

## West Island Woodlands Advisory Group – Western Forest Products

Held at the ACRD Boardroom, Port Alberni

**Minutes – February 21<sup>st</sup> 2019**

### Advisory Group Members

Y Y	Harold Carlson Barbra Baker (alt)	Forest Recreation			Logging and Roads Contractor
Y	Rick Avis Judy Carlson (alt)	Naturalists	Y Y	Jim Proteau Cassandra Silverio	Forests, Lands Natural Resources Operations
	Sheena Falconer	Watershed/Fisheries West Coast Aquatic		Solomon Schachner	General Interest
Y	John McNabb (alt) Mike Kokura	A.C. Regional District	Y Y	John Smith Brigitte Arndt Len Cherry	AV Hill Climbers AV Hill Climbers (alt)
	Darlene Clark	Alberni Fish and Game	Y Y	Dan Washington Ron Corbeil	City of Port Alberni
Y	Francois Warren	Small Business		Jane Morden Mike Stini (alt)	Environment
Y	Stefan Ochman	Bamfield Road Safety Association		Keith Hunter (receives minutes)	Multiple Goods & Services

**Y = attended    R=regrets    blank=did not attend    V=vacant seat**  
Quorum Present

### Resources Present:

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

Erin Badesso – PAFO WFP, Forester  
Jim Muress – WFP General Manager of Alberni Operations  
Justin Kumagai – WFP, Manager, Contract Services

### **Guests:**

Robert Dennis - Chief Counsellor  
Derek Peters – Tayii Hāwīl (Hereditary Chief)  
Trevor Cootes – Executive Tribal Member HFN

Seanna McConnell – WFP, Director, Indigenous Relationships, Corporate Forestry  
Will Sloan – WFP, Certification Coordinator, Corporate Forestry

Michele Laminski - Recording Secretary

## Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order @ 5:30pm, introductions were made around the table.  
Excused Facilitator because of illness.

## Safety Orientation

Erin reviewed safety procedures.

## Erin Badesso –

Review of Action Items from WIWAG June 14, 2018

- Question about what happened to the staff at Woss – Justin Kumagai was working in Englewood for the last 2.5 years and is now back in the Port Alberni office. Justin says Woss is still shaken from the tragic accident. With the train no longer operating, they started hauling using logging trucks. One worker lost their job and another division offered him a position. Out of the 25 people working on the rail, they were all offered to be retrained. Justin says about 6 were retrained as logging truck drivers, and 4 were retrained as equipment operators and the rest took a buyout as they were nearing retirement age.
- Audit Report Summaries are posted on the government website

Review of Action Items from WIWAG November 8<sup>th</sup> 2019

- Let WIWAG members know the link of the Genome BC study results – will be followed up in one of the upcoming meetings by John Deal.

## WFP Updates:

### Jim Muress – PAFO Operations

- Had down time in December due to weather conditions. January was a full month of logging, and February, has down time again due to weather (snow). 2019 plan is to make our cut, and there are plans to achieve more cut. Contractor capacity is one of our challenges, and of course, weather.

## Seanna McConnell and Chief Councillor Robert Dennis -

### Creation of the Limited Partnership with WFP and Huu-ay-aht First Nations

- Showed Huu-ay-aht First Nations video discussing the partnership
- Limited partnership will hold the TFL 44 licence, including associated permits required to operate TFL 44.
- Customary closing conditions are going well, and should be wrapped up by the end of March 2019.
- Logging on TFL 44 is as usual once LP is up and running. The PAFO (Port Alberni Forest Operation) staff will continue to work, as usual under a new management agreement between WFP and the LP. The name of the LP will be announced likely near the time of closing.
- What was the biggest motivating factor for HFN to create a limited partnership? Chief Councillor Robert Dennis responded, Derek Peters (Hereditary Chief) was one of the motivating factors. They were given less than 1% of their traditional lands in treaty, and Derek said it would be nice, whether shared or not, if they received more of their traditional lands.
- Reconciliation Protocol Agreement – What does it mean to you and your community? Robert Dennis said at one time they had full control lost their land due to colonization. Going forward with the LP, this gives HFN some control back.

- Robert Dennis noted that in 1995, only 2 people from HFN were working for MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., now there are 14 in the industry. By 2020, their goal is to have 200 employed across all areas of employment.
- HFN operating principles revolve around respect. Respect is a two way street, having a mutual understanding with business, government and nature. What you take out, you must put back in. Take care of my resources, take care of the land. We are all benefitting, so if we do it right, it will continue.
- Discussion on the Importance of the Sarita River – Robert advised that Derek’s father was a believer in meeting with the elders. Robert said he’s never seen so many meetings with elders. During one of these meetings, they agreed they wanted Sarita, salmon and land. Question was asked, how would they manage it? Let’s work to get Sarita back in the treaty and see how we take care of it. He said the community strongly wants to see sustainable forestry management. Also important is watershed restoration, and making use of all the resources, as there seems to be wood that is wasted.
- Robert’s history with working in the woods. He recounted his history in sawmills and eventually moving to logging. Forestry provided good paying jobs, he remembers when he became a chokerman and made \$3.18 an hour (late 60’s)
- Questions to Seanna – can you talk about how this transaction is part of the WFP’s vision? Seanna advised that WFP can play a small part in reconciliation. We can make these partnerships that benefit both parties, become true partners and manage the land base effectively. WFP will continue to provide management, but the HFN can play a bigger part in the decisions made on the land base. CSA certification will continue.
- 7% of the land base? How does that work? HFN is purchasing 7% of the business not a defined geographic area. The limited partnership will own 100% of TFL 44; in short 93% are WFP’s shares and 7% are HFN’s.
- What impacts, if any, does this partnership have on dependent businesses, such as APD and Catalyst? Existing fibre supply agreements will be transferred over to the new Limited Partnership. The AAC of TFL 44 in 1991 was 2.7 million cubic metres; today it’s 782,000. The partnership will definitely look to increasing the fibre basket by working collaboratively with other tenure holders in the Alberni Valley.
- Would the HFN have been interested in purchasing more than 7%? Robert Dennis advised that they would.
- What have other First Nations communities thought? Robert said that overall they like the approach. Some wanted to talk further. Majority are positive and see it as a step forward.
- Robert said he met with the USW leadership and talked about strengthening the economy and the community. The wage gap is about half of the provincial median in the HFN community. Their goal is to close this gap with help from this partnership.
- John McNabb spoke about the First Nations being represented at the ACRD as it brings a voice that was not heard in the past.
- Robert reconfirmed that the HFN has goals, visions and are business minded. They are looking forward to expand and strengthen their community.

### **Will Sloan – Certification and the Limited Partnership**

- WFP has 5 Advisory groups, 5 regions covered by 1 certification.
- Once the name of the Limited Partnership is known, the certificate will be reissued.
- All the references in the indicators will need to be reviewed and updated as necessary.
- There is no expectation that this will be done before the audit (end of May). As long as there is an action plan, we are covered.
- HFN will need to be engaged in the advisory group
- The certification is only for TFL 44, the existing DFA. There is no plan to have land base that is solely HFN certified with ours.
- The export rules may change due to the limited partnership. Decision to export or not, will be a part of that partnership’s business decision.

- Are the indicators the same across all 5 SFM plan areas? No, the indicators can change per plan. Some are the same, like the carbon 4.1.1. CSA sets the core indicators and how each plan meets the indicator is tailored to each plan.
- The auditors will be here the 4 days after the May long weekend. There is a chance the auditors will contact some of the advisory group for feedback.
- Do we want to change the June meeting to a May meeting so the auditors can attend? Yes, May 23<sup>rd</sup> proposed. Discussion. June meeting will be cancelled. Accepted, auditors will be informed. Auditors will focus on the public process of the standard such as: are the notes accurate? Are questions answered accurately and timely? Are concerns addressed? Is the facilitator non-biased? Update: auditors confirmed that they will attend the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

### **Erin Badesso – Start Reviewing Indicators**

- Indicator 1.2.3 and 2.1.2 - 99.2% is the rolling average – updated the indicator incorrectly to read 100%. Target met
- Indicator 1.3.1 – No Genetically modified trees. Target met
- Indicator 1.4.2 – Added big trees into the standard. Discussion – same criteria as the ministry uses? Yes, WFP pioneered the criteria. What is the management of big trees? We avoid harvesting big trees and leave them in retention patches. If there is a bear den in a big tree? Does that count as one or two? The indicator is driven by having a strategy for each item vs. the accounting of the specific item. Both big trees and bear dens have separate strategies. The bear den strategy is being revised. **Action Item 1 - 2019 – New Bear den strategy to be reviewed by group**
- Indicator 1.4.2a – Sensitive Ecosystem Training – full day course for participants. Indicator met by keeping track of who worked, who is new and how many have taken the course. Indicator Target is met
- Indicator 2.1.1 – Reforestation Success – target met
- Indicator 3.1.2 – Level of Downed Woody debris – target met. This indicator is about soil quality and quantity. Woody debris contributes to the health of the forest soils. Expected to drop in the future due to second growth logging, which leaves the least woody debris. Indicator 3.2.2b – Community Watersheds – Target met. Didn't log in any community watersheds in 2018. Might be engineering in the China Creek community watershed for 2020 harvest.
- Indicator 4.1.2 – Reforestation Success – Target met
- Indicator 4.2.1 – Forest Land Conversion – Target met – Annual look at the indicator. How much road area was built against how much forest is harvested. Net percent of forest area. Deactivate to a point where the road can be planted again, would be a part of this calculated percentage. **Action Item 2 - Erin to bring pictures of pre and post road deactivation that created favorable soil conditions to allow effective reforestation.**

Discussion around the windstorm

### **Announcements:**

Next Meeting – April 11<sup>th</sup> 2019

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

**WIWAG Action Items**

#	ACTION ITEM AND PROGRESS	Date of request	Recommend Completion	Completion Date	Person Responsible
Recurring	ML to post approved minutes from last meeting to WIWAG website	after each meeting			ML
1	2019 – New Bear den strategy to be reviewed by group	April 11 <sup>th</sup>			Erin Badesso
2	Pictures of pre and post road that was recontoured to prevent land slide and planted.	April 11 <sup>th</sup>			Erin Badesso