

**VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH WOODLANDS ADVISORY GROUP
(VINWAG)
Western Forest Products Inc.
Community Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting November 24, 2011**

Attendance:

Jeff Houle, Small Contractors	Ray Harper, Labour
Jon Flintoft, WFP	Vadim Stavrakov, Large Contractors
Ian Burdikin, WFP	Steve Lacasse, Environment
Mac Willing, Fish and Game	Dale Dorward, Small Business
Patrick Donaghy, Local Government	Fred Robertson, Youth and Education

Presenter: Ernie Sellentin, Coastal Invasive Plant Committee

Regrets: Miles Trevor, Port McNeill and District Chamber of Commerce, Ian Roberts, Aquaculture, Tom Doak-Dunelly, General Public, Ed Jackson, Observer

Observers: Mike Pitre, WFP, Paul Barolet, MOFLNRO, Ralph Wallas, Linda Philipp

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 Ernie Sellentin of the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee (including one of the mandatory discussion items under Criterion One, namely practices to limit the spread of invasive alien species, and the regulatory prohibitions related to adverse ecological effects and the use of exotic tree species), complete the review of the draft 2010 SFMP annual report, review the results of the internal audit at Holberg, review updates to the SFMP and indicators, discuss and distribute the 2011 VINWAG participant satisfaction survey, have a brief discussion regarding the 'opportunities for local suppliers' indicator, distribute a copy of a Vancouver Sun article to members about the importance of retaining independence in certification systems and confirm the date of the next meeting. 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 44-109 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 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	Sometime in 2012	
76	Approach Gord Glover to address Criterion 5 mandatory discussion items	Jon Flintoft	February 24, 2011	Sometime in 2012	
84	Provide an update on the status of carbon trading and carbon credits (S. Janzen)	Jon Flintoft	December 2, 2010	Sometime in 2012	
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	Next draft of SFMP	
105	Establish a target that deals with the 'awareness' of or by WFP of or for local suppliers	Dale Dorward, Steve Lacasse, Miles Trevor and Jon Flintoft	June 23, 2011	Sometime in 2012	
106	Carry over the number of new hires as a locally developed indicator and make the target a reporting out initially	Jon Flintoft	September 22, 2011	Sometime in 2012	
108	Further investigate a new target for woody debris	Jon Flintoft	September 22, 2011	Next draft of SFMP	
110	Distribute a pdf copy of Ernie Sellentin's presentation	Jon Flintoft	November 24, 2011	Circulate hard copy at next meeting	
111	Review the tracking procedures for Indicator 27	Jon Flintoft	November 24, 2011	February 16, 2012	
112	Review WFP contributions under Indicator 45 to include assistance to Holberg fire dept., stickleback research, Hornsby tractor and other areas for 2011 SFMP	Jon Flintoft	November 24, 2011	Next draft of SFMP	
113	Review and refine locally developed indicators	Jon Flintoft and members of VINWAG	November 24, 2011	February 16, 2012	
114	Distribute participant satisfaction survey to all VINWAG members digitally	Jon Flintoft	November 24, 2011	Circulate with minutes	
115	Respond to participant satisfaction survey	All VINWAG members	November 24, 2011	December 8, 2011	

Annemarie noted that Jon had approached speakers to address action items 69, 76 and 84 in 2012.

The minutes were accepted as circulated.

3.0 INVASIVE PLANTS AND THE DFA: PRESENTATION BY ERNIE SELLENTIN, COASTAL INVASIVE PLANT COMMITTEE

Ernie reviewed some of the invasive species that are found in the North Island region, referring to a number of posters he placed on the walls. He pointed to species like Scotch broom and hawkweed.

He noted that he had been a faller for a number of years and spent many years in the logging industry. He added that he had gone back to school and was now working as a biologist. He noted that he worked for the Forest Service doing invasive plant fieldwork, and that he was now working for the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee (CIPC).

Ernie provided some background on what services the government provides in the way of managing invasive plant species. He reviewed the invasive alien plant program and how the Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) database is maintained and developed by provincial staff. He pointed to the benefits of having a database, including planning and prioritizing treatment of invasive plants. Ernie noted that the government was sending much of the invasive plant species work to non-profits like CIPC.

Ernie referred to funders of the Invasive Plant Council of B.C., including Teresan Gas and the Fraser Basin Council. He noted that this committee was doing much of the work that the government used to do, including regulation, compliance and enforcement, and communications and education.

He noted that the organization includes a finance and fund development committee to help address funding requirements, e.g. for research and treatment. Other committees include a research and development committee. He pointed to policy mechanisms in places like England where species like knotweed on a property are grounds for not receiving a bank loan.

Ernie reviewed the various invasive plant/species working groups, including the CIPC. He reviewed the geographic boundaries and mandate of the CIPC, including education, cross jurisdictional coordination and assistance to land managers in areas such as weed control.

Ernie outlined some of the educational programs offered by CIPC, including workshops on knotweed control. He pointed to some of the CIPC partners, including the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI), BC Parks and MoFLNRO. He discussed approaches to best management practices and outlined some of the field meetings he has had with groups on the North Island.

Ernie referred to some of the mapping work that has been done on Vancouver Island and treatment and removals of species such as Scotch broom from gravel pits (he pointed to his efforts to develop a certification program for weed-free gravel sources).

He noted that he would like to be working with the Regional District of Mount Waddington next year.

Ernie then went on to review invasive species found on Vancouver Island, including butterfly bush. He pointed to how pervasive butterfly bush has become, e.g. in waste piles and gravel pits in places like Texada Island. He noted that non-native species that have left predators and diseases behind tend to be healthier and spread more than native species. He added that invasive species aren't grazed upon as much as native species, and they can also create toxic conditions for native species.

Ernie pointed to how prevalent butterfly bush can become outside of its native environment. He noted that these bushes are rarely used by butterflies and tend to displace native species such as ocean spray, that are food for native bird species.

Ernie reviewed some of the economic damage caused by invasive plants. He noted, for example, that invasive plants are estimated to cost BC's agriculture industry \$50 million annually. He referred to a report

that was done to outline some of the economic costs of invasive plants in B.C. He noted that the North Island has Scotch broom and hawkweed primarily.

Ernie reviewed some of the regional issues associated with invasive plant species including poor forest regeneration, reduced crop yield, reduced property values, reduced recreational access and values, and ongoing costs of control.

Ernie noted that invasive plant species are the second largest threat to biodiversity worldwide. He pointed to the effects of invasive species ousting understory species in the forest. He noted that holly, for example, tends to take over in forests and can supersede salal. He pointed to effects like lost wildlife and fish habitat.

Ernie reviewed an inventory of invasive species in the RDMW. He pointed to some of the people who have done inventory work in the region since 1999, including Linda Wilson, the Forest Service, Mac Willing, Katie Terhune and Ernie Sellentin.

Linda noted that bamboo and knotweed are problematic species in this region. Ernie pointed to problems with Himalayan Balsam in the region as well.

Ernie reviewed the database showing the number of hectares and occurrences of invasive plant species in the region. He pointed to some of the costs and challenges of treating these sites.

Ernie noted that he wouldn't treat bull thistle, but he would recommend getting rid of Himalayan Balsam by hand. He noted that Scotch broom can be killed by pulling it out and planting trees to shade the area. He pointed to chemical treatment options in the region, e.g. for giant knotweed. He referred to possible use of bio control agents. He noted that he would treat oxeye daisy in a site where it was possible to keep a gravel pit totally clear of weeds, like the pit out by Holberg, for example.

Ernie noted that Strategic Forest Management has done some treatment in this area. He noted that hawkweed is very bad on grazing lands, with losses up to 80% of forage areas. He noted that Scotch broom can be treated with herbicides in gravel pits.

Ernie reviewed the challenges of treating Japanese knotweed. He noted that the roots of this plant are extensive and pervasive. He noted that there is quite a bit of giant knotweed down by the ferry terminal. He added that there is a lot of Himalayan knotweed in Winter Harbour. He talked about the differences between the various knotweeds and how treatments differ. Ernie reviewed the distribution of knotweed across B.C.

Ernie reviewed some of the challenges of managing knapweed and pointed to how it had spread up the island with the construction of the highway. He noted that bio control is used to deal with knapweed control.

Ernie noted that tansy ragwort is heading to the North Island. He pointed to bio control methods used for this species. He noted that hawkweed is already growing on roadsides on the North Island. He pointed to the various ways in which hawkweed spreads and multiplies in the environment as a non-native species. He noted that the outbreak of hawkweed seems to have started in Beaver Cove.

He pointed to giant hogweed and how it can grow and spread in environments where cow parsnip grows.

Ernie noted that Filberg brought giant hogweed to his garden and introduced it to Vancouver Island. He noted that the plant is highly phytotoxic and can cause serious skin rashes and burns.

Ernie pointed to the ways in which treatment is carried out for giant hogweed, noting great care must be taken.

He stressed the importance of being careful with yellow flag iris, noting it can get into estuaries and take over areas and displace native vegetation. Ernie provided the web address for CIPC and closed his presentation.

Annemarie thanked Ernie for his presentation and, in view of the shortness of time available for remaining agenda items, asked if members of VINWAG would agree to meet with Ernie after the meeting if they had any questions. Members and the presenter agreed to this.

4.0 FINAL REVIEW OF DRAFT 2010 SFMP ANNUAL REPORT:

Annemarie noted that the 2010 annual report had been under discussion since June and that, at the September VINWAG meeting, Jon got as far as the indicator dealing with the management of cultural resource requests and was discussing the variance for managing high risk edges for blowdown. She noted Jon's intent to complete the review of the annual report with a discussion of a number of remaining indicators.

Jon noted he would start with Indicator 3 and work his way from there to complete the review. He noted, for example, that about 6,500 hectares of OGMA had been added to the Port McNeill operational area, as a result of the approval of the Marble River landscape unit plan.

Steve asked if there is a review after logging of the areas to ensure retention targets are met in the long run and Jon noted that such reviews do take place and that the intent is to ensure that retention targets are met over the long run.

Jon moved on to Indicator 4 and noted that in 2010 there are 6 red listed species in the DFA and in 2006 there were seven. He noted that one bird had been removed from the red listed species. Patrick asked whether it was known for sure that the species are in the area or the model says that these species are in the area. It was noted that as much field checking as possible is carried out over the DFA as possible to confirm the presence of red listed species.

Jon reviewed Indicator 5, trees planted by species, noting, for example, that less balsam had been planted and more fir in 2010. Jon noted that there would be an effort in future to plant more weevil resistant spruce species in the DFA. Jon noted that lodgepole pine was being planted on poor sites.

Jon reviewed Indicator 10. Linda noted it would be interesting to track the number of SP amendments required for stocking standards to get something to the free to grow stage, and suggested this might serve as a target for this indicator. Paul noted that the Forest Practices Board did a report on tracking free to grow requirements in their areas in 2006.

Jon reviewed Indicator 11, noting that there had been lower harvesting in 2009 and 2010. He noted that he felt by 2011 the number would bump up again.

Jon reviewed Indicator 15, noting that seed orchard seedlings have genetic improvements and are generally more resistant to disease and faster growing. He noted the target had been met on the DFA.

Jon reviewed Indicator 16, noting the target to fertilize all cedar salal sites was met.

Jon reviewed Indicator 18, forest health risks. He noted that government regulations required that all spruce planted was weevil resistant. He noted that all spruce planted in 2010 was weevil resistant in the high weevil hazard zones.

Jon reviewed Indicator 22, enhanced forestry dollars spent. He noted that the majority of the dollars available through program funding that replaced FIA were slated for aerial fertilization. Dale asked about the relative benefits of spacing and pruning. Jon noted that there had been various viewpoints expressed regarding the relative benefits of these silvicultural treatments, and said that he would address this question in the next SFMP.

Jon reviewed Indicator 27 regarding mandatory training requirements, noting that he couldn't show 100% training but that the variance had been met. He noted that the challenge was to identify what kind of training should be defined as 'mandatory'. Mike noted that culturally modified tree training might only be done once in a while but not every year and noted that it was difficult to say if it was 'mandatory' in that sense.

Linda suggested that the initial rationale for the indicator was to ensure that training for environmental protection and safety take place, and she noted that much of this is standard operating procedure now and is in the EMS program. She noted that, in this context, WFP probably did meet the mandatory training requirements. Jon acknowledged this and added that, at the moment, it was sometimes a challenge for him to track the information on completion of training requirements.

Ray noted he was surprised that the information was not getting through, as the internal training is provided and records are kept. It was noted that the auditors do confirm that all mandatory EMS training takes place.

It was suggested that the tracking procedure be investigated and refined to meet the reporting requirements for this indicator.

Jon reviewed Indicator 29, compliance with cut control. He noted that he was confident the target would be met by the end of the cut control period. He referenced a previous presentation by Mike Davis on the management plan and noted that the AAC would be reduced in TFL 6, for example.

Jon reviewed Indicator 45, dollars and in kind contributions to public projects. He noted that the target had not been met, but the variance was met. He pointed to some of the challenges involved in meeting this target when natural events prohibited the taking of broodstock, for example. Jon noted that Marble didn't collect brood in 2010 because of a late September storm event. He referred to some of the other areas where funding was not expended for various reasons.

Patrick asked if WFP's contributions to the fire department in Holberg are tracked. He noted that these figures should be tracked for 2011. It was agreed to consider this for the 2011 annual report.

Steve noted that it appeared in the report that WFP made money on the salmonid enhancement projects and it should show that the company actually spent the money on salmonid enhancement projects but was reimbursed by DFO, rather than showing the funds as a credit. It was suggested that some explanation of this be given under the discussion of performance. Patrick added that if WFP helps out with the Hornsby tractor recovery (led by the RDMW), they should be credited for it. It was suggested that WFP be given credit where credit was due under this indicator.

Jon reviewed Indicator 28, area withdrawn from forestry land base. He noted that no formal requests were received from communities in 2010 save a request from Grande Portage Resources for a bulk sample removal from the Merry Widow property. Dale asked about the Cape Scott windfarm site. Jon noted that he wasn't sure how much of this was within the DFA and noted that he thought any removals for this project would likely have taken place in 2009.

Patrick asked about the community forest. Jon noted it was still in forestry use and so was not considered a removal from forestry use.

Jon noted WFP sold 8 timber licences in Brooks Bay to a third party in 2010. Patrick asked about the private land sales. Jon noted that he thought most of this was covered off in 2009.

Jon reviewed Indicator 42, forest profitability. Jon noted that for the first time in 4 years the EBIDTA was positive. He noted that 2011 looked like it would be positive as well.

Jon reviewed Indicator 53, noting that WFP had received only one letter and this had been responded to, thereby meeting the target. He added that, in addition to this, WFP attended a Village of Port Alice council meeting to talk about harvesting plans around the community and along the highway. He noted WFP met with Coal Harbour representatives about harvesting plans around the community watershed.

Jon reviewed Indicator 48, First Nations awareness of the CSA SFM process. He noted the target was met in 2010. He explained that a FNIEG meeting and field trip had been held and VINWAG meeting minutes were circulated to all First Nations in the DFA.

Jon reviewed Indicator 9, watershed restoration. He noted that there was no FIA money available for watershed restoration in 2010, but WFP supported two salmonid enhancement operations at Marble River and Cordy Creek and participated in the Cluxewe Watershed Fish Sustainability Roundtable activities. Patrick asked about road deactivation activities in 2000.

Linda asked about the stickleback program and Jon noted that WFP is still providing some support for this research initiative.

Steve asked whether there was a way to reflect WFP's efforts to help with salmonid enhancement activities, even if natural events did not permit the taking of broomstick, for example. Steve noted, for example, that it wasn't for lack of trying on WFP's part that fish production had not taken place at the Marble in 2010. Patrick suggested getting some sort of validation from the SEP facility representatives noting that circumstances did not permit certain activities. Jon noted that the comments section of the report allows an opportunity for this information to be conveyed and noted that he felt this was satisfactory.

Jon noted he had reviewed all the indicators and asked if there were any questions or comments. Members thanked Jon for all his work on the report and Jon thanked the members for reviewing the document and noted he would finish the report and post it on the website as soon as possible.

5.0 REVIEW OF THE RESULTS OF A RECENT INTERNAL AUDIT OF THE HOLBERG FOREST OPERATION: IAN BURDIKIN, WFP

Ian noted that the Holberg operation passed its internal audit with flying colours, which means that all the operations at WFP are now under one certification / registration rather than five. He added that it was now up to every division to keep to the standard and that the word was out that each division needed to do its part to keep the company as a whole up to standard.

6.0 REVIEW OF UPDATES TO SFMP AND INDICATORS

Jon noted that he would like to review all of the locally developed indicators with members before proceeding too much farther with the 2011 SFMP and annual report. He referred to the local supplier indicator, formerly Indicator 44. Steve noted that the sub committee was open to suggestions as to how to create a greater awareness for local suppliers, e.g. a list of supply and service needs, or a website posting ongoing contracts and supplies needed by the company. He pointed to a summary that he had asked Annemarie to prepare, which outlines the history of discussions around this indicator and some possible approaches to developing new targets.

Steve noted he would like to see local people and businesses have the opportunity to bid on jobs or have the opportunity to sell supplies needed by the company at any one time.

Jon noted that there are select invites offered from time to time. Ray noted that contractors do the majority of work in silviculture and engineering now. Linda suggested setting up something like a pre qualification to bid process. She suggested that this could allow contractors to define the types of qualifications that they have and perhaps find out what qualifications they need in order to supply goods or services to WFP. Linda noted that it wouldn't put constraints on WFP but encourage WFP to attempt to spread more wealth, where appropriate, into the local community.

Patrick suggested that, whenever WFP has a project, to advise a list of potential local suppliers or service providers, e.g. by email. Linda suggested that a percentage of jobs that can be put out to tender locally could be an indicator. Jon referenced the Bill 13 requirements. Linda suggested reporting out on the tenders that aren't subject, for example, to Bill 13.

Steve noted that he would like to keep it simple for WFP, i.e. not predetermine that they have to hire local people, but that they give the opportunity to local suppliers and contractors. Dale noted that he would like to see local suppliers and contractors have an information advantage, not a price advantage. He noted he would like to see purchasing agents more aware of local suppliers, and engineering departments more aware of service providers in the region. He suggested that WFP go out to the suppliers, letting them know what they need and what their price points are. Steve agreed that awareness of suppliers needed to

be dealt with differently from awareness of service providers. It was noted that some of the service providers aren't available in this region, e.g. geo-science techs. Dale noted that, if there was enough work, these types of services might develop in the area. Ian noted that many of these services are time sensitive.

Steve noted that the local engineers or foresters need to know about the potential for local service providers to fill a need. Ian noted that this was usually the case, as the local WFP representatives do know about local contractors and will tend to call them first, if they are qualified and available, as they are closer and can respond faster.

Jon asked what the group thought about changing the target for employment on the DFA. He noted that the previous target hadn't been met for a number of years due to technological and economic changes. It was noted that the target might be considered in relation to a percentage of the cut. Steve noted that a five-year average might lead to a very low FTE level, while tying into a percentage of annual cut might be a better way to keep the numbers more consistent over time. Ray noted he felt the numbers were going to flatten out for awhile in any case.

Dale suggested a four to five year cycle with the cut, might help to generate a reasonable target. Dale asked if the FTE's include contractors and Jon noted they do.

It was suggested to try taking an average over a five year cut period to establish a reasonable target for FTE's. Steve noted that the goal of the indicator was to maintain employment and community stability and reiterated his desire to see the target related to cut levels.

There was a discussion of what should be involved in the identification of what constitutes an FTE.

It was agreed to carry on discussion of this target and the target for local suppliers at the February meeting and to give more time for the discussion at that meeting early in the 2012.

7.0 REVIEW AND DISTRIBUTION OF 2011 PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION SURVEY

It was noted that the participant satisfaction survey had been distributed to members with the agenda package. Annemarie noted that it was a requirement of the Terms of Reference that members fill out a participant satisfaction survey annually. Members agreed to return the survey to Jon by December 8. It was also agreed that Jon should distribute the survey digitally so that members could respond by either FAX or email. Annemarie stressed that it was important to provide frank responses to the survey and asked members if they had any hesitation sending the responses directly to Jon. Members indicated that they had no difficulty with this and it was agreed that they proceed in this way.

8.0 NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, February 23rd, 2012, as per the proposed schedule of meetings reviewed by the membership. Annemarie reiterated that the proposed speakers were Mac Willing, Jane Hutton and, hopefully, Ralph Wallas and that they would be addressing Criterion One mandatory discussion item, methods for identifying sites with special biological and cultural significance. She asked Ralph Wallas if he would be willing to make a presentation on the identification of First Nations' cultural resources and Ralph suggested approaching him about this closer to the meeting date.

Jon and Annemarie thanked everyone for coming.

When: FEBRUARY 23rd, 2012
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.