

**VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH WOODLANDS ADVISORY GROUP  
(VINWAG)  
Western Forest Products Inc.  
Community Advisory Group  
Minutes of Meeting June 23, 2011**

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**Attendance:**

Jeff Houle, Small Contractors	Dave Trebett, Tourism
Jon Flintoft, WFP	Dale Dorward, Small Business
Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public	Mac Willing, Fish and Wildlife
Ray Harper, Labour	Steve Lacasse, Environment
Fred Robertson, Youth and Education	Patrick Donaghy, Local Government Alternate
Roland Emery, Youth and Education Alternate	

**Presenter:** Kevin Robinson, Archipelago Maritime Heritage

**Regrets:** Miles Trevor, Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce, Vadim Stavrov, Large Contractors, Bill Dame, Small Contractors, Neil Smith, Local Government

**Observers:** Paul Barolet, MOFLNRO, Linda Philipp, Ed Jackson

**Chairperson and Facilitator:** Annemarie Koch

**Minutes taken by:** Jon Flintoft, 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 the previous meeting, hear a presentation by Kevin Robinson of Archipelago Maritime Heritage (including the mandatory discussion items under Criterion One, namely management and protection of biological resources of cultural heritage significance and management of cultural values and resources), continue discussion of the creation of a new indicator for opportunities for local contractors and suppliers, continue review of the draft 2010 SFMP annual report, discuss the results of the re-certification process in the Stillwater and Port Alberni DFA's, and confirm the date of the next meeting and field trip. Annemarie then invited everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the presenter.

## **2.0 REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS:**

Minutes of last meeting were reviewed.

Annemarie reviewed outstanding action items 44-104 with more immediate timelines with members and the results of the discussion are summarized in the table below, along with the addition of one new action item developed during the course of this meeting. Action items that were completed or changed were dropped from the list.

ACTION ITEMS					
	Item	Responsibility	Initiation Date	Target Date	Completion Date
44	On-going review of discussion items	All Members	May 4, 2009	Ongoing	
69	Ask MOFLNRO appraisal staff to provide a presentation or information on how stumpage and royalties will be calculated in future	Jon Flintoft	October 14, 2010	Fall of 2011	
76	Approach Gord Glover to address Criterion 5 mandatory discussion items	Jon Flintoft	February 24, 2011	Fall of 2011	
84	Provide an update on the status of carbon trading and carbon credits (S. Janzen)	Jon Flintoft	December 2, 2010	Sometime in 2011	
91	Bring the discussion of the purpose of VINWAG forward on a regular basis	Jon Flintoft	February 24, 2011	Ongoing	
97	Add reference to page 106 of SFMP to reflect current practice of responding to member concerns as they arise	Jon Flintoft	April 14, 2011	When SFMP is updated	
101	Draft targets and a general statement of commitment related to an indicator on opportunities for local suppliers	Jon Flintoft	May 26, 2011	September 22, 2011	
102	Bring draft annual report back to VINWAG	Jon Flintoft	May 26, 2011	September 22, 2011	
104	Set up field trip and circulate possible Friday dates for September	Jon Flintoft	May 26, 2011	By September 2011	
105	Establish a target that deals with the 'awareness' of or by WFP of or for local suppliers	Dale Dorward, Steve Lacasse and Jon Flintoft	June 23, 2011	September 22, 2011	

Jon noted that Brian Smith had confirmed a commitment to, wherever possible, purchase locally. He added that he was contacting WFP's purchasing agent and would discuss the development of an inventory of local goods and services under agenda item 4.

Members agreed that the Terms of Reference that had been reviewed at the May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting were fine for now.

Jon asked, in relation to the field trip, what members wished to look at. Steve asked about seeing some hoe-chucking. Jon noted that the meeting was scheduled for September 22 and suggested a Friday date for the field trip, namely September 9 or 16<sup>th</sup>.

The minutes were accepted as circulated.

### **3.0 CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: PRESENTATION BY KEVIN ROBINSON, ARCHIPELAGO MARITIME HERITAGE**

Kevin provided some background on his business, noting he also worked as a sub contractor for a larger firm called Sources. He noted that he provides training in field methods for archaeological assistants on the North Island through his own business.

He noted that he had started early in archaeology and had been practicing now for 35 years. He explained his introduction to culturally modified trees and their significance to First Nations. He added that he had undertaken surveys in areas proposed for mineral development as well as forestry.

Kevin noted that it was First Nations culture that the work was intended to benefit, including the teaching of First Nations students about their cultural traditions and documenting cultural resources, i.e. continuing cultural traditions through understanding how their ancestors used the resources.

Kevin reviewed a map showing the traverses that his team had covered near Nahwitti Lake. He showed a photo of the area that they had looked at and noted that archaeological evidence was most likely to be found in the old growth as CMT's. He noted that the likelihood of finding evidence of a habitation through digging was minimal.

Kevin noted that past and ongoing logging practices were making it more and more difficult to find evidence of previous cultural use of the area. Kevin reviewed some of the techniques used to locate cultural resources. He noted that cultural markings can be found even after logging has taken place, e.g. adze marks on a felled tree.

Kevin noted that the survey work can be quite challenging and he noted that it was useful for people to have training for this purpose. He noted that he had planned to make most of his presentation about field work and not so much about policies and practices of the archaeological branch.

Steve noted that VINWAG members might not even be familiar with what a CMT is and wanted to know what forest companies were looking for in terms of cultural resource management and how they go about this, e.g. through training. Kevin went on to explain what a CMT is, including bark stripping and wood carving, prior to the use of saws.

Kevin noted that there are also modern CMT's, e.g. where modern First Nations have stripped bark.

Dave asked whether he could determine whether a CMT was created by First Nations or created by early European settlers. Kevin noted that there was a possibility that early European settlers would carve a tree, e.g. by creating a springboard notch/cut for cutting a tree down. He noted that the methods and tools used by these earlier settlers were usually quite different from those used by First Nations.

Dave noted he had seen evidence of all kinds of CMT's and he noted it was hard to determine whether they were made by First Nations or early Europeans.

Patrick asked whether there was any variation between the different tribes of First Nations and how they created CMT's. Kevin noted that there were variations but that some methods such as bark stripping were universal. Kevin noted that for example, falling a cedar tree might be done differently between territories or just reflect a different style. He noted it was difficult to differentiate between bands, but that there were regional differences, e.g. rectangular bark stripping is more common in the North.

Linda asked what role historical research and local knowledge has in the study of CMT's. Kevin noted that this information is critical to locating CMT's and their significance.

Linda asked about the provincial database as a source of information on location of cultural resources. Kevin noted that the Provincial Archaeology Branch provides a number of services, including regulation of the Heritage Conservation Act, and maintenance of a database of archaeological sites within the province.

Kevin added that geographic factors are taken into consideration, as they often reflect where settlements, for example, might be located. He added that cedar was critical to the early settlers for shelter and heat, so its presence can be a good indicator of where cultural resources might be found.

There was a discussion of the Golder study that provided an archaeological overview assessment of the area. Kevin referred to the Quatsino Protocol, which is an agreement that ranks areas according to various criteria and designates what level of archaeological assessment might be required prior to harvesting.

Kevin noted that studies are required, prior to development, in order to protect cultural and heritage resources.

Kevin referred to a slide showing a tree with different tool marks on it, and noted it was an aboriginally logged tree. He showed a reference slide which illustrated how planks were removed from a tree by early First Nations. He noted that red cedar was a marvellous tree for splitting and construction using early tools. He stressed how important red cedar had been to the flourishing of west coast native culture, which took off about 5,000 years ago in conjunction with the cedar. He referred to the use of pollen analysis that confirms that red cedar only began to flourish about 5,000 years ago, together with west coast native cultural and social development.

Kevin noted that CMT's began to be noticed and dominate archaeological work in the 1990's. He referred to a study done on Meares Island that pointed to the large number of CMT's and that this led to the recognition of CMT's as valuable archaeological resources.

Patrick asked whether it was easy to track CMT's where cedar is not present. Kevin noted that red cedar is the most common species for CMT's because of its quality and accessibility for early tools. He added that cedar 'heals' after it has been cut, and it lasts longer than many other species.

Kevin noted that balsam bark has medicinal qualities and can be used, lodgepole pine is stripped of bark and used as food. He noted that pitch is harvested from spruce trees, but that these instances of species other than cedar are fewer in frequency as the trees don't tend to survive as long as cedar.

Dave asked about who would have harvested tree products for medicinal purposes. Kevin noted that this is where local knowledge is very helpful, and added that there are gaps in knowledge about these early practices, as a result of changes toward western ways at the turn of the century. He noted that there was a re-awakening of interest in traditional practices in First Nations communities along the coast.

He added that aboriginal logging was likely 'man's work' and the stripping of bark was likely 'women's work', for example. It was noted that cedar was known as the 'tree of life' to First Nations.

Kevin noted that the cultural significance of certain CMT's is huge, in that they can represent a monument to a way of life.

Kevin noted it was important that young First Nations go out and identify these resources in order to help understand and appreciate their heritage.

Kevin referred to a field survey noting the location of a tree with a bark scar and the resulting management recommendations that arise. He noted this type of work is done in advance of harvesting. Dave asked about the difference between whether tool markings have caused scars or whether those scars have been caused naturally, e.g. by a falling tree.

Kevin reviewed how he identifies CMT's, including evidence of tool markings. He noted that not all marked trees are CMT's. He referred to a study done in the Blunden Harbour area showing various features that included the influence of early European settlers versus First Nations' influences.

Patrick asked whether First Nations did any burning to improve berry production, for example. Kevin noted that he had heard of this type of practice, but wasn't familiar with it being done in this area.

Kevin reviewed some work done in a beach area, and a dig that unearthed items such as a ringed spruce root, which was well preserved in brackish water, below the active biological zone. Other tools, including flakes of obsidian have been found. Kevin noted that obsidian can be sourced in mainland mountains, e.g. at Silver Throne.

Kevin reviewed work at a site that unearthed a tooled surface or surface that had been modified, and noted that it turned out to be a canoe with a paddle in it. He pointed to how carefully the surface had been adzed by a very small metal tool.

Kevin noted that CMT's were one of a number of archaeological resources that lead to a better understanding of the past and how people relied on the forest.

Dave asked how old the canoe might be. Kevin noted that the date would be of the actual wood and perhaps not the date of carving or modification. He pointed to other clues that could be used to date the paddle.

Ray asked Kevin if he had talked to Peter Barratt about these resources and noted that he was full of knowledge about First Nation's heritage and cultural resources.

Steve asked whether Kevin had studied marine features like clam gardens.

Kevin noted he was the first archaeologist in B.C. to catalogue clam gardens on the coast. He noted there were clam gardens at Blunden and in the Broughtons. Steve asked whether Kevin's course might cover the various means of identifying clam garden features. Kevin noted that this early form of mariculture was a big part of west coast life and culture.

Mac asked Kevin about any work on areas like Knob Hill. Kevin noted that there was evidence of some mining exploration and pioneer history but very little in the way of First Nations history had been found. He noted that, because of its elevation, Knob Hill might have been a refugium from glaciation and that they were hoping to find some evidence of this on the location, but had not been able to.

#### **4.0 CREATION OF NEW INDICATOR ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS:**

Annemarie reminded members of the background for the need to develop this indicator. It was noted that the new indicators under the CSA Z809-08 SFM standard did not include this as a core indicator, so it had to be carried over as a locally developed indicator.

She noted that this matter had been discussed extensively by VINWAG and that it had been agreed at the last meeting that Jon would bring a draft set of targets for this indicator to consider for the next SFMP.

Jon noted he had taken NWAC's target and noted that he could incorporate it as a target in one of the core indicators, or he could create a stand-alone locally developed indicator.

He added that there were two components to the target, including reporting the local purchases and a second dealing with efforts at creating awareness, e.g. through circulating a general request for services form. Steve noted that the reporting of local purchases would be helpful, but that the awareness of local suppliers of the needs of WFP was also important. Dale noted that he wanted WFP to make suppliers aware of what they needed, not for suppliers to indicate what they have. Jon noted that it would be quite involved for WFP to demonstrate what they need.

Dale noted that there were many goods, including computers that the company might need. He noted that the main thing is to source supplies locally as much as possible.

Ray noted that some of the equipment is highly specialized, but that smaller parts can be sourced locally.

Fred asked whether inventories could be established and communicated to local suppliers.

Patrick asked whether the GL could be used to determine which of the suppliers come from the North Island. Jon noted that this can be done through WFP's accounting system.

Dale noted that the intent was to increase the number of purchases from the North Island. Dale noted that much of the time the local suppliers need to know what the company wants, so that they can have the opportunity to fill the need.

Steve asked whether WFP has a list of things that are generally required by WFP, e.g. environmental monitoring, machine parts, etc.

There was a discussion of how a target could be developed to provide a greater awareness by local contractors and suppliers of what WFP requires in the way of services and supplies.

Tom noted that the issue holding things up seemed to be who the onus was on to provide the information, WFP or the suppliers and local businesses. He suggested a subcommittee should look at this and bring a consensus back on the matter so that a suitable and workable target could be developed.

Roland suggested that an attempt be made to address the awareness issue.

Tom noted that there seemed to be agreement on a target of reporting out the annual purchases and how much was being invested locally, and suggested that this target should perhaps stand while a second target reflecting 'awareness of or by local suppliers' could be developed and presented by a subcommittee to VINWAG for future inclusion in the SFMP.

Dale noted that he would be happy for now with annually measuring the purchases made locally.

It was agreed that Dale and Steve should get together with Jon in the meantime to develop another target that deals with the 'awareness of or by local suppliers' matter.

## **5.0 REVIEW OF DRAFT 2010 SFMP ANNUAL REPORT:**

Jon reviewed the most recent additions to the 2010 SFMP annual report. He reviewed a summary of indicators, including those where the target had not been met and why and what measures were being taken to address this.

Jon noted that natural regeneration target continued to fluctuate from being met and not being met. He noted that the volume of cedar salvage had not been met since 2007. He explained some of the reasons for this. He noted that he was thinking of revising the target to an average of volumes taken over a period of years. Steve asked if this target could be revised as a percentage. Dave noted that the cedar market was cyclical. Roland suggested qualifying the criteria, noting market or other reasons for variance to the target. It was suggested that the target be based on a ten-year average.

Jon reviewed the target for the volume of wood sold locally. He noted this indicator had been moved over to the new plan. He suggested the target for this indicator might need to be looked at.

Fred asked whether there was any tracking of businesses that wanted to purchase wood but weren't able to, and what the reasons are. Steve noted this was the original intent of this indicator.

Jon reviewed the indicator for summer employment and youth opportunities. He noted this indicator had been carried forward to the new SFMP, with a new target.

Jon reviewed the indicators for new hires that are local and full time employees. He noted that the target had not been met. He noted that the 663 FTE target was based on a much different world in terms of the

market, the size of the DFA and technology. Jon suggested an average FTE from, 2006 –2010, at 560, which he felt was more realistic.

It was noted that this might be a more realistic number. Patrick suggested a certain number of employees per volume of wood harvested.

Fred noted that employment is very important and was worth a significant level of discussion because this is one of the main reasons VINWAG sits as a group.

Jon noted that the current target is not achievable under the current circumstances. It was suggested that the number of employees be calculated from the number of employees it takes to cut down a certain volume of wood, e.g. how much volume was cut when the previous target was set.

It was agreed, due to shortness of time, to proceed to the next topic, with the commitment that Jon would bring back the draft SFMP annual report for further discussion

## **6.0 DISCUSSION OF RE-CERTIFICATION OF STILLWATER AND PORT ALBERNI DFA'S:**

Annemarie noted that it might be useful for members of VINWAG to hear the auditor's comments on the Stillwater and Port Alberni re-certifications under CSA Z809-08, to determine if there are any areas where the NVIR SFMP might be improved. She invited Jon to proceed with his presentation.

Jon noted that he was going to review some opportunities for improvement, areas of concern, achievements and trends in the audits.

Jon reviewed the indicator regarding soil quality and quantity, comparing Stillwater's to NVIR's. He noted he was looking at adding another target to this indicator that provides a number that could be reported out, for example.

Jon reviewed the indicator on recreational trails and the auditor's reference to potential for interpretive signage.

He reviewed the auditor's concern for targets being too narrow, e.g. consider using other deletions such as gravel pits, not just PAS, under the forest deletions indicator.

Dave asked whether there could be environmental credit for land put aside for educational or recreational purposes. Jon noted he was not aware of any such credit program.

Dave suggested this might be something that could be used to redress an area of damage, for example. Jon noted that this might currently be done with federal fisheries matters, but not in forestry practice.

Kevin asked about cultural interpretation opportunities.

Jon reviewed the net carbon uptake indicator and noted that the auditors had asked about including the contributions of wildfires within the DFA to net carbon uptake. Jon noted that WFP has no control over wildfires and so does not measure the carbon generated by these events.

Members of VINWAG noted that they did not think that WFP should be responsible for carbon production that was beyond their control. It was noted that there was a movement to managed stands and that these would be sequestering a lot of carbon over time.

It was noted that the impacts of wildfires might be balanced out over time by other factors, such as new and growing forests, after a fire.

Jon reviewed some of the trends from the audit review, including whether targets have been narrowed too much, whether targets are realistic, whether variances are tied to targets and whether definitions are clearly identified.

Jon reviewed some of the positive results, including excellent public outreach, detailed inspections, good implementation of EMS and more clarity in the new plans.

## **7.0 NEXT MEETING:**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, as per the proposed schedule of meetings reviewed by the membership. Annemarie noted that the proposed speaker was Marian Adair of Nature Trust and that she would be addressing Criterion One mandatory discussion item, local and regional protected areas and integrated landscape management.

Annemarie noted that, further to Neil Smith's offer to let members of VINWAG know when International Power was going to be on the North Island, he had advised Jon that the company representatives would be making a presentation to the Board of the Regional District at 4 p.m. on July 19<sup>th</sup> at the Regional District office, and that all VINWAG members were invited to attend.

Jon asked if members wanted a third meeting before the end of the year, and it was agreed that the two meetings were enough for now.

Jon wished everyone a good summer and he and Annemarie thanked everyone for coming.

**When:** September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011  
**Dinner:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Meeting:** 7:00 p.m.