

NICCRD FMLT Meeting #31 –Minutes

June 25, 2020 1:00 – 2:25 pm

Conference Call via Skype (computer and dial-in available)

Attendees: Jon Flintoft (Co-Chair), Andrew Ashford (Co-Chair), Mike DesRochers, Cyndy Grant, Ione Brown, Charlotte Mellstrom, Jen Peschke, Kai Sonnenburg, Paul Barolet, Gary Gallinger, Shane Simard, Megan Hanacek, Amy Beetham (facilitator)

Regrets: Christina Mardell, Jon Lok, Tracy Ng, Emmarie Leeson, Tyson Berkenstock, Kim Lefebvre

Guest: Jessica Garrick

1. **Welcome & Agenda Review** – Jon welcomed everyone and confirmed the agenda.
2. **Adopt January 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes and Review FMLT Action Items** – Jon

Minutes were circulated February 12, 2020. No comments were received. The minutes were confirmed.

[https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/DNI/external/!publish/FMLT Information/Meetings/Meeting%2030_January%2030,%202020/January%2030,%202020%20FMLT%20Minutes.pdf](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/DNI/external/!publish/FMLT%20Information/Meetings/Meeting%2030_January%2030,%202020/January%2030,%202020%20FMLT%20Minutes.pdf)

Table 1: FMLT Action Items Summary

Action Generated	Issue	Responsibility	Due
January 30, 2020	Old Growth Fact Sheet: Andrew will confirm whether he can circulate the draft document, and then circulate it if possible. <i>June 25th meeting: It cannot be circulated yet. Government is unlikely to put out anything until the Old Growth Report is released publicly (perhaps August).</i>	Andrew Ashford	April 22, 2020 <i>(completed)</i>
January 30, 2020	Cost Reduction Project (woodlands focus): Mike Hykaway for the Province is working on an 'ideas' template to collect, monetize and rank ideas from within both government and industry. Andrew will distribute the template to FMLT members once it is available. <i>Email sent February 13, 2020.</i>	Andrew Ashford	April 22, 2020 <i>(completed)</i>
January 30, 2020	Forestry awareness outreach to local educators: there is another opportunity on May 8, 2020. Cyndy will contact	Cyndy Grant	March 15, 2020 <i>(completed)</i>

	those with interest (BCTS, Strategic, WFP) in early March to begin planning. <i>Planning began with a meeting held March 9, 2020. Please note this event has now been cancelled / postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic response.</i>		
January 30, 2020	Large Cutblocks under VILUP Working Group: The working group will provide the final edited draft guidance document to Amy for circulation to the broader FMLT prior to the next meeting in April. <i>June 25th meeting update: Working group members have not met since the January meeting and the Covid 19 pandemic has thrown this timeline off.</i>	Working Group	April 1, 2020 <i>(overdue)</i>

3. **DNI First Nations Advisor Update** – Jessica Garrick

- most First Nation offices remain closed in relation to the Covid 19 pandemic; most First Nation's referrals staff are working from home in a limited capacity
- no new updates outside of the office closures, and Jessica is available to speak to any specific First Nation if anyone has questions
- Jessica noted: we are still sending out consultation requests and receiving responses back; we have been offering additional time for consultation given current working conditions; we are forging ahead and expect as things open up and offices reopen, that engagement will increase

4. **Coast Operational Issues Forum (OIF) Update** – Andrew Ashford

- OIF met May 7 by Skype; the meeting was dedicated to the Provincial Forestry Forum log cost driver process; that process was initiated in February to remove \$30 from delivered wood costs in 90 days; a number of principles apply, such as: consistent with current forest policy; 305 ideas were submitted including 155 from the coast – these ideas were then themed; these submissions cannot be shared since some contain proprietary information
- theme areas: cutting permit authority, commercial thinning, export, fibre transportation, First Nations, Great Bear Rainforest, Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation, reforestation, roads, salvage and forest health, utilization, BCTS, general administration, cruising and scaling

- the top three which are being pursued initially are: cutting permit authority, utilization, and cruising and scaling; those three theme areas have workgroups who are fleshing out the ideas to implement or provide to government for consideration
- Coast Forest Sector Revitalization – Mary Mitchell is leading this for the West Coast Region and is involved with: helping manage the cost driver initiative, fibre flow initiative (tied to pulp industry), *Forest Act* amendment changes – Bill 22, designing policy for business-to-business relationships, reviewing policy for *Forest and Range Practices Act* changes, effectiveness review of the Private Managed Forest Land regime
- Megan feels that many operators are just becoming aware of the operational impacts and costs from the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation; Mike believes morning burns will produce more smoke
- Kai asked if the \$30 target is on track or expected to be met? Andrew thinks we are likely closer to \$7-9 right now
- Ione was wondering how the top three were chosen and what will happen to the other items on the list?; In terms of how it was chosen, Andrew understands that the Provincial Forestry Forum gave FLNRORD Deputy Minister John Allen the list of 305 ideas and he chose the initial top three areas to focus on
- Gary wondered whether anyone is looking for out of province / country ideas? Andrew does not believe the working groups have any restrictions in terms of where they look for information or ideas

5. What's going on out there? What is keeping you up at night? Around the table discussion of top of mind issues/interests.

- Charlotte: one thing is the 2021 Great Bear Rainforest review and completing landscape reserve designs moving forward; also concerned about all the legislation changes that are coming down the pipe and the challenges associated with adapting to the change
- Kai: Forest Practices Board Special Investigation on Sedimentation and Fish Habitat, and is hoping that it won't result in legislated changes for the entire province which may not be appropriate for Coastal operations;
- Jen: got childcare dealt with so less headaches these days and have returned to the office; playing catch up and our operations are no longer curtailed; busy with silviculture and waste
- Ione: North Island TSA timber supply review; Covid 19 is on my mind and moving forward with work; interesting conversation with a log broker – things are fluctuating a lot; personally and professionally trying to change the model for the North Islands Community Forest

-Megan: Private Managed Forest Land provincial review; legislative changes including: federal species at risk and migratory birds and the provincial *Professional Governance Act*

-Amy: still juggling childcare and working from home; the team is busy getting permits, authorizations and tenures out the door in a virtual environment; some team members are working in the office

-Cyndy: old growth strategic review outcomes; focussed on First Nations consultation while being respectful of First Nations; concerned about our tourism operators related to Covid 19 and the north island in general

-Gary: what he is seeing over the long term here is that our province is becoming less competitive on the world market and whether forest operations will remain viable; on a personal note he is using a lot of foam flies for fly-fishing

-Mike: 'the jaded old guy has lots on his mind' - the *Professional Governance Act* has stalled out, Great Bear Rainforest 2021 review, old growth review; highly concerned about the Covid 19 situation; the biggest one is as an indigenous person and reconciliation and the era we are in, that reconciliation won't happen in his lifetime, that it will take a long time

-Paul: Netflix is keeping me up at night; echo what Kai said about the Forest Practices Board report, we have good road building materials on the coast, and we could focus on a few areas to improve; the Board used the Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) protocol for water quality and BCTS in the interior and some licensees use it operationally as well; licensees could even do the monitoring for the FREP program; there are some quick wins if people become more familiar with the protocol and practices; Paul is willing to roll up our district FREP results and present at a future FMLT; working on probably the 5th plan of attack on knotweed - we hit it hard last year and will be looking to treat in July and August; Megan mentioned that there continues to be a lot of pressure at both the federal and provincial level to end the use of glyphosate in Canada and specifically in B.C.; Paul noted that there may be a new product available soon, called Habitat; expect less spraying and more walking this year compared to last year given last year's successful treatment program; there are plans to deal with the Port Alice pulp mill knotweed this year too

-Andrew: I disagree with Gary about the fly fishing and I don't think using foam is selling out; managing; managing staff safety as the office reopens; forest legislation amendments and at any point now we will see the regulations to bring that legislation into force such as the forest operations map - so see change coming, and forest landscape planning; species at risk and plans are being figured out on the coast, northern goshawk foraging habitat size; 2021 Great Bear Rainforest review; a common tension point is the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, which provides

a framework for shared decision-making which has no policy or framework around it right now and First Nation partners have a level of disappointment with a lack of progress in this area

-Jon: it seems like a looming tidal wave of change that has been slowed down somewhat by Covid 19, and how to manage all the change; looking forward to the start of Formula 1

-Shane: everyone covered everything I think

6. On the Radar –

- FPB special investigation on Sedimentation and Fish Habitat - <https://www.bcfpb.ca/news-resources/news-releases/road-sediment-causing-impacts-to-fish-habitat/>; Andrew knows this was a webinar so may be available on the FPB website; it was a good/interesting webinar
- North Island TSA Timber Supply Review: Lone notes it started over two years ago and is wondering where the data package is at or any updates?; Andrew says a draft package has been completed and received this week; he needs to read it and have some staff review and then it will go for public review and comment; Paul noted this process has been delayed by Covid 19 and it will likely be another year to decision
- 2021 Great Bear Rainforest Review: Andrew noted there is a government-to-government (G2G) review commitment and it is happening primarily between the Province (at Branch level – Jeff Sheldrake and Ben Morton) and Coastal First Nations / Nanwakolas; in general the G2G forum have met and discussed a number of theme areas: governance, planning and implementation logjams (i.e. landscape reserve designs), policy and guidance (to provide more certainty around management), a progress report, and housekeeping issues; Mike notes he is working with a number of foresters to develop a paper which speaks to the new strategy for submission to G2G, he wants to address the bad silvics

7. Next Meeting – Suggestions from around the table

-Approach: given Covid 19 office protocols, our fall meeting will not be possible in-person and will need to be virtual like today; it is very difficult to spend more than about two hours in a virtual meeting; suggestion to have a couple of shorter 2 hour calls (6 weeks apart perhaps); changes coming into force could drive the agendas for those calls

-Potential Topics: any legislative changes, old growth strategic review, ecosystem-based management / Great Bear Rainforest 2021 review, update from district First Nations Advisor Jessica Garrick, update from the large cut blocks under VILUP working group, district FREP results – water quality focus

-Date: Wednesday October 7 (afternoon preferred – likely 1-3pm)

8. Closing and check-in

-Jon: thanks everyone for making some time today on one of the first sunny days in weeks when it would have been tempting to go to the field; in review: surprisingly short OIF update, will be interesting to see the outcome of the strategic old growth review, hopefully we can get Jessica to provide us with another update in October, along with an update from large cut blocks under VILUP working group as well

-Cyndy: we cancelled the professional development day this spring; she will follow-up with Sarah Soltau in the fall and will provide an update at the October meeting (likely will shoot for a spring tour as was planned this year)

-group: thanks to the organizers, this was worthwhile and a perfect length; thanks for everyone to be here to be a sounding board; nice to hear everyone's voices; nice to hear from others outside my organization; thanks Jon, great job chairing; really nice hearing from everyone; thanks to Cyndy for putting the agenda on the screen; need to add an action item to the next call for Gary to update us on his fly fishing endeavours