

MIFLAG Membership

MIFLAG actively sought new membership representatives to cover missing sectors in 2014 and was successful in the addition of new member for Small Contractors on the DFA.

As always, the MIFLAG members continue to invite local First Nations to participate in MIFLAG. During 2014 this participation has been infrequent; however, the importance of First Nations involvement and information sharing drives the MIFLAG table to continue to strive for active First Nations involvement.

MIFLAG could not exist without the dedicated Active Members representing Stakeholder Groups and First Nations, or without the talented and hardworking Standing Members of WFP-MIFO supporting the MIFLAG table. Our thanks go out to each and every one of you for working so hard for Sustainable Forests and Sustainable Communities.

Active Members (2015)		Standing Members	
John Andres	MFLNRO	Tony Clark	Western Forest Products
Kelly Arkell	Dyer Logging Co. Ltd.	Michel de Bellefeuille	Western Forest Products
Sandra Barnes	CR Environmental Committee	Tyler Field	Western Forest Products
Charlie Cornfield	City of Campbell River	Jeff Ternan	Western Forest Products
Donn Fawdrey	Finning (Canada)		
Richard Glover	Sayward Fish & Game Club		
Maureen Hunter	Member at Large		
Jason Kerluck	School District 72		
Norm Kirschner	Village of Sayward		
Corby Lamb	CR Chamber of Commerce		
Lynn Nash	Seniors Representative		
Wendy Ravai	CR Indian Band		
John Smith-Chief	Tlowitsis First Nation		
Rick Wangler	United Steelworkers Local 1-1937		
Bill West-Sells	Recreation		
Gerald Whalley	Strathcona Reg. District Area A		
Sandy White	Ranger Forest Services Ltd.		
Guy Wright	K'ómoks First Nation		
		Support Staff	
		Ron Frank	Outgoing Facilitator- Shelterwood Forest Management Ltd.
		Jill West	Incoming Facilitator – Zimmfor Management Services Ltd.
		Cindy Huber	Administration
		Taisa Brown	Recording Secretary



MIFLAG 2014



Who Are We? The Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group (MIFLAG) is an independent body providing organized and regular input to the development, implementation, and ongoing improvement of Western Forest Products (WFP) Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) at the Mid Island Forest Operations.

MIFLAG operates under the Canadian Standards Association Z809-08 Sustainable Forest Management Standard.

Our Mission as volunteer members is to represent the values of our communities, our stakeholder groups, and ourselves in order to ensure Sustainable Forest Management practices on the Defined Forest Area. This is accomplished by: developing, tracking, discussing and continually improving a set of 'Indicators and Targets' related to these values; and by having an ongoing dialogue with WFP representatives to ensure that the environment of the Defined Forest Area, and the communities which rely on them, are sustained.

Our Representatives range from many community stakeholder groups and First Nations from the surrounding communities, including Sayward and Campbell River.

The Defined Forest Area (DFA) is the land base on which MIFLAG advises WFP and includes approximately 157,000 hectares of provincial crown forest land within Block 2 of Tree Farm License 39. This includes much of the Memekay River, White River and Adam River watersheds as well as portions of the Salmon River watersheds.

Accountability is a strength of the Canadian Standards Association Z809 (CSA Z809) found through the process of public stakeholder and First Nation participation to MIFLAG and in auditing, by third party auditors, to ensure compliance with agreed upon measurables, which are called indicators. MIFLAG currently has 41 indicators measuring and tracking a range of items from respect for First Nations values, public education and outreach, to stakeholder and First Nations satisfaction with the process. There are indicators reflecting environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable forest management and forest certification. These indicators have been developed by MIFLAG with agreement by WFP in our effort to measure continued improvement in Sustainable Forest Management while truly reflecting the community values and interests expressed by MIFLAG representatives.

Certification of Western Forest Products Mid Island Forest Operations (MIFO): Since May 1999, MIFO has successfully passed all audits and MIFLAG continues to express our community and First Nations values through this forest certification process.

Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group

The 2014 public outreach event at the Pier St. Market was another success with MIFLAG interacting with many members of the public in all age categories. In 2015 the MIFLAG public outreach will held at the Sayward Market on August 15th, so please stop by and give us some input!!

If you are interested in finding out more about MIFLAG, Forest Certification, the Mid-Island Forest Lands Operations of WFP you may contact any one of your representatives listed in this Annual Report, contact the Chair of MIFLAG, or visit the MIFLAG website at: www.MIFLAG.org.

In this year's MIFLAG review of Stakeholder and First Nation's satisfaction, there were some significant concerns raised by some MIFLAG members. Much work is needed in 2015 to work towards resolution to the issues and challenges identified and work to increase the satisfaction of these members.

Messages from Active Members

MFLNRO (John Andres) - MIFLAG provides an important link between WFP and local community interests. I always enjoy the meetings and appreciate the opportunity to hear what's on people's minds. Some of the issues we discuss at the MIFLAG table can be very challenging to resolve however I'm always impressed by the quality of the discussions and the way our group works together to find solutions everyone can live with.

CR Seniors (Lynn Nash) - We in the Mid Island Advisory Group are seeing increasing change in our portion of the forest industry: consolidation of operations, climate change effects, technological changes and increasing squeezing of the profit margin for WFP. Stakeholders on the Advisory Group are becoming more aware of operating procedures by the license holder and seeking more concessions for their particular interest groups. We see more interest in hardwoods in this TFL which affects some of our Indicators. We realize the only constant is change!

Regional District of Strathcona (Gerald Whalley) – Herbicide use in excess of three times the maximum allowable under their certification commitments, coupled with chemical treatment in a long standing mutually agreed upon no treatment area was bitterly disappointing. Residents who live within the boundaries of WFP's logging operation can only hope that in the future WFP will live up to the promises and commitments it has publically made to stakeholders.

Note: Gerald is referring to commitments that were made by WFP to Sayward Valley residents in the past during various meetings. WFP and the MIFLAG table have discussed this concern at great length and agree that there was a lack of clear and transparent documentation of the no treatment zone area. This has been rectified in 2014/2015 and a map has been produced clearly defining the no treatment zone that WFP has committed to adhering to.

Member at Large (Maureen Hunter) - I have been on the advisory committee for several years. I have seen a new growth and challenge over the past year. Some of the members of our committee are very passionate about the sectors that they represent. This past year the staff of Western have done their best to get the information requested by our table in an efficient and timely manner. It is my feeling that they have gone above and beyond to obtain information even when it was not related to an indicator-but was important to the stakeholder. Through the advisory process we are identifying areas that are important to the stakeholders and with the support of Western we are creating new indicators that better identify these specific areas of interest.

Message From the Outgoing Facilitator

After over 15 years as Chair of MIFLAG, it has come time to say goodbye. This will allow me to pursue more family oriented activities.

I have more than enjoyed the challenges of MIFLAG which were far-outweighed by the wonderful volunteers, dedicated WFP staff and the pleasure of being a part of a group of committed MIFLAG members who truly believe in sustainable forests and sustainable communities. The ongoing challenge of accountability, supported by the Canadian Standards Association structure, 3rd party auditing and the dedication to supporting strong indicator development and tracking are an 'earmark' of the MIFLAG table and a testimony to their tenacity. To witness and be a part of this process has indeed been rewarding.

I encourage our community and First Nation representatives to MIFLAG, their constituents and Western Forest Products to use the strength of this process to ensure sustainability of the resources of the Defined Forest Area and the communities dependent on them. MIFLAG is a wonderful venue for communicating issues of the day, deliberating difficult issues, and educating all of us on the ever-changing face of forestry.

Thank you to all of you who have contributed to this wonderful experience, especially our families who have supported us while we worked at the MIFLAG table over these formative years.

Sincerely,

Ronald Frank, RPF

Message from the Incoming Facilitator

Hello!

I am excited to be joining MIFLAG as the new Facilitator and continuing on with all the great work that the group has done over the years.

I am a Registered Professional Forester and I was raised in the North Island (Port McNeill). I specialize in assisting companies with development and implementation of management systems/ procedures and support for obtaining third party certification to various standards, such as CSA. I have many years of experience conducting internal audits and providing support during external audits. I have worked with several different CSA Advisory Groups in the past.

Sincerely,

Jillene West, RPF