

## **NICCRD FMLT Meeting #26 –Minutes**

**November 1, 2018            9:30 – 3:30**

NICCRD Office, 2217 Mine Road, Port McNeill

**Attendees** – Jon Flintoft, Andrew Ashford (chair), Paul Barolet, Ivan Tallio (by phone), Cyndy Grant, Kai Sonnenburg, Tracey Ng (by phone), Mike DesRochers, Megan Hanacek, Joe LeBlanc, Gary Gallinger (by phone), Kim Lefebvre, Jon Lok, Shane Simard, Christina Mardell (early afternoon only), Amy Beetham (facilitator)

Regrets: Kelly McMahon, Lisa Brown, Ione Brown

**Welcome & Safety / Agenda Review** – Andrew welcomed everyone to the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NICC FMLT and completed a safety briefing followed by an agenda review.

### **April 2018 Meeting Minutes and FMLT Action Items – Jon**

Discussion related to previous action item on grizzly bear reports: Ivan notes there has been twice the normal rate of grizzly bear interactions in the Bella Coola valley this year. It was suggested that this may be due to the impact from fires this season. Joe wondered whether road density is a valid parameter to consider given the provincial hunting changes, now that hunting is not likely to affect the population and access was the previous concern. Bill Zinovich (now retired) was the regional contact on cumulative effects in relation to grizzly bears.

**Action Item:** Andrew Ashford will follow-up with Coast Region in relation to the relevance of road density, before the January FMLT meeting.

The field trip was good and generated great discussion.

Paul noted that Greg Jorgenson is going to continue provincial Free Growing monitoring. Kim wondered whether a summary report is available? Paul recalled that one was sent out previously. The approach / methodology for the next round of monitoring will be different based on lessons learned from the first audit.

Note: Minutes were circulated May 9, 2018 (link below) with no comments received.

<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/RCO/external/!publish/FMLT%20Publish/North%20Island%20Central%20Coast/April%2025%202018%20FMLT%20Meeting%20Minutes/April%2025-26%202018%20NICC%20FMLT%20Minutes.pdf>

**Table 1: FMLT Old Action Items Summary**

| Action Generated | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Responsibility                                                                                                | Due                                               |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 25-Apr-18        | GBR Implementation: Pam Silver's group (which includes John Sunde) will be contacted to raise the issue of implementing the biodiversity element pending landscape reserve design. <i>Initial email sent to Pam Silver to request discussion regarding her team providing a training opportunity for licensees to meet to discuss the aspatial implementation of the biodiversity objectives. Some training is starting to roll out (Oct.31 and Nov. 1 there was field training for red and blue listed ecosystem manual). Group discussion that smaller licensees and consultants need to be involved. Web training may be helpful but the field training would be better.</i> | Andrew Ashford                                                                                                | 27-Apr-18<br><i>(Completed April 27, 2018)</i>    |
| 25-Apr-18        | GBR Implementation: Raise the issue of implementing the biodiversity element pending landscape reserve design to OIF as well, for discussion at a future OIF meeting. <i>Email sent to OIF Co-chairs Paul Nuttall and Sharon Hadway regarding the complexities of managing the GBR biodiversity objective and suggesting it as a good OIF topic. The expectation is this will be on a future OIF. Joe has also discussed this with the new co-chair Tania Barnes, and Ben Morton.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                           | Andrew Ashford                                                                                                | 27-Apr-18<br><i>(Completed April 27, 2018)</i>    |
| 25-Apr-18        | SEDRSS: Circulate information about upcoming SEDRSS training opportunity to licensees and professionals in the district <i>A CRIT SEDRSS workshop was held May 29 with 9 participants and 3 instructors.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Paul Barolet                                                                                                  | 29-May-18<br><i>(Completed May 2018)</i>          |
| 25-Apr-18        | 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>Briefing provided at November 1 FMLT meeting; some disagreement on the draft document content is being resolved within the group prior to wider circulation.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Christina Mardell, Kim LeFebvre, Joe LeBlanc, Trevor Egely, Ione Brown, Jon Flintoft, Kelly McMahon, Tracy Ng | 1-Aug-2018<br><i>(Completed November 1, 2018)</i> |

1. **OIF (September 25, 2018) Update** – Andrew

- wood waste/landfill policy is coming soon; environmental requirements for the permits was the main question
- Vancouver Island Old Growth Initiative: range of options prepared for the Minister's review is still being drafted (internal review only)
- Coast Pulp Fibre Project: pulp mill holders are seeking pulp logs and project is considering how to incent licensees to harvest pulp logs; DSI has produced a fibre recovery zone for the district established by the District Manager to drive to zero waste, brought together pulp group and forest licensees to discuss the issue and incent business-to-business (B2B) relationships, seeing an increase in utilization and economic activity as a result; pressure for more zones in other districts; government is likely to make this happen through regulation, policy or legislation; this is likely going to happen in DNI given the pulp interests if our local mill (Neucel) reopens; purpose of zone is to streamline operations including chipping under the primary permit for example, should not see burning anymore and licensees leaving fibre in a configuration that makes it accessible to a secondary user; one major licensee is expanding their pulp sort by 100,000m<sup>3</sup> by including cypress and alder with the balsam; incentives to operators in high cost areas; exciting to minimize waste and maximize fibre utilization
- Coast Revitalization Project discussion; six objectives
- Provincial Forestry Forum and Professional Reliance Review; lots of recommendations; oversight body for recommendation 1&2 is happening (expect changes to ABCFP)
- Sechelt First Nation shared decision-making project: based loosely on the Haida Gwaii model; resourcing challenges; how to apply where there are overlapping territorial claims
- Big Tree Policy – Denise Hogue (with the Chief Forester's office) is the new lead; expect a draft to come out for licensee testing; linked to VRI; WFP and BCTS both have programs in place for retaining big trees; cedar and sitka spruce are likely the majority of the 180+ trees WFP have retained to date; safety has not appeared to be a concern yet
- Professional Reliance Review (continued): recommendations 85-94 (*Forest and Range Practices Act* and forest stewardship plan content, and professional tasks); potential to legislate elements of professional reliance; concern about the potential economic impact of peer review / dual sign-offs and whether smaller licensees will be able to afford this impact?; FMLT discussion that the majors and larger consultants already have peer review processes in place as a baseline cost of doing business, so for many it would not be a significant change of business practice
- CRIT: restructuring and going into a maintenance mode and will gear up as needed or called upon

-Provincial Wildlife Strategy: improving habitat mapping and district level thresholds and provincial targets for marbled murrelet (MAMU) and northern goshawk (NOGO); aiming for 80% mapped and 20% aspatial; NOGO training material being developed; question about whether the genetics of Vancouver Island and interior are distinctly different and if we should just manage the Queen Charlotte population - information expected in December

-Ministry of Environment is changing their legislation and a portal is open for engagement on this

-Erich Geddert: fluid check-scaling; HBS updates needed; pilot of mixed marks (prov/fed); IFP using scanner scaling; cruise-based CPs increasing

-UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples): BC has adopted this as a policy and DNI staff have been trained; Charles Hunter spoke about what government is doing on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action including: revitalizing tenures, continuing to align the culture in government, reviewing opportunities and partnerships with indigenous communities, reviewing policy to reduce barriers to reconciliation; new initiatives to promote reconciliation; moving beyond transactional consultation to more strategic objectives for the landbase; an implementation plan will be drafted (Andrew is working on this)

2. **What's going on out there?** Around the table discussion of top of mind issues/interests.

-Joe: implementation of EBM even two years later is challenging; new red/blue manual is not yet widely available; LRD is a challenging process and is taking longer than anticipated; what is the risk and are smaller licensees as knowledgeable as they need to be?; feels like year 5 is just around the corner; the dataset continues to be a challenge

-Andrew: observation that communication and collaboration between licensees on shared landscape units continues to be problematic in terms of meeting the representation objectives; some legislative/policy changes coming to FRPA and cutting permit issuance with a focus to restore public confidence as identified during the professional reliance review

-Megan: noted that the impact of fires on Vancouver Island was greater than modelled projections; drought levels and lack of precipitation is concerning; Jon recalled that in 2009 there were lots of little fires - almost to the same weekend as 2018 - both due to lightning strikes and yet 2018 was so much more impactful due to drought conditions; Andrew is wondering about future THLB impacts and objectives impacts if things like reserve areas burn; Joe raised the concern that the Fire Centre does not give licensees the green light to attack a snag on fire before it grows into a larger situation (**Action**

**Item:** Andrew indicated that he will follow-up with Fire Centre Manager Ken Taekema on the concern raised by Joe - to complete by December 31, 2018); perhaps we are

trending to drier summers and greater risk on Vancouver Island; the NICC office had an operations centre established in our boardroom; Ivan says we should expect a real push from First Nations to bring change provincially as a result of fire impacts to communities and territories

-Kim wondered whether there are any new fibre operators or approaches out there to address DNI waste issues raised at the Licensee and FMLT meetings last November?; Andrew noted that fibre recovery zones are likely the start of that; Neucel restarting would address some of this, and perhaps changes to their operational set-up to allow for chips or chunks; economic haul radius seems to have expanded from 50 to 70 kilometres locally; Howe Sound demand is also high; Jon observed that WFP has experienced that road grades and turnarounds impact the access for the secondary user, and that planning considerations during B2B conversations could address some logistics; Tracy notes that Shane Murdoch has an FLTC in their area and has concerns about the logistics of the FLTC operations and timing of TFL road deactivation on flashy areas and how to address this; how long do you leave fibre on the ground and potentially increase fire risk?

-Gary described that Brenda Mann (District Stewardship Officer, Campbell River) called and asked about their section 108 obligations and it was a new thing for them on the coast but standard in the interior; if you had free growing blocks damaged by wildfires you may be eligible for funding; Andrew said he is touring NICC areas for eligibility for section 108 next week

### 3. **FPC Operational Planning Regulations and EBM** – Joe LeBlanc

Discussion about the applicability of previously established 40 meter management zones on L1 lakes in the former Mid Coast Forest District. Joe asked whether there is still utility in this previously established management zone given EBM constraints, was it meant to be interim in nature, and does the District Manager have the authority to change it? Christina noted that the Government Actions Regulation file may have useful information that speaks to this order. Andrew agreed that the riparian reserve zone under EBM envelopes this 40 meter management zone.

**Action Item:** Andrew will consider this discussion and look into the history of the order and report back by the next FMLT meeting in January.

### 4. **On the Radar** –

-Marine Protected Areas (Christina): provincially-led MAPP and federally-led Marine Protected Area Network Strategy are two separate processes running concurrently which have slightly different geographic extents and purposes and are being developed

in cooperation with participating First Nations; Sally Carghill is the provincial co-chair; Christina is a coastal forestry alternate member (Bruce Storry is the rep for north Vancouver Island area and Warren Warttig is the rep for the central coast area); MAPP has been endorsed and is considered during statutory decisions, and diligent professionals consider the MAPP zones during the planning process; decisions in the MAPP area are audited; the federal process is very different in terms of how stakeholders are engaged; federal government is targeting 10% area protected by 2020 and could affect transportation rules; stakeholder meeting December 10 and 11 (note: this has now been postponed until February 2019); Christina is available if you have questions or want an orientation to SeaSketch (Contact: Christina Mardell, 250-956-5089; [Christina.A.Mardell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christina.A.Mardell@gov.bc.ca))

#### Additional Resources:

- Coastal Forestry Stakeholder representatives are Bruce Storry ([storryb@telus.net](mailto:storryb@telus.net)) for North Vancouver Island (north boundary is Smith Sound) and Warren Warttig ([warren.warttig@gmail.com](mailto:warren.warttig@gmail.com)) for Central Coast. Suggest you contact your representative if wish to be added to their distribution list. Also let them know if there are geographic areas or items of concern that are important for your business.

#### **MaPP – Marine Planning Partnership (Provincial)**

<http://mappocean.org/>

- On the home page in green writing are 3 documents per subregion. The “Plan” is the book I showed that identifies the management zones and their recommended uses and activities by zone. Currently at the MaPP technical committee level management plans are being drafted for the Protection Management Zones (PMZ) only and not the other zone types.
- In green row across top pick your subregion of interest and click to then see all information related to that subregion
  - Within Subregion click on Advisory committee to see membership and meeting minutes

MaPP zone polygons are available in iMap.

#### **MPA – Marine Protected Areas (Federal)**

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/networks-reseaux/index-eng.html>

- A variety of links and documents
- At the bottom of the page is a list of publications. The one I showed was the Canada-British Columbia Marine Protected Area Network Strategy (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/publications/mpabc-cbzipm/page01-eng.html>)

#### **SeaSketch – Spatial application to see data in the system –**

<https://www.seasketch.org/home.html>

- Open up with Chrome for best results because it does not work well in Internet Explorer
- Scroll to bottom of page and click in ‘Find a project near you’

- The MaPP Marine Planning Portal usually shows near top of list but you will need to type in 'Search for Projects' the following name 'Marine Protected Area' and select 'Marine Protected Area Network Planning' to get that project showing.
- Click on project and then you will be in and can zoom to your area and add spatial layers to see to see information
- Within MaPP project clicking on a management zone polygon will give you information on the zone and a link to click at the bottom to RUA Table (Recommended Uses and Activities); which is all the same information taken out of the 2015 book I showed (the bigger book) and there is a different book per subregion

Currently there are no draft MPA polygons or areas in SeaSketch to see. The upcoming February meeting for Advisory Committee members will provide information on the next steps in the process towards designing marine protected area in 2019. Last summer the MPA SeaSketch project included the variety of information and values that had been collected and available spatially (for example the tenure layer, marine species inventory, fisheries surveys, etc.)

-Coast Revitalization Objectives (Andrew): Diversifying tenures; improving harvest performance, improving B2B relationships, social contract and public confidence; in June Coast Forest Industry and Government representatives met to discuss the 6 objectives of government; industry was asked to come back with proposals to meet the objectives within a business context; a follow-up meeting has occurred with Industry to discuss the proposals; Megan noted that yesterday was the deadline for industry to provide their confidential technical data

-DNI FREP MRVA Report (Paul): will apply to Vancouver Island area only; previous commitment to send it to FMLT for comment; also seeking comments from the license holders rather than just CFPA; goal to publish it by March; Andrew wants every licensee to be able to review and comment if their data feeds into it, as well as the FMLT

-Invasive Plants (Paul): (1) Nimpkish: project is unprecedented in that it involves the 'Namgis First Nation, WFP staff, and DNI staff to manage knotweed on the Nimpkish River; practices were audited by Ministry of Environment; there has been less plant migration northwards than expected; bohemian knotweed seed germination is poor; as the project progresses, treatments will likely be adapted as required; broom treatment may be added in the future; (2) Victoria Lake / Link River: intent is to manage in 2019 with a focus on knotweed along the lake shore; the mill property knotweed is touching trucks as they pass through the site.

5. **Large Cutblocks and VILUP Working Group Progress Update** – Christina, Kim, Joe, Jon, Tracy

- Kim described that there is a draft document on the verge of being ready for distribution to the FMLT and for presentation today; recent revisions generated some questions and they were unable to complete the document without further discussion within the working group; some answers to these questions could be facilitated here around clarifying the intent and use of the document and whether this document will become a district expectation, as well as whether it is too prescriptive
- the working group tried to cover the bases and all scenarios, but concern was voiced that it would raise the bar for district submission
- tool versus checklist; the working group sees it as a guidance document but are wondering how it will be applied by the district
- document use for new professionals is a good stepping stone to pull the old legislation into today's realm
- the working group plans to meet next week and deliver a draft for circulation to the FMLT imminently

6. **Birds of a Feather** - Midori Nicolson

The FMLT dialled into the Stewardship Centre of BC annual general meeting to listen to the presentation. The focus was a cultural context of how birds (amount, type, timing, distribution) can act as ecosystem indicators for the marine environment – mirroring fish presence and diversity in the water below. Impacts from our activities to the sky/air are harder to see, and discussion related to whether we are we thinking about the 'sky realm' as we do land and marine planning, and we were left with the question of how are we able to consider this in the work we do.

7. **FMLT Work Plan** – Reviewed progress to-date on the work plan. The VILUP and Large Cutblocks Working Group is winding down and expects to have a paper available for distribution and endorsement in early 2019. The group discussed the Timber Management Objectives reports that were prepared by the Chief Forester's office. Developing strategies for these is broader than the FMLT. A Working Group for streams was struck and includes Joe, Jon, Paul and a BCTS representative (Mike will let the group know who it will be). Potential focus for Streams Working Group based on the work plan: revisit FMLT riparian emphasis guide in terms of any new information from FREP or those using the guidance; unpack FREP data to see where we sit locally and any issues

identified; and determine the local training needs for operators and field staff, targeted training and mentoring, and/or a compendium of best practices.

**Action Item:** The new Streams Working Group (Joe, Jon, Paul, BCTS member) will meet (likely by phone) before our next FMLT to determine their focus for 2019.

#### 8. **Closing and check-in** – Andrew

Andrew thanked everyone for attending. Member check-in comments: worth coming up for; appreciated the MAPP update; looking forward to reading stuff on the marine plan; sense of openness and vulnerability in the group, and the professional independence needle is moving in a positive direction; excited by the fibre utilization and expecting to see more change in professional reliance; glad to see more vigilance with marine planning; nursing a post-Halloween candy hangover today; good meeting; great and quite often feel overwhelmed by the depth of issues we deal with in forestry, challenging landscape; enjoyed the meeting, so much going on and appreciate OIF updates to hear about the hot topics and discuss them and learn more about them; cover a lot of topics and lots to think about; appreciate the forum; this group gels so find the meetings worthwhile

Mike mentioned that the ABCFP professional practices committee is meeting and a report will be available soon. He expects forest professionals will soon be tracking mandatory continuing education so that it is available for third party auditing.

#### 9. **Next Meeting** – January 24, 2019; possible topic - marine planning update