

**North Island – Central Coast Natural Resource District**  
**Forest Management Leadership Team Meeting #37 –Minutes**  
**April 20, 2022      9:00 am – noon**  
**Conference Call via MS Teams**

Attendees: Jon Flintoft (Co-Chair), Andrew Ashford (Co-Chair), Christina Mardell, Ione Brown, Jennifer Peschke, Gary Gallinger, Hans Granander, Tyson Berkenstock, Kai Sonnenburg, Jackson Locker, Leigh Stalker, Deidre Haight, Cyndy Grant, Murray Estlin, Caroline Smith, Amy Beetham (facilitator)

Guests: Darryn McConkey, John Deal, Kylie Harrison

Regrets: Paul Barolet, Jon Lok, Charlotte Mellstrom, Megan Hanacek

**1. Welcome, Territorial Acknowledgement & Agenda Review – Jon Flintoft**

Jon welcomed everyone to the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Forest Management Leadership Team (FMLT) and reviewed the agenda. Members introduced themselves and welcomed Leigh Stalker (replacing Robert Ziegler) and Jackson Locker to the FMLT.

**2. Adopt January 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes and Review FMLT Action Items – Andrew Ashford**

[www.for.gov.bc.ca - /ftp/DNI/external/!publish/FMLT Information/Meetings/Meeting 36 January 19, 2022/](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/-/ftp/DNI/external/!publish/FMLT%20Information/Meetings/Meeting%2036%20January%2019,%202022/)

Minutes were circulated February 1, 2022. No comments were received. The minutes are adopted. Andrew reviewed the action items from our last meeting.

**Table 1: FMLT Action Items Summary**

| <b>Action Generated</b> | <b>Issue</b>                                                                                                                                     | <b>Responsibility</b> | <b>Due</b>                        |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| January 19, 2022        | Include Cyndy's presentation with the distribution of the minutes.                                                                               | Amy Beetham           | <i>Completed February 1, 2022</i> |
| January 19, 2022        | Include the December 9 <sup>th</sup> OIR FRPA Bill 23 presentation with the distribution of the minutes.                                         | Amy Beetham           | <i>Completed February 1, 2022</i> |
| January 19, 2022        | Andrew will find out the timing on the Great Bear Rainforest Order amendment process and report back to this team at or before our next meeting. | Andrew Ashford        | <i>Completed April 20, 2022</i>   |

**Discussion:**

-Andrew touched base with Ben Morton and both the Coast Forest Conservation Initiative and Government to Government Forum tabled a suite of revisions; Andrew is confident there will be some changes to the existing Land Use Orders; expect formal Indigenous Nation engagement, and a public engagement process through the EngageBC website starting in May; there will be new or updated ecosystem-based management implementation guides coming out at the same time

### **3. Coast Operational Issues Forum (OIF) Update** (February 10, 2022 meeting) – Andrew Ashford

- Andrew noted that the OIF meets tomorrow and reviewed the discussion from the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting which focussed primarily on the topic of old growth
- Old Growth Strategic Review Implementation: there was a focus on the deferral process and the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) polygons that identified ancient, remnant, and priority big-tree deferral areas; focus on being explicit in your First Nation information-sharing where there is overlap with a mapped TAP polygon; encouragement for licensees to work directly with Indigenous Nations to meet their needs around old growth; the Province is committed to protecting at-risk old growth where an Indigenous Nation supports that; there are places where there is support, where there is no support and where government has received requests for more time to review the proposed deferrals; some Nations are involved in other processes like the Landscape Reserve Design process, for example, that better meets community needs than the TAP process; there have been requests from Nations wanting to tackle land use planning, rather than look at old growth on a permit by permit basis; this is essentially modernized land use planning (MLUP), and the reality is that MLUP needs to be undertaken in a staged process due to the resources required
- Complexity of Overlapping Traditional Territories: no explicit answer on how this will be resolved for old growth deferrals, and it has not come up here locally; no definitive answer from the Province at this point.
- Complexity of the Field Verification System: there are cases where the mapping does not pan out on the ground; this was expected, as inventory is at the strategic level; the province has designed a draft field verification process with input from licensees and this has been shared; what about areas that meet the criteria but are not mapped?; in some places in the province, there is an explicit expectation from the First Nations that licensees demonstrate that cutting permits (CPs) and road permits are not located in forests that meet the TAP old growth criteria, and not just the mapped polygons; there was some technical discussion on how to age a stand, especially in stands with multiple age structures

**Action Item:** Amy will share the most current version of the Field Verification Guide with the FMLT, when it is available.

**Action Item:** Andrew will provide the report from Pam Silver on the current state of old growth, and it will be circulated to the FMLT.

- Regional Appraisal Advisory Committee: an OIF member proposed the formation of a joint committee to discuss appraisals; currently there is a provincial committee so need to determine whether this also needs to happen on a regional scale
- Forest and Range Practices Act* Changes: legacy CPs cannot be extended or postponed; this affects blanket salvage CPs in our district; now salvage permits will need a new 4 year permit; road permits can be transferred between licensees but will need to meet a public interest test, consultation, security deposit; allowable annual cut reduction mechanisms; last year at Truck Loggers, the Premier encouraged licensees to enter into more meaningful business arrangements with Indigenous Nations; the reduction mechanisms are a tool to redistribute volume; there is no plan to do this right now

-BC Silviculture Surveys Changes (Taisa Brown): time to get more precise on surveys; provincial free growing working group recommended the changes; 12 changes to the manual become mandatory in 2023; for example, ocular free growing assessments are going to be more restricted as ocular assessments have been found to be less likely to meet accuracy expectations

From Taisa Brown Email previously circulated to All Licensees:

The BC Silviculture Surveys website is now live with the:

[-2022 Silviculture Survey Procedures Manual](#)

[-What's New 2022](#)

[-2022 FS658](#)

[-2022 FS659](#)

[-2022 FS660](#)

There are **significant** changes to the silviculture survey procedures. Please carefully review the What's New 2022 document and the manual.

To help with the adoption of these new procedures, I have prepared several training videos:

[-What's New 2022 Training Session](#)

[-Rationales for 2022 Survey and Reporting Updates](#)

[-2022 Updates to FS660](#)

[-2022 FS658 and FS659 Updates](#)

These videos are linked on the BC Silviculture Surveys [website](#). You can also find them on the BC Silviculture Surveys YouTube [channel](#).

#### **4. Implementing the Marbled Murrelet (MAMU) Notice and Order**— Guest Presentations from Darryn McConkey, Senior Ecosystem Biologist and Murray Estlin, Stewardship Forester

-Darryn provided a presentation on the provincial implementation plan which impacts the timber harvesting land base to achieve habitat targets, and through the Order triggers mandatory amendments to forest stewardship plans (FSPs) and woodlot licence plans; the Notice guides the future placement and establishment of wildlife habitat areas within suitable habitat; the Notice and Order essentially apply only to Vancouver Island

-Darryn demonstrated the MAMU Stewardship Baseline Objectives Tool (SBOT) which is expected to be public-facing in the future; it can be used for analysis, queries, and reporting; government and licensees will need to work collectively to achieve the objective and this tool is useful for monitoring and tracking

Discussion:

-Ione asked about access to SBOT; Darryn reiterated that the intention is for the SBOT to be public-facing; the planning tables will be involved in sharing this type of information, and Darryn needs to work through some data issues with the Districts

-Kai saw that some landscape units (LUs) came up flagged within an aggregate LU; Darryn notes we need to legally meet the minimums in both the LU and aggregate, even with the built-in flexibility; Andrew wants to note the collaborative nature of this work given the complexity of multiple licensees operating within a landscape unit or aggregate – cooperation, communication, and collaboration are going to be key

-Christina wondered if there are alternate reasons that some LUs show flagged as red, such as where there isn't enough habitat to capture; Darryn notes that they may revise the flags in situations where they find out there isn't a real issue, for example where the habitat does not exist or there is not a lot of unprotected habitat available

-Murray provided a presentation on MAMU Mandatory Amendments with a focus on example results and strategies

#### Discussion:

-Deidre is wondering if it is a simple proposed result and strategy, does the First Nation information-sharing need to be initiated or completed before June 2?; right now there isn't a district table for a more complex strategy, for example; Andrew thinks you are obligated to engage with First Nations about their interests and preference on approach in the absence of a written result and strategy; Andrew observed that it will get more complicated where licensees want to operate to the minimum target flexibility

-Gary raised the question that prior to this Order coming out, wouldn't the Province have consulted with First Nations?; Andrew described that the Province consulted on the Order which is the 'what', and this relates to the results and strategies, or the 'how' a licensee will implement the Order, so more information sharing is likely required; Gary's thoughts are if the Ministry has shared this with the various Nations, there could be licensees working in a non-overlapping territory where there is not a concern, and it would be beneficial to just meet the order rather than participate in a collaborative planning table; Kylie stated that the need for an FSP amendment was consulted on for the simple approach at the time of the Order, but if you are implementing the flexibility provisions, then that is where additional information sharing and consultation would be required

-John asked about: (1) when the suitable habitat tables will be available for use in Forest Landscape Planning and Integrated Resource Management Planning processes with First Nations?, and (2) how this work links back to the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan (VILUP) and would our results and strategies effectively be following the Order for that Resource Management Zone?; Darryn feels the tables will be posted soon once he has a green light from the district, and will be in a similar format to the section 7 tables; Andrew confirmed he is comfortable with the tables; Darryn does not have an answer in regards to the interaction with VILUP and will need to circle back to those VILUP objectives and Andrew would need to circle back to look at what the FSP needs to address

-Christina noted when the Order and Notice were information-shared, that was the time for public engagement and consultation, and there was no change between the drafts shared and the final Order and Notice; there will be future opportunities to engage and consult as habitat is spatialized; Christina said it is her understanding that we no longer have a section 7 Notice for MAMU outside of Vancouver Island – Darryn confirmed that is correct; Andrew noted that Indigenous Nations have heard from government but have not heard from licensees about how they are approaching the Order and when the spatializing will occur

-Gary has a presentation that was just given and will be given this afternoon by Adam Hockin, Campbell River Forest District; it was written by Darryn McConkey; Gary observed that he is not trying to put anyone on the spot, but this is the first time the ministry has ever come up with suggested results and

strategies, but they may or may not be what ends up finally happening with the group being chaired by lone; Murray agreed that is correct and Caroline Smith and Kyle Rezansoff will be the district contacts on the working group as licensees come up with how they want to approach that work

-Deidre wanted to know if the presentation will be available to share with First Nations and the public, which would be helpful for consistent messaging, and is there opportunity for consistent messaging to reduce the impact on everyone's time, can we share this PowerPoint?; the presenters agreed to provide their presentations to the FMLT

Note: The presentations were circulated by email to FMLT members and guests on April 21, 2022.

## **5. Old Growth Implementation Update – Amy Beetham**

Amy provided the following update to the FMLT:

-The province has committed to working in partnership with Indigenous Nations on the implementation of the 14 recommendations from the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) conducted by Al Gorley and Gary Merkel.

- Working groups within government have been formed and have initiated work on the 14 recommendations. With the establishment of the two new ministries, the work is being divided with Ministry of Forests acting as the lead on the implementation of the OGSR.

-Locally, the focus has been on engaging with Indigenous Nations on recommendation #6 related to the temporary deferral of development in old forests where ecosystems are at very high risk of irreversible biodiversity loss. As Andrew mentioned in the OIF update, the Province hired an independent Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) who produced a map identifying priority old growth deferral areas. Those original mapped areas have been converted from raster shapes to polygons more consistent with the underlying vegetative layer. This is the map version everyone should be using now.

-Deferrals will be implemented where there is agreement with Indigenous Nations. We have received initial responses from all but one of the Nations in the district. Some responses include the need for more time to consider the need for deferrals. Through the conversations we have had, some of what we have heard locally is: agreement that old growth trees and forests are culturally important to the Nations, for example as an important source of monumental cedar; interest in considering old growth in relation to multiple values of interest to the Nation and not necessarily in isolation; an interest from some Nations to consider deferrals and old growth values on a cutting permit(CP)/road permit(RP) basis as an approach.

-Indigenous Nations with traditional territories overlapping the Great Bear Rainforest: have overall expressed an interest to continue with landscape reserve design and an intention to incorporate priority old growth polygons as a layer to usefully inform that work; that is nuanced with some Nations not particularly supportive of the TAP mapping and others still interested in engaging on a CP/RP basis

-'Namgis Nation: they are engaged on a pilot Forest Landscape Plan and issued a press release stating they:

“...decided to waive the ministerial deferrals proposed by the Government of British Columbia's Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) in determining the areas of old growth harvest in 'Namgis Territory. 'Namgis will continue with a joint planning process to focus on the protection of many important values across the ecosystems, including wildlife, fish habitat, flora and fauna, and archaeological features, as well as old growth forests.”

-Another Nation: has signalled an intention to support deferrals, so we have notified licensees operating within their traditional territory of this preliminary position, pending formal notification by the Nation.

## 6. District Reminders – Andrew Ashford

- New Ministries: Ministry of Forests (MoF), Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship (MLWRS); MoF's minister is the Honourable Katrine Conroy, Parliamentary Secretary is Doug Routley and Deputy Minister is Rick Manwaring; MoF is responsible for forest management, forest, land, water, and fish and wildlife authorizations and operational approvals, and BCTS; MLWRS's minister is the Honourable Josie Osbourne and Deputy Minister is Lori Halls; MLWRS is accountable for the integrated land and marine environment, cumulative effects, reconciliation, developing a collaborative plan with Blueberry Nation, fisheries and aquaculture, and Together for Wildlife strategy: there are no LWRS staff in the district, and we are not sure how forest landscape planning and ecosystem-based management will land between the ministries
- RESULTS reporting May deadline approaching; this data is especially important for modelling and for creating the random sampling selection for FREP
- New Silviculture Surveys Procedures Manual released April 1, 2022; Jon said a long time ago the FMLT put together an ocular guidance document, and perhaps we should be reviewing this? Andrew agrees; Note: Jon, Kai and Mike Desrochers were the original working group members involved in writing this draft guidance

**Action Item:** Amy to add the April 2013 Free Growing Ocular Assessments: An FMLT Guidance Document for North Island – Central Coast Resource District, to the September agenda as a discussion topic.

## 7. What's going on out there? What is keeping you up at night?

Around the table discussion of top-of-mind issues.

-Murray: implementation of the MAMU Notice and Order and being able to work through the process with licensees

-Hans: trying to deal with old growth deferrals and landscape reserves and trying to coordinate and initiate conversation with the public, with the Nuxalk Nation administration and with traditional hereditary leadership; can be challenging to make headway

-Ione: planning is top of mind and FSP amendments; Great Bear Rainforest Order (GBRO) and Landscape Reserve Design (LRD); trying to stay on top of all the changes; what is concerning are the changes to tabular rates and the financial impacts to woodlots and community forests

-Jackson: challenge is LRD and engaging with all Nations and stakeholders involved without getting overwhelmed, and managing those resources

-Kai: I've been involved in reviewing some of the proposed changes to GBRO and with the proposed changes to Red and Blue listed species lists, everyone should be concerned about 03 and 06 site series

-Kim: big focus is pulp fibre supply and with the constricted land base we are trying to use what is available; we have no tenure so are trying to build relationships to get more utilization happening across the coast; cost is prohibitive and trying to do more value-added and using recycled material

-John: wasn't aware of the issues Kai raised; old growth mixed messaging from different levels of government is frustrating (for example, at a recent meeting with David Muter it was confirmed that the original TAP raster map was the definitive map to use)

-Gary: CBC drives me crazy every morning talking about logging in Fairy Creek, and I have even sent them a map because there is no logging happening in Fairy Creek; reporting about idiots gluing their hands to highways, but nothing about spiked trees and plugged culverts; getting cranky in my old age

-Cyndy: at the last FMLT I had just finished stakeholder engagement; have confirmed the values we had set and as we move forward, our website is the go-to place for information; will reach out to the targeted stakeholder groups moving forward

**Action Item: Amy to include a copy of the 'What We Heard' document with the minutes.**

-Jen: feel like a broken record, it is all the changes and planning for future state and current state; all the changes are both exciting and uncomfortable

-Leigh: share similar concerns to others, it is good to see there are shared concerns

-Jon: staying on top of changes and developments; training requirements and trying to find time for face-to-face contact; supply line delays reinforce the need for patience and looking for substitutions

-Andrew: there is a lot going on; Association of BC Forest Professionals continuing education forms, Forest Landscape Planning; licensees looking for certainty on the land base, and Indigenous Nations wanting completion of planning; proud of the work happening in the district for modernized land use planning and forest landscape planning, and worried we could be knocked off track by new people coming on board with a new ministry; MAMU implementation and a lack of deadline for meeting the requirements of the Order, and whether a measurable strategy is required; opportunity for collaborative planning with indigenous nations; resourcing is keeping me up, and managing expectations on when we can launch something

-Christina: the biggest thing is information flow, and everyone seems to have a different level of awareness and communication

-Deidre: workload challenges related to staff turnover; feel like we could use a collaboration team for more than just MAMU

-Caroline: nothing to contribute today

-Kylie: listening to all the challenges raises anxiety and how best I can support all the FSPs being replaced, MAMU and GBRO and how we are transitioning to FLPs across the coast that incorporate Indigenous and community values

-Tyson: a lot of what has been said keeps me up at night; global anxiety in particular with inflation and signs pointing to recession; the flow of information comments resonates with me; having a hard time reconciling Great Bear Rainforest North and the disparity in stumpage rates that make it difficult to harvest the profile

## Next Meeting

-Andrew asked if there is interest in an in-person meeting and a field trip this fall and reviewed the suggested topics; Christina noted that we may also look at goshawk

**Action Item:** Amy will poll the FMLT membership to see if there is enough interest for a face-to-face meeting and field trip in September.

Topic suggestions for the next meeting: none

Suggested Field Trip - Tour of BCTS Operations (Vernon) – BCTS, Paul Barolet

Potential Stops/Topics:

- Fire Salvage as a TSL - visit block (discussion).
- Reforestation areas after a fire. How is it looking?
- Forest Health – elk browse, cedar management and protectors, white pine management, sunscald / heat stress/ drought /other
- northern goshawk
- Stop at the Loci
- Watershed assessment
- Old growth field verification

**Next Meeting: September 28 (office) and 29 (field)**

## 8. Closing and check-in

-Jon recapped the meeting for everyone

-Members: I appreciated the MAMU presentations; thanks to the presenters; I appreciated the discussion around MAMU and the amount of collaboration with everyone here to work together in an operational context; thought this was a well-organized meeting; thank you for the presentations today; always good to get Andrew's global view on things; thanks again to the whole group for being so welcoming; it's really hard to present to bubbles with initials in them, so thanks for hanging in there; really good meeting and look forward to meeting you in person; the presentation increased my understanding; appreciate being included in this group; thank you to those who put the meeting together and looking forward to September; enjoyed the material presented, very productive and well run; it was a great session and find this group and these meetings are helpful to find out what is going on; it was a great meeting with excellent participation; thanks to Amy for keeping us on track