retention targets not being met, for example the need to deal with the effects of high winds and to ensure worker safety. Jim noted the challenges of retention in grapple yarding blocks were different than in hoe-chucking blocks. He added that safety concerns were paramount and, while alternatives would always be sought to meet retention targets, safety would override retention measures in all cases.

Jon reviewed the planning process and the tests used for establishing within stand structural retention. He discussed the various features that are protected through retention areas, e.g. karst. He discussed how various harvesting methods can affect the location and size of retention areas in a block.

Jon noted that WFP has a big tree policy to keep big trees in an area as a seed source, for example, and to serve a higher and better purpose on the land base.

Jon noted that the target for Indicator 1.2.1 had not been met. He noted how the revisions to inventory data had influenced the percentages of habitat set aside for species at risk.

Jon noted that the target for Indicator 1.2.2 had been met, though there had been a slight decrease in marbled murrelet habitat due to changes in inventory data.

Jon reviewed how the target for Indicator 1.2.3 had been met. It was noted that some alder had been planted this year on the DFA. There was some discussion of the challenges and benefits of planting alder.

Jon noted that the target for Indicator 1.3.1 had been met. He pointed out that tree selection is used, for example, to cultivate more disease resistance, but that the plants are not directly genetically modified.

Jon noted that the target for Indicator 1.4.1 had been met, in that 100% of culturally important sites had been protected.

Jon pointed out that the target for Indicator 1.4.3 had been met and he discussed how karst features are monitored and protected on the DFA.

Jon reviewed how karst assessments are done and showed some photos of karst features.

Jon noted he did not yet have results for targets under Indicator 2.1.1. He explained some of the challenges of obtaining data for these targets.

Jon noted that target 1 for Indicator 2.1.3, additions and deletions to the forest area, was within the variance and target 2 had been met. He reviewed the calculations that are made to measure the percentage of permanent access.

Jon noted that the target for Indicator 2.1.4 had been met, with a permitted overcut at the end of the five-year cut control period of about 7%. He reviewed how calculations during the five-year cut control period are carried out. There was a discussion of how an overcut affects harvesting activities in the next cut control period.

Jon noted that the next review by the chief forester is a few years away. There was a discussion of how this relates to the cut control calculations and determinations.

Jon noted that the target for Indicator 2.1.5 had been met, through a topping program and other initiatives that minimize the impact of windthrow in the DFA. He reviewed factors taken into consideration in this process, including safety.

Jon noted that there had been no referrals through MFLNRORD and that the target for Indicator 2.1.6 had been met as there was no requirement for responses.

Jon noted he did not yet have the results for the target associated with Indicator 3.1.1 but he reviewed some of the factors involved in reforesting slide areas.

Jon noted that it appeared at this stage that target 1 for Indicator 3.1.2 had not been met but that he would look into this further. There was a discussion of what constitutes woody debris. Jon discussed the use of high stumping to identify resource features. Paul agreed to look into why stumps aren't included as woody debris.

Jon reviewed how plugged culverts needed to be addressed to protect fish streams and maintain roads.

Jon noted that neither of the two targets for Indicator 3.2.2 had been met and were not within the variance. He reviewed some of the reasons why this was the case and noted that he would provide more detail on this in the annual report.

Jon noted that the target for Indicator 4.1.1 had been met. He pointed out that this calculation did not currently include the carbon produced by forest fires on the DFA. Jon agreed to talk to Will Sloan about why natural wildfires are not included in net carbon uptake calculations.

Jon reviewed some measures taken for fire hazard abatement and to increase area suitable for planting.

Jon noted that the targets for Indicator 5.1.1 had been met. He noted that EBITDA was positive in 2018 and the number of traplines in the DFA had remained the same. Jon noted that 20 of 27 recreation sites had been managed.

Jon noted he didn't have the results for the first target for Indicator 5.1.2 yet, but that target two had been met with the presentations made by Chief Forester Shannon Janzen and General Manager Jonathan Armstrong in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Jon noted that target one of Indicator 5.1.3 had been met and that there would be a review of AAC in the near future. There was a discussion of the impact of LiDAR on precision of inventory data and how it might affect AAC calculations. There was a discussion of the impacts of SAR recovery strategy decisions on AAC.

Jon noted that the target to support Indicator 5.1.4 had been met, in that 100% of required Visual Impact Assessments had been carried out. Jon showed some photos used to illustrate the effects of harvesting on a view scape. He reviewed factors used to plan for visuals.

Jon noted the target for Indicator 5.2.1 had been met. He provided some examples of financial support for local initiatives, including funds for hatcheries run by volunteers. It was noted that WFP is not doing very well right now at telling stories about the company's overall contributions in the community. There was a discussion of the various ways that the company contributes to the community, e.g. by covering wages of employees who volunteer in the community, such as firefighters. It was noted that this indicator includes funds invested in recreational sites. It was suggested that WFP consider investing up to \$100,000 annually in community contributions including recreational development and maintenance.

Jon noted that about \$5,000 had been invested in the trail to Grant Bay. He noted that plans were to complete the trail upgrades later this year.

At this point Annemarie noted that Jon would complete his review of the 2018 annual report at the June meeting. Members agreed to start the meeting a half hour earlier to accommodate completion of Jon's presentation on the 2018 annual report.

Jon reviewed the contest questions with members of VINWAG and it was agreed that he should forward these questions to VINWAG members so that they could get back to him with their answers, prior to the June 27th meeting.

4.0 REVIEW OF KEY CHANGES TO FRPA AND PROFESSIONAL RELIANCE MODEL AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED ALL-PAG MEETING IN FALL OF 2019: JON FLINTOFT, WFP

Jon reviewed some key changes contained in Bill 21, which will bring new requirements under the Forest and Range Practices Act. He noted that the bill is scheduled to move into third reading in the legislature. These key changes include extensions to Forest Stewardship Plan terms to allow for indigenous consultation, requirement for a forest operations map prior to requesting a cutting permit, repeal of the ability of forest professionals to certify content of an FSP, delegation of existing authority to vary or suspend a forest plan where it may infringe on Aboriginal right or title, ability to request amendment to FSP after catastrophic damage, e.g. caused by fire and alignment of the definition of wildlife in Wildlife Act to allow for protection of ecological communities.

Jon reviewed some changes to the professional reliance model (covering a broad range of professionals including foresters, biologists, agrologists and engineers & geoscientists working in the natural resource sector) that resulted from an extensive consultation process throughout the Province including the report prepared by Mike Haddock in June 2018. Jon noted that there will be one act governing all professionals, as opposed to the different acts that govern the five professional associations in the Province. Paul

discussed some of the reasons for the changes to the model. There was a discussion of what the changes mean and it was suggested that they might lead to more oversight of professionals by government and a return to more government inspections.

It was noted that it was perhaps too soon to tell what these changes might mean for companies like WFP. It was agreed that the changes might mean that WFP will have to have plans ready two to three years ahead of harvest. It was noted that the changes seem to suggest that all plans will once again have to be reviewed by government. It was agreed to talk about these changes again in future, as their implications become better understood.

Jon relayed the following questions from Will Sloan to VINWAG members, regarding the proposed fall all-PAG meeting, which would likely take place in Campbell River:

Would VINWAG members be able/willing to attend an all-PAG meeting if only two members from each PAG could attend and communicate back to their respective groups?

VINWAG members suggested that there shouldn't be a cap on how many people can attend the all-PAG conference. Members noted that this is an opportunity for WFP to showcase what it is doing and that the company should include as many PAG members as possible.

Would VINWAG members prefer a weekday or a weekend date for the proposed meeting?

Members of VINWAG noted their preference for a conference on a weekday. It was suggested that members of VINWAG who are also employees of WFP be paid to attend. WFP representatives noted that this would take some coordination as there were capacity issues as well as financial considerations.

What topics or speakers of interest would VINWAG members have in mind for the meeting?

Members suggested the following topics:

- watershed management updates with Glynnis Horel;
- effects of the changes to FRPA, professional reliance model, appraisal system, impacts of proposed fibre recovery zone, or, more generally, an overview of the three to five overarching changes facing WFP and how dealing with these changes affects the PAG's in the divisional operations, and;
- the growing impact of fires in the DFA's and what is being done to address this.

5.0 NEXT MEETING: ANNEMARIE KOCH

Annemarie noted that, further to the schedule, the next meeting would be a joint one with members of NWAC on May 23rd when WFP Chief Forester Shannon Janzen would be leading a discussion on the future of CSA Certification on North Island DFA's.

Annemarie asked Fred to provide an update on the North Island Festival of Forestry event scheduled for July of this year. Fred noted the Festival of Forestry tour was going ahead this July 8-11 and he extended an invitation to VINWAG members to attend a dinner and debate at the Quatse Salmon Stewardship Centre on July 10th.

Annemarie asked if members were all right with a 6 p.m. start for the June meeting, to accommodate completion of Jon's review of the 2018 annual report. Members agreed with this request. Annemarie and Jon thanked everyone for coming and wished them a safe journey home.

When: May 23, 2019
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.