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**North Island – Central Coast District  
Forest Management Leadership Team  
Meeting #17 - Minutes**

**Date: October 8, 2015**

**Location: Strategic Natural Resource Consultants Office, Broughton Blvd.**

**Time: 9:30 am - 3:20 pm**

Attending In-person: Andrew Ashford, Jon Flintoft, Christina Mardell, Amy Beetham, Kai Sonnenberg, Kelly McMahon (pm only), Ione Brown, Mike DesRochers, Peter Share, Jocelyn Teron, Deidre Haight

Attending By Phone: Lisa Nordin, David Flegel, Hans Granander (pm only)

Guests: Evan Loveless (by phone), Peter Jacobsen (by phone), Megan Hanacek

Regrets: Randy Hart, Robert Ziegler

### **1. Introductions, Housekeeping – Chair Andrew Ashford**

Safety Briefing and building orientation – Jon Lok

Minutes – April 15, 2015 minutes adopted

Action Items – Hardwood management relates to the 200 ha per year target for NICC; Going forward does the target need to be amended if it is not being achieved?; Hardwood management is a potential topic for the January 2016 meeting; no additional action items raised; everyone has seen the annual report

**Decision: Future action items will be sorted to show active actions at the top and will remove older action items.**

### **2. OIF Report – Andrew Ashford**

Context - The Operational Issues Forum (OIF) was established in 2007 during a period of low markets. Three forums were established in the province to allow forest company executives to meet with Ministry executives to discuss such things as: competitiveness, cost cutting, and innovation. The OIF is a communications conduit, and meets four times a year. The Coast OIF is currently co-chaired by Regional Executive Director Sharon Hadway and Interfor's Bob Craven. Andrew Ashford represents the North Island at the OIF.

Some topics from the June 25<sup>th</sup> OIF:

-OIF discussed consistency of the CP process in terms of First Nation consultation post-Tsilhqot'in; our current consultation process uses Haida principles

-A cutting permit application process letter was written by District Managers to Coast Area Licensees about consistency of the CP process and how First Nation information sharing is considered; the Crown needs to consult and determine if any aboriginal rights or title are infringed upon or impacted; strength of claim is assessed to inform level of accommodation required.

**Action – Andrew will send out a copy of the letter before the January 2016 FMLT meeting.**

Question to the FMLT group: Has there been a slowdown in permit processing post-Tsilhqot'in?

PS – Things are slower in general. First Nations are re-establishing their presence in their traditional territories.

JF – Engagement can be challenging with specific groups which results in needing to focus on information sharing over a longer timeframe.

KS – Establishing a relationship with First Nations is key; accommodation is part of the discussion.

DH – pressure on turnaround time due to smaller inventory; early information-sharing is the ideal but not all First Nations have agreements that motivate engagement; BCTS has a dual role of information-sharing and consultation

AA – thinks anytime BCTS engages contributes or acts as consultation; we can consider consultation concluded with information-sharing in some situations; other situations are superseded by formal consultation agreements such as the reconciliation protocols that require government to follow an additional process

-Timber Management Goals and Objectives 2014/15 Provincial Targets Accomplishments Report – OIF had a discussion about the paper and Andrew offered to distribute it to FMLT members

**Action: Andrew to provide a copy of the report for circulation to FMLT members prior to the January 2016 FMLT meeting.**

-Discussed the *Migratory Bird Act*

MH – noted an upcoming ABCFP webinar, October 29<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Act and Migratory Bird Act

**3. Tourism Sector – *Evan Loveless, Executive Director, Wilderness Tourism Association of BC***  
(see presentation)

Overview – The Wilderness Tourism Association of BC is a provincial organization that has been in place for the last 16 years. The Association represents about 15% of the nature-based tourism operators in the province (and does not include ski resorts). Their membership has an interest in maintaining the landbase they operate on, securing tenure and protecting their tourism brand (Super, Natural BC). The tourism sector GDP and employment figures have been increasing year over year for the last decade. Some of the conversation generated during the presentation:

- Challenges and constraints with competing for same natural resources and lack of security for land tenures.

- Concern from the tourism sector that FSPs do not provide the site level information that stakeholders and the public need for better engagement; there needs to be a better mechanism for communication and notification at the site level.

-The nature-based tourism industry falls under the *Land Act* - Adventure Tourism Policy and is not represented or guided by an act like the *Forest Act*; even the current (ecosystem-based management) land use order focusses on forestry rather than tourism. From a tourism perspective, it is a forestry regulated environment to protect the interests of the forest industry. There is a history in our province of older legislation representing resources/industries taking precedence over newer legislation (examples mentioned were Mines Act and Railways).

-Is there an opportunity for forestry interests and tourism interests to work together? Yes – timing of activities, adjusting visual impacts, and tourism clients may have interest in watching forestry operations in action (such as forestry tours, helicopter harvesting).

-There is also an opportunity for tourism operators to become educated on the high forestry standards in place in BC and promote our sustainable industry and highly regulated activities. There is also an opportunity to educate tourists with signs at places such as the ferry terminal and Telegraph Cove.

**4. Stewardship Update - *Christina Mardell, NICCRD Stewardship Forester***  
(Notes below provided by Paul Barolet and Christina Mardell)

Forest Cover reporting – (see RISS updates attached to the minutes) Mandatory basal area reporting key to District issues previously identified at FMLT with forest cover reporting of basal area reporting for unplanned or additional retention or standing waste. As per FMLT directions

letter and CRIT SEDRSS workshops, regeneration (layer 4) and saplings (layer 3) are tallied outside the drip-line of a mature tree (layer 1, >12.5 cm dbh). If the MSS (i.e.: minimums 500 sph) of an even stocking standard cannot be met in layer 3 and 4 a declaration under 97.1 FPPR while reporting over-story in basal area in layer 1 is appropriate.

LBIS Timber Supply Mitigation (Fertilization) - North Island has more area ready than fertilizer allotted this year, coastal fertilization program of 6,000 ha in total for fiscal 2015/16 with approximately 1600 ha this fall on the North island. DNI in good position to handle any overflow from interior fertilization programs (typically this is a mad scramble in Feb/March) this fiscal year. Treatments are being supervised by WFP (Annette).

Invasive plant concerns: Observed occurrence of broom following recent harvesting in isolated areas. Are licence holders having the conversation with contractors and more importantly are contractors washing equipment when moving or barging to new harvest setting and locations? Broom has been observed and recently introduced in the mid-coast, and on islands close to Vancouver Island. Knotweed has also recently been observed on a large S1 river system on Vancouver Island and is very concerning to FLNRO.

Riparian SOP still in draft form, will revise based on feedback from field session held earlier this spring, seemed to work well in the field and mirror D. Tripp's analysis of S6 stream management by width categories (the wider the stream) received greater management emphasis. **Action: The riparian SOP will be revised and circulated to FMLT for final comments prior to the January 2016 FMLT.**

All clients should be aware of FISS and Habitat Wizard (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/habwiz/>) for fish stream classification as a resource planning tool for information on fish presence (FISS is linked to Habitat Wizard). LN noted that the tool focus is on historical observations not whether fish are currently present or not. It is not to be used for determining where there are 'no fish', but can save surveying time and expense if historical fish presence is already established.

A one day VIA training for field professionals is planned for clients with tenure on Vancouver Island. Class is currently full and invitations were limited to larger tenures holders whose harvesting is having a greater influence on VQO's locally.

MH – ABCFP could consider hosting a visuals training webinar and asking attendees ahead of time if they have any questions they would like discussed during the training session. She will follow-up internally. Also, a VRM professional practices paper will be available soon.

NICC hopes to start FREP CHR protocol monitoring this fall under contract (archeologist Frank Craig of Archer CRM Partnership) and locally next year. Protocol would evaluate management

of features and other CHR resources at the cut-block level in the field across the entire District (samples 50% random, 50% target of FN interest areas of concern). <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/values/heritage.htm>

FSP's – Discussion on number of FSPs (16 within DNI) and pending CNCO Amendment (10 FSPs) along with FSPs that start expiring Fall 2016. Consider bundling EBM amendment along with FSP extension (would have future effective date) rather than separately to save time and resources for all parties (First Nation, District, Licensee).

#### **5. Forest Sector Competitiveness – Peter Jacobsen, Executive Director, Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation Division**

(see presentation)

- mentioned 2015 Forestry Fibre Action Plan (<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timber-tenures/fibre-recovery.htm> )

FMLT Conversation: Applying technology will change our future options including such things as: Lidar, drones, and scaling scanner technology, for example.

#### **6. ABCFP Update – Megan Hanacek, Forest Stewardship Specialist, ABCFP - Stewardship (including Climate Change) priorities and current projects**

-70% of the work is set by the ABCFP Business plan and 30% is related to spontaneous stewardship issues that arise through new issues, phone calls or media; this year so far have responded to 100 questions related to practice advice; have held monthly climate change webinars; 20 science-based training opportunities offered; will do 3 opinion-based editorials this year; have done 4 articles on public trust; expect Climate Change survey for members by the end of the year; Stewardship committee meets monthly and has climate change sub-committee; cumulative impacts is the number one 2015 priority and ABCFP will be doing a related practice paper once a cumulative impacts framework is released by the Province; observation that cumulative effects objectives will need to apply to all industries, not just the forest sector; contributed to the FPB FSP report ABCFP media release; would like to create regional meetings of professionals through the creation of Regional Forums to allow an avenue for professional discourse – like the FMLT; working with Ron Mecredy on wood waste paper that will focus on terminology

#### **7. FPB FSP Report – All, led by Andrew and Christina**

- Everyone has read the report.

- Impressions from the FMLT members: Did the FPB report writers understand the purpose of FSPs?; they are not FDPs they are FSPs so they can't be everything to everyone; FRPA and

professional reliance work, but the Board assessment was narrow in scope; used a compliance tool, but did not consider the same things a statutory decision-maker would use such as supplemental information, relative risk, etc.; Coast Forest Products Association response considered appropriate; ABCFP response could have been stronger; licensees rely on their SOPs and certification and processes to achieve the results and strategies and this may not be apparent in the FSP itself; the report did not include a disclaimer about the fact that on-the-ground results were not observed or included; did not acknowledge that changes were made to plans between the first and second round of FSPs as professionals learned from the initial implementation; tone disappointing; perception that this report is not unbiased and concern that the report writers had a pre-conceived conclusion or agenda; lack of transparency

- One FSP in NICC was part of the review; FPB did not contact NICC office to discuss the FSP and they did not consider the decision maker's rationale

**Action – FLNR has until the end of October to provide comment back to the FPB; provide any questions or comments to Andrew to roll up with his response by October 30, 2015.**

#### **8. THLB Stabilization Pilot Project - Andrew**

Context – The San Josef Landscape Unit is the location of the local pilot project which has been led by Western Forest Products and BC Timber Sales with the involvement and engagement of First Nations and the Ministry. At times the pilot concept has been referred to as intelligent design, or managing multiple values with the intention to optimize available harvest area. The project report will be put forward for public review and comment shortly, followed by a coordinated review and decision process. The project measured a number of values including a surrogate criteria called harvestability. All values that were considered have increased in protection with the post-pilot OGMA placement; except for Cw volume in the CWHvm1 (which was being used as a surrogate for monumental cedar, but was not tied to site index). There was an 815 hectare increase in harvestability.

Conversation:

- proposed WHAs were known and considered in the project
- the pilot called on operational knowledge and input (boots on the ground), rather than relying on an inventory approach
- The chief Forester has accepted the data presented in the final report and the pilot OGMAs will be going to public review and comment with legal endorsement likely through a GAR process as the vehicle to endorse a final product.
- in EBM area, this type of work will likely be done through the landscape reserve design process

## 8. Working Group reports

Multiple Resource Value Assessment (MRVA) – A public release date for the next NICC Vancouver Island (non EBM) report is expected March 2016. The draft will be sent out to FMLT members for comment prior to publishing.

**Action** – In terms of working groups in general and products that the FMLT could undertake, all members are asked to consider whether any local guidance or professional advice is needed for any subjects. Please provide your feedback or ideas directly to the co-chairs (Jon Flintoft and Andrew Ashford) or facilitator (Cyndy Grant) before the January 2016 FMLT meeting.

## 9. Check-in, Meeting evaluation

FMLT Members – good topics, feels like it has been a long time since we met, good dialogue; seems like less people/diversity than previous meetings I've attended; learned more about the tourism sector and feels there is missed opportunity to educate tourists about the positive aspects of forestry; valuable to sit in on the meeting and have the discussions, very positive; all good; good to meet people and see that all professionals are dealing with the same issues; good exposure to many views; great meeting; liked having Megan here representing the association; appreciated in-person communication with ABCFP by having Megan attend; really good day and valuable to see the big picture; there was a recurring public education piece and national forest week just happened – opportunity for school presentations and engaging the new high school curriculum; enjoyed it, engaging topics, so many priorities that this group could work on or influence; looking forward to having the video back; really interested in FPB FSP conversation; great to see all the linkages and common trends and gaps – forestry is complicated like a giant spiderweb; like the interactive group dynamic

**Action:** Megan Hanacek would like to be considered for membership. Co-chairs and facilitator to review this request and provide a response prior to the January meeting.

-Thanks to Jon Lok for the venue!

**Next meeting: January 13/14, 2015** (2nd week of January rather than 3<sup>rd</sup> third week to avoid Truck Loggers)

### Potential Topics –

Private Managed Forest Land

NICC Hardwood management

Provincial Climate Action Plan (will be open for review)

Northern Goshawk Recovery Strategy