

**VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH WOODLANDS ADVISORY GROUP
(VINWAG)
Western Forest Products Inc.
Community Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting October 24th, 2013**

Attendance:

Jeff Houle, Small Contractors	Lisa Lenarduzzi, Small Contractors
Jon Flintoft, WFP	Fred Robertson, Education
Dave Trebett, Tourism and Recreation	Ian Burdikin, WFP
Steve Lacasse, Environment	Gaby Wickstrom, Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce
Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public	Dave Wall, Karst
Ione Brown, NICFLP	Ray Harper, Labour

Presenter: Mike Davis, WFP

Regrets: Patrick Donaghy, Local Government, Rachel Dalton, Pat English, Local Government, Dale Dorward, Small Business, Ben Trerise, Observer, Paula Galloway, Aquaculture

Observers: Roger Briscoe, Production Superintendent, WFP, Kathleen Janz, WFP

Advisors: Paul Barolet, MOFLNRO

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 in 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 minutes and action items from two previous meetings, hear a presentation by Mike Davis on the current development of the TFL 39 Management Plan and the implications of the proposed transfer of Blk 4 from TFL 39 to TFL 6, review the draft 2014 meeting schedule, review open membership positions and sectors specifically fish and wildlife, energy and large contractors, report on efforts to engage youth in VINWAG, continue a discussion of SFMP indicators and targets and confirm the date of the next meeting.

Annemarie invited everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the presenter, and new observers who were attending the meeting.

2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Annemarie asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the June 27th and September 12th meetings 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 6 new action items developed during the course of this meeting. Action items that were completed were dropped from the list and revised indicators were retained as modified.

ACTION ITEMS					
#	Item	Responsibility	Initiation Date	Target Date	Completion Date
69	Ask MOFLNRO appraisal staff to provide a presentation on how stumpage and royalties are calculated and used	Jon Flintoft	October 14, 2010	November 28, 2013	
106	Carry over old Indicator 38, number of new hires as a locally developed indicator and make the target a reporting out initially	Jon Flintoft	September 22, 2011	Next SFMP Update	
124	Draft new target for volume of wood sold locally, for Indicator 6.3.1 that connects requests with volume	Jon Flintoft	June 14, 2012	Next Annual Report	
137	Continue to develop an appropriate target for Indicator 5.2.3, level of employment	Jon Flintoft	April 11, 2013	Next Annual Report	
138	Find a way to footnote ongoing changes to the Terms of Reference	Annemarie Koch	April 11, 2013	Next update to Terms of Reference	
139	Obtain wall maps showing operating areas on the DFA that can be reviewed by VINWAG members prior to harvesting	Jon Flintoft	April 11, 2013	November 28, 2013	
140	Follow up on engaging youth in SFMP	Fred Robertson/Jon Flintoft/A. Koch	June 27, 2013	Ongoing, in 2014	
144	Provide more space for the meeting venue	Jon Flintoft	June 27, 2013	November 28, 2013	
145	Provide a more comprehensive picture of harvesting plans of all tenure holders operating within the DFA area	Paul Barolet	October 24, 2013	November 28, 2013	
146	Post Mike Davis' presentation on the PAG website	Jon Flintoft	October 24, 2013	With distribution of October 24 meeting minutes	
147	Confirm stumpage and royalties presentation on November 28	Jon Flintoft	October 24, 2013	November 28, 2013	
148	Look into presenters on climate change	Steve Lacasse	October 24, 2013	Sometime in 2014	
149	Look into presenters to address WFP's succession plans and strategies for addressing employment needs in future	Jon Flintoft	October 24, 2013	Sometime in 2014	
150	Ask Matt Mercer to represent large contractors and Joli White to be an alternate for the tourism section	Annemarie Koch	October 24, 2013	November 28, 2013	

Annemarie noted that action items 119 and 130 would be discussed later in the meeting under agenda item 5. She noted that Jon would address action item 139. She noted that action items 140, 142 and 143 would be covered during the course of the meeting, and that the rest of the action items were ongoing, and added that, unless members of VINWAG wished to discuss any of these items, and unless there were any comments or changes, she would ask members to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting.

Jon provided a digital map of operating areas in the DFA and quickly reviewed some areas that might be of interest to VINWAG members.

Ray asked about the cutblock planned near the Marble River bridge. Jon noted that most of the timber near the road would be removed for safety reasons. He pointed out that viewscape concerns were thought to be limited because of the terrain. Ray asked about windthrow into the river and Jon noted that none was anticipated because of the buffer area and the topping of trees along the riparian area.

Tom asked about the Devil's Bath area. It was noted that WFP had no harvesting plans in this area in 2014, nor did the community forest holders.

Dave asked about the Vanishing River area. Jon noted the recreation site that was there had been closed due to safety concerns created by damage from a previous storm. Jon noted that a flood in 2010 has killed a number of balsam trees in the area.

Jon noted there was no harvesting planned around the Reappearing River. He noted that a storm had damaged much of the access in that area. Dave Wall noted there were a few major blowdowns that had to be removed before access could be developed in a meaningful way.

It was agreed that Jon would get larger scale wall maps of the proposed harvesting areas plotted for members to review during dinner time and leave opportunity at the beginning of the meeting on a regular basis to discuss any areas of concern. Jon asked if members wanted any other details plotted on the maps. Tom noted that it would be useful for the group to have a more comprehensive view of what is happening on other tenures in the area, including BCTS harvest areas, for example. It was noted that members could refer to iMap (<http://webmaps.gov.bc.ca/imfx/imf.jsp?site=imapbc>) for this kind of global information.

It was agreed to ask Paul to look into ways that VINWAG members could have a more comprehensive picture of all of the harvesting plans in the area, including those of BCTS, the North Island Community Forest Limited Partnership and any other tenures within the area.

Fred noted his support for Tom's suggestion that a more comprehensive picture of harvesting plans be accessible to members so that their input on sustainable forest management in the DFA was more meaningful.

The minutes were accepted as circulated.

3.0 TFL 39 MANAGEMENT PLAN AND IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED TRANSFER OF BLOCK 4 FROM TFL 39 TO TFL 6 : MIKE DAVIS, WFP

Annemarie introduced the speaker and reminded VINWAG members that they had previously asked for a presentation on the TFL 39 Management Plan. She added that the speaker would also be addressing questions previously posed by VINWAG regarding the implications of the transfer of Block 4 from TFL 39 to TFL 6.

Mike reviewed the process of developing the plan, including the AAC determination process and the review of WFP's TSA information package (IP). He noted that once the IP is accepted the timber supply analysis is done, including a base case scenario, sensitivity analyses, preparation of the management plan and TSA review, consultation and information sharing, followed by acceptance of the TSA, submission of the management plan and, finally, determination of the AAC.

Mike noted that the management plan was currently under final stages of review.

Mike reviewed the TFL management plan content requirements, including a description of the land base, history of licence holders, list of consolidations and subdivisions, a summary of boundary changes over 200 hectares and planning documents used to guide management of the TFL (such as SFMP's). Other mandatory content includes a summary of the public review process.

Mike reviewed the four major determinants of timber supply, including area available for management, current volume and estimated forest growth.

Mike reviewed changes to TFL 39 since management plan #8, including a 48.5% reduction in size due to factors such as the transfer/sale of lands in Haida Gwaii.

Mike reviewed changes in Block 4 in TFL 39, including deletions of private land, community forest and BCTS areas.

Tom asked whether there were any additional withdrawals anticipated and Mike said no.

Mike reviewed the netdowns in Block 4 to the timber harvesting land base, including non-productive forest, existing roads, and then riparian areas, wildlife habitat areas and old growth management.

Mike pointed to additional netdown factors, including stand level retention requirements and future roads.

Mike reviewed the deletions to Block 4 using a map of the area.

Mike reviewed some of the constraints within the timber harvesting land base, including visual quality objectives (VQO's), adjacency, landscape level biodiversity, minimum harvest criteria and heli-log contributions.

Mike reviewed the growth and yield data for the management plan. He explained how analysis units are used, based on biogeoclimatic zones, site index, age class and leading species. He reviewed the assumptions used to predict growth and yield and the effects of shading due to variable retention practices.

Mike reviewed the base case for Block 4 and noted that the original model called for a 24% drop in cut. He noted that it had been 12 years since the AAC had been reviewed; this represents at least 2 potential adjustments. He pointed to the addition of reserves in Block 4 and other factors, including a more conservative minimum harvest age, which contributed to AAC reduction.

He noted that cut levels of today might be sustained, on this basis, 100 years from now.

Mike reviewed the mix of timber age classes over the next several decades in the management plan.

Mike briefly discussed the sensitivity analyses that are done, eg effect of changing volumes, using different estimates of growth rates, assuming no heli volume constraint.

Tom asked about other scenarios, eg worst case scenarios, as a means of planning for the future. Tom asked about climate change analyses. Mike noted there was nothing in the plan to reflect climate change. Jon noted that there were considerations for climate change at the stand level (i.e. species selection).

Paul noted that the Chief Forester looks at such sensitivities in the analysis.

Mike noted that two AAC's were currently proposed, one based on a heli partition which would allow more harvesting in the short run.

Mike noted the recommended AAC was 13.5% less than the current AAC. He pointed out that the recommendation is higher than the base case to provide additional opportunities for harvesting higher

cost non-conventional operable areas in the strong markets forecast for the coming years. Final submission will likely only request a partition for Block 4 to facilitate transfer to TFL 6.

Mike noted that First Nations referrals were yet to come in on the plan, and that, following submission of the management plan documents, WFP would meet with the decision maker. He noted that once the AAC was determined, then Block 4 would be deleted from TFL 39 and transferred to TFL 6.

Mike reviewed reasons for the transfer of Block 4 to TFL 6, including possible stumpage savings, more blending opportunities and help with the timber supply pinch in Block 4.

Mike reviewed some of the impacts of the transfer, including added volume for TFL 6, and recalculation of contractors' percentage of the work, which would remain much the same.

Tom asked about the impacts of socioeconomic considerations on the AAC reduction proposed. Mike noted that acceptable reductions in this regard were about 1% per year.

Fred asked what the employment impact is of the reduced AAC. Jon noted this was tough to determine at this stage. He added that WFP was looking for external sources of fibre to harvest and to process in order to mitigate against employment losses due to volume reductions, eg by bidding on harvesting BCTS areas and community forests.

There was a discussion of cut controls in relation to markets.

Annemarie thanked Mike for his presentation and advised VINWAG members that his presentation would be posted as a pdf on the public advisory group website.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED 2014 MEETING SCHEDULE: JON FLINTOFT & ANNEMARIE KOCH

Annemarie and Jon reviewed the draft meeting schedule with VINWAG members, noting that the choice of presenters was based on previous requests from VINWAG members, either at earlier meetings or during the annual field tour.

Annemarie noted that the speaker addressing the role of coarse woody debris might help with the development of a revised target related to CWD. She asked for comments on the draft schedule and suggestions for additional topics and speakers, in the event that there were cancellations.

Tom asked to confirm that there would be someone presenting on stumpage and royalty calculations and uses at the November 28th meeting. Jon will follow up with Darren Rowsell on the stumpage and royalties presentation on November 28th to confirm that this goes ahead.

Steve asked about planning for climate change. He agreed to look into possible presenters on this topic.

Tom suggested having someone come in to talk about WFP's plans for succession and training to fill future employment needs in the forest industry. Jon noted he had a few ideas to address this topic.

5.0 REVIEW OF OPEN MEMBERSHIP SECTORS: JON FLINTOFT, WFP AND ANNEMARIE KOCH

Annemarie noted that there were currently three vacancies on VINWAG, namely the fish and wildlife, energy and large contractors sectors.

She noted that Ben Trerise had expressed an interest in representing fish and wildlife interests for VINWAG, but that he could not attend this meeting and would try to attend the November 28th meeting. She added that Dale Dorward had indicated that he would see if Brian Arseneault could attend the November 28th meeting to represent the energy sector. Lone confirmed that Brian intended to attend the November meeting. Annemarie noted that Vadim Stavrakov had stepped down from representing large

contractors because he had taken a job with WFP, and asked if members could suggest another representative for large contractors.

It was suggested that Matt Mercer of LeMare Lake Contracting be asked. Ione offered to provide contact information.

Dave asked about a tourism alternate for him and it was suggested that Joli White be contacted.

There was a discussion of the need to provide additional space for the growing representation on VINWAG. Jon offered to try and work something out within the marshalling office before seeking outside options.

6.0 REPORT ON EFFORTS TO ENGAGE YOUTH IN VINWAG: FRED ROBERTSON, VINWAG

Fred pointed to the changes that were taking place in the economy and how this was reflected in the changing interests in youth in occupations like forestry. He pointed to WFP's logger training program out of Woss as one of the ways that industry was attempting to address labour needs in future.

He noted that he had worked with Annemarie to find ways to engage youth through the Woss training program, North Island College and the two high schools on the North Island.

Fred noted that it was becoming increasingly apparent to him that he was not representing youth on VINWAG, and explained that he had made arrangements with NISS principal Jay Dixon for him and Annemarie to meet with the NISS Field Studies 12 class on October 3 to look at ways that youth might become engaged in the process. Fred noted that he had provided the class with some background on the public advisory process under CSA certification and that he and Annemarie had subsequently asked the students about their knowledge of and thoughts on sustainable forest management practices and forestry issues generally on the North Island.

Annemarie summarized the following outcomes from the meeting with NISS students:

1. A request from two of the students to participate in the October 24th 2013 VINWAG meeting, to get an idea of what the group does (unfortunately, the students were unable to attend this meeting);
2. A request from the class to have a presentation on sustainable forest management practices on the North Island;
3. A request from the class to have a presentation on the wood flow to and from northern Vancouver Island.

Gaby noted that it would be useful to invite representatives of youth to engage in the discussion of sustainable forest management, as well as introduce them to employment opportunities in the industry.

Gaby volunteered to bring the students who were interested in attending to the November meeting.

It was suggested that some of the VINWAG speakers be invited to present at the schools as well. Fred suggested that it might also be useful to bring a representative from the college to provide a perspective.

Ray suggested a forestry tour for the students. It was noted that WFP and a number of forestry organizations participate heavily in National Forestry Week, providing forest tours to several hundred elementary school students. Jon noted that WFP has trained summer students and participated in career fairs. Jon noted that WFP recently had career prep students from NISS who learned about forest engineering and GIS work. Jon added that, for example, one of their engineers was lined up to talk to PHSS students in a few weeks.

Steve noted that one of the challenges is that the youth representatives wouldn't be long term. Fred acknowledged that it would be difficult to get some of the younger people to come to this group, so we would have to do the outreach to them in the field. It was agreed to continue to look at various ways to engage youth more in the development of sustainable forest management in the DFA.

7.0 ONGOING DISCUSSION OF SFMP INDICATORS AND TARGETS: JON FLINTOFT, WFP

Jon noted that he would be addressing indicators as the SFMP was updated throughout 2014. Annemarie pointed to some of the indicators and targets that were specifically noted under the action items, including prior indicator 38 and a new target for volume of wood sold locally, associated with indicator 6.3.1

8.0 NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, November 28th, as per the proposed schedule of meetings confirmed by the membership. Annemarie noted that the proposed topic was appraisals and establishment and uses of stumpage and royalty rates, related to Indicator 5.1.1.

Annemarie and Jon thanked everyone for coming.

When:	NOVEMBER 28, 2013
Dinner:	6:30 p.m.
Meeting:	7:00 p.m.