
North Island – Central Coast Resource District
Forest Management Leadership Team
Meeting #20 - Minutes

Date: October 12, 2016

Location: NICCRD Office, 2217 Mine Road

Time: 1:00-4:30 pm

Attending In-person: Andrew Ashford, Jon Flintoft, Deidre Haight, Ione Brown, Josh Hiebert, Cyndy Grant, Josh Hiebert, Kai Sonnenberg, Jason Swanson, Mike DesRochers, Kelly McMahon, Blair Wriglesworth, Alan Knapp, Kim Lefebvre

Attending By Phone: David Flegel, Megan Hanacek, Gary Gallinger

1. Introductions, Housekeeping – Chairs Jon Flintoft, Andrew Ashford

Safety Briefing and building orientation - Andrew

Minutes – May 4, 2016 – accepted as read

Action Tracker – reviewed by Jon

At the May meeting, Andrew committed to checking with Cruising department regarding conducting check cruise earlier in the CP application process. Andrew reported that currently CPs are assessed for check cruise as early as possible. Weather and other priorities may affect timing of check cruise.

2. OIF Report – Andrew Ashford

There was an OIF meeting on September 20, 2016. Some highlights of the meeting include:

- THLB stabilization project review of the Stillwater Proposal from WFP. 3 LUs, no overlap with other licensees.
 - WFP estimates about 1100 ha in OGMA is operable currently, and that there are 1400 ha of inoperable OG that would be good candidates for OGMA.
 - Next steps – engage public advisory group/FN engagement/establish a technical working group to develop methodology and evaluation criteria
 - Discussion around the flexibility of moving established WHAs when better info or habitat is available. Suggestion that early involvement & engagement with FLNR staff is important.
 - Discussion about district capacity to support THLB stabilization projects
- Strategic Forestry Envelope (Charles Hunter)

- Introduction to this funding envelope to support areas with high strength of claim and where additional accommodation (\$) would support ongoing provincial resource development.
- Coast has been allocated \$4.9M for this year, and has the funding fully committed for next 3 years
- Program areas under SFE include tenure/business purchase; support to develop B2B opportunities/ support for strategic land management
- Overview of West Coast FCRSA Stakeholder Engagement (Peter Poland)
 - 70 FCRSA agreements in place on the coast
 - MARR wants to engage so the agreements they are working on are not a surprise to industry
 - All agreements are publicly available from the MARR website
- Coast Small Stream Projects (Derke Tripp/Peter Bradford)
 - FREP initiative going on over next 1.5 years,
 - Key Messages
 - Small streams critical to watershed health
 - Site level and cumulative impacts are important to consider
 - A blanket 10 m reserve is not the answer
 - Next steps:
 - 3 extension notes being developed
 - ABCFP webinars being developed
 - 3 workshops being planned for practitioners
 - Lisa Nordin is the NICC contact for sample areas for this project
- Cutting Permit Streamlining (Ro Blackwell)
 - Project looking for consistency, predictable TAT, licensee control over outcome
 - Out of scope: FN consultation, WLs, CFAs
 - Post harvest appraisal review is a new step
 - Professional declarations will be key
- Lean Log Handling Process Update (Steve Leberge)
 - Many areas being looked at:
 - Check scale project
 - Export streamlining
 - Water scaling
 - Cruise based billing
 - Sample requirements
 - Mark site designations
 - Timber branding
 - Roadside scaling
 - Scanner scaling
 - Automated scales
 - Chip scaling
 - Ongoing support for this project from industry and FLNR
- Forest Enhancement Program (Chuck Rowan)
 - Proposals to be evaluated by Forest Enhancement Society

- 58 proposals had come in by August 18th, 10 from coast
 - Wildlife enhancement
 - Daylighting for fire management
 - Park fireproofing
- Marine Protected Areas Network (Kristin Worsley, Karen Topelko)
 - Federal commitment to protect 10% of Canada's marine environment
 - There are a number of marine parks on the coast, many ad hoc, many developed for single values
 - Overlap with MAPP and PNCIMA areas
 - Will focus on area from Campbell River North
 - Plan to have draft objectives out by October
 - Looking for input from industry
- Fish Sampling Permits – Scott Silvestri
 - Outline of the process to obtain permits from FrontCounter BC
 - Confirm that fish cannot be sampled without these permits

3. Large cutblocks under Vancouver Island LUP – Andrew

Andrew opened the conversation, and asked Deidre (BCTS) to introduce the topic.

Given the current interest from the district manager in “determining” under VILUP Objective D.7, if Enhanced Forestry Zone blocks > 40 hectares will significantly impact hydrological values,

1. How did this issue come to the forefront?
 - What have other licensees been experiencing and what information have they been providing? Is there specific data or information that is generating this interest from the district manager (FREP results, public interest, landslides, FSP renewals, other?)
 - Where does the DDM determination authority come from, and what scale will this determination be at (block, watershed, LU, FSP level)? Will the DDM(s) be determining which watersheds have significant watershed sensitivity and significant fisheries values?
2. Going forward, given how expensive the assessments can be, what information is expected and needed for the district manager or DDM to make such a block determination, particularly in shared watersheds for smaller players?
 - What is the benchmark data that licensees are to share to enable this determination?
3. If the determination rests with the DDMs, will the district manager be participating in (or assign staff to participate in) the FMLT working group to establish his expectations?

Andrew pointed to the VILUP Guidance Document for practitioners and decision makers. It was decided that a working group should be established to review the questions and propose solutions. Large Cutblock Working Group: Jon Flintoft (WFP), Ione Brown (RichPly), Christina Mardell (BCTS), Kai Sonnenberg (IFP), Kim Lefebvre (SNRC), Josh Hiebert (Lemare Group), TBD

(District). Group should identify a lead before October 31, 2016– please let Cyndy know who that will be.

Engos are applying increased scrutiny on practices on Vancouver Island; there is renewed interest in the applicability of VILUP and there are comparisons being made between VILUP and Great Bear Rainforest Order. May want to revisit VILUP to close some gaps.

RichPly and WFP are just starting to look at replacement FSP. BCTS and other reps stressed the need to get together to ensure proper collaboration.

4. NoGo, MaMu – status of Implementation Plans – Steve Gordon

See Powerpoint

Steve stated that the plan may be complete by June 2017. Members would like to know how feedback from the Spring engagement sessions was considered. Steve indicated that there will be additional engagement with licensees and stakeholders.

The ADM is the decision maker.

5. ABCFP update – Megan Hanacek

Climate Change: Over last several months ABCFP staff have been involved in seeking input to higher level plans (Forest Carbon Strategy and Climate Leadership Plan). A climate change adaptation survey was conducted with membership. The survey results are now being compiled and reviewed by staff.

Stewardship: Staff are working through several priority areas for the membership.

- 1) Over last year have been providing input to cumulative effects framework with Leah Malkinson.
- 2) FSP brochure coming out for public on role of forest professionals and forestry
- 3) Working on Growth & Yield resolution (ties into post free growing/inventory)
- 4) Produced several stewardship examples (available on sign-in area of website-always looking for more ideas!)
- 5) Upcoming webinars for regional specific issues (Regional Forum concept): small stream management, climate change, engaging FMLTs.

6. East Creek Update – Josh Hiebert

At the May 2016 meeting, Eric gave a presentation on the Sierra Club campaign spring/summer 2016. – Sierra Club filed formal complaint to the Forest Practices Board (prompting an investigation) and requested that Lemare cease operations. All information was provided for last 2 years of operations. On August 16, 2016 FPB and Sierra Club had on-site visit of logging, roads, log handling. Found to be 100% compliant. Barge loading site will be in FPB 2017 Best Practices calendar. Operations will be complete in November; planting is ongoing/planned for fall 2016 and spring 2017.

Sierra Club has asked for MaMu information. There are 880 ha in WHA in Lemare's chart.

Andrew observed that there is a need for public and media education.

Good to take photos of plantations as they mature, to counter media campaign of “ugly clearcuts”.

Before mobilizing to counter a campaign - engos should have to do their due diligence to validate their allegations.

Josh spoke about CMT concerns that were raised by the Sierra Club. The CMTs were logged, but only after the QFN were consulted and the appropriate permits were acquired. Sierra Club included QFN in the FPB complaint without QFNs permission – the QFN were not pleased.

7. Old Growth on Vancouver Island – Andrew

Sierra Club has identified areas on VI including East Creek (Hot Spots map). Minister is reluctant to open VILUP. Options have been recommended to Minister by local staff in a briefing note. May develop FLNRO “Big Tree Policy”, based on the work done by local licensees. Use co-location to minimize THLB impacts while protecting OG. We are also expecting additional WHAs on Vancouver Island related to the NoGo and MaMu implementation plans. As forest professionals we should be letting people (public and FN) know that there is plenty of old growth forest.

There was also a resolution made at the Union of BC Municipalities 2016 AGM to protect old growth forests from logging:

C27 Protection of Old-growth Forests
Endorsed as Amended

Therefore be it resolved that the old-growth forest on provincial Crown land on Vancouver Island be protected from logging;

*And be it further resolved that **UBCM** send a letter to the provincial government—Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations—as well as relevant government organizations requesting that the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan be amended to protect all of Vancouver Island’s remaining old growth forest on provincial Crown land.*

This resolution was proposed by Andy McKinnon and is damaging – there has been response from Huu-ay-aht FN, Nanwakolas, District of Port Hardy, and FLNRO. Expect collaboration with FLNRO, Industry to run education campaign for public and FN. Need common definition and data on what amount of OG is currently in hard reserves.

8. Stewardship update – Andrew for Paul Barolet

- MRVA VILUP to be completed and will be published by end of fiscal. Will send out draft for comments to FMLT and FNs when available in January.
- FREP goals completed this year: stand level biodiversity, water quality, riparian, cultural heritage resources, VQOs. Small streams was not part of the district FREP goals.
- FSPs are busy – major amendments and replacements in addition to the GBR work. In some cases, full FSPs were not shared with FNs (missing stocking from FSP replacement). Consultation timelines are uncertain.
- 1/10 GBR FSP is approved (approved in August)
- Expect that this year and next will be busy with extensions and replacements of FSPs.
- Advice to those extending and replacing: have a meeting with DM to clarify expectatons – VQOs, VILUP EFZ, small streams, invasive plants, as per FPB report on FSPs.

- Knotweed is becoming a concern. Use “report a weed” database (<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/HRA/plants/raw.htm>) or inform FLRNO, especially if around water sources (several local watersheds are now at risk).

9. Landscape Reserve Design Discussion-all

Further training sessions coming up – IFP is having one at the end of October. Version 5 data is pending. Spatial data is out, tabular data is draft. Challenge for non-CFCI companies. CFCI is working on priority areas (SS deficit, red-listed, etc.).

Currently designing cutblocks under old FSP, considering new order.

There is some uncertainty as to how licensees inform the province of hard reserves: DM, Results, ...?

Making Yew available to FN –Licensees need to work out interpretation (definition of Yew) and management (with default) with individual FN.

10. GBR Operational Implementation Committee (OPIC) – Jennifer Barolet

First meeting was yesterday – this is the layer between LRD tech teams and the Government to Government table – oversee coordination of tech teams. So far the group has a Terms of Reference and began developing a work plan including group administration, etc. Tech teams will produce the plans and OPIC will then collate the plans in order to provide overall GBR area statistics and progress in a report to the G2G table. – Requested metrics to date include such items as OG retention and Yew with ultimate goal of reporting to public to demonstrate EBM. There are four licensee reps, BCTS, IFP, TW, WFP; as well as FN Reps. One of the first items on OPIC’s workplan will be collaborating with John Sunde and others wrt data set, RESULTS reporting, etc. to determine what issues need resolution to ensure accurate reporting so that the data sets are the best available information, and for ease of monitoring and reporting.

Licensees who are not part of CFCI should be able to be liaise with Jen to ensure all parties are aware of the process, however it is expected that the majority of meaningful engagement will be occurring at the technical team level; OPIC will primarily be collating plans for annual reporting, though if specific questions or issues are referred to OPIC, all parties necessary will be involved in the discussion. A number of licensees have started LRD planning.

Collaborative implementation with all licensees in a LU is the expectation.

Bob Green, Sari Sanders, and other experts are writing the red books (objective parties selected by JSP).

11. Check in/Meeting Evaluation

Topics tied together well

Good for coordination re LRD, GBR implementation

Need to keep talking about GBR-EBM coming to VI? Public education. Forest tours.

There is a fund for EBM education.

PFN could be more active in the future.

Good to see a working group established.

Having the DM here is valuable.

Next meeting – conference call option. Please send topics to Cyndy.

12. Field Trip Logistics – Kelly McMahon

Next meeting: January 11, 2017 – Face to face or conference call – TBD