

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

Western Forest Products Inc.

Community Advisory Group

Minutes of Meeting Held September 9, 2021

Attendance:

Vince Case (Local Suppliers)

Natalie Stewart (Recreation and Tourism)

Natasha Dickinson (Karst)

Steve Lacasse (Environment)

Fred Robertson (Local Government – District of Port Hardy)

Presenter(s): Roger Briscoe (WFP, Port McNeill), Paul Barolet (North Island Central Coast Resource District), Brian Carson (Consultant)

Regrets: Patrick Donaghy, Annemarie Koch, Derek Koel, John Tidbury

Observer(s): Michael Peterson (WFP, Port McNeill)

Advisors:

Chairperson and Facilitator: Jonathan Flintoft (WFP, Port McNeill),

Minutes taken by Kellie Dukes (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. One addition was made; to include discussion on the October 13th All-PAG meeting. Jon moved onto reviewing minutes from last meeting, no concerns were raised.

2.0 APPROVE MEETING MINUTES AND REVIEW/UPDATE ACTION ITEMS FROM JUNE 24, 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 2022 | Deferred to 2022 due to COVID-19 |
| 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 | |

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|-----|--|------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| 286 | <i>Send out proposed revisions to Indicators prior to meetings</i> | <i>Jon</i> | October 22, 2020 | Upcoming meetings | Ongoing |
| 290 | <i>Look into question on wording of Indicator 1.1.4</i> | <i>Jon</i> | February 25, 2021 | November 25, 2021 | In progress |
| 291 | <i>Review and discuss VINWAG membership</i> | <i>Jon</i> | February 25, 2021 | April 22, 2021 | Discussed during June 24th and September 9th VINWAG meetings - Completed |
| 293 | <i>Revise the wording of Indicator 3.1.1</i> | <i>Jon</i> | April 22, 2021 | November 25, 2021 | In progress |
| 294 | <i>Revise the wording of Indicator 5.2.1</i> | <i>Jon</i> | April 22, 2021 | November 25, 2021 | In progress |

Updated status for action item #248. Completed action item #291. No action items came out 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. Break through early this summer Archeologist work being done Slowing getting road building permits on Quatsino side.

Holberg has had some road building commence and Jeune Landing operation has 1 grapple yarder working on the company crew and 1 loader also. Lemare Lake Logging has an active site in Jeune Landing. Quatsino dryland has a day or two of work every 10 days due to stockpiling until sufficient amount to operate.

Port McNeill Operation able to continue operating. Able to find work for all employees who wanted work from Quatsino Operation. These employees will be able to go back to their operation once things resume.

Markets are strong even though they dropped from all time high. Market demand for fibre still high which is promising. Outlook for the rest of this year and 2022 still positive.

Jeune Landing, Holberg, Quatsino Dryland Sort are now referred to as Quatsino Sound Forest Operation.

4.0 PRESENTATION ON WATER QUALITY PROTOCOL Paul Barolet (North Island Central Coast Natural Resource District Office), Brian Carson (Consultant)

The following is a summary of Paul and Brian's presentation.

Water Quality: Refers to reducing forestry generated water quality impacts to preserve high quality fish habitat and domestic drinking water.

Turbidity: Is caused by fine sediment suspended in water. Landscape's propensity to generate fine sediment is variable depending on amount of precipitation and of what the earth is comprised.

Assessments: Are done looking at places where disturbance has a chance of bringing surface water to a stream. Also, where culverts in roads can carry sediment from the road to the stream.

Disturbance: The greater the disturbance at the stream crossing and the greater the site's connection to the stream, the greater the water quality impact of the site.

Evaluation

- Defining mini-catchment that drains sample site by identifying disturbed ground that drains towards stream.
- Slope below road must also be evaluated to determine whether incision or failure has occurred
- Estimating the depth of surface erosion expected on road surfaces
 - Considerations
 - Degree of use
 - Slope
 - Quality of surfacing materials
- Contributing disturbed forest floor, ditches, cutbanks and soil areas
- Degree of connectivity between road and stream must be established
- Establish reasonable (and management oriented) thresholds for gauging magnitude of water quality impacts.

Cumulative Effects on Watershed – Sample a cross section of sites within the watershed that represent the range of hydrological/sediment generating disturbance found.

Management – Good management of Location of Road, Design of Road/Cutblock and Construction of Road/Harvesting of Cutblock can stop about 60% of sedimentation that road systems produce in streams. Maintaining graded berms and well graded roads with berms directing the water away from streams will also reduce sedimentation into streams.

Layout Considerations

- Avoid unstable slopes
- Minimize stream crossings
- Avoid paralleling road within 20 m of stream

Design

- Minimize width of roads
- Reduce height and slope of cutbanks
- Increase density of culverts
- Provide armouring for erosive culvert outlets
- Raise bridge deck above road grade

Construction – Evaluate unforeseen erosion and sediment pathways on newly built road and mitigate while machinery still on site.

Maintenance of Roads

- Recognize how road use and maintenance influence water and sediment movement
 - Keep roads well graded
 - Grader berms directing road surface water away from streams

Deactivation of Roads

- Ensure road fill and drainage ways are stable and no longer transporting any sediment to streams

FREP Water Quality Evaluation Questions

- Are forest practices effective in protecting water quality?
- Are forest and range practices increasing risk of drinking water health hazards?

Objectives set by government for water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity within riparian areas

- This objective is without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests, to conserve, at the landscape level, the water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat and biodiversity associated with those riparian areas.
- There are currently no objectives for the fisheries sensitive watersheds in the North Island Central Coast Natural Resource District

Water Quality Sampling Options

- FREP water quality effectiveness evaluation protocol evaluates the propensity of forestry disturbed sites to generate and transport fine sediment to natural water bodies, which include fish streams and (or) drinking water sources
- Random sampling across the entire forest district. Target monitoring is possible, in addition to stratified random sampling.
- License holders/BCTS can adopt water quality monitoring using this protocol as a feedback tool
- WFP TFL 6 has joined DNI staff on training and mentoring sessions and participated in field evaluations and reviews

FREP Dashboard available online for everyone to promote transparency

Look to moderate and high sites for opportunities to reduce the Water Quality rating to a lower category

- Often berms are a great initial focus point because it can be an inexpensive fix for a potentially serious problem
- If a grader operator understands exactly what berms do, they can use berms where useful, get rid of them where they are not useful in directing water run-off
- Create occasional strategically placed kick outs to send water somewhere it cannot reach a stream (i.e., onto the forest floor)
- Keep in mind the greater the area (m² to ha) being drained, the more power the water has and the further the sediment can be carried. A reduction in the area being drained from any site has the potential to reduce the rating which is beneficial to the water and fish resources.
- Key Recommendation: Machine operator training for road maintenance with respect to berms, kick-outs, fine sediment delivery for water quality management (1 – 2-day refresher course each year)

5.0 REVIEW OF ANNUAL PARTICIPATION SATISFACTION SURVEY (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

- Emailing the 2021 Participation Satisfaction Survey to primary members of the group and asking for a response to fill out and return in WORD format
- Electronically filled out and returned the preferred method of response
 - If unable to do so, print out and fill in and return it to the office
- **DEADLINE:** December 3, 2021

6.0 VINWAG MEMBERSHIP (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

6 sectors were identified at last meeting which did not have representatives:

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

Group was asked for possible representatives for these sectors. Have not had any responses back.

Request for possible representative for these sectors reiterated. Please have them contact Jonathan Flintoft at the Port McNeill WFP office.

REMINDER: When invitations are sent out please RSVP Jonathan if you can attend or not. If unable to attend, contact your alternate for your sector to see if they can attend and have them RSVP.

7.0 FIELD TRIP CANCELLED (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

The field trip for September 10, 2021 is cancelled due to COVID numbers rising. Will consider holding the field trip after the April 2022 meeting.

8.0 ALL PAG MEETING (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

Virtual meeting through Microsoft TEAMS

- **October 13, 2021**
 - 5:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

9.0 NEXT VINWAG MEETING (Jonathan Flintoft, WFP)

When: November 25, 2021

Where: Virtual Meeting

Reviewed next meeting date and requested presentation topic for next meeting. Jon will be putting together an agenda and sending out a meeting invite closer to the date which will include All PAG Meeting review, review of 2022 VINWAG Meetings and Annual Participation Satisfaction Survey discussion.