

NICCRD FMLT Meeting #28 – Minutes
April 24, 2019 9:30 am – 3:50 pm
NICCRD Office, 2217 Mine Road, Port McNeill

Attendees – Andrew Ashford (Chair), Jon Flintoft (Co-Chair), Paul Barolet, Mike Desrochers, Cyndy Grant, Kim Lefebvre, Kai Sonnenburg, Joe Leblanc (by phone), Ivan Tallio (by phone), Andrew Andy (by phone), Ione Brown, Gary Gallinger (by phone), Tracy Ng, Jennifer Peschke, Christina Mardell (part day), Megan Hanacek (by phone, first hour), Jon Lok, Amy Beetham (facilitator)
Regrets: Shane Simard, Lisa Brown, Blair Wrigglesworth, Trevor Egely, Terry Basso, Charlotte Mellstrom

Guests: Carissa Logue, Dean Hunchuk, Mike McCulley, Bruce Storry and Warren Warttig

Welcome & Safety – Andrew welcomed everyone and provided a safety briefing.

1. **Agenda** – Andrew reviewed the agenda. Christina would like to discuss large cutblocks earlier in the day (accommodated).
2. **January 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes and Review FMLT Action Items** – Amy

Minutes were circulated February 13, 2019 (link below) with no comments received. The January 2019 minutes are adopted.

[https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/DNI/external/!publish/FMLT Information/January%2024,%202019%20Meeting/January%2024,%202019%20FMLT%20Minutes.pdf](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/DNI/external/!publish/FMLT%20Information/January%2024,%202019%20Meeting/January%2024,%202019%20FMLT%20Minutes.pdf)

Table 1: FMLT Action Items Summary

Action Generated	Issue	Responsibility	Due
April 25, 2018	Large Cutblocks and VILUP Working Group: The working group will provide a progress update (by email) to FMLT which may include the circulation of a draft guidance document. <i>(Draft document circulated with Meeting #28 agenda.)</i>	Kim LeFebvre (lead), Joe LeBlanc, Trevor Egely, Ione Brown, Jon Flintoft, Tracy Ng, Christina Mardell	1-Aug-2018 <i>(completed April 18, 2019)</i>
January 24, 2019	Tabular Rates: Amy to circle back internally within FLNRORD and with Gary who suggested this agenda item but is unavailable for today's meeting to see if this is a topic for a future meeting. <i>(Email from GG that tab rates came out through FBCWA, no need to discuss further.)</i>	Amy Beetham	April 24, 2019 <i>(completed February 13, 2019)</i>

January 24, 2019	Terms of Reference: All members to review draft TOR prior to our next meeting and provide any comments or suggestions to Amy for discussion in April. <i>(No comments provided ahead of the meeting by any members. See discussion below.)</i>	All Members	April 24, 2019 <i>(completed April 24, 2019)</i>
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3. FMLT Terms of Reference (TOR) - Amy

[https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/DNI/external/!publish/FMLT Information/Terms%20of%20Reference/2019%20NICC%20FMLT%20Terms%20of%20Reference for%20discussion.pdf](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/DNI/external/!publish/FMLT%20Information/Terms%20of%20Reference/2019%20NICC%20FMLT%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20for%20discussion.pdf)

Do we want to acknowledge UNDRIP in our TOR? Mike Desrochers suggested we speak to indigenous versus aboriginal or First Nations in our Guiding Principles section; BCTS is adding Christina Mardell to FMLT and Lisa Brown is departing; Andrew Ashford has some thoughts on the wording and will provide that.

Action Item: Amy Beetham to confirm membership with some of our less active members and circulate revised wording / TOR to discuss and endorse at the October meeting.

4. OIF (March 7, 2019) Update – Andrew

-Coast Revitalization was discussed: restoring public confidence, fostering stronger business-to-business relationships between BC Timber Sales, major licensees and First Nations, rebuilding solid wood and secondary industries to ensure more fibre is processed in BC, improving harvest performance to ensure more fibre is available for domestic mills, maintaining a credible auction system; implementation started April 1st with a move to the Post Harvest Appraisal Reconciliation Model (PHARM) and the coastal Fibre Recovery Zone (FRZ) was released; variable fee in lieu coming June 1st; waste benchmarks are 35m³ for heli-logging, 10m³ for conventional ground, and 25m³ for cable harvesting; discussion that new benchmarks seemed arbitrary and were other models considered?; confirmed that waste does not belong to the licensee once waste survey is submitted; related to secondary processing, question raised that if the licensees turn the existing waste into a fibre source, is there enough milling capacity on the Coast to handle the volume? FRZ cover a wide area of the coast (\$50/m³ economic zone); goal to have less waste, more jobs, better utilization; no transition – these changes will apply to cutting permits issued as of April 1st

-PHARM: Al Bennet presentation, limiting review to specific elements at submission; mandatory resubmission once work completed and ministry will review post-harvest; implications of big trees for forest management reasons, they will not contribute to

measured waste; focus is on the back end field review for PHARM (what actually happened)

- Amending Cutting Permits: CPs cannot be amended after expiry; this has come up at the district a few times over the last year; Al Bennet also spoke to this at the meeting, confirming that expired CPs cannot be amended; some vehicles like the CP

Postponement Regulation can provide for more time in specific circumstances

- Cumulative Effects Framework: five provincial values – grizzly bear, old growth, forest biodiversity, moose, aquatic ecosystems; West Coast Region also has: cutthroat trout, Roosevelt elk, marbled murrelet, Northern goshawk and cultural cedar; Wade Anderson is doing an analysis to determine the current condition of those values on the West Coast (technical review and technical team review), that work then goes to the regional management team; then it will be shared with indigenous groups and licensees; next it will be shared more broadly and publicly to solicit additional information; this current condition information will be additional information for forest professionals to consider when they are developing cutblocks; no socioeconomic piece to this work; if a management response is called for, then there would be socioeconomic review; there is a lot of pressure from communities in the north of the province (oil and gas) on the impacts of development; Megan Hanacek asked if there is thought to have this data available to others? Andrew said yes the plan is to have it open to the public, so strong rationales will likely be required.

- Les Kiss- Provincial Forestry Forum topics discussed included: Coast Revitalization; Forestry 101 Webinars (next iteration is Monday April 29th); in the north the focus was caribou (trade-offs and sustainability of the industry) and Spruce Beetle ; on the coast there was a focus on professional reliance and the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA); the south was concerned about the urban-wildfire interface; concerning FRPA Bill 21, the Provincial Forestry Forum wants to be involved in the regulation development

- Old Growth: Craig Sutherland spoke to the moratorium proposal for old growth hotspots by environmental non-government organizations (in this district it includes the western shore of Nimpkish Lake and Mount Wolfenden); transition to second growth models have been run; Les Kiss says old growth is 56% of the harvest on Vancouver Island; the Minister has reviewed various options papers and stated during the estimates debate that there is no moratorium planned for Vancouver Island Discussion that incremental Old Growth areas may happen through increases in size or distribution of old growth management areas and through wildlife habitat areas for species at risk.

5. **Marine Protected Areas** – Warren Warttig and Bruce Storry provided a presentation and updated FMLT on the status of marine protected areas planning.
6. **What's going on out there?** –

Jon Flintoft asked for responses around the table of top of mind issues/interests. Tracy mentioned she is now an employee of Mosaic rather than TimberWest and transition continues; Joe Leblanc noted that many are trying to get a handle on Coast Forest Revitalization so licensees have shifted efforts; Kai Sonnenburg has been traumatized by Bill 21 and is slightly terrified by the shifts coming to FRPA, so is looking forward to this afternoon's topic, and Andrew Ashford is keenly interested too; Lone Brown is interested in old growth and after attending the Landscape Reserve Design process, concerns about how this will roll out over the next few years and how people will manage to get them done; Paul Barolet highlighted that the Multi-Resource Value Assessment Report has been published and he hopes to see more incremental silviculture in the future to address shrinking timber harvesting land base and any ties into Forests For Tomorrow, lots of silviculture discussion coming up; Paul also has concerns about fires; Andrew is concerned about summer drought situation that is developing, pending rainfall and given lack of snowpack, summer shutdowns; Andrew noted that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is coming to Port McNeill this Friday to meet with local governments and First Nations and will be meeting with North Island CFA representatives; Kim Lefebvre is concerned about Coast Forest Revitalization and monitoring impacts to clients, cost and minor work slowdowns; Kim notes that recruitment of skilled professionals on the north island continues to be challenging (intermediate and senior levels); Ivan Tallio posed questions about cruised appraisal costs, timber left on the ground and salvage opportunity – improved utilization; Gary Gallinger is looking forward to the exciting times ahead, older guys may have to stay on longer given recruitment challenges; Joe Leblanc is concerned about new FRPA changes and how it will add a lot of workload on people as he expects amendment processes which will require more resources from government and industry but recruitment challenges may not be taken into consideration by those developing legislation; Joe is concerned about seeing a downturn in the industry worse than 2008 era; Mike Desrochers said they have migrated to new database system that has glitches to fix, there is lots of landscape reserve design work underway, and has uav work underway with FPInnovations; Jon Flintoft notes he has a harder time getting to the field now, is wondering how the many initiatives underway line up or don't, and finds the volume and the pace of change is exciting.

7. On the Radar –

- Forest and Range Practices Amendment Act – Bill 21 link:
<https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/legislation-debates-proceedings/41st-parliament/4th-session/bills/progress-of-bills>

The ministry news release is here:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019FLNR0053-000541>

Andrew Ashford reviewed the top 5 changes and provided a handout.

Notable: The Forest Operations Map is not a requirement of FSPs, i.e. is outside of FSPs; nothing is enabled until the regulations are developed so the regulation will be key; Kai Sonnenburg notes that you will have expended development costs and this adds a level of uncertainty; purpose appears to be to allow the public to see when development is planned

Bill 21 is going to final reading in short order. Once it is law, the regulations will be developed to show the details related to implementation. Regulations are quicker through Cabinet approval. This is the first suite of FRPA changes, but additional changes are under consideration, such as making Free Growing declarations mandatory.

Joe Leblanc asked ‘Will all FSPs require major Amendments?’ Andrew says likely they will and within 6 months.

- 2019 North Island Knotweed program – Paul spoke to the two main projects on the north island this year being undertaken through collaboration with Range Branch, ‘Namgis First Nation, Quatsino First Nation, BC Hydro and licensees.

8. **Fibre Recovery Zone (FRZ) and Waste** – Carissa Logue, RFT, FLNRORD Timber Cruising and Waste Specialist, Coast Area

There is no waste required for cruise-based billing. An increase in use of cruise-based permits is expected, and licensees are likely doing the math now to see what works for their business. The FRZ map was developed by Forest Tenures Branch (Doug Stewart). The FRZ layer is available on iMap and does not exclude things like parks and private land.

Your appraisal is still subject to the highest stumpage rate, so less likely to incent move to heli-logging. Licensee behaviour and outcome will be monitored as this is implemented. A policy is also being developed related to the removal of fibre for the secondary market during primary harvesting. The timing of waste assessments is being regulated so expect there will be less flexibility once this is in regulation.

Kai Sonnenburg asked what happens if we are finding no secondary users for this fibre? This is still to be determined. Joe Leblanc asked how does the waste manual speak to Big Tree policy, etc.? There is nothing really specific to big trees, but the manual will be changing to bring in new sampling methodologies (this fall), so could add some new wording to address these types of concerns. Andrew Ashford noted that if they are leaving wood behind to serve a legitimate management purpose (i.e. to meet a crown objective), they are not assessed as waste – this can be provided to your waste surveyor (documentation is important) and submitted with the waste survey. Note that this typically mean managing for a previously not discovered feature or value that you were not aware of at the time of CP submission. Dean Hunchuk noted some of these features are captured as unavoidable waste to cover off the cut control implications while not incurring a penalty.

9. **2018 Fire Season Review** – Mike McCulley, FLNRORD Research and Development Senior Officer, BC Wildfire Service, Integrated Resource Operations Division
Mike presented a provincial summary of Wildfire Season 2018 with a focus on the area covered by the Coastal Fire Center and the North Island – Central Coast Natural Resource District.
10. **Large Cutblocks and VILUP Working Group Progress Update** –Kim (lead), Joe, Ione, Jon, Tracy, Christina

The draft paper was circulated with the meeting agenda. Working group members did a detailed review and wrote different sections, focussing on steps you can take as a professional, and considerations you might take. There were many iterations of this document, and the majority viewpoint on what to share with the broader FMLT is found in the draft paper. At this point, greater FMLT feedback is being sought. Andrew Ashford asked ‘what were the bigger discussion points raised’? Kim noted that the previous document had greater detail and there was concern about it being too prescriptive, so there was a move to guidance for each section, as they did not want to be bound to particular practices.

Action Item: FMLT members to review the document to provide comments by end of July directly to Kim who will then circulate those comments to the working group members.

Initial thoughts: Joe Leblanc felt the document was benign after so much work. Christina Mardell noted that the initial part provides context for those not as familiar with the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan and the history and wanted to remove what you would do for any block versus a large block. Ione Brown noted that it was difficult to come to

consensus and provide a frame of reference or benchmark of what is expected. They wanted to provide a level of confidence that the District Manager would consider reasonable. Joe described that it changed course from being prescriptive to providing a professional with the elements they should consider as they write a rationale. Andrew noted that the true test is when someone new tries to use it and whether it is useful to them. Tracy Ng will set up a new Sharepoint for the working group under Mosaic. Gary Gallinger noted the number one topic is hydrology, but the ABCFP has a new guideline out for review and that the working group should look at being on-track with that ABCFP guideline too.

11. Streams Working Group Update – Joe Leblanc, Jon Flintoft, Paul Barolet and Mike Desrochers

They have had email exchanges and are scheduling a conference call soon. Joe and Mike would like to meet to discuss the merits of new riparian information. Jon wants to revisit the guidelines to make sure they are still current based on any new information. Joe would like to see more current information based on surveys from more recent harvesting.

12. Next Meeting – Set for October 16th with suggested topics: Coast forest Revitalization; FRPA Bill 21 regulation update; GBRO update - LRDs/recharting; Changes to GBRO – discussion of what is or isn't working; cutting permit trends (cruise versus scale-based)

13. Closing and check-in –good day with lots of engagement and flexibility in moving agenda around to accommodate participants; interested in hearing about the focussed Federal approach in marine planning; glad knotweed program is well in hand locally between FLNRORD and Regional District; appreciate getting the draft VILUP document; good meeting and glad we had the discussion on Bill 21 and hearing that others share my concerns; good meeting and lots of topics, productive; very good and glad my working group has stepped up and there will be an alleged conference call; fire season starting so looking at preparations is important, very interested in economic impacts; was good, but a disadvantage to not have a lot of the presentation material sooner; good presentation on the new legislation coming up, always get something interesting out of these meetings; liked having the presentations, good to have experts in the room; pace and amount of change we are facing is concerning; everything was great, liked fire presentation and would like to engage in the off-season whenever they can; great meeting, wide range of topics and excited by the changes; liked the variety in

presentations and fostered good discussion, informative and constructive, good to see new faces; great to see and meet everyone in-person.

14. **Field Trip Preparations** – For the group going to the field: want to be geared up and walking by 8:30, need to minimize vehicles, wear regular PPE and bring a lunch. We are expecting the field day to go from 8 am to 3 pm.

Day Two (field) April 25, 2019 8:00 – 3:00

Attendees –Andrew Ashford, Paul Barolet, Murray Estlin, Shawn Tougas, Amy Beetham, Kai Sonnenburg, Tracey Ng, Jennifer Peschke, Mike DesRochers, Ione Brown, Joe LeBlanc, Doug Underhill, James Aitken, Charlotte Mellstrom, Jason Hutchinson, Felipe Hirata

The field tour consisted of 3 stops, where good dialogue professional challenges and opportunities were discussed: red alder management, stand tending to release western red cedar and large cutblocks.

Stop #1 – Pacific Timber Supply Area: Revisiting the Benefits of Red Alder Management (also a stop of the 2019 Forests for Tomorrow Field Tour)



Stop #2 – Pacific Timber Supply Area: Forest Enhancement Society of BC funded Cedar Release Project



Stop #3 – TFL 47: Hydrological and Logistical Considerations when Developing Large Cutblocks

