

NICCRD FMLT Meeting #25 –Minutes
Day One (office) April 25, 2018 9:30 – 3:30
NICCRD Office, 2217 Mine Road, Port McNeill

Attendees – Jon Flintoft (chair), Andrew Ashford, Paul Barolet, Ivan Tallio, Ione Brown, Cyndy Grant, Kelly McMahon, Kai Sonnenburg, Tracey Ng, Joe LeBlanc, Lisa brown, Brad Sedola (morning only), Gary Gallinger (by phone), Kim Lefebvre, Christina Mardell (afternoon only), Leah Malkinson (guest), Greg Jorgensen (guest speaker), Carissa Logue (guest speaker – by phone), Lisa Nordin (guest speaker), Amy Beetham (facilitator)

Welcome & Safety – Jon welcomed everyone to the 25th meeting of the NICC FMLT and Andrew completed a safety briefing.

1. **Agenda and January 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes and FMLT Action Items** – Jon reviewed the agenda for the meeting and action items from our last meeting. Paul addressed the only outstanding action item regarding sharing FREP survey results with clients. He confirmed that some survey information can be emailed directly after the survey, while other protocols are more trend-focussed and need to be rolled up over time to show trends (such as stand level biodiversity). Paul said clients can let him know their interest and indicate when they would like to see the results from FREP field work. Joe said ASAP for IFP, especially riparian assessments. There is an interest to address site issues and incorporate results into existing licensee processes. Both good and bad news is welcome by clients to improve practices in the field. Paul stated the list of FREP blocks for this year's surveys is nearing completion and he will contact individuals for site plans and can discuss what they want to see then. FREP survey plans this year include: visual quality, cultural features, riparian, water quality, karst (if training is available) and stand development monitoring (which will be contracted out).

Note: Previous minutes were circulated February 19, 2018 and can be found at:

(<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/RCO/external/!publish/FMLT%20Publish/North%20Island%20Central%20Coast/January%2025,%202018%20FMLT%20Meeting/>)

Table 1: FMLT Action Items Summary

Action Generated	Issue	Responsibility	Due
16-Nov-17	Provincial Free Growing RESULTS Monitoring- Paul will circulate document with licensees' results to individual clients. Individual results circulated mid-January 2018, but lone did not receive results for RichPly. <i>All results have now been shared as requested.</i>	Paul Barolet	25-Jan-18 <i>(Completed March 15, 2018)</i>
25-Jan-18	Ask Paul to respond on whether the individual DNI licensee FREP surveys and/or survey data can be shared as soon as they are completed in the field. If not, then when could they be shared? <i>In response: yes some can be emailed directly; others are more trend-focussed rather than a field card and would need to be rolled up over time for individual clients or at a district level.</i>	Paul Barolet	25-Apr-18 <i>(Completed April 25, 2018)</i>
25-Jan-18	Amy to circulate the email response to the FMLT from the OPIC- Co-chair related to OPIC participation. <i>Sent out with January 2018 Meeting Minutes.</i>	Amy Beetham	25-Apr-18 <i>(Completed February 19, 2018)</i>
25-Jan-18	Amy to provide a message on the next OPIC call that our FMLT members believe that quarterly status updates on the work in progress should be publicly available as well as who to contact for individual LRDs.	Amy Beetham	25-Apr-18 <i>(Completed February 15, 2018)</i>
25-Jan-18	The working group will circulate a draft guidance document outline for review and comment to the broader FMLT group by February 5, 2018. <i>Document provided March 14 and circulated March 19, 2018.</i>	Christina Mardell, Kim Lefebvre, Joe LeBlanc, Trevor Egely, Ione Brown, Jon Flintoft, Kelly McMahon, Tracy Ng	5-Feb-18 <i>(Completed March 19, 2018)</i>
25-Jan-18	WFP-CIFO has recent elk data. Andrew to contact Bill Zinovich to let him know. <i>Andrew has contacted Bill.</i>	Andrew Ashford	25-Apr-18 <i>(Completed April 20, 2018)</i>
25-Jan-18	Andrew will confirm if any reports (grizzly bear in particular) have been released and if so that will be forwarded out to FMLT. <i>No reports have been released to date.</i>	Andrew Ashford	25-Apr-18 <i>(Completed April 20, 2018)</i>

2. **OIF (March 8, 2018) Update** – Andrew

- the last OIF meeting was action packed
- THLB stabilization: Teal TFL 46 is considering one, but joint TOR still under development and scalability/scope to be fleshed out; Englewood THLB stabilization on hold with First Nations requesting land use planning to proceed first; Stillwater project going well
- land use plan modernization: lots of interest from many parties (First Nations, communities, licensees) and the province is scoping this out: small changes to broader scale review being contemplated by the ministry, need to build land use planning capacity in the ministry
- accessing residuals on the coast: increasing pulp fibre availability working group; there is a business to business group underway with major licensees working with Catalyst; Les Kiss involved; government facilitated this pilot; nothing on paper to share at this point; collective interest in utilizing pulpwood
- provincial professional reliance review: huge public interest and feedback; audited associations, jurisdictional scan; expect recommendations any day spring 2018; being led by Ministry of Environment
- lean log handling: success with fluid check scale, some specific water scale pilots and weight scale cranes on barges (transporting scaled timber); more effectively moving pulp
- climate based seed transfer: assisted migration, climate-based focus represented by biogeoclimatic (BEC) variant rather than elevation; conservative approach to catch up to real time and functional in SPAR; Joe: two year transition time, less effect on the coast than the interior, available today and legislated implementation by Chief Forester expected this August; expect fall licensee sponsored/oriented workshops; (ask Joe if you have any questions)
- Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) Implementation: Ministry focus is supporting - landscape reserve design, re-charting, First Nation agreements (with FN who have not yet signed GBR agreements); some licensees expressed concerns about operational certainty; concerns about sustainability of the cut being expressed from some First Nations to licensees and asking for more supporting information/rationales; continuing complexity given collaboration needs
- draft wood waste landfill policy (and connection with provincial forest use regulation) is being worked on; Ministry of Environment is responsible for finalizing this policy; using special use permits (SUPs) for this; Joe – siting requirements being addressed? Not specifically; draft shared to OIF but cannot be distributed at this point
- contractor sustainability report discussed – benefit flow to support these small businesses; not available for distribution
- reminder of OIF confidentiality raised; some documents cannot be distributed

- First Nation Forestry Council – United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) conversations around the province; 8 meetings currently planned
- Big Tree policy for the province (Norah White) being developed; part of old growth management on Vancouver Island; what is the timber supply impact?; inventory challenges
- fish sampling permits: every stream needed to be identified for the permit; missing flexibility to address streams discovered during survey; time to process permits has decreased; Lisa Nordin says that there is a way to identify all associated tributaries to reduce risks of needing to amend a permit; licensees still want some freedom; conditions on reporting; inconsistencies between regions; also some permit holders have not been reporting diligently

3. **What's going on out there?** An around the table discussion of top of mind issues/interests. Note: In the interest of keeping the agenda on-track, this topic was truncated to one issue only.

-Lisa B: The biggest issue for us is implementing the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) biodiversity element pending landscape reserve design (LRD) completion; complex in how you incorporate the broader flexibility across the GBR area; this relates to trading groups; a five-year view is hard to nail down; LRD timelines are taking much longer than anticipated; collaboration across groups is challenging; proportioning can be controversial; see a need for broader training to better understand this...perhaps a role for Pam Silver's group or a proposal for a working group? This issue is broader in scope than the FMLT so how do we tackle this issue?

Action Item: By Friday April 27, Andrew will contact Pam Silver's group (which includes John Sunde) to raise the issue and need for training and coordination. *Completed: Initial email sent to Pam Silver on April 27 to request discussion regarding her team providing a training opportunity for licensees to meet to discuss the aspatial implementation of the biodiversity objectives.*

Action Item: Andrew will raise this GBR implementation concern to OIF as well, for discussion at a future OIF meeting. *Completed: Email sent to OIF Co-chairs Paul Nuttall and Sharon Hadway April 27 regarding the complexities of managing the GBR biodiversity objective and suggesting it as a good OIF topic.*

4. **Coast Silviculture Audit Trends** – Greg Jorgensen, Silviculture Performance Assessment Specialist, Resource Planning and Assessment Branch

Greg reviewed the findings from the **2016 Free Growing Monitoring Project: Coast Area Free Growing Precision Standards Summary** - see link to presentations below.

Greg noted that he is here to continue sharing information on free growing monitoring. The 2016 project specifically measured foundational data such as: total stems per hectare, free growing per hectare, forest health, and species composition. Some data elements can have a cascading effect if done poorly. How do we improve results and improve consistency? There is a single entry dispersed retention system stocking standards (SEDRSS) training opportunity on May 29th. Government has a silviculture surveyor training and accreditation program, but it is not well attended on the coast. How do we encourage participation to improve the results for precision standards reporting? There is a need to calibrate air surveys, and recognize some survey methods are not suitable for junior staff.

A question was asked about whether there would be a monitoring program this year for the Coast? There is interest so there may be annual work done including this year. Joe observed that working closely with industry is the way to go moving forward; Greg noted that letters were sent out in error (non-compliance notices) related to the 2016 surveying; C&E did not know the RESULTS reporting rules so will be provided more detail moving forward; one suggestion that silviculture surveyors could GPS and mark plot centre and then would be able to audit like cruising; Greg said this is not currently required; concern with dwindling workforce available to do surveying, hard to find people; technology/tools are not able to fill the gap at this time

Action Item: Before May 29, Paul will circulate information about the SEDRSS training opportunity to licensees and professionals in the district.

5. **District Waste Trends** – Carissa Logue, RFT, Coast Area Timber Cruising and Waste Specialist

Carissa reviewed the current waste trends for the district in her presentation **Coast Area Waste and Residue** – see link to presentations below.

-Paul noted that the one anomalous block had the old growth Douglas-fir overstory removed and the second growth hemlock understory felled and left behind

- accessing waste continues to be an issue; business to business is the best model; economic range and roads access must also be considered; salt content in salvaged fibre can be a deterrent
- the magnitude of the waste figures was surprising to some, as was cedar contributing the second highest volume in the waste figures
- Ivan observed that First Nations communities have concerns about respectful use, and leaving less waste is an element of respectful use
- Gary wondered whether we are losing quality control in the settings; a question was raised whether there is a role for the FMLT to influence practices?; Kim questioned why there is a salvage program at all – why is it left behind?; Joe noted the market does not support the low end log; Paul noted the over-use of helicopter logging can contribute to higher waste levels; Andrew noted cost averaging financial decisions can dictate utilization levels

LUNCH BREAK

6. **Riparian Update** – Lisa Nordin, RPBio, Aquatic Resource Stewardship Evaluation Officer, Resource Planning and Assessment Branch

The coastal small streams best management practices project and outreach was completed in 2017 - see **FREP Riparian Update** (link to presentations below).

7. **Water Quality & Acidic Rocks** – Dave Maloney, Forest Water Management Officer, Fish and Aquatic Habitat Branch

Dave reviewed the FREP Water Quality survey methodology, some district results, and spoke to FREP Extension Note #42 related to acid rock drainage – see **FREP Water Quality Effectiveness Evaluation** (link to presentations below).

- Water quality improvements can result from removing grader berms; take care with deactivation as we are losing operational expertise (training opportunity); can prevent erosion of fine sediments into streams by making cross ditches big enough, armouring bare soil and proper water bar installation

- What is the significance of acid rock on Vancouver Island? It varies but geological maps will help; Georgie Lake went acidic below 30 metres this year; lone noted that acidic rock was identified at the windfarm and measuring was undertaken – no mitigation was required in the end; awareness piece; can add limestone as a natural buffer; cumulative effects/impacts from multiple users on the landbase; this feels new in a forestry context (re acid rock); some historic roads may have limited opportunity for improvement; long term investments in re-ballasting or relocating

8. **Large Cutblocks and VILUP Working Group Progress Update** – Christina, Kim, Joe, Ione, Jon, Kelly, Tracy
- draft outline sent out, limited comments received; sections have been divided up for the write-up (rough draft expected to be completed by the end of June); working group plans to meet and discuss progress in the interim
 - biodiversity-related comments from Paul and Gary were provided to the working group
 - FPPR section 64 structural piece; spatial and temporal concepts; Christina – influences of WHAs, etc. that have been put into place since VILUP; Joe – need to turn your mind to all the legislative requirements as a professional
 - Lisa liked the outline, wondering if the concept of a watershed assessment will be considered including what conditions would trigger one?; Joe - professional guidance is the focus with the professional making the decision on what level of assessment is required
 - Andrew – in my mind, hydrology has a watershed scope versus cutblock riparian assessments

Action Item: By August 1, 2018, the working group will provide a progress update (by email) to FMLT which may include the circulation of a draft document.

9. **April 26, 2018 Field Trip Logistics** – Jon, Paul, Kelly, Kim, John
- Discussed plans for the field trip.

PPE: Hardhat, High viz clothing/vest, caulk boots / sturdy footwear; earplugs
Depart 8am: 1. riparian stop (TFL 6) one hour; 2. tourism& visuals (near 7Mile – tentative) 20 min; 3. large cutblock stop near Beaver Cove (TFL 47 25 min travel, 1 -1.5 hrs), 4. waste site near Alder Bay (TFL 37), North Island Chipping facility at Beaver Cove (tentative-will confirm tomorrow), return by 4 pm

10. **Closing and check-in** – around the table

-fantastic, particularly enjoyed Carissa's waste trends presentation; good job chairing and keeping us on track; relevant presentations and appreciate special guests; thanks to Ivan travelling 21 hours to attend in person; thanks for action item reminders; lots of interest for Greg's free growing surveys topic; always interesting meeting but I struggle with how it gets to the broader groups of professionals; we can share out with our work groups; liked the presentations and more about the FG surveys (at a future meeting)

would be helpful to learn more about the issues that need to be addressed; interesting presentations; site series learning/training opportunity is important; good discussion, FG surveys eye-opener, looked bleak; on-going emphasis on small stream management is relevant; small streams report excellent and particularly encouraged by adjustments made to FREP as a result of licensee feedback; take-home gem was (removing) grader berms; appreciated opportunity to be here on my first day on the job; extremely insightful, looking forward to further engagement; face to face attendance makes a difference; how does this affect FN communities and being good stewards of the land, important learning process; good, liked FREP extension services and that government collected information gets out to the licensees; timely distribution of FMLT minutes would be appreciated for knowledge dissemination; thanks for inviting us to provide our first outreach session of the year; appreciate the respectful dialogue and exposure to other topics that are not part of my day to day; thanks to Jon and Amy for meeting organization; nice to see FREP adjust with recommendations from licensees; small streams and fibre utilization are important to keep thinking about; thanks to Cyndy; meeting was excellent and appreciated the organization of the meeting and the professional discussion; thanks to those who have put together the field trip for tomorrow

Next meeting – October 25, 2018

Link to Presentations:

[\(https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/DNI/external!/publish/FMLT Information/September%2025,%202018%20Meeting%20Information/\)](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/DNI/external!/publish/FMLT%20Information/September%2025,%202018%20Meeting%20Information/)

Day Two (field) April 26, 2018 8:00 – 4:00

TFL 6, Highway 19, TFL 47, North Island Chipping (Beaver Cove), TFL 37

Attendees – Jon Flintoft, Andrew Ashford, Paul Barolet, Leah Malkinson (morning), Amy Beetham, Kelly McMahon, Jeanne Mathews, Lisa Nordin (morning), Kai Sonnenburg, Tracey Ng, John Dirom, Joe LeBlanc, Kim Lefebvre, Christina Mardell, Charlotte Mellstrom (Stop 1), Marisa Ashley

The field tour consisted of 5 stops, where good dialogue on local issues and professional challenges and opportunities were discussed.



Stop 1 – Riparian: field review of the negative effect of poor deactivation on the proper functioning of two otherwise well-managed S6 streams within a cutblock.



Stop 2 – Re-establishing Historic Viewpoint: opening up the view on Highway 19 for the public/tourists at the request of local government, and a general discussion of tourism and forestry interaction.



Stop 3 – Large cutblocks in the enhanced zone under VILUP: professional considerations and developing a guidance document



Stop 4 – North Island Chipping Ltd. Mill Tour with owner Shane Murdoch



Stop 5 – Waste: field review of a waste plot and general discussion related to opportunities to manage waste fibre



Photo Credits – Paul Barolet (Stop 2), Amy Beetham