

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

**Western Forest Products Inc.**

**Community Advisory Group**

**Minutes of Meeting Held June 24, 2021**

**Attendance:**

Derek Koel (Local Government)

John Tidbury (Local Government)

Natalie Stewart (Recreation and Tourism)

**Presenter(s):** Jonathan Flintoft (WFP, Port McNeill), Roger Briscoe (WFP, Port McNeill), Kevin Laird (WFP, Port McNeill), Will Sloan (WFP, Environmental Dept.)

**Regrets:**

**Observer(s):** Jim McDowell (WFP)

**Advisors:**

**Chairperson and Facilitator:** Jonathan Flintoft (WFP) and Jessica McLaughlin

**Minutes taken by:** Taylor Goodwin (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 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 APRIL 22, 2021 MEETING** (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

ACTION ITEMS					
#	Item	Responsibility	Initiation Date	Target Date	Completion Date
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	<b>Deferred to later 2021 due to COVID-19</b>
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	<b>Presentation at June 24<sup>th</sup> VINWAG meeting</b>

286	<i>Send out proposed revisions to Indicators prior to meetings</i>	<i>Jon</i>	October 22, 2020	Upcoming meetings	<b>Ongoing</b>
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	<b>Completed during May 27<sup>th</sup> joint VINWAG-NWAC meeting</b>
290	<i>Look into question on wording of Indicator 1.1.4</i>	<i>Jon</i>	February 25, 2021	November 25, 2021	<b>In progress</b>
291	<i>Review and discuss VINWAG membership</i>	<i>Jon</i>	February 25, 2021	April 22, 2021	<b>In progress</b>
293	<i>Revise the wording of Indicator 3.1.1</i>	<i>Jon</i>	April 22, 2021	November 25, 2021	<b>In progress</b>
294	<i>Revise the wording of Indicator 5.2.1</i>	<i>Jon</i>	April 22, 2021	November 25, 2021	<b>In progress</b>

Completed actions items #281 and 288 during this meeting.

### 3.0 OPERATIONS/DFA UPDATE (Roger Briscoe, WFP)

WFP is still in discussions with Quatsino FN and government. More progress has been made but still lots of work to be done. WFP and Quatsino First Nations completed a transaction of private land near Coal Harbour. Will allow Quatsino First Nations access to ocean. Community in will eventually re-locate to new area. Positive outcome.

Holberg and Jeune Landing operating at minimal levels due to lack of permits; small crew working on Jeune Landing sort and Holberg dump. 90% of crews that were interested in temporary work were re located to Port McNeill, Englewood or Mid Island; will help with retaining workers when operations resume.

Another week on Rupert Arm Causeway project until available for crossing.

### 4.0 PRESENTATION ON FIBRE RECOVERY Kevin Laird (WFP, Port McNeill)

**Waste:** Refers to timber that was not removed from a cutting authority that meets merchantability specifications.

**Avoidable Waste:** Merchantable timber (or remnants) that could have been recovered from a cutting authority. Avoidable waste is subject to Monetary Billing and contributes to AAC volume thresholds.

**Unavoidable Waste:** Inaccessible, physically obstructed and/or timber that is protecting a forest resource that could not be felled or removed due to safety or environmental reasons. Unavoidable waste is exempt from Monetary Billing, however, contributes to AAC volume thresholds.

**Waste Assessment:** A survey conducted in accordance with the Provincial Logging Residue and Waste Measurement Procedures Manual. Qualified/ticketed forest professional measures and grades all the sources of waste and determines if it was avoidable or un avoidable waste.

**Before a Waste Survey can occur:** Annual Waste Plans must be created and submitted to the Government for approval.

Block Waste Plans identify the location of survey plots that are to be established within the Cutblock.

Waste assessment must be completed on a cutblock within 60 days after primary logging has been completed.

**Timber Merchantability Specifications:** These represent the minimum measurement specifications that are used to established whether a log and pieces are merchantable and subject to utilization and waste penalties. Refer to Table 1-1 Coast Timber Merchantability Specifications

**Monetary Billing on Waste Logs:** Applies to Sawlogs with X grade or better, and Y Grade Logs that are classified as avoidable waste.

**Cut Control Waste Volume for Logs:** Applies to Log grades Y grade and better.

**Example of Unavoidable Waste:** Scar on stumps that prevent faller from cutting lower due to safety.

**Examples of Measuring Thickness:** 15 cm (or 7.5 rads (1 ad = 2cm))

Timber left behind 3m and above is subject to review despite condition.

**Z Grade Log:** Not considered waste. Must have heart rot and residual collar of firm wood that is <50% of Gross Scale.

**Y Grade Log:** Logs from dead trees are not tallied. No penalties.

**Low Grade Logs (less than X):** Heart rot but >50% sound. Are considered avoidable. Billable at a low-grade rate.

**Standing Trees:** Trees left within the cutting authority that are not identified as leave trees are subject to waste penalties.

10 cm thickness for Non-Cedar slabs left behind are subject to waste penalties.

Heavily Fractured Cedar Slabs – Can be difficult to grade and assess. Frequently considered normal breakage and not scaled or tallied.

**Machinery:** High stumps left behind by mechanical harvesting that could have been avoided by hand falling is considered avoidable waste.

Bucking Waste: Chucks less than 3-meter-long with no defects is considered avoidable waste and graded as a J or better.

**Waste Benchmarks:** Volume of avoidable waste that can be left on a harvested area without being subject to a monetary penalty. Benchmark applies to Sawlogs with grades X or better.

(Benchmarks are not applicable to Avoidable Y Grade Logs). Maturity and Harvest systems are considered.

Waste assessments only apply to scale based cutting authorities. (Stumpage is already paid on the full volume for Cruise Based CPs)

Waste assessments apply to all cutblocks (in a Scale based CP) as soon as the first stick is felled in any cutblock.

Waste Measurements were required in BC since the 1960s.

**Zero Waste Policy:** in effect from 1991 to 1998. All “useable” logs were removed, and Government could issue a re log order.

**Waste Benchmarks:** established in 1999. Allows for certain volume to be left without monetary penalty. Also recognized the importance of maintaining some Coarse Woody Debris on site.

**Take or Pay Policy:** Fully implemented in 2004. Licensees could extract logs and pay stumpage on logs of their choice. Waste would be paid on the remaining timber.

**Fibre Recovery Zones:** Established in April 2019 W&R Manual.

In 2019, Government announced forestry policy changed that would increase processing of BC logs on the coast and reduce waste by redirecting it to BC pulp and paper mills.

#### **5 Main Goals:**

- Rebuilding solid wood and secondary industries to ensure more of our logs and fibre are processed in BC. (Goals to achieve #1 Lower benchmark levels for allowable avoidable waste #2 Coastal Fibre Recovery Zone was established #3 Stumpage penalties within the FRZ will be increased from \$0.25 for avoidable Low-grade Logs to \$2.00/m<sup>3</sup> while other higher value sawlog grades would have triple stumpage penalties applied)
- Improving harvest performance to ensure more fibre is available for domestic mills, including the pulp and paper sector.
- Fostering stronger business-to-business relationships between BC Timber Sales, major licensees and First Nations.
- Maintaining a credible auction system by continuing to ensure that competitive forces prevail.
- Restoring public confidence and improving the social contract of forestry.

Kevin brought to attention a new partnership between Atli Chip Plant that is primarily owned by 'Namgis First Nations who have partnered with Wahkash Contracting.

Approved authorization in place for TFL 6 & TFL 37. CRHS allows for the direct hauling of low-grade pulp material to be hauled directly to Beaver Cove. Pre-Determined Strata have been established and requires no scaling or sampling plans.

- Dry HemBal Pulp Strata - > 50% HemBal Pulp
- Dry Cypress & Cedar Pulp - >50% Cy & Ce Pulp & >50% X, Y, Z Grade
- Mixed Species Log Salvage - >50% X, Y & Z Grade
- Mixed Species & Small Piece Size - >75% X, Y & Z Grade

## 5.0 2020 INDICATOR RESULTS (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

- 6 Targets are covered by other indicators
- 44 targets met
- 6 variance targets met
- 9 Target/Variance NOT met

### Indicator 2.1.1 Target 1 (Reforestation Success)

Year	NSR Area (ha)	5 Year Avg. Harvest Area	Average time to Reforest (Yrs)	Variance from Target (Yrs)
2020	2,147	1,555	1.4	2.6

### Indicator 2.1.1 Target 2 (Reforestation Success)

Year	FG Area Expiring (ha)	FG Commitments met (ha)	% NAR meeting FG Commitment	Variance from Target (%)
2020	2,391	2,391	100%	0%

### Indicator 5.2.6 (New Hires that are Local)

2020 Results: The target was met in 2020. All qualified local applicants (14) to WFP hourly positions (21) on the DFA were hired.

## 6.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

Jon asked the group for any required changes. No comments were made. Reviewed and Adopted by VINWAG June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## 7.0 DISCUSSION ON VINWAG MEMBERSHIP (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

The following sectors currently do not have a representative:

- Small Contractors
- Energy
- Fish and Wildlife
- Aquaculture
- Large Contractor
- General Public

Jon reviewed open sectors and asked meeting attendees for recommendations. 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.

## 8.0 REVIEW OF 2021 EXTERNAL AUDIT RESULTS (Will Sloan, WFP)

Results of audit was a pass and recommended for re-registration. Identified a few Non-Conformances and opportunity for improvement. Auditors created a public summary report; will be posted on Corporate and public advisory websites.

### RESULTS OF AUDIT

- Road maintenance inspection program
  - Roads not behind inspected on schedule. Roads being marked for every 3 years in system but not being inspected.
- Suggestion to consider expanding use of drones to all operations.
- Mid Island - focus on public advisory groups and proper engagement.
- Wind firming – Conduct a study to verify the effectiveness of this process
- Coarse woody debris and pile burning – leaving enough material for habitat and meeting requirements for fire hazard abatement.
- Improved tracking on First Nations engagement.
- Port Alberni public advisory group was given good management practice. Virtual participation has improved attendance.
- Good understanding and training for identifying CMT and Kast features.

Stillwater Forest Operation and North Island Operation (TFL 6) are on the list for 2022 for two audit days primarily focused on the field next year. Invitation generally extended to PAG members to participate in field reviews or interviews.

## 9.0 NEXT MEETING (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

**When:** September 09, 2021

**Where:** Virtual Meeting

Jonathan reviewed next meeting date and possible locations for a field trip. Suggestion of a visit to the Rupert Arm Causeway site. Derek suggested seeing a feller buncher working on steep slopes. Jessica suggested tree topping. Jon will be putting together an itinerary and sending out a meeting invite closer to the date.