

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

**Western Forest Products Inc.
Community Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting Held July 23, 2020**

Attendance:

Jonathan Flintoft, PMFO, WFP	Patrick Donaghy, RDMW
Annemarie Koch, Community Forest	Chris Read, Aquaculture
Dave Trebett, Recreation/Tourism	Will Sloan, WFP
John Tidbury, Local Government, Port Hardy	Teri Heaslip, PMFO, WFP
Ryan Mitchell, Local Government, Port McNeill	Sandra McLaughlin, PH Chamber of Commerce
Vince Case, Suppliers	Steve Lacasse, Environment

Presenters: Jonathan Flintoft, WFP; Will Sloan, WFP

Regrets: Dale Dorward, Small Business; Paul Barolet, Advisor; Fred Robertson, Education

Observer(s): Jim McDowell, WFP, Planning Manager;

Advisors:

Chairperson and Facilitator: Jonathan Flintoft, WFP

Minutes taken by: Jonathan Flintoft and Teri Heaslip

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

Jon started the meeting by going over the agenda for the night and thanking everyone for attending the first VINWAG meeting of 2020. He suggested that everyone introduce themselves and say a few things about themselves so that everyone would be caught up. Jon opened the floor to any comments or thoughts regarding how we've got to where we are now considering not having had the chance to meet in over a year. Will Sloan wanted to know if the external audit would be discussed and offered to speak to that, to which Jon agreed. Annemarie noted that she was very glad to be back meeting as a member of VINWAG.

2.0 REVIEW OF 2019 SFM PLAN ANNUAL REPORT (Jonathan Flintoft)

After some brief technical difficulties Jon began the presentation of the 2019 SFM Plan Annual Report. Jon noted that he will only focus on indicators that are important to the group in the meeting today but that he sent out the full report with all the indicators.

Indicator 1.1.4 – Within-stand structural retention

- Targets were achieved in the general windy zone and the special management zone, the general basic zone fell within the variance, and the two enhanced zones did not meet the targets or the variance. Jon notes that several blocks could not be counted as they were not completed last year due to the USW-WFP strike.
- Showed some maps illustrating forest influence in a cutblock, and explained how it's used to see if a cutblock has met the Western forest strategies

Indicator 1.4.3 – Protection of Identified Karst Features

- Only one block last year that was completed harvesting had a karst feature (a karst lake with no inlets or outlets), went over the windfiring and layout, showed a harvesting plan which indicated to not damage karst features.

Indicator 2.1.1 – Reforestation and FG Commitments

- Target 1 was met in 2019 – Jon noted that the harvest area was a little bit lower due to the USW-WFP strike. There was both a spring and summer program which reduced the time to achieve regeneration.

- Target 2 was not met (either target or variance) due to 2 cutblocks not being surveyed, though Jon noted that they will be surveyed and reported to the government this year.

Indicator 2.1.3 – Additions & Deletions to the Forest Area

- This target met the variance – slightly over the target of 7%.

Indicator 2.1.4 – Proportion of the LTHL that is Actually Harvested

- Roughly 70% compliance in 2019, though Jon noted that the slight overcut from the previous period is carried over to the new Cut Control Period.
- No harvesting done on the forest license to date in the current Cut Control Period, resulting in an undercut of approximately 16,000 m³ though there are plans begin harvesting on the forest license in the next few years.

Indicator 2.1.5 – Windthrow Losses

- The variance was met for this target. One cutblock was not able to be topped in 2019 as there were workers on site that prevented topping from taking place, that cutblock will be treated this year.

Indicator 3.1.1 – Level of Soil Disturbance

- In 2019 two slides reported that met the criteria for this target; one of the slides has been planted this spring, the second slide took place in Holberg and will be assessed for rehabilitation this year. There were also a few natural slides that did not meet the criteria as they were in cutblocks that were over 20 years old.
- Jon noted that there have been intense rainstorm events over relatively small areas in recent years.

Indicator 3.1.2 – Level of Downed Woody Material

- Target 2 – in 2019 neither the target nor the variance were met; Jon noted that all of the surveyed cutblocks had four or more pieces of CWD except for one which did not have any pieces of CWD counted. Jon showed a photo of the 1 cutblock with no CWD pieces counted.

Indicator 3.2.1 – Proportion of Watersheds with Recent Stand-Replacing Disturbance

- Target 1 was met – 1.82/1.82 km of high-risk road was revegetated
- Target 2 was met for 2019

Indicator 3.2.2 – Proportion of Forest Management Activities Consistent with Prescription to Protect Identified Water Features

- Target 1 was not met, 38/48 cutblocks with streams had riparian retention. Annemarie asked why 79% of cutblocks had riparian retention. Jon explained that it was likely because of either oversight during layout, or because of blocks being laid out before the new SFM plan. Jon also noted that he expected compliance with this target to increase for 2020.
- Target 2 the variance was met, three cutblocks were completed in 2019 but did not have a road inspection completed. The inspections have since been completed in 2020.
- Jon explained procedures for roads where end haul is prescribed and showed a picture of a plugged culvert that illustrates the importance of road maintenance.

Indicator 4.1.1 – Net Carbon Uptake

- This target was met with 547,184 tonnes of CO₂e of uptake in 2019. Jon noted that wildfires effect the numbers for this target, and this makes it a difficult target to control. Annemarie wondered if it would be possible to model the impacts of an old growth strategy on CO₂ level within the DFA. Jon noted that it's an interesting question.
- Will noted that he has been in touch with the WFP Carbon forester to update this indicator, and that she will need to be in touch with the public advisory groups so that any updates will be in line with public values.

Indicator 5.1.1 – Forest Benefits Produced from the DFA

- Timber quantity: refer to indicator 2.1.4
- EBITDA: met the variance, 2019 was the first year in 8 or 9 years with a negative value. Jon noted that the strike had a part to play in this
- Net road access increase: there were 75.6 km of new roads constructed in 2019, a net increase after considering road deactivation.
- Recreation sites managed: 20/27 sites were managed in 2019, the 7 that were not are sites that are closed. May be worth revising which sites are included in the target.
- Trap-lines: 33 trap lines in the DFA
- Limited entry tags (Roosevelt Elk): no tags issued in 2019, a MFLNRORD Wildlife biologist that Jon spoke to noted that there has been some poaching which has decreased the population in the DFA (except for Mahatta and Waukwass, where elk have been introduced and populations are quite stable).

Indicator 5.1.2 – Evidence of Open and Respectful Communications with Forest Dependent Businesses, Forest users and Local Communities

- Target 1: this target was met in 2019, discussions on the Hecht beach trail, new wood waste debris site associated with the Quatsino dryland sort, in 2019 some discussions with the Community of Coal Harbour and the regional district about harvesting that was ultimately postponed due to the USW-WFP strike.
- Target 2: This target was met in 2019; the WFP general manager of Timberlands planning met with VINWAG and NWAC in October of 2018 during a joint meeting, and then the Chief Forester and the Regional Manager of Company Operations met with both VINWAG and NWAC in October of 2017 to discuss the future of CSA certification on the North Island.
- Jon also noted that there were also some VINWAG meetings scheduled for 2019 that unfortunately had to be postponed due to the USW-WFP strike.

Indicator 5.1.4 – Cooperation with Forest-Dependant Groups to Strengthen the Local Economy

- This target was met in 2019, 2/2 VIAs were completed in 2019.
- One of the cutblocks discussed is on the way to the Clint Beek Rec Site.

Indicator 5.2.1 – Level of Participation and Support in Initiatives that Contribute to Community Stability

- In 2019, ~ \$24,500 was put towards community projects, down from \$44,000 in 2018, this amount does not include in kind services provided to the communities and projects within the DFA (met the variance).

Indicator 5.2.3 – Level of Direct and Indirect Employment

- The target and the variance were not met due to the strike, however if the target were prorated to account for the strike then the target would have been met.

Indicator 5.2.4 – Cooperation with Forest-Dependent Groups to Strengthen and Diversify the Local Economy

- The target for this indicator was exceeded by 389 m³. Of the 4,889 m³ sold locally, there were approximately 3,012 m³ sold to local customers from the dryland sort, there were also 1,877 m³ of special forest products recovered by contractors working on the DFA, also not included in this total was 3,800m³ of debris salvaged from cutblocks and taken to the chip plant in Beaver Cove where it was converted to hog fuel and chips for use at facilities to the South.
- Jon asked the group if we should remove the volume of logs sold to Neucel – this was agreed upon as the mill is no longer operational.
- Annemarie wanted to know if the majority of the special forest products are shake blocks – Jon confirmed this and noted that they are mainly red cedar shake and shingle.

Indicator 5.2.5 – Opportunity for Local Suppliers, Contractors, and Consultants

- The total spend in 2019 from the TFL 6 DFA was 52% of the spending was in communities within the Regional District of Mount Waddington (and 48% of the spending in non-RDMW communities), which is up from 45% in 2018, 51% in 2017, 54% in 2016, 54% in 2015, and 59% in 2014.

Indicator 5.2.6 – New Hires That are Local

- This target was met in 2019, all qualified local applications to WFP hourly positions were hired, though Jon noted that this only includes before the strike as there was no hiring during the strike.

Indicator 5.2.7 – Educational Outreach

- Target 1: this target was met in 2019, several initiatives took place in the DFA. Festival of Forestry, PM Logger Sports show, field trip with Kwakiutl First Nation, National Forestry Week in September.
- Target 2: This target was met, the new map was prepared and released in 2016. Jon noted that he put in a request to have the map updated this year as well.

Indicator 6.1.1 – Level of Participant Satisfaction with the Public Participation Process

- Target 1: The variance for this target was met for 2019, the strike prevented us from doing a satisfactory survey in 2019.
- Target 2: The target was met; no letters were received; however, WFP staff still meet with local governments.

Indicator 6.1.4 – Number of VINWAG Meetings

- For 2019, the variance was met: 3 VINWAG one joint VINWAG/NWAC meetings were held. Due to the strike the Sept. and November meetings and the October joint meeting were postponed.

Indicator 7.1.1 – Evidence of a Good Understanding of the Nature of Aboriginal Title and Rights

- This target was met in 2019, the planning staff met with First Nations whose territory overlaps the DFA, either meeting with chief and council or lands and resources staff for information sharing on cutblocks and roads, and the renewal of various tenures
- The WFP Planning staff discussed recent development related to indigenous rights and title: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action, and the introduction of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act of British Columbia that was proclaimed towards the end of 2019.

Indicator 7.1.2 – Evidence of Ongoing Open and Respectful Communications with Aboriginal Communities

- The target was met for this indicator in 2019.

Indicator 7.2.3 – Level of Management and/or Protection of Culturally Important Areas

- Target 1: this target was met for 2019, no CMT's were harvested without a permit.
- Target 2: this target is reported under indicator 7.1.2.

This brings us to the end of the focused review. Jon wanted to know if there were any questions before moving on.

Dave Trebett had a question about indicator 3.1.1, he noticed that all but one slide near Hecht beach are doing well (the one closest to the beach access). Dave questions whether there is something that can be done to improve yearly deposition from the slide onto the road, and if it is WFP's responsibility to maintain the road into Grant Bay.

Dave's second question was regarding indicator 5.1.1; he would like to know which sites were removed, and which will be opened again. Jon explains that the sites that were closed were: Reappearing River and Vanishing River (due to damage from flooding), Swan Lake Rec Area (closed due to users), Mahatta River Rec Site (closed due to users and erosion by river), O'Connell Lake, Goodspeed River Riparian Trail (heavily impacted by flooding), and Brown's Bridge Trail. Dave wanted to know if road maintenance is part of this indicator. Jon explained that the indicator covers net road access, though not necessarily opening sites. Dave suggested that if Western has a handle on road maintenance near Grant Bay, that the road needs to be brushed and the road rehabilitated. Dave also wanted to note that the lower cutblock at Hecht beach was windfirmed by heli-topping.

In reference to indicator 5.2.7 Dave wanted to know if the recreation site maps were just digital or if there are hard copies, to which Jon confirmed they are all digital.

There were no further questions.

Jon moved on to the photo contest. Annemarie guessed the photo was in Singapore. Jon said it was the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore, a large hotel modeled to look like a boat on three columns.

Annemarie noted that the woody debris debate is slightly problematic and pointed out that the sampling intensity may be causing some issues. Jon agreed saying that the sampling intensity has a big effect on the results, as much of the CWD can be missed. Dave asked Jon if there is now an issue with debris left in the woods by logging contractors being charged triple stumpage. Jon confirmed that this is the case in fibre recovery zones, it is an incentive to bring more fibre out of the woods for utilization. Dave suggested that because of this there will probably be less woody debris left behind as it will all be brought to roadside for fibre recovery. Jon noted that there is a link back to FRPA that requires anyone harvesting on crown land retain a minimum average of four pieces of CWD per hectare. Dave also pointed out that this indicator will be difficult to meet – especially in second-growth stands – when so much of the debris is being brought to roadside.

Jon proposed that a topic for an upcoming meeting could be fibre recovery zones and the like and said that he could put something together if people are interested. The group showed some interest. Jon thanked the group for feedback and interest and closed the presentation.

3.0 DISCUSSION OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 FIELD TRIP ITINERARY AND FORMAT (Jonathan Flintoft)

Jon noted that there is a field trip planned for September 11th, Dave pointed out that the plan will be dependant on COVID to which Jon agreed. Jon went over the itinerary for the field trip, which starts with a presentation on road design. Jon proposed that the trip then move to see the roads from the presentation. John T. asked if there would be maps available to show how the roads will look. Steve also wanted to see sediment controls in roads that have already been built. Jon continued to cover the itinerary and noted that handing out the survey may seem a bit soon but that the following meeting is in October.

Jon asked if there were any other items that should be covered in the meeting or the trip. Annemarie wanted to see the fibre recovery zones, and then suggested that the topic for October could be fibre recovery and CWD.

Jon went over the topics for upcoming meetings in October and November. He noted that the topic of fibre recovery zones could be discussed in the November meeting.

John and Dave suggested that Zoom would be a better platform for further meetings.

4.0 EXTERNAL AUDIT (Will Sloan)

Will noted that the audit was scheduled for May 2019 but postponed due to the strike. The audit will take place later in September and the North Island DFA is part of the audit. Price Waterhouse Coopers are the External Auditors and have been doing all their meetings remotely by strictly looking at records and conducting interviews. Will notes that it is unlikely that VINWAG members would be able to come to the field but would be more than welcome to participate in the interviews with the external auditors.

5.0 NEXT MEETING: September 10th, 2020

The next meeting will also be digital, though Jon notes that it will not be face-to-face unless cameras are turned on.

Jon thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting 45 minutes ahead of schedule.

When: September 10, 2020
Meeting start: 7:00 pm start