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**North Island – Central Coast Resource District  
Forest Management Leadership Team  
Meeting #18 - Minutes**

**Date: February 25, 2016**

**Location: NICCRD Office, 2217 Mine Road**

**Time: 1-4:30 pm**

Attending In-person: Andrew Ashford, Jon Flintoft, Christina Mardell, Deidre Haight, Kai Sonnenberg, Kelly McMahon, Ione Brown, Peter Share, Molly Hudson, Michelle Todd, Cyndy Grant, , Robert Ziegler, Melody Wilson, Christina Mardell, Jen Barolet, Dave Mogenson

Attending By Phone: Lisa Nordin, David Flegel, Hans Granander

1. Introductions, Housekeeping – Chair Jon Flintoft

Safety Briefing and building orientation

Minutes – October 15, 2015

2. OIF (November 18 )Report – Andrew Ashford

Discussion about completion of actions; too often the issues are brought forward without conclusion.

S6 stream issues – additional streamside management required – grew to Provincial project. Topic will be presented at next coastal OIF.

Elk Management Plan – ongoing.

Open Burning – smoke control guidance - less restrictive in rural areas, but likely won't impact the local waste issues.

Amendments to WHA, UWRs – working group established.

Cutting Permits –DM letter sent out the FMLT July 2015. Authorization Tracking System (ATS) is the internal system used to track turn-around times. Performance measure is that 90% of CPs are issued within 40 days of submission of a complete application. Operational guidance has been developed internally. The system does not have functionality to report reason for longer review times; this information would be tracked at the district. Provincially there has been

increased time required to ensure FN consultation is complete and well-documented; this would be a likely a reason for increased processing time.

Biggest frustration at DNI is poor quality appraisals; some submitters are using DNI staff for peer review. This adds time for *all* other CP reviews in progress. Accuracy is at issue. This will be reflected in turn around times in the next while. Currently experiencing a high volume of permit submissions– likely linked to Coast Appraisal Manual amendment. DNI is responding to these issues by looking at strategies to address bottlenecks. (Cyndy Grant is point of contact for CPs.)

FN information-sharing - when is it stale? The answer is “it depends” on multiple factors – Potential impact? Has FN declared title? New leadership? Ultimately, the decision is the DMs. Consider this prior to submitting; does the info-sharing have to be re-visited; need to check in with FN? Call Kathy or Jessica if unsure or if there are tight timelines involved.

THLB stabilization. Stella Lake and San Josef Landscape Units. Coast is looking to do 3 more projects. Small tenure holders may be interested. CRIT is going to make recommendations on how to evaluate submissions regionally.

Forest Practices Board Forest Stewardship Plan report. This was discussed at the last FMLT. Branch, ABCFP responded. FSP training has been developed in response.

EBM update – to be discussed today.

Sierra Club – trying to link Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) to areas outside Great Bear Rainforest (GBR). Andrew’s sense is that government will look at Government Actions Regulation process to address emerging issues. May be increased pressure to initiate Land Use Planning where plans don’t exist currently.

Patrick Russell, Senior Timber Tenures Forester, Tenures, Competition and Innovation Division, gave an update on Forest Fibre Working Group (FFWG). Fibre utilization in BC needs to improve: Make every log count, Minimize waste, Reduce burning and CO2 emissions, Develop the FFWG (includes primary producers, pulp producers, pellet producers, FP innovations, FLNR, etc). The working group developed a 13 point action plan. Likely that MPB districts have the highest potential. The 4 themes to the work of the FFWG:

- 1) Support integrated harvesting
- 2) Tenure opportunities for secondary tenures
- 3) Improve waste measurements
- 4) Continued support for various initiatives

Steve Kozuki reported on cruised based billing; lean log handling (transportation); scanner scaling and check load pilots.

### 3. Marbled Murrelet (MaMu) Northern Goshawk (NoGo) Implementation Plan – debrief from Information Session – All

No facilitator or note-taker at the meeting – concern. Also concerned that Steve and Darren are taking comments and tasked with incorporating them into the plan. Very important that attendees send comments in to mailbox.

Impact of non-crown land into target, whether there will be additional impact to THLB.

Decision makers will be cabinet – Natural Resource Sector (NRS) board (the 6 Provincial “Dirt” ministries).

Diligence of engagement – municipal governments were not directly invited.

How will First Nations be engaged further? Not formal consultation. FNs will be consulted on plan.

MaMu – marine impact? Bi-catch on commercial fishery is 500 birds/yr. Aquaculture sites are coincident with marine habitat.

How will other users (ie. Transmission lines, wind farms, run of river projects) be impacted; what standards will they be held to?

Looking at Landscape Units (LU), regional thresholds. Diligent licensees are finding gowhawks and the ecosystem folks are spending resources to “confirm” existence instead of conducting inventories on areas where licensees aren’t conducting surveys themselves – administrative fairness.

Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA) are locked down; they should have some flexibility built in.

Should be tied to use; cumulative, incremental impact.

If there is a court challenge with respect to foraging, it could increase impacts. It is risky to defer this piece.

Discussed alternate models to WHA.

Habitat attributes are key when moving soft reserves around.

What happens to hard reserves when a Natural Disturbance occurs?

Could there be acceptable management activities within reserve?

How will this initiative be impacted by LRDs in GBR?

Do we want to coordinate a response as FMLT? End of March is deadline. Not much uptake from FMLT – each licensee will develop their own response.

#### 4. FMLT Riparian Management Emphasis Field Guide – Paul (attached)

Fits principles of FMLT – flexible guidance.

GBR Order covers riparian commitments.

Will re-send this document (with supporting documentation) for one final review, given new members, introduction of GBR, etc. Comments due March 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### 5. FREP topic – Multiple Resource Value Assessment (MRVA) (roll up of FREP sampling)

Does FMLT want to comment on latest draft report? Will send this to members if available before next meeting.

FREP Effectiveness Evaluation – goal of 40 samples; did 53, multiple values assessed. Limited resources dictate that we have to be more selective with respect to values. Strategic Plan lays out all values, so that there would be 30 samples for each value over 5 years.

Michelle Todd reported that the FPB initiated a special report regarding rate of second growth harvest in multiple TSAs on mid and south Island. Expect a draft late summer, to be finalized in the fall.

C&E risk rating forms are not currently submitted to DNI, but they are required with CP application in Campbell River and South Island. DNI does not require these to be submitted with application.

6. Update on Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order, etc. – Dorthe Jacobsen, Gary Gwilt, John Sunde, Ron Cotton

Gary Gwilt has been working with Rory Annett supporting EBM legislation. Tricky piece is that the *Great Bear Rainforest Act* will be introduced into the House next week. Currently we are under confidentiality of the Cabinet. Still working with Nanwakolas Council, Coastal First Nations, Joint Solutions Project under confidentiality. Expect that after it passes, we can share the legislation as a public document. Training will follow.

Land Use Order (Great Bear Rainforest Order) signed January 28<sup>th</sup>. Organizing implementation plan to put it all together: Order, 30 agreements with various parties, legislation (Act and Regs). Part of the work plan is communication plan – industry, First Nations and Ministry staff. The Act will enable other details through regulation. Actual Regulations are expected this summer. In the interim, Gary wants feedback as to the best way to communicate the changes as they come. Group recommends bulletin format, similar to the FRPA bulletins.

We can expect a more detailed briefing at the next FMLT meeting.

Legislation won't be officially available until it has been introduced in the House. Training can be expected after the regulations have been drafted.

The Great Bear Rainforest Order indicates that the new AAC for the GBR area will be reduced to 2.5 million m<sup>3</sup>. The Act and Regulations will describe how that will happen. Here is a link to the Order:

[https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/slrp/lrmp/nanaimo/CLUDI/GBR/Orders/GBR\\_LUO\\_Signed\\_29jan2016.pdf](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/slrp/lrmp/nanaimo/CLUDI/GBR/Orders/GBR_LUO_Signed_29jan2016.pdf)

Dorthe – The Order introduces a new complexity. Now that the Order has been signed, licensees have 6 months to be compliant, which means amending FSPs. Her group is working on training materials and documents for operational folks. Landscape Reserve Design (LRD) methodology will be the last piece introduced to assist.

John Sunde and Ron Cotton gave an overview of the order, which replaces South and Central Coast Order and Central and North Coast Order. There was a sixty day public review and comment period and FN consultation took place prior to establishment.

The Order is broken into 4 parts:

Part 1 relates to the entire Great Bear Rainforest area, gives broad objectives which covers both north and south for First Nations Information sharing and engagement and Biodiversity.

Exempted licences are listed (CFAs, WL and some NRFLs). Biodiversity objectives are meant to guide LRD planning; the order requires establishment of LRDs within 5 yrs (ideally within 2 years). The appended Implementation Guidance table (Schedule G) provides guidance around biodiversity – old growth targets. Every Landscape Unit has an aspatial target that will ultimately become spatial through LRDs. This section also introduces objectives for managed forest (THLB 550,000 ha) and natural forest (3,103,876 ha – Non-contributing, protected) as well as restoration zones (>30% old) where there has been heavy harvest history – this will be a subset of LRD. These sections speak to natural disturbance in LRD – LRD can be modified

through time as long as area is the same. Where Landscape Units are in deficit there is the possibility of pulling in younger forest and other site series groups in small amounts.

Part 2 relates to the Central and North Coast (or GBR-North); part 3 to South Central Coast (or GBR-South), which set out objectives specific to the north and south areas, for First Nations engagement and interests, Aquatic Habitat, Biodiversity and Wildlife. Guidance and background documents will elaborate on the order. Western Yew objective was originally in the HG LUO and was brought in to the GBR order for the northern area by northern FN. Intent is for licensees to have that conversation with each FN; define what stage, use of Yew is their interest. LRD objectives recognize 5 Focal species: Grizzly bear, mountain goat, tailed frog, northern goshawks, marbled murrelet.

Part 4 sets the application of the Order; the order took effect January 28<sup>th</sup> and there is a 6-month transition period.

Working on developing documents and training packages over the next few months. Training will be rolled out in Districts. Will also develop stand-alone documents for training purposes to guide implementation. There is no draft documents/guidance available. Members are encouraged to use the LU planning guide, as well as existing SLRD methodology. New methodology may give increased flexibility, given that it will be based on whole area, not LU.

When asked about the ability to modify Important Fisheries Watersheds from original delineation, the answer was that this would likely be a minor amendment to schedule and would require FN consultation.

Contact Dorthe directly with ideas for enhance communications as we navigate the order and legislation.

#### 7. FSP – General Discussion – Paul, Andrew, all

Andrew requested that FSP extensions and amendments be submitted concurrently, so we can incorporate both decisions into FN consultation. Andrew would line up the effective date of the FSP to match the expiry of original/most recent FSP.

Paul recommended a pre-submission paper review. Once you've met with district staff and before you advertise, submit to Paul to see if there are any material changes required that would impact FN or public document.

Expect Ministerial instruction on 2 items:

- FN info sharing – detailed requirements; customized for each FN.
- LRD methodology – detailed also. These are expected out to licensees shortly.

DNI may be contacting licensees shortly to discuss scheduling FSP submission dates.

Expect guidance from CF and or DM with respect to FPB FSP report: how strategies should be written – measurable and verifiable. “Undertaking to comply” does not apply to all objectives.

LRD methodologies will require some coordination with other licensees working in common LU.

#### 8. Field trip ideas for April meeting – all

Habitat (riparian, alder conversion) prescriptions (LBIS funding?) to address Goshawk for example. Dave Mogenson named some examples.

Elk Management

San Jo THLB stabilization project – new LU plan, prioritization, co-location, what it looks like on the ground. - Andrew

Nimpkish – UWR, lichen inoculation to speed up second growth to create habitat (late 80's) - Kelly

9. Check in/Meeting Evaluation – Jon

Feedback: thank you for allowing guests, good meeting, good de-brief on MaMu NoGo session; riparian document was a good example of how functional our FMLT can be to provide operational guidance; relevant meaningful; phone presentation was challenging; goshawk presentation was meaningful – good flow from morning session to de-brief at FMLT; good to know there's common thinking on species at risk; may be working on district salvage permits in future

Next meeting: April 13-14th