

MIFLAG Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Groupwww.miflag.org**Meeting Minutes****Thursday, January 17, 2008****Present**

Sandra Barnes
 Maureen Brinson
 Clay Carlson
 Randall Dayton
 Richard Glover
 Ken Mackenzie
 Barry Nash
 Lynn Nash
 Morgan Ostler
 Gary Skabeikis

Member Seat

CR Environmental Committee
 C.R. Chamber of Commerce
 Timberline Secondary School – Education
 WFP, MIFO Engineering
 Sayward Fish and Game Club
 MIFO Operations Manager
 Village of Sayward
 Member at Large
 Regional District of Comox-Strathcona Alternate
 WFP, Operations Forester

Guests

Bill Beese	WFP, Forest Ecologist
Martin Buchanan	WFP, Regional Forester
Bob Logue	WFP, Senior Div. Accountant – CR Region
Ray Robazza	WFP, Regional Engineer

Resource & Other

Ron Frank	Facilitator/Chair
Agnes Goldstone	Recording Secretary

Away

John Andres	Ministry of Forests and Range
Kelly Arkell	Dyer Logging - Contractor
Ron Chapman	Columbia Fuels - Supplier
Michel de Bellefeuille	WFP, Certification Forester
Bill Harrison	Seniors' Representative
Rod Naknakim	Hamatla Treaty Society
Chief John Smith	Tlowitsis First Nation
Ziggy Stewart	City of Campbell River
Rick Wangler	Steelworkers Local 1-363

List of Handouts:

Draft Minutes of November 22, 2007 Regular Meeting and December 6, 2007 Christmas Gathering
 Summary of the MIFLAG Annual Public Outreach on December 8, 2007
 Sustainable Forest Management Technical Committee Notice of Meeting
 Human Health & Safety Report for 2007 (Gary)
 Environmental Report – November 2007 to January, 2008 (Gary)

MIFLAG Parking Lot as of August 28, 2007 and January 17, 2008
MIFLAG Action Plan January to December 2008
MIFLAG Phone List
WFP APC Meeting Minutes dated December 11, 2007

A1. Safety and Health

Ron – welcomed everyone and reviewed procedures in case of fire, first aid or earthquake emergency.

Introductions were made of MIFLAG members and guests.

2. Confirm Date of Next MIFLAG-WFP Regular Meeting

Following discussion, the next regular meeting is scheduled for **March 13th, 2008** (second Thursday) to avoid a conflict with Spring Break.

3. Confirm/Discuss Date/Agenda of MIFLAG-WFP Indicator Workshop

Following discussion, the Indicator Workshop is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 20, 2008** at Menzies Bay office, dinner at 5:45 p.m.

4. Review/revise/adopt agenda

Ron – add as item I a) Letter from the Regional District.

ACTION ITEM: The Public Outreach Sub-committee (Maureen, Clay and Ron C.) to meet to discuss representation at the NIEFS job fair.

Gary – the CSA Technical Committee will be meeting in Campbell River from April 29th – May 1st (see handout). The committee would like to meet with members of MIFLAG on April 30th.

ACTION ITEM: Gary to co-ordinate attendees of MIFLAG to meet with the CSA Technical Committee on April 30th.

Moved: Morgan Ostler – “Adoption of Agenda”

Seconded: Maureen Brinson

Vote: Adopted as amended – Unanimous

5. Ratify Minutes of Regular Meeting held on November 22, 2007 and the Christmas Gathering held on December 6, 2007

Moved: Lynn Nash – “Adoption of both sets of Minutes”

Seconded: Richard Glover

Vote: Adopted as presented – Unanimous

B. Bob Logue: Reportables from Accounting Department regarding MIFLAG-WFP Indicators (Regional/Local Spending)

Ron – there are three legs of sustainability - social, economic and environmental. This table has questioned how the economic benefits to the community can be tracked (Indicator #35 and others).

Bob – over the years a number of changes have taken place to the accounting policies and practices. This operation is now a “cost centre”. The logs are transferred corporately so we don’t have sales values, and therefore, cannot report on profitability. There have been a number of changes in the accounts payable as well. We are developing a process of implementing control file attributes so we can report on specific aspects. We are in the process of cleaning up the data from combining the three legacy companies so we don’t have any duplication. Timberlands’ reporting is very important to the Board of Directors. Some software we purchased leads to very complex calculations. It is difficult to determine local vendors from those elsewhere. We are trying to provide information to this table, but it requires a lot of manual work at this point and the key is to ensure it is accurate. We are just not able to provide it at this time.

Ken – there are limitations to the accounting system. It was designed to meet the legal requirements rather than the business requirements at the operational level.

Maureen – this table wanted to know if there are local expenditures.

Ken – the purchasing hasn’t really changed with WFP. For example, we still use Acklands locally, but the payment is sent to their office in Vancouver.

Bob – a part of the difficulty with the indicator is that there may be limited local benefit, even if a large amount of money is being spent such as in fuel purchases.

Maureen – concerns were being raised when the company seemed to move to centralized purchasing. Local jobs are important to the community.

Ken – WFP has a number of supply agreements with local companies for such items as tires, first aid, security, etc. Our shop is currently doing a large rebuild on a grader with the products being repaired in Campbell River.

Bob – benefits by vendor don’t always reflect jobs in town.

Morgan – the City and RiverCorp would be very interested in a general statement on goods and services and payroll. It is important for people starting up a business case.

Ken – we would like to give that information. It's important to get that information to the politicians.

Bob – should that include labour and benefits?

Maureen – yes, benefits are very important.

Ron – everyone wants to know how healthy we are. I am hearing we have no report on profitability for our indicator.

Bob – no profitability reporting.

Ron – it sounds like we are re-defining the pie. The idea is to track and establish a baseline. Does the table want to wait for one or two years for the information or do we create a new set of indicators?

Ken – we can still provide a pie, but it won't include profitability.

Ron – assuming things stay the same, then the trend becomes the object. Could cost per m³ be reported rather than profit?

Bob – it may not be indicative as different costs are included.

Ron – we need to rework these ideas and explore the idea of reporting on m³.

ACTION ITEM: Ken, Bob and Gary to review the current accounting system and see if it satisfies the past pie reporting.

Maureen – local donations are also important.

Ken – this operation does not authorize donations. They go through the region office.

Bob – the numbers that we compile for reporting will reflect MIFO only, not corporate office or other operations.

10 minute break. Bob left the meeting.

- C. Bill Beese: Presentation on Western Forest Strategy: Changes in WFP Practices Affecting MIFLAG Indicators** (complete presentation available in the MIFLAG library)

Bill – the Western Forest Strategy (WFS) is a program for conserving biodiversity on company tenures. The vision is that WFP maintains standards and practices to ensure that we are recognized as effective stewards of the resources and environment in which we operate.

Bill outlined the:

- Forest Stewardship Goals
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Landscape and stand reserves
- New WFS Objectives
- Variable Retention – Terminology
- Biological Rationale – Why VR?
- Natural disturbances: structure
- Biological Rationale
- General Approach
- Economic Rationale
- Social Rationale

He showed maps of WFP Tenure and Ecosections as well as a breakdown of Vancouver Island Land Use Planning (VILUP) zones by region.

Bill - through Genus, we can track and report on the use of retention systems. Pre-merger for the Campbell River Region, 99% of the cutblocks used a retention system. The new WFP target is for 58%. The targets will vary somewhat by VILUP zone, Ecosection and the drier ecological variants.

Adaptive Management is a formal process for continually improving management practices by learning from the outcomes of operational and experimental practices.

He outlined the:

- Adaptive Management approach
- Adaptive Management Program

Ron – how much of this information is given to the public?

Bill – With this presentation, I've spoken with all of the advisory groups on the Island.

Ron – this operation moved away from clear-cuts. It would be interesting to see what the public perception will be now that we are moving away from 100% VR.

Bill – the social driver led us to say “no more clear-cuts”. There is always a blend between economic and social factors.

Richard – it's good to move things around a bit. Clear-cutting was in the plan so you had to take everything even if it wasn't economical or safe to do so. I am not against clear-cutting, but I believe it was done too large in some areas.

Ken – clear-cut with reserves is an unfortunate name. It's a stand that has stand level attributes protected. The "clear-cut" term carries a statement with it. When we are talking to people, we need to ensure they don't envision 200 – 300 ha areas without trees.

Bill – we didn't want to change the definitions. There are standards for retention and clear-cut with reserves. They all fit under the broad umbrella of variable retention.

Sandra – has information been collected regarding the affects on the birds?

Bill – we have done many studies on birds.

Bill continued to outline:

- VRAM Experimental Sites
- 2007 research/monitoring project areas
- Objectives and Indicators
- Actions
- Monitoring: windthrow
- Monitoring: birds
- Monitoring: beetles
- Assess and adjust – feedback monitoring results into a decision making framework
- Implementation

Bill – there is a lot of good science behind all this information and details. We need to monitor over a long term to get accurate results.

Lynn – the general public is interested in how WFP is managing the forest, but they don't understand to this detail. Could we have some generalized statements, in laymen's terms, with photos to provide at the community outreach?

Morgan – I have gleaned from this presentation that WFP really cares about the forest. It's very impressive.

Bill – we are involved in some cutting-edge technology with international recognition.

ACTION ITEM: Bill Beese to provide a one-page summary as a handout for the general public.

10 minute break. Ray left the meeting.

D. Human Health and Safety and Environmental Report

Gary – the monthly person-hours data table and graph for 2007 is in your package. There was a significant drop from August to October due to the strike. December is when the snow affected operations.

Gary – (reviewed the Environmental Report). There were two non-reportable spills in December. One minor wash-out was reported from the November 12th rain and wind storm. There was no loss to productive forestland.

WFP renews bridge guardrails as part of regular maintenance. Under the Environmental Management Program, guardrails were replaced with a modified design on six bridges crossing fish-bearing waters. In order to restrain fine soil sediment from falling off bridge decks into streams, rubber cladding was attached to the rails to make contact with the bridge deck. The program will continue in future years.

The MIR for MIFO for 2007 is 6.76 (own crew 5.46 and contractors 7.84). The targets were below 3 for both. We had one lost time incident in December. MIFO Safety goals for 2008 are:

- All workers return home every day injury free
- Own crew MIR of 1.8
- Contract crew MIR of 4.04
- All contractors safe certified by June 2008.

Ken – I have mixed feelings on our performance for 2007. We did not have any serious incidents with people being taken from the woods in stretchers. This is an improvement. My goal is that every worker goes home injury free. The contractors' performance has improved significantly from the previous year.

E. Operational Overview

Ken – the production report for 2007 is as follows:

Hauling days

- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| • Own | 233 |
| • Contract | 152 |
| • Lost to weather | 20 |
| • Lost to strike | 95 |
| • Lost to market | 15 |

Production

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| • Own | 409,095m ³ |
| • Contract | <u>230,386m³</u> |
| • Total | 642,238m ³ |

The production target for 2007 was 1,100,000m³. The Canadian dollar has come down slightly but the price of lumber is very low. This is a crisis for us. We can't compete with the Interior on dimension lumber. The operational plan is to start falling in February. Yarding and road building is scheduled to begin in March with hauling in April. We have lots of snow in the woods so start-up could be slower than anticipated if the weather doesn't improve. We have a few vacancies on staff at this time and anticipate more vacancies when the crew gets back to work. People retiring and competition from the oil fields makes it a real challenge to keep the positions filled.

F. Review of Action Items

WFP to provide a Genus demonstration

Gary – we will have a Genus demonstration at the March meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Sub-committee of Gary, Ken and Lynn to pursue re-working of Indicator #27.

Bob Logue to attend the January MIFLAG meeting

Gary – this was done tonight.

Company and contractor fibre information for 2007 to be provided

Gary – Ken did this tonight.

WFP to report on severity indicator for last quarter of 2007

Gary – the actual numbers for the last quarter were: company crew – 202.15; contractor – 69.87. The combined severity was 130.13. The company target was 99.

Gary to look into what the requirements are for pesticide use and if WFP's contractor is certified

Gary – there is a requirement under the contractor's Pesticide Use License to ensure that any pesticide work is performed or supervised by a certified applicator. We had two certified persons out of the three people working.

Janice to research if local wells were captured on the map

ACTION ITEM: Janice/Gary to email an update on the wells in the Sayward Valley.

Gary to contact the Regional District to see if maps of dwelling locations are available for the Sayward Valley

Gary – the information is not available from the Regional District because it is an unregulated area.

G. Updated Parking Lot

Ron – there are two versions of the Parking Lot in your package. The January 17th version is the new draft. Please check to ensure everything has been captured and attempt to put into an order of priority.

ACTION ITEM: Draft Parking Lot (January 17, 2008 version) to be reviewed at the March MIFLAG meeting.

H. Update on the MIFLAG-BCTS table

Ron – this is still in progress. It is a regional issue for BCTS rather than a local issue. We will continue to wait for them to contact us.

I. a) Letter from the Regional District

Ron – the Regional District has requested a written request from MIFLAG for an appointee to the table.

ACTION ITEM: Ron to send a letter to the Regional District requesting a representative for the MIFLAG table.

Ron – there is a summary from the public outreach held at the Campbell River Common Mall in your package. It was not as successful as in the open air at the Pier Street Market. The handouts went well but we are still missing a demographic group in the youth category.

9:05 p.m. Meeting Adjourned**MIFLAG C & I Workshop**

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

5:45 p.m. - Dinner

6:00 p.m. - Workshop

NEXT MIFLAG-WFP MEETING

Second Thursday, March 13, 2008

5:45 p.m. - Dinner

6:00 p.m. – Meeting

Please confirm attendance to assist in meal planning.