

West Island Woodlands Advisory Group – Western Forest Products

Held at the ACRD Boardroom, Port Alberni

FINAL Minutes – November 10, 2016

Advisory Group Members

Y Y	Harold Carlson Barbra Baker (alt)	Forest Recreation		Bill Coates	Logging and Roads Contractor
Y Y	Rick Avis Judy Carlson (alt)	Naturalists	Y	Mark Palmer	Forests, Lands Natural Resources Operations
R	Sheena Falconer Bob Cole (alt)	Watershed/Fisheries West Coast Aquatic			Small Business/Tourism
R	Lucas Banton John Jack (alt)	A.C. Regional District	Y R	John Smith Brigitte Arndt Len Cherry	AV Hill Climbers AV Hill Climbers (alt)
Y	Darlene Clark	Alberni Fish and Game		Dan Washington Jack McLeman	City of Port Alberni
		Parks Canada (information only)	R Y	Jane Morden Mike Stini (alt)	Environment
R	Stefan Ochman	Bamfield Road Safety Association		Keith Hunter	Multiple Goods & Services
		Catalyst		Jim Messer Jim Muress	WFP General Manager of Alberni Operations

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 – WFP PAFO, Operations Forester

Brian Marcus – WFP PAFO, Area Planner – Forestry

Will Sloan – WFP Corporate – Certification Coordinator

Guests–

Solomon Schatner –

Jennifer Dyson – Facilitator

Michele Laminski - Recording Secretary

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order @ 5:30pm, introductions were made around the table.
Welcome new member Soloman Schatner

Safety Orientation

Jennifer reviewed safety procedures.

Follow up to last meetings questions:

Action Items from WFP June 9, 2016

1. JD to post approved minutes from last meeting to WIWAG website

Minutes Approved – will be posted November 15th

Action question from June

2. Structural lumber (long lived) products – question – what is a long-lived product? Date ranges between short and long lived?

Will Sloan - Standard for determining greenhouse emissions. Short lived can be 3-5 years to fully oxidize. Single use items that will be broken down. Long term is anything 5+ years to fully oxidize, like wood furniture. There seems to be no solid definitions, there is a definite grey area.

WFP Updates –

Erin Badesso – Spoke to the resolution of the contractor dispute. IPL is finishing up their inventory and there are active discussions to find a new contractor to take their place. Hope to be back fully logging in January 2017.

WFP has had shut down days due to rain thresholds being exceeded.

In the month of October, Henderson had about 900 mm of rain. From November 1 – 10th, Henderson had almost 1100 mm of rain.

Somass has had no fibre the last few days. A barge is scheduled to arrive next week.

APD continues to run 2 shifts.

Jennifer played the WFP YouTube video “Defining a Higher Standard”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coXfilM_Quw

There are more WFP videos which can be found on Facebook and YouTube.

The North Island PAG’s All-PAG meeting - September 22nd 23rd

Update WIWAG about speakers and field tour

Report by Stefan, Judy and Harold and Barb – High Rise made out of wood, because of the give of the wood, the building is earthquake “proof”.

- SCHIRP Trial (Salal Hemlock Integrated Resource Plan) – Increasing the canopy reduces the salal growth. Salal growth needs to be contained.
- Beaver 3 Active Logging Site – Processor did the calculating, sorting and bundling so the logs were not handled again. The logs are dispersed to six mills, depending on diameter, length and species.
- Camp A Train – Logs are loaded using a cable system onto the train cars. There are four stations where logs are loaded onto the train. Twenty percent is saved on fuel by keeping the inside of tracks greased. Forty train cars are the same as forty truck loads. Two truckloads would use the same amount of fuel that the train uses for one trip.
- Karst and Cultural – Were not able to go to the Karst caves, but did go to a Karst feature by the side of the road. A karst is formed from the dissolving action of water on soluble rocks such as limestone.

- Woss Train – used to run out Beaver Creek on the log train trail. Now, the train, recently given a fresh coat of paint, is parked at Woss, their pride and joy.
- Will said they will try to put **an all PAG Meeting** on every three years, and the next place is between Mid-Island and Port Alberni.
- Don Demens presented with a lot of information about manufacturing, value added and how important the Japanese market is. There are currently eight Western employees in Tokyo.
- Jennifer asked about Advisory group membership. Groups are structured differently, with different agendas for those who attend. Some formats seem to work better than others, in order to promote harmony within the groups.
- John Dunford, Chair of PEFC, on behalf of the CSA and PEFC, awarded Certification of Recognitions to long term serving members (ten years of continuous involvement and are still members)
- Will Sloan presented Jennifer with a WFP vest.

Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) - Brian Marcus (WFP Area Planner)

- FSP is still in draft form – working on a draft that can be sent to First Nations/ Advisory Groups etc. for review. The FSP includes Stillwater and Port Alberni, Mid Island has been removed. Maps have to be supplied with the FSP which define the area of the FSP. Brian reviewed a map, as there is a lot of detail on each map. The FSP will be updated when new strategies are approved and are in place, such as the new strategy being worked on for the Marbled Murrelet. For the most part, the Riparian strategies are adopted from FRPA.
- Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds – Klanawa and Haddon
- Each watershed is evaluated carefully, adjusting where necessary to protect, such as more restrictions on steeper terrain. The more sensitive the area, the higher the level of diligence is taken.
- There are eight Community Watersheds listed in the FSP. They require certain conditions to be met. WFP was audited in the China Creek watershed and best practices ideas were shared with WFP. Biodiversity - reviewed
- Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) – tracked spatially. If a little bit of it is logged, the area is replaced with another area with similar characteristics.
- Cut block Sizes and Adjacencies – can become very complicated as there are many factors that affect how big a cut block can be and how close the next block can be.
- Wildlife Tree Retention - reviewed charts, targets and rules.
- Cultural Heritage – define what the resources are, WFP shares logging plans with First Nations and determines if any cultural heritage resources exist.
- Recreation – certain trails are recognized and harvest must be worked around it. None of the trails are in the Port Alberni area. WFP feels that they are managing trails very well and prefer no additional government objectives, or more protection, be put on them. The runners and inlet trails are good examples of WFP managing trails well.
- Stocking Standards – reviewed. There are lower stocking standards where seedlings are damaged by elk. Planting of Alder is limited. There is interest in Hardwood, having some inventory to supply the market is always good and alder helps with root rot.
- Stocking standards for intermediate cuttings is *removal of trees from a stand between the time of its formation and the harvest cutting. Generally taken to include cleaning, thinning, liberation and improvement cuttings, and sometimes even salvage and sanitation cuttings*) – reviewed
- Discussed FSP Road maintenance guidelines
- FSP does not require WFP to eradicate broom, knotweed or other invasive species; rather the FSP is designed to reduce their spread.
- Noble Fir is low on available registered seed. The seed that is left is for higher elevations, and does not work in our TFL.

Comments:

Solomon commented that he has worked in quality and assurance in several industries. The quality and assurance of forestry is more complicated and challenging than he's ever seen. Upper management should know that and commend WFP staff for doing so.

Letter from Terry Ketler regarding Logs in Inlet

A letter will be drafted and sent back to Terry addressing his concerns. WFP is aware of the issues and work towards keeping the canal clear. Log salvage in Alberni Inlet continues to be a priority for WFP. WFP works collaboratively with Island Timberlands, Catalyst, Coulson and Probyn to keep the waterways free of navigational hazards to boaters. After many years of working with a previous company, the work was put up for bid in early 2016. The successful bidder, AB Sea Towing, took over in June 2016. In awarding the work to AB Sea Towing, the companies are expecting a high level of vigilance on the water. AB Sea Towing has a patrol boat plus many other working boats on the water seven days a week. The working boats are on the lookout for debris and will notify the patrol/salvage boat when logs adrift are spotted. Patrols occur 5 days a week consistent with the working hours of all the companies involved, and additional coverage is added when there are major storm events or other times when there is more debris expected. The public can continue to notify AB Sea Towing of loose logs that they spot by calling Dan Mihyachuk at 250-735-0265. We greatly appreciate the call as it will help all companies be successful. Not all forest companies that operate on the Alberni Inlet are part of the working group but we have tried to encourage them to provide coverage during their operations. AB Sea towing is hired as a salvage company to find lost logs, deadheads and debris.

New CAN/CSA-Z809-16 March 2016 Standard - Erin Badesso
Timeline for Registration

Timeline	Task
November, 2016	Review transition to new Standard and next steps with WIWAG
February, April, June, November 2017	Indicators/Discussion Items reviewed with WIWAG
February 2018	New SFM and associated Indicators plus the Discussion Items finalized with WIWAG
March 2018	Internal SFM Audits completed
April 2018	Dataset (Indicators) under the new standard reviewed with WIWAG and discussion with Auditor
May 2018	Registration to the New Standard

New Standard: Overview

- **There are 35 core indicators under the New Standard.**
- **All current indicators substantially “match” the 35 core indicators under the New Standard except 2.**

Description of two new indicators:

3.2.2 Proportion of forest management activities, consistent with prescriptions to protect identified water features.

5.1.2 Evidence of open and respectful communications with forest dependent businesses, forest users and local communities to integrate non-timber resources into forest management planning. When significant disagreement occurs, efforts towards conflict resolution are documented.

Action 2: WIWAG to advise WFP on targets to describe the indicators. Erin to advance a draft?

- Several indicators are the same; only the descriptive number has changed.
- 7 indicators have wording changes; however, the existing targets still adequately describe the indicator

New indicator 7.1.2: Evidence of ongoing open and respectful communications with Aboriginal communities to foster meaningful engagement, and consideration of the information gained about their Aboriginal title and rights through this process. Where there is communicated disagreement regarding the organization's forest management activities, this evidence would include documentation of efforts towards conflict resolution.

Similar existing indicator 6.1.2: Evidence of best efforts to obtain acceptance of management plans based on aboriginal communities having a clear understanding of the plans.

Target to describe: Target evidence will be annual sample of correspondence with Aboriginal communities to gain acceptance of management plans. *i.e. will satisfy 7.1.2 above.*

Action 3: Erin to bring a draft illustrating the new Indicators 7.1.2 described in minutes.

Two *current* indicators are not core to the *New Standard*.

1. **Indicator 6.4.3: Aboriginal Participation in SFM;** Annual target evidence will be a listing of efforts to engage willing Aboriginal communities in the SFM process. **Note: WFP will continue to invite their participation**
2. **Indicator 6.5.1: Educational Outreach;** The annual number of people reached through educational outreach is estimated to be greater than fifty. **Note: Our outreach efforts will continue**

There is still provision for WIWAG to provide indicators in addition to the core.

Propose maintaining the existing non-core indicators with no new additions e.g. Herbicides, Watershed Condition, S4 and 5 streams, Park Perimeter, Recreation Access, Mushroom Habitat etc. but delete 6.4.3 and 6.5.1 above.

Mandatory Discussion Items

Mandatory Discussion Items are still a component of the *New Standard*.

Three new Mandatory Discussion Items

1. Role and importance of wetlands
2. Role of forest ecosystems and their management in the global carbon cycle
3. The significant vulnerabilities for community sustainability linked to forest and timber supply conditions over time

Action 4: discuss new Mandatory Discussion Items:

Role and importance of wetlands, Role of forest ecosystems and their management in the global carbon cycle and The significant vulnerabilities for community sustainability linked to forest and timber supply conditions over time in 2017.

Timelines - The timelines initially presented may be a bit more compressed. The audit is scheduled for January 2017, so if there are issues they can be addressed before the certification expires May 2017. External audit will be Jan/ Feb 2018, and will be full re-registration. As a result, one extra WIWAG meeting might have to be scheduled. Erin reviewed the description of two new indicators. Looking for feedback for potential targets Erin will provide at next meeting.

Erin reviewed wording/ number changes.

Three current core indicators are not core to the new standard – Erin reviewed.
Three new mandatory Discussion items – Erin is arranging for people to present on these items.
Hopefully, they will present between the February – June WIWAG meetings.

Big Tree Retention Standard Operating Procedures – New SOP being drafted. Erin is looking for feedback from WIWAG members.

Announcements:

- **Next WIWAG meeting**
- **2017 Calendar**
- **February 9, April 13, June 8, November 9**
- **Next WIWAG meeting February 9, 2017**

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm

WIWAG Action Items

#	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 9		Nov 15 th 2016	JD
2	Erin to bring a draft illustrating New CAN/CSA-Z809-16 March 2016 Standard. WIWAG to advise WFP on targets to describe the indicators. Erin to advance a draft?	November 10 th	Erin		
3	Erin to bring a draft illustrating the new Indicators 7.1.2 described in minutes.	November 10 th	Erin		
4	Discuss new Mandatory Discussion Items Role and importance of wetlands, Role of forest ecosystems and their management in the global carbon cycle and The significant vulnerabilities for community sustainability linked to forest and timber supply conditions over time in 2017.	November 10	Erin		Erin and JD
flag	Tour of the mill possibly in the spring- Catalyst	November 7			
	Species at risk from Rick – Jennifer will post to all ASAP	June 9	Rick Avis / JD	September 27	Jennifer
	Date ranges and examples of short / long lived structural lumber products	June 9	Will Sloan	November 10 th	
	Propose maintaining the existing non-core indicators with no new additions eg: Herbicides, Watershed Condition, S4 and S5 Streams, Park Perimeter, Recreation Access, Mushroom Habitat etc...	November 10 th			Erin
	Discuss new CSA items in 2017	November 10 th			Erin
	WIWAG members to review Indicators	November 10 th			WIWAG Members

