
**North Island – Central Coast Resource District
Forest Management Leadership Team
Meeting #22 - Minutes**

Date: April 26, 2017

Location: NICCRD Office, 2217 Mine Road

Time: 9:00-4:00

Attending In-person: Andrew Ashford, Jon Flintoft, Mike DesRochers, Murray Estlin, Ione Brown, Trevor Egely, Cyndy Grant, Kai Sonnenberg, Joe Leblanc, Kim Lefebvre, Megan Hanacek, Paul Barolet, Rob Ziegler, Amy Beetham, Tracy Ng, Kelly McMahon, Lisa Brown, Christina Mardell

Attending By Phone: Gary Gallinger

Attending by Video: Ivan Tallio

Guests: Jonathan Lok, Alys Granados (phone), Mark Worthing, Jens Weiting, Del Williams, Sam Coggins

Please note: Action items highlighted in yellow.

1. Introductions, Safety Briefing, Review of Previous Minutes, Agenda –Jon (Andrew)

Review of previous action items:

- Large cublock working group – tbd today
- Stream session – field tomorrow.
- Cruise based permits – reporting (Amy) – send email reports into Darren Rowsell, monthly total cut. Revenue supervisor will be hired before next meeting – will keep group informed. Amy will provide update at the next meeting. There may be an all Licensee message out from the district as new information is available.
- Revenue Update – Alan Rudson – Cyndy will track that this topic has been deferred until next meeting.

2. OIF Report – Andrew

Drones: FLNR is developing silviculture survey standards related to drone use; BCTS has purchased 5 drones

Cruising: endemic cruising quality issues (as evidenced by check cruises that have failed dramatically) have been costly for both FLNR and industry; an OIF working group has been established to resolve this matter

FLNRO Wildlife Policies and Old Growth on Vancouver Island: Bob Craven raised issues related to provincial wildlife policies and old growth on Vancouver Island; Dorthe Jacobsen provided an update on a draft old growth policy (Note: Andrew stated he is reluctant to discuss policy during the interregnum period, once government is formed, will be able to give update.)

Forest Carbon initiative, Forest Enhancement Society. Interior prioritization – beetle kill areas. Funding requests seem to meet Coastal criteria as well, looking into it.

Provincial Forestry Forum – 9 axle truck configuration, co-location of reserves, GAR test consistency, workplan with FNFC, effectiveness review of committee, LiDAR inventory project, Resource Road Act.

Peter Bradford – small stream workshop was held in Nanaimo – There were 52 attendees. Q&A document has been distributed. **Cyndy will send link to the Q&A document with minutes - done.**

(Megan ABCFP Small Streams webinar held March 14th. 420 attendees. Priority for Stewardship Committee. Webinar is on ABCFP website)

THLB stabilization pilot projects – CRIT assesses proposals for pilot areas.

DMs gave FSP extension/replacement update. Extensions are sought as expiry dates loom. Licensee-intensive, early review. Licensee information sharing vs government consultation with First Nations – important to conduct First Nations' information sharing early, and advise NICC consultation specialists when complete. There has also been challenges with follow through on invasive species measures.

FN tenures – 110 direct award tenures – looking at updating guidance document (*Managing your New Forest Tenure*).

Eric Geddart (Campbell River) – Lean log handling project update. **Cyndy will invite Eric as a speaker for our next FMLT.**

Les Kiss – Provincial Forestry Forum looking for co-chair. Discussing how to maintain public interest (old growth, application of GAR, etc)

CRIT – looking at re-structuring. Joe – historically CRIT has been large group – getting leaner, which is unfortunate – not the original intent. Looking to establish a core group that would disseminate information to broader group. Would bring in smaller subcommittee work. Supported by CFPA, govt, focussed on FRPA issues. Lobbied for members from industry within FMLT. Meet quarterly (includes F2F). Looking at co-location/THLB, currently reviewing proposals from Nimpkish, Stillwater, Teal Jones. CRIT is evaluating proposals. Send note to Chuck Rowan or Joe if interested.

3. Stewardship Update – Paul

Alder management – District provided an update of alder densities reviewed in the field and potential sawlog quality. Densities review were between 600 sph and 4000 sph. Review undertaken due to a concern with the CRIT Broadleaf discussion paper, Appendix 3 using an example MSS of 700 sph instead of 1000 sph MSS which would be more optimal for achieving good sawlog form. Paul would like to update the CRIT paper so that the example provided is more consistent with the intended outcome. Joe noted the intent is always to manage to target rather than minimum stocking, and MSS allows licensees some investment flexibility for small areas that do not meet the standard. Paul noted there are other pathways such as using section 97.1 and 46 of the FPPR if a licensee cannot achieve free growing results. Paul indicated LBIS funding exists for spacing and thinning of red alder. It was noted the Coast forest Action Plan recommended establishing alder stands at a quantum of 200 ha/district, 1200 hectares per year across the coast which is not being achieved to support a future broadleaf sector on the coast.

Invasive species - Knotweed crisis – causes significant adverse impact to fish habitat; cannot treat with herbicide below mean high water mark. See PDF presentations of Nimpkish and Victoria Lake. FSP writers

– Andrew is expecting specific FSP measures for managing invasive species – ecological integrity in the Great Bear Rainforest is a concern. Feedback from FMLT members cited frustrating when all agencies/owners don't buy into solutions. It was noted MOTI, RDMW, and townships are on board and taking action. Paul indicated it does not matter who's tenure high priority invasive species are found on, it needs to be reported to the tenure holder and Province. Early Detection and Rapid Reporting (EDRR) are key to successful treatment. Report-a-weed app is a good way to track specific location. Mike will be writing an article for local paper. Strategic is working with RDMW to secure grants to plan for invasive species treatment (some grant criteria related to EI limits FN participation) – exclusive of Namgis territory. Paul had Namgis crew out on the Nimpkish to increase awareness. The Namgis have concerns around the use of Glyphosate. Himalayan Balsam, aka policemans helmet, is a new species in and around Port McNeill.

FSP update – Info-sharing precedes formal consultation by the Province who requires at least 60 days (minimum) prior to FSP expiry and replacements dates. The District is experiencing long delays between resubmissions to district stewardship comments. Extension requests are often unplanned as a result. The District is trying to stagger FSP expiry and replacements into the future so clients and FLNRO do not have multiple FSPs expiring or requiring extensions in the same week or month. So far 16 FSP in district – 2 approved in GBR – 9 more FSP to go this year for replacement. FPB expects approval rationale within 2 days of decision – another expectation. NICC stewardship folks are open to formal and informal conversations.

4. Riparian Emphasis Guidance – All

Will be discussed in the field tomorrow.

At the stream workshop there was one speaker who spoke of stream systems and larger streams, which was confusing for attendees. The workshop was meant to cover small streams (S5, S6).

Discussion points – Mike DesRochers mentioned transport potential not just related to dimension of streams but gradients and water velocity is not addressed. Some FMLT member felt the guidance and related table is too simplified. **Paul will look into these points and get a response.**

Paul mentioned the document has been requested for wider distribution since the ABCFP webinar on small streams and from a hydrologist in the interior. **Paul Barolet will look into an FTP location for this document.** (done – see: https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/DNI/external!/publish/FMLT_Information/)

Megan – comments received on the guide so far: it is helpful, but nothing new.

Not currently included: flowchart choice: alluvial/non-alluvial to prioritize stream. Could enhance table to include additional elements. Paul indicated the table is based on stream width/volume and flow duration and did not tease out the morphology developed but will enquire if it has any bearing.

Fall-away, yard-away on S6, don't over-prescribe retention - could have an impact on timber supply. Paul noted the riparian guidance is a tool to prioritize small streams when many occur in a cutblock and there is a limited retention budget also, the top two recommendations are to avoid sediment delivery to streams from road building and harvesting and avoid depositing slash into the stream bed itself.

Paul challenged the few with concerns to apply the guidance preharvest during block planning and riparian assessment to see how it actually works in the field.

The best pathway forward is to continue to talk about the guidance, and update/modify where necessary.

5. FMLT Terms of Reference update – Ione, Cyndy

Revisions discussed. Latest draft attached to minutes. **At the October meeting, all members will come prepared to discuss outstanding issues:**

- a. Membership – at meetings and field days; consider increasing membership to bring more resources to working groups, involve other professionals, who are directly impacted by issues, in discussions. Consider splitting the day – morning dedicated to speakers (larger audience), afternoon dedicated to working groups (smaller group).
- b. Focus – where is the balance point between resolving issues and downloading information?

Will be identifying issues through a sticky-note exercise (i.e. Challenge Wall).

6. Working Group Reports

Large Cutblocks and VILUP

Christina, Kim, Joe, Trevor, Ione, Jon/Kelly, Tracy

Tasked with developing FSP strategy? Or is it a larger issue? **Working Group will convene before June 15th.** Cyndy will follow up group to get the outcome of scoping exercise. Once problem statement is identified, district will determine whether a district rep is required.

7. First Nations Consultation update – Kathy/Jessica

Coastal First Nations Reconciliation Protocol Engagement Framework has been amended. **Cyndy will ensure that the summary letter is included with minutes. (Done)**

Many Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements have expired or will be expiring soon. Negotiations are underway.

There have been significant delays in FN consultation related to requests from licensees to wait for information sharing to conclude. Please contact Jessica and Kathy if assistance is required and be aware of the timelines. Formal consultation may have to be initiated sooner in some cases. As always, it is best to engage with FNs early and often.

Upcoming Elections: Namgis (May 12th), Kwikwasut'inuxw-Haxwa'mis (May 24th), Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw (July), Kitasoo-Xai'xais (July). Kwakiutl elected Rupert Wilson Sr. as interim chief – term ends in November.

Through the Strategic Forestry Agreement Initiative, our district has secured agreements for the Gwa'Sala-Nakwaxda'xw First Nation and Gwawaenuk Tribe.

There are some Direct Award tenures related to the Great Bear Rainforest negotiations that have yet to be awarded.

8. LUNCH – HaidaWay Pub

9. ABCFP Update – Megan Hanacek

- Watershed Assessment Guidance document is almost complete, as is the Riparian Assessment Regulations Guidance document
- There is a new Climate Change article now in BC Forest Professional and our committee has an upcoming meeting to determine priorities for the year,
- Stewardship Committee is also undergoing a similar exercise,
- Recently held small streams webinar was very well attended (at least 420 attendees) and we continue to work on this issue,
- Continuing to work with Leah Malkinson on cumulative effects framework,
- Growth and Yield resolution is being worked on by a task team and other wildlife issues are on our radar
- There was some discussion around the recent Haida riparian court case.

10. Forest Practices Board – Investigation process, East Creek Report – Del Williams, Sam Coggins

See presentations. Sam challenged the FMLT to answer several questions regarding public requests of site plans and compliance with guidance documents. **Cyndy will bring this item forward – group will revisit these questions in October.**

11. Sierra Club Old Growth Presentation – Mark Worthing, Jens Weiting

See presentations.

Cyndy will receive comments and requests from Mark and Jens and **will send Mark an email contact list of our members. (done)**

12. Prep for Field day – Mike, Ione, Murray

13. Ideas for October office meeting– All

Revenue update – next meeting

Challenge wall – next meeting

EBM – GBR update

FREP workshop

Cumulative Effects

MRVA report for NICC

Vancouver Island Old growth – Ministry strategy

14. Check-in

Good timing.

Sierra Club presentation interesting – what's top of mind. To prepare ourselves for questions, take opportunity to educate.

FPB questions were provocative. Will follow up next meeting..

Many issues – challenge for industry to stay on top of it all. Keep FN issues in mind – First Nations have had these issues for ever. Sierra Club brought a different perspective.

Challenge wall – good idea for reinvigorating working groups.

Good to have outside speakers. Hard to see how the information is being presented by eNGO's when there's so much good work being done by forest professionals. **FPB challenged us – bring these topics/questions to next meeting.**

Site plan sharing is tricky when the intent is unknown. Good discussion.

Membership conversation – need to have more discussion about the direction this group should take. .

Could have been more time for afternoon presentations.

Working group on large cutblocks – hopeful that it will proceed.

Interested in how we are communicating – “talking to our neighbours?”, FN relationships

Next meeting: **October 26, 2017**