

West Island Woodlands Advisory Group – Western Forest Products

Held at the ACRD Boardroom, Port Alberni

Final Minutes – June 13, 2013

Advisory Group Members

✓ R	Harold Carlson Barbra Baker (alt)	Forest Recreation	✓	Bill Coates	Logging and Roads Contractor
✓ ✓	Rick Avis Judy Carlson (alt)	Naturalists	✓	Darryl Slater Rhonda Morris	Forests, Lands Natural Resources Operations
✓	Sheena Falconer	Watershed/Fisheries West Coast Aquatic	✓	Jim Creighton Neil Malbon	Small Business/Tourism
✓ ✓	John Jack Lucas Banton (alt)	A.C. Regional District	✓ ✓	John Smith Brigitte Arndt (alt)	AV Hill Climbers AV Hill Climbers (alt)
R	Darlene Clark Bob Cerenza (alt)	Alberni Fish and Game	✓	Dan Washington Jack McLeman (alt)	City of Port Alberni
✓	John McIntosh	Parks Canada	R	Jane Morden Mike Stini (alt)	Environment
✓ ✓	Jane Bremner John Bremner	Bamfield Road Safety Association	✓	Keith Hunter	Multiple Goods & Services

✓ = attended R=regrets blank=did not attend V=vacant seat

Resources Present:

Western Forest Products (WFP) Port Alberni Forest Operations (PAFO)

Erin Badesso – PAFO WFP, Forester

Justin Kumagai – PAFO WFP, Resident Engineer

Rhonda Morris – Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations

Jeff Shatford – Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations

Guests:

Jane Cameron

Libby Avis

Jennifer Dyson – Facilitator

Rob Powelson – Recording Secretary

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order @ 5:35pm, introductions were made around the table.

Safety Orientation

Jennifer reviewed safety procedures.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the WFP WIWAG March 14, 2013 meeting approved and will be posted to

website.

Action Item #1: JD to post minutes to website

WFP Update:

Justin Kumagai: Operating across the tenure; Except Henderson Lake at this time. Some work has been done on Bamfield Road.

Keith Hunter, Jennifer Dyson, Jane Morden: attended Town Hall Meeting. Letter on file: thank you for attending.

Lucas Banton: discussed Town Hall Meeting; some training involved.

Jennifer led brief discussion on how WFP can have a face in the community.

WFP does want higher profile in the community.

Town Hall is an opportunity to update for the community

Suggested by WIWAG that there be some way to identify who are the WFP contractors (logging trucks)

Discussion about what WFP is doing in the future.

Erin Badesso: shared some of the “who's who” that were at this meeting: Vice President of Operations.

Keith Hunter: very impressed with emphasis on the safety of operations.

Action #2: Think about ways that WFP could have a greater presence within the community

FLNRO/WFP Tour:

Rhonda Morris: WFP offered to have folks with interests out into the field. John Jack and Lucas Banton as new members of the AG attended the tour.

Comments:

- Got to see a hand faller, loader operator, management of old growth areas.
- Some discussion of the expanded terminal.
- Saw some hogging going on: grinding up leftover material, rather than leaving piles to be burned.
- It was good to see the real thing on the ground.
- John Smith: It is good for people who don't work in the industry to see how things are done.
- Investment is needed from outside the company, in order to improve productivity, product, etc.
- Lucas Banton: good to see the processes that have changed over the years.
- Nothing replaces tours and fieldtrips; able to see in person what we've been discussing on paper.

Recreation: updates on harvest activity

Maps are available for recreational users to see what areas are going to be harvested and when (posted on wall)

Erin Badesso: we are completing a 5 year plan; there is some harvesting on trails.

Maps (on walls) show the next few years.

Harold Carlson: recent harvesting around Bell's Bay? We did not see or hear; sirens, horns, signage or warning devices with this harvest.

Erin Badesso: will make a note to speak with contractor. Public safety is paramount.

Jane Cameron, Chair of the Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group, has just become a member of the CSA Technical Committee for the Z809 Standard.

- As a means to broaden her knowledge and ability to represent all PAGs, Jane is interested in visiting each WFP PAG to listen to their ideas and find out where they see problems and barriers and where they think, from a public perspective, we should be going with SFM.
- Jane explained how the Technical Committee works to maintain the standard. Jane represents the Stillwater CAG and is a member of the "Environment & General Interest" chamber of the Committee.
- Jane also talked about the background of Z809-08, the make-up and role of the SFM technical committee, and how FEFC fits into the picture
- Has been travelling around; this is the 5th group I've spoken to. WFP Corporate sponsored her to come and speak with this group.
- This endorsement of forest certification/standard is accepted internationally.
- The CSA standard is extremely stringent.
- CSA is unique in that the public is involved in this process as well.
- Standards have really changed from previous OHSAS standards
- FEFC was having difficulty with previous standards: no room for local people to make this fit within their own needs.
- Standard will be revised: needs to be done within a certain time frame, as FEFC requires it.
- Research tells us bigger, better, and smarter ways to do things.
- Will be more emphasis on biodiversity.

How do people like the new standards?

- In some ways it appears better than the old standard
- Harold Carlson: BC Timber sales: do they have certification?
- Rhonda Morris: Some lumber companies seem to have the ability to select standard of convenience. Not a level playing field for everyone. BCTS has EMS (ISO 14001) and SFI certification.

Do you feel your values are expressed in the SFM plan?

- General discussion on levels of biodiversity
- Rick Avis: How do you measure biodiversity? What do you mean by biodiversity?
- Keith Hunter: WFP has been very willing to work with people's concerns re: core values. Are these barriers for innovation?
- John Jack: Our plans are based on the standard, how do we measure (benchmark) what are we measuring if the landscape is constantly changing? What was the base level?

Jane Cameron: We need to drill down and see what is missing; how do we

measure this?

- Rick Avis: We have the highest concentrations of plant biodiversity on Vancouver Island. Referring back to John's point that the base level constantly changes which effects what we measure.
- Jennifer Dyson: Language is a very powerful thing, different words mean different things to people often the standard is written at a high level which causes the public groups to question what is meant.
- Lucas Banton: Highly educated people quite often don't write or explain in plain English, so that lay people can understand what is being discussed.

What do you want to see changed?

- Some other groups feel not enough emphasis on environmental concerns.
- Harold Carlson: Goes back to what is biodiversity? Points made by both Rick and John.
- Many variations; very narrow focus on specific user group concerns.
- John Jack: We are trying to set up a set of standards when we don't know what the baseline was. How do we decide where we're going when we don't know where we've been? How do we balance economic and environmental concerns? All First Nations are involved in treaty negotiations on Vancouver Island. Major part of this is consultation with forestry companies; still working through all the layers.
- Some First Nations have consultation processes when dealing with cut blocks on traditional First Nations land, and some don't. Lumber companies have to work with each First Nation as they come up.
- Consultations are often very detailed and take a long time
- Standard needs to be written so that it is clearly understood.

Jane Cameron: Chapters 5 and 6 in SFM deal specifically to First Nations concerns.

- Keith Hunter: Standards are different when dealing with international standards. Do we go with "one stop shopping"?
 - a lot of international standards are not being captured within the local standards
- Erin Badesso: Local standards have not yet caught up to international standards within this plan we have been able to have local indicators
- Jane Cameron: All groups struggle with lack of representation at the table; this discussion goes a long way to ensuring that specialized concerns are addressed.

"Community of Interest" site for PAGES:

Site is not quite ready, but when it is, it will be a forum for us to touch base with other groups that are similar in scope to us.

Cut Control re-education, regulation, and feedback: Erin Badesso and Rhonda Morris, District Manager, FLNR South Island

Erin Badesso WFP has discussed the need for feedback on cut control. To change how cut control currently is we must lobby for change. WFP does not have control over final decision on changes to cut control.

Rhonda Morris

Cut Control is a very complex topic.

Slide presentation re: AAC vs. Cut Control

- There is 34-36 TFL's in the province: need to make sure the AAC is spread equitably.
- Cut Control is simply the amount the TFL holder can cut over a five year period.
- Determining the AAC: Many variables do affect this, lots of analysis involved.
- 4/5 page policy to guide various factors in dispersing Cut Control blocks
- Can issue Cut blocks targeting a specific tree type.

Question around BCTS Certification

RM: BCTS has EMS (ISO 14001) and SFI certification.

Erin Badesso

Cut Control Policy Survey handed out to participants in this room. WFP wants to ensure that cut control is clearly understood.

Issue: Where a TFL holder doesn't harvest full AAC for Cut Control period, it cannot be harvested in a following Cut Control period. Un-harvested timber can be disposed of to another party other than TFL holder (at gov't discretion).

- Consequences: Volume awarded to others will occur in the same TFL and have direct financial impact on WFP's bottom line
- Other parties may harvest at a loss to achieve 100% Cut Control volume.
- Un-harvested lumber is subject to "Use it or Lose it"
- Tenure value and investment certainty is weakened under current regime.
- Loss of certainty of fibre supply to our mills. (APD)
- Very disruptive to labour agreements
- May have negative biological and stewardship implications
- Other tenure holders would not be subject to certification (i.e. WFP example)
- Rate of harvest in Cut Control period can influence some DFA indicators.
- Fairness: Un-harvested volume during poor market conditions could be awarded to a competitor during good market conditions.
- There are opportunities for improvements

Please complete survey and this will be picked up at the end of the meeting.

Flag March: Revisit the Stream Matrix at a future meeting.

Announcements:

Keith Hunter: Email sent out to the group re: cultural resources.

- First Nations Forestry Council wrote several briefing documents.
- First Nations Forestry Council received more funding.
- Presented a list of recommendations that were accepted by the Ministry a couple of weeks ago.
- Now, we begin the work.

– Managers of timber values and managers of non timber values are often in conflict with each other; this document hopes to get beyond that.

Fall Fair, we will be looking for volunteers!

ACTION #3 Suggested by AG that we look at bringing in Murray Hall for a larger meeting in the fall (will be looked at for November or later period)

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 5:00 pm at ACRD office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

#	ACTION ITEM AND PROGRESS	Date of request	Recommend Completion	Completion Date	Person Responsible
1.	JD to post approved minutes from last meeting to WIWAG website	June 13			JD
2.	ACTION # 2: WIWAG think about other roles they might play within the community for future discussion?	March 14 th			JD ML
3.	Action #3: Suggested by AG that we look at bringing in Murray Hall for a larger meeting in the fall (November)	FLAG	Fall 2013		JD
4.	Revisit the Stream Matrix at a future meeting	FLAG	Carried over from March 2013		

Western Forest Products – WIWAG Action Items

All Completed Action Items see file: Actions completed\WFP actions completed.doc