

**MIFLAG Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group**[www.miflag.org](http://www.miflag.org)**Meeting Minutes****Meeting held at WFP Mid Island Forest Operation boardroom  
Thursday, November 20, 2008****Present**Richard Glover  
Barry Nash  
Lynn Nash  
Morgan Ostler  
Gary Skabeikis  
Sandra Barnes**Member Seat**Sayward Fish and Game Club  
Village of Sayward  
Member at Large  
City of Campbell River  
WFP, Operations Forester  
CR Environmental Committee**Resource & Other**Ron Frank  
Nicole FlohrFacilitator/Chair  
Recording Secretary**Away**Kelly Arkell  
Ken Mackenzie  
Mary Storry  
Maureen Brinson  
Clay Carlson  
Martin Buchanan  
Bill Allen  
John Andres  
Michel de Bellefeuille  
Bill Harrison  
Rod Naknakim  
Chief John Smith  
Rick WanglerDyer Logging - Contractor  
MIFO Operations Manager  
Strathcona Regional District  
C.R. Chamber of Commerce  
Timberline Secondary School - Education  
WFP, Regional Forester  
Columbia Fuels - Supplier  
Ministry of Forests and Range  
WFP, Certification Forester  
Seniors' Representative  
Hamatla Treaty Society  
Tlowitsis First Nation  
Steelworkers Local 1-363**List of Handouts:**Draft Agenda for November 20, 2008 meeting  
Draft Minutes of September 18, 2008 Regular Meeting  
Draft Minutes of October 16, 2008 Fall Field Trip  
September – November Environmental Report  
MIFO Total Person-Hours to October 31, 2008  
OHSC Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2008  
OHSC Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2008  
Indicator #3: Percent of total opening area harvested with non-clearcut systems  
Indicator #7: Stand level retention as a percent of total non-clearcut opening area  
MIFLAG Parking Lot as of November 20 2008  
Draft Criterion and Indicator Set – November 20, 2008  
Opportunities for Forest Workers – Community Development Trust

**A1. Safety and Health**

Ron – welcomed everyone and reviewed procedures in case of fire, first aid or earthquake emergency. There is First Aid coverage at the shop – phone 5038.

**2. Confirm Date of Next MIFLAG-WFP Regular Meeting**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **January 15, 2009** (third Thursday).

**3. Confirm Date/Place/Guest Speaker for Christmas gathering**

The Christmas gathering will be held on Thursday December 4, 2008 at the Elks Hall, doors open at 6:00 pm with a potluck dinner starting at 7:00 pm. Let Ron know what dishes you can bring. Refreshments are available next door at the Elks' bar and Ron asked that everyone find a safe ride home; the event will end at 9:00 pm. John Henderson of the Campbell River Band will be the guest speaker for the evening; he will discuss First Nations' Elk Management. A decorating committee is needed to come in around 5:00 pm. Please come early to help if you can.

**ACTION ITEM: Ron to contact Agnes to see if she will attend.**

**4. Review/revise/adopt agenda**

Gary made a few additions to the agenda: rework of Indicator #3 – Retention System targets and review of the Values, Objectives, Indicators, Targets (VOIT) table.

Morgan added a pamphlet from the BC Government “Opportunities for Forest Workers – Community Development Trust.” There was a brief discussion at this time regarding the pamphlet. This new initiative now includes most contractors and forest workers, with the exception of some shake block cutters and tree planters who work for private companies. Those members that were not at the meeting will have a pamphlet included in their packages.

Gary suggested that as a result of the recent election Ron send a letter to the City of Campbell River requesting a representative for the table.

**ACTION ITEM: Nicole will include pamphlets in member's packages.**

**ACTION ITEM: Ron to send a letter to the City of Campbell River requesting a representative for the MIFLAG table.**

**Moved:** Morgan Ostler – “Amendment/Adoption of Agenda”

**Seconded:** Richard Glover

**Vote:** Adopted as amended – Unanimous

**5. Review minutes of September 18, 2008 regular meeting**

Ron reminded everyone to review the meeting minutes prior to the meeting.

**Moved:** Barry Nash – “Adoption of Minutes”  
**Seconded:** Lynn Nash  
**Vote:** Adopted as amended – Unanimous

**6. Review minutes of October 16, 2008 field trip**

Richard provided the group with an update: there were a number of good size spring salmon that were caught (from 30 lbs – 50 lbs) for the egg takes this year. There were 99,600 eggs taken this year, down a bit from the target of 130,000. “Otolith” or inner ear bone marking of fry give this Salmon River run of fish a unique identifying feature from other fish. This is done through carefully controlled water temperature fluctuations at the Quinsam hatchery. An analysis of adult fish heads will identify their home river system. This technique eliminates the need for other methods of marking the fish (such as fin clipping and nose tagging). Ron proposed a date and time for the spring field trip of **Thursday June 4, 2009** starting at 3pm. Mike Gage would be eager to attend to speak on the Salmon River habitat channel project. Morgan suggested that the media be invited on the field trip as well; this idea will be revisited later in the year.

**Moved:** Lynn Nash – “Adoption of Minutes”  
**Seconded:** Richard Glover  
**Vote:** Adopted as amended – Unanimous

**B. Human Health and Safety and Environmental Report**

Gary presented the MIFO Exposure Hours

**MIFO Exposure Hours** – We were approaching a total of 300,000 person hours YTD at the end of October. The monthly variations in the bar chart reflect the number of shut downs and start ups that have occurred during the year. MIFO had an employee Full Time Equivalency rate of 249 in October, which is based upon a 40 hour work week. All of our contractors supply us with exposure hours as part of their invoicing, so the FTE is calculated from these numbers.

Gary S. – Reported on Indicator #15, Indicator #17 and Indicator #25.

**Indicator #15** (Number of reportable spills) – There was one reportable spill to PEP during this period. On October 15, a backspar machine blew a hydraulic hose spilling 20 litres of oil onto MemE460. During the repair, the belly pan was removed, and more oil was spilled, resulting in a total of 100 litres of oil on the road. The spill was mopped up with pads and taken to the shop for disposal. Gary will follow up with the shop to see if there is a need for procedural changes with the repair process.

**Indicator #17** – (Area of slides) – There were no slides observed during this reporting period. However, Richard noted that there was a slide adjacent to the Salmon River but it was not likely located in the DFA.

**ACTION ITEM: Gary S. will get the location from Richard to ensure that it is not in the DFA.**

**Indicator #25** (Medical Incident Rates (MIR) and Severity Rate (SR))

As of the end of October, own crew MIR is 2.6 while the target for the year is 1.8 with one recordable incident in October. However, SR is below target for the year, so while the MIR is above target, the length of time that workers had to take off work is significantly below target. Contractor MIR YTD is higher than target, with two separate recordable incidents occurring in October. A synopsis of the reportable incidents was provided. The accident investigations for all incidents are found in the OHSC meeting minutes included with the meeting package.

**C. Operational Overview**

Gary provided a report in Ken's absence.

The last production date for this year was November 18, 2008. Our logging crews have been sent home.

Western has received an order for second growth hemlock and Douglas-fir that will allow for some limited logging activity in December and January. This order may be associated with new Chinese customers. It is expected that 30,000 m<sup>3</sup> will be harvested in December and 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> will be harvested in January 2009. Historically, the Chinese buy relatively low grade wood used for concrete forming. Although the Chinese were intrigued by how seismically stable wood buildings were in the earthquake zone, they are still using concrete and brick for their housing construction almost exclusively. It will take some time to change old habits. The BC government along with industry associations is demonstrating new uses for wood products in China.

MIFO YTD has harvested about 390,000 m<sup>3</sup>. The anticipated 30,000 m<sup>3</sup> to be logged in December will be additional volume. This is about half of our normal expected annual production.

YTD there were 119 operating days. Roughly that translates to about 4 months (FTE) of work for our crews in 2008. Starting in 2009, MIFO is moving to a 5 and 2 shift. Unfortunately, some employees will be laid off but it will give the rest of the crew more working hours during the year resulting in better support for their families.

Third quarter results for WFP indicate a loss of \$25 million, which brings the total loss to \$61 million YTD. There is a concern that it may be difficult to get refinancing from the banks with the current state of the economy.

Ron asked whether there is a risk in the MIFLAG process coming to an end. Gary responded in saying that in his view the company values its CSA certification and it

is not a high cost activity for the company. It is not likely seen as a cost saving measure. However, it would be more appropriate for Ken to address this issue.

Ron asked about inventory levels and whether we were able to get them under control. Gary mentioned that inventories of any kind represent tied up money. Felled and bucked and engineered blocks ahead inventories are coming down. The continuation of the heli logging program has helped. Little engineering has been done in the operation this year as we were well positioned with blocks ahead. This is why we have lost engineering staff this year to other agencies and Western operations.

#### D. Review of Action Items

a) Update on meeting at First Nations Offices.

Ron has a call in to Rod Naknakim to pursue this item. The meeting should include a public component so we can explain in basic terms what MIFLAG is and does. An additional approach may be to invite a band member to our meeting to address the group on a specific FNs issue.

**ACTION ITEM: A running section of our agenda will be to include a First Nations section.**

b) **Indicator #27 (old #35) \$ to various Government sources**

After much discussion, it was concluded that this indicator can be reflected at an overview level for now, and more detail can be drilled down at a later date through, possibly, another indicator. For now, the key components of this indicator will be to determine spending in the following areas: Goods; Services; taxes and payroll. A clearer impact of how MIFO affects our community should become evident once this indicator has been completed. Hypothetically, for example, if MIFO were to shut down, what would be the economic impact on the economy including the loss of tax revenues? As well, this is useful information in terms of civic planning.

There is the potential to further break down the four key spending sectors and this can be addressed at the spring indicator workshop.

**ACTION ITEM: Gary will draft an economic indicator and send out to members for feedback. The intention is to ratify an economic indicator at our January meeting.**

**ACTION ITEM: Review further breakdown of spending sectors at spring indicator workshop.**

This discussion also generated the following action item:

**PARKING LOT: To have a presentation about why we can not keep our logs here. This item will be added to the Parking Lot under Education and Training. Rick Jeffery may be a good person to have in as a speaker on this topic.**

**c) Keeper of the photo log**

Sandra will take a look at the current photo log and decide if she would like to be responsible for keeping it current. Gary S. has offered to assist. The log should be brought to the Christmas gathering.

**ACTION ITEM: Sandra will let the group know next meeting if she would like to look after the photo log.**

**d) Update on MIFLAG Outreach**

Gary provided the update for Maureen and Clay.

The Science Fair will be returning to Timberline in the New Year. Ron indicated that MIFLAG should plan on attending this event.

Maureen was looking into the Sportsplex events, however, it was noted that at this time of the year, most of the events at the Sportsplex are craft shows for Christmas.

Gary mentioned that Campbell River Common was available. There is a car show at the mall starting on Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>, so it was decided that this might be a good weekend, as more people may be drawn in with the car show. Gary will contact and confirm December 6<sup>th</sup> with Campbell River Common. We will show from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and the following people have volunteered to look after the booth during the following times:

10:00 am to 12:00 pm – Sandra

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm – Morgan

Lynn may be available sporadically so it would be best to have some more bodies. Please contact Ron if you can help out.

**ACTION ITEM: Gary to confirm with Campbell River Common.**

**ACTION ITEM: Ron to send an email to the rest of the membership for help in attending the MIFLAG outreach.**

**e) Update on BC Treaty Commission guest speaker**

Ron has spoken with Deanne Baerg of BCTC and she would be interested in attending a MIFLAG meeting to share some helpful information. Dave Haggard is part of the organization and may also be interested in coming and speaking with the group.

**ACTION ITEM: Ron will organize a guest speaker from the BC Treaty Commission for the January 15, 2009 meeting.**

- f) **Updated Parking Lot**  
The MIFLAG Parking Lot list has been updated and distributed to the group.  
The additions to the list are printed in Blue text.
- g) **Vancouver Island Land Use Plan legal requirements**  
This item will be addressed later under Indicator 7.

## E. Other

### 1. Indicator #3. Retention System targets. Rework to reflect Forest Strategy Objectives.

Gary reviewed Indicator #3. The revised indicator supports the Western Forest Strategy objectives as presented by Bill Beese to our group earlier this year. A 3-year phase-in period is required in order for new engineering layout to reflect the new targets. Generally, more retention system management is provided for in the drier climatic areas than the wetter and in the more constraining RMZs to allow for more biodiverse stands to develop. In the drier more eastern portion of the DFA, there is more second growth harvesting, so the goal is to have more retention in that area. Barry asked for a better map depicting the factors.

**ACTION ITEM: Gary will overlay the wet and dry ecosystem information with the RMZ map and email to members, so that it can be seen more clearly how these two factors are related.**

**ACTION ITEM: Gary to clarify in the indicator the annual reporting requirement and that rationale will be provided for any deviations for the data.**

**Moved:** Lynn Nash – “Adopt Indicator 3”  
**Seconded:** Morgan Ostler  
**Vote:** Adopted – Unanimous

**ACTION ITEM: Gary S. will send Indicator #3 with the draft minutes.**

### 2. Indicator #7. Stand level retention in non-clearcut openings. Rework to reflect Forest Strategy Objectives.

Gary reviewed the revised indicator. Again, a 3-year phase-in period is required before new engineering layout can reflect the new standards. Similar to indicator #3, the targets provide for a higher amount of stand level retention in the drier climatic units as well as the more timber-constraining Resource Management Zones. Stand level retention is comprised of Wildlife Tree Retention Areas (WTRA) and Variable Retention patches. The legal requirement for WTRAs is 7% of the total area of the cutblocks harvested in a 12-month period although for individual cutblocks the minimum can dip to 3.5%. MIFO will retain 7% on each

block (at a minimum), but will sometimes leave more, depending on the biological legacies present in the cutblock.

Ron asked how the policy was developed; what was the scientific rationale behind the policy and does it apply to all WFP operations?

**ACTION ITEM: Gary will research and respond at the next meeting.**

**PARKING LOT: Presentation about International Forestry and how it compares to the management of BC forests.**

**Moved:** Lynn Nash – “Adopt Indicator 7”

**Seconded:** Richard Glover

**Vote:** Adopted – Unanimous

### **3. Indicator #19. Update on stream monitoring.**

Gary provided an update that Bill Beese’s VRAM (Variable Retention adaptive Management) site on a sub-drainage of the White River has been collecting stream temperature data for some time and might be a solution for this indicator. Otherwise DFO has an existing monitoring station on the lower White by the highway and temperature loggers would need deployment in the upper reaches. The message I am getting seems to be that turbidity information is expensive to collect and probably of not much value particularly on a large river like the White. We need to revisit the original intent of this indicator and see if it is still valid for the White.

**PARKING LOT: Revisit original intent of indicator #19 to confirm validity.**

### **4. Review phone list for updates.**

The group reviewed the phone list and changes were noted.

**ACTION ITEM: Nicole will update the phone list.**

### **5. Values, Objectives, Indicators, Targets (VOIT) table**

The group did not have time to review this document.

**9:05 p.m. Meeting Adjourned**

### **NEXT MIFLAG-WFP MEETING**

Thursday, January 15, 2009

5:45 p.m. - Dinner

6:00 p.m. – Meeting

***Please confirm attendance to assist in meal planning.***