

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

**Western Forest Products Inc.
Community Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting Held February 25, 2021**

Attendance:

Annemarie Koch (Community Forest)
Fred Robertson (WFP, Port McNeill)
Jim McDowell (WFP, Port McNeill)
John Tidbury (Local Government)
Sandra Mclaughlin (Local Business)

Natasha Dickinson (Karst)
Patrick Donaghy (RDMW)
Steve Lecasse (Environment)
Vince Case (Suppliers)

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

Regrets: Paul Barolet (Advisor), Dave Trebett (Recreation), Derek Koel (Local Government)

Observer(s): Charlotte Mellstrom (WFP, Woss), Jeanne Matthews (WFP, Woss), Theresa Cleroux (WFP, Woss), Will Sloan (WFP, Environment Dept.)

Advisors:

Chairperson and Facilitator: Jonathan Flintoft

Minutes taken by: Teri Heaslip (WFP, Port McNeill)

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 the meeting minutes from the previous meeting.

2.0 APPROVE MEETING MINUTES AND REVIEW/UPDATE ACTION ITEMS FROM NOVEMBER 26TH, 2020 MEETING (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

Jon asked if anyone had any questions or comments about the meeting minutes from the last meeting, nobody spoke up so meeting minutes were accepted, and Jon moved on to action items.

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	
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	
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	

213	<i>Implement recommendations in 2016 participant satisfaction survey report</i>	<i>Jon Flintoft/VINWAG members</i>	February 23, 2017	Ongoing	
243	<i>Implement recommendations in 2017 report on participant satisfaction survey</i>	<i>Jon Flintoft/VINWAG members</i>	February 22, 2018	Ongoing	
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 2021 due to COVID-19
260	<i>Implement recommendations from 2018 participant satisfaction survey</i>	<i>All</i>	February 28, 2019	Ongoing	
268	<i>Provide update on changes to FRPA and the professional reliance model</i>	<i>Jon</i>	April 25, 2019	February 25, 2021	Completed – presentation during Feb 25th meeting
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	
276	<i>Find out if the impacts of an Old Growth Strategy on the CO₂ level in the DFA</i>	<i>Jon</i>	July 23, 2020	December 31, 2020	Completed - discussed during Nov 26th meeting
277	<i>Revisit the number of recreation sites listed as maintained / managed under Indicator 5.1.1</i>	<i>Jon</i>	July 23, 2020	December 31, 2020	Completed - discussed during Nov 26th meeting
278	<i>Revise the target for Indicator 5.2.4 to remove the volume of logs sold to Neucel</i>	<i>Jon</i>	July 23, 2020	December 31, 2020	Completed - discussed during Nov 26th meeting
279	<i>Find out the status of the slide near Hecht Beach access, can anything more be done to prevent deposition onto the road?</i>	<i>Jon</i>	July 23, 2020	December 31, 2020	Completed - discussed during Nov 26th meeting
280	<i>Look into road maintenance for the road to Grant Bay.</i>	<i>Jon</i>	July 23, 2020	November 26, 2020	Completed - discussed during Nov 26th meeting
281	<i>Arrange for a presentation on Fibre Recovery Zones</i>	<i>Jon</i>	July 23, 2020	June 24, 2021	In progress

284	<i>Distribute the Public Summary Report for the External CSA Audit to VINWAG members</i>	<i>Jon</i>	October 22, 2020	November 26, 2020 (subject to availability)	Completed – discussed during February 25th meeting
285	<i>Distribute copy of John Deal's presentation to VINWAG members</i>	<i>Jon</i>	October 22, 2020	November 26, 2020	Completed - Presentation distributed Nov 6th
286	<i>Send out proposed revisions to Indicators prior to meetings</i>	<i>Jon</i>	October 22, 2020	Upcoming meetings	Ongoing
287	<i>Look into the status of the Swan Lake recreation site</i>	<i>Jon</i>	November 26, 2020	February 25, 2021	Completed – discussed during February 25th meeting
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
289	<i>Post External Audit Public Report on the VINWAG website</i>	<i>Jon</i>	February 25, 2021	March 5, 2021	Completed
290	<i>Look into question on wording of Indicator 1.1.4</i>	<i>Jon</i>	February 25, 2021	November 25, 2021	
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	

Action items that were covered:

- #287 – Look into the status of the Swan Lake rec site: Jon spoke with Dave Steele who mentioned that they are looking at putting in a parking lot at the mainline and building a trail from the parking lot through the forest to the site. The road access to the site will no longer be maintained. Some of the infrastructure that is currently at Swan Lake may be moved to the San Jo site, but at picnic site will still be maintained at Swan Lake. Dave Steele also mentioned that there will be harvest upcoming in the area near the Swan Lake rec site as well.

Picking up the conversation about closing rec sites from the November 26th meeting, Jon spoke to some of his counterparts down island and they indicated that they were not aware of any rec sites in their areas being closed in recent years. They said some sites are not being maintained but they're not aware of any being closed.

- #288 – Arrange for a presentation or update on the Old Growth Strategy: Jon proposed that this be arranged for the joint VINWAG/NWAC meeting scheduled for May 27th. More details will be available in the future.

There were no questions about the action items, so Jon passed the meeting over to Roger for an operations update.

3.0 OPERATIONS/DFA UPDATE (Roger Briscoe, WFP)

Roger let everyone know that the Orca harvesting project is now complete. We attempted to do it without disrupting the public too much. Overall a successful project that took a lot of coordination between multiple groups. Roger pointed out that he noticed that there was more sunlight on the highway near harvested areas and there seems to be less ice on the road. Hopefully this also makes the highway a little safer.

We were also active last fall in the community interface blocks in Coal Harbour. This year we finished falling a little bit more of the area, near the apartment buildings. Lots of coordination was needed again, lots of communication with the residents. Activities in the area were suspended during the Christmas season so we weren't interrupting holidays. Transportation was offered for those near the area being felled, rooms were offered at the cabins along the highway at the Port Hardy RV resort, and they were given a gift certificate for one of the restaurants in Port Hardy. We recognized that it was inconvenient.

Recently did some work around the Marble River rec site after the November storm to clean up some of the damage. There is now access for other agencies to get in and do work. Jon confirmed that it took the better part of two days with a machine and a ground person to open the area.

In regard to 2021 harvesting we are busy working through issues with the government and the Quatsino First Nation. We want to make sure that the process is done right but is complex and so will take some time. We are seeing some short-term impacts on operations, especially in Holberg. Once we get through the process, we will be set up for well-sustained operations going forward with good relationships.

Jeune Landing has blocks in mid-elevation areas which are not good at this time of year due to snow. They are shut down due to weather. The Quatsino dryland is also temporarily shut down due to the lack of volume at the moment. Not a lot of volume is having to move through the dryland and combined with the low activity the dryland has been shut down. They will probably be back into March.

The Port McNeill area has been focusing on the Eastern side of the island, and it looks like operations will be sustained for the next few months. We are picking up layoffs from other operations.

We are also working through the challenge of changing our behaviours while working in the fibre recovery zone (e.g. how we log blocks, cost implications and waste and residue bills inside the zone etc.). Some places we are getting salvagers to come in once we finish logging to help clean up. But overall there is not a huge market for that timber, so the plan of where the fibre recovery zone is and the original intent of generating volume for small operators seems to have overshot the market at this point. The area set up for that is larger than what is currently required.

Roger asked if there were any questions. Fred wanted to know if there an ability to have fibre recovery be addressed by firewood cutters or is there liability there that the company doesn't want to address. Roger explained that firewood permits are encouraged, but that anything left for firewood cutters is billed heavily by waste and residue surveyors. He noted that in fact wood left at roadside has a bigger impact to the waste and residue bill across the block than what is left outside in the setting.

Fred then asked if that was a potential business for someone who wanted to supply firewood. Jon explained that there are a few administrative wrinkles, in that the rules say that you cannot manufacture anything on a block until the waste and residue survey has been completed. This serves as a bit of a roadblock to some entrepreneurial potential. It is based on regulation in the Forest Act, and there are also likely some policy reasons tied to revenue as well.

There were no more questions, so Jon handed over the meeting to Paul Nuttall and his presentation.

4.0 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE ACT IMPLEMENTATION AND THE ABCFP (Paul Nuttall, ABCFP)

Paul lamented the fact that he could not come up to meet everyone but said he would try to make it up for another meeting. He went on to introduce himself and explain what he does and where he lives.

Before he started, Paul asked if anyone was familiar with the professional governance act. A few people said they were, most were silent.

Paul moved on to start his presentation.

*Jon has sent out a copy of Paul's presentation to VINWAG members

Paul thanked the group for listening and opened the floor to questions.

Fred prefaced his questions by saying that he comes from the perspective of someone who sat on the BC teacher's council for 6 six years and was involved with the BC college of teachers. He pointed out that the PGA is a bit of an umbrella, but that foresters are quite distinct from other specialties (e.g. Biologists, Geoscientists). Paul agreed and explained that all the related acts for other professions have also been repealed and each have a regulated practice definition, but that only the Foresters and Engineers have continued with the reserved practice. He suggested to seek opportunities in the overlap of reserved practice.

Fred also wanted to know if there is a suggestion that each profession will be governed by their own 'college' or 'council' to establish policy. Paul said it exists now: the ABCFP for forestry and others for the other professions. We are all under the umbrella of the PGA but are governed by distinct organizations. A core function of the ABCFP is not just creating the bylaws around the standards for competence and practice, but the fiddly stuff that goes into standards as well.

Fred also wanted to know if there are government appointees. Paul explained that there is a Council that provides the overall governance for the organization. The Council must have 4 lay members with a council of 12. The PGA also establishes 5 statutory committees; credentials, nominations, investigations, discipline, and practice and audit review. Each committee must have lay member representation.

Fred wanted to know if the government appointed the lay people because that is how it works with the teacher's council, Paul agreed that the government does for the Foresters as well, but we work hard to find people we think would be good.

Fred thanked Paul, and then Steve had a comment.

Steve pointed out that the college of applied biologists has a very similar process and code of practice to the Foresters and the rest. Paul agreed and pointed out that it allows everyone to be on the same page.

Jon thanked Steve and Fred for the questions. Jim wanted to know if there is any room for including the archeologists under the professional governance act. Paul said that is a good question, but he doesn't know the answer. He doesn't know how the archeologists are governed or registered, but he did point out that it seems like the door is open and the more the merrier.

Paul encouraged everyone to get in touch if they had any more questions.

5.0 REVIEW RESULTS OF 2020 ANNUAL PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION SURVEY (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

Jon said that he received four responses to the survey, they were due during the November 26th meeting last year. He added up the results and filled in some comments. Jon went over each of the questions.

- In reference to the comment about joint meetings with NWAC, Jon pointed out that there is one coming up in May. And with the new digital meeting format joint meetings are more possible than in previous years.

Jon asked if there were any questions or comments at this point, there were none, so he moved on to cover the written responses to the survey.

John commented that the overall score seemed to be about an A-. Roger wanted to point out that the VINWAG group is definitely a valuable part of the DFA, but that we have to keep in mind that Western is a publicly traded company. Because of this we cannot publicly discuss items that are not part of the public realm, though we do try to be as transparent as possible. Agreed and pointed out that it is the same in politics but that you do the public the best you can.

Jon thanked everyone and moved on to the indicator results.

6.0 REVIEW 2020 INDICATOR RESULTS (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

Indicator 1.1.4 – we changed the variance in our last meeting down to 10% from 20%. The targets were met on 2 of the 5 Western Forest Stewardship zones according to the five-year rolling average from 2016-2020. Private land is included in this goal. Towards the end of 2020 a work plan was established to review upcoming cutblocks and retrofit them to meet the Western Forest Strategy.

Going forward into 2021 there will be more blocks that meet the retention system targets which will increase the annual and rolling average results. Fred wanted to know of the three that are not meeting the targets, what percentage of the total do they represent. Jon said that he did not know but would investigate it and possibly change the verbiage.

Indicator 2.1.4 – Harvest level for the year. The 2020 results included an overcut that was carried over from the previous cut control period. Averaging about 90% of our AAC.

Indicator 5.1.1 – Met all 5 targets associated with this indicator, though Jon still needs to account for road recycling in reference to the road building target, and the limited entry tags target in still under review by the ministry of forests.

Indicator 5.2.3 – Neither the target nor the variance was met, partially due to the strike that ended in February 2020. Using a prorated target of 550 with a variance of 468 the target would be met. Roger asked if this indicator included stump to dump contractor hours, Jon thought it did, but Roger isn't sure. Jon said that he would investigate it.

Indicator 5.2.4 – Target was met.

Indicator 6.1.1. – Both targets were met.

Indicator 6.1.4 – Target was not met in 2020 but variance was (only 4 meetings were held) due to meetings starting in July, we are on track for 2021.

Jon opened the floor to questions, there were none. Jon invited Will Sloan to talk about the public reports for the external CSA audits. Jon will send the report to the group tomorrow, and Will has asked for the report to be put up on the public website. It is open to distribute as it is a public document.

Will wanted to mention that the 2021 audit is coming up in June instead of the fall this year. The Mid Island operation will be the primary site for the audit, with Port Alberni being the secondary site this year. The audit is a re-registration audit; the CSA certificate is valid for 5 years and it expires in early 2022. Because the audit is combined with the SFI audit (which expires in November), we have elected to go forward with both audits in June. The auditors are quite interested in going to Port Alberni to see how the integration of the new ownership is going with the First Nations.

Jon thanked Will for the summary and asked if there are any questions. Annemarie asked if the public report being posted on the VINWAG website could be made an action item.

7.0 REVIEW AND DISCUSS VINWAG MEMBERSHIP AND CONFIRM 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE (VINWAG Members)

Jon asked if this section could be deferred to the April meeting due to time constraints. Annemarie suggested that on the discussion of the fibre recovery zones, if there could be more discussion on the challenges associated with it. Jon agreed to pass the suggestion along to Kevin Laird.

Annemarie suggested maybe getting someone from the Dryland up to talk about local wood sales for the November meeting. Jon made note of the request.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

When: April 22nd, 2021

Meeting: Virtual meeting