

**MIFLAG - Mid Island Forest & Lands Advisory Group****www.miflag.org****Meeting Minutes****WFP Boardroom, Mid Island Office****Thursday March 15, 2018****Present**

Sandra Barnes  
Donn Fawdrey  
Richard Glover  
Maureen Hunter  
Jason Hutchinson  
Christine Kuizema  
Lynn Nash  
Guy Wright

**Member Seat**

Campbell River Environmental Committee  
Finning (Canada) – Supplier Representative  
Sayward Fish and Game Club  
Member at Large  
Strategic Natural Resource Consultants  
Ranger Forest Services Ltd.  
Senior's Representative  
K'omoks First Nation

**Resource & Other**

Taisa Brown	WFP, Field Planner
Sarah Germain	WFP, Field Planner
Kelly McMahon	WFP, Area Planner
Jill West	Zimmfor Management Services, Chair

**Absent**

John Andrés	Member at Large
Merci Brown	Wei Wai Kai Nation
Charlie Cornfield	City of Campbell River
Jason Kerluck	School District 72
Norm Kirschner	Village of Sayward
Corby Lamb	Campbell River Chamber of Commerce
Chief John Smith	Tlowitsis First Nation

**Guests**

Alex McMillan	WFP, Senior Director Government Relations
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**List of Documents:**

- January 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes
- Mid Island Operational Update

## **A. Procedural**

### **A i. Introductions**

Kelly welcomed Alex McMillan Senior Director Government Relations, Corporate Forestry who is here as an observer tonight. Alex provided a brief background on his career history and his current time with WFP. He noted that he was interested in knowing more about Western's Public Advisory Groups and to better understand their concerns.

Alex invited any members at the table who are going to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Conference April 13-15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to a seedling tour at WFP's Saanich Forestry Center- Nursery and Seed Orchard.

### **A ii. Review procedures in case of emergency**

Jill West went over emergency procedures. Note: If dialing "911" from office, the digit "9" *must* be dialed first e.g.: "9 911".

### **A iii. Review/revise/adopt agenda**

Adoption of Agenda as is:

**Moved:** Maureen Hunter  
**Seconded:** Jason Hutchinson  
**Vote:** Unanimous

### **A iv. Review Minutes from January 18, 2018 Meeting**

Adoption of Minutes as is:

**Moved:** Richard Glover  
**Seconded:** Christine Kuizema  
**Vote:** Unanimous

### **Update on Membership**

The City of Campbell River has reviewed its non-voting liaison appointments to various community organizations; which typically occurs on an annual basis as Council reviews its strategic priorities in light of its time commitments and annual work plan. After careful consideration, Council has decided to conclude its official non-voting liaison appointments to all external organizations. The only exception being the BC Hydro Liaison Committee which continues to provide the City with regular updates on the on-going John Hart Generation station Replacement Project.

The City has noted that MIFLAG should invite the City to specific meetings if the issues involve the City of Campbell River. The MIFLAG is also encouraged to consider presenting on an annual basis or whenever it is felt that Council needs to be informed of a particular project or issue that the group is working on.

The group expressed concern and disappointment with this decision, given the importance of forestry to the City of Campbell River.

## **B. Operational Update**

### **B i. Operational Update – Sarah Germain**

#### Operational Update

## **C. Presentation by Taisa Brown- 2017 Mid Island Annual Report Indicator Review**

This year, reporting has adopted the new CSA Z809-16 Standard with respect to numbering, revised elements, indicators and targets to avoid confusion since many changes have previously been reviewed. Deleted indicators from the old standard are included within the report to ensure the plan covers the old CSA Z809-08 Standard. Taisa provided a summary of the report: Two of 44 indicators did not meet, seven indicators were not due for reporting, six indicators had approved changes during 2017, and twelve indicators had proposed changes.

The group agreed that we would review all proposed changes to the indicators, targets, and variances, and then complete one vote at the end.

### **Review of Indicators not meeting target or variance:**

#### Indicator 1.1.1: Ecosystem by Type (formerly Ecosystem by Site Series)

Current target: The ecosystem area (ha) by type (BEC Zone) that is present changes <1% on a 5 year basis. Variance: +0.5%.

This indicator also failed in 2016. Road development in 2016 reduced the productive BEC zone area in the CWH mm2 by 2.45 ha. Due to the small size of the BEC zone on the DFA, the minor change caused a 1.7% reduction in area. The reduction was unavoidable in order to develop a 38 ha cut block. Unless we deactivate and plant the roads, it won't be feasible to meet the target until 2021. However, we will remain failing after 2021 if another 2.25 ha of road are built.

Alternatively, we could change the data source used for the analysis. There are major differences in the mapping of the CWHmm2 between the corporate TEM BEC layer (an operationally collected ecology dataset) and the government BEC layer. The CWHmm2 area is 40 times larger for the government BEC layer than the TEM layer. As a result, the impact of road construction would be far less if the government BEC layer was used for the GIS analysis.

The change is outside the 0.5% variance, therefore the indicator does not meet its target or variance.

Proposed change - To adjust the variance to 1.5% in the CWH mm2 and 0.5% in the other BEC zones.

Question - Can the roads be deactivated and put back in to the productive land base?

Answer - It is possible; however, we normally only deactivate and plant if we exceed 7% PAS without a justifiable reason. That's not applicable here. It's costly, we generally have poor planting survival on rehabbed roads, and most forest users appreciate our good road access for hunting and other recreating purposes.

Question - Is there any more logging to be done in this BEC zone?

Answer- Additional logging is planned for the CWHmm2. The block (22777) does not currently have a projected date, but it is expected to occur after 2022. It will likely involve 2.6 ha of road building based on current projections. With 2.6 ha of construction, we would meet the variance, but not the target.

Thought - Change now or change in future?

#### Indicator 5.2.3: Employment

Current target: Level of direct and indirect employment associated with the DFA is constant on a 5 year rolling average. Variance: 5% reduction.

The current number of hours is 12% less than the 5 year rolling average. The harvest level was reduced, there were several scheduled and weather related shutdowns, and numerous retirements throughout the year.

Question - Does this target allow for advances in technology?

Answer - No. It doesn't allow for any changes. It doesn't account for productivity gains with technology, our shrinking AAC, or variable weather conditions. The target needs to be updated to recognize long term employment forecasts and to allow for year to year flexibility.

*No decision was made in regards to this indicator/target. There was insufficient time to return to this indicator to develop a new target.*

**ACTION ITEM:** Complete a detailed review of Indicator 5.2.3 using the proposed changes from the March 15 SFMP Annual Report meeting presentation.

Consider changes to the indicator/target/variance.

**Responsibility:** WFP and MIFLAG

#### **Proposals for change of targets (12):**

##### Indicator 1.1.2: Forest Area by Species

Current target: The forest area (ha) by species composition remains within 2% of the baseline on a 5 year basis.

Proposed target - Species composition by area (ha) remains within 2% on a five year basis.

Update recommended because change in 'area by species' doesn't properly measure a shift in species composition if there are spatial updates affecting the total area. Also, the old target was developed using Indicator 5 of the 2009 SFM plan as a baseline. However, Indicator 5 compared species composition over time, not area by species. Furthermore, the total area decreased from 2005 to 2009 by 4000 hectares (12%), so they did not have a baseline to create a target for % change in area by species.

Group agreed with basis for change and the new proposed target.

**ACTION ITEM:** Taisa to add comments in SFMP Justification section regarding species composition calculations (based on area representation of forest inventory polygons).

#### Indicator 1.1.3: Age Class

Current target: The forest area (ha) in each age class changes <3% over a 5 year period. Variance: +2%.

Proposed target - The forest area (ha) in each age class changes <20% as an average, over a 5 year period. Variance +2%.

The current data shows large swings due to the small age class groupings, and the impact of historical logging.

The target was set using 2010-2013 data; however, the calculation for % change was done incorrectly. If calculated properly, the average % change was 14% for this period, so a 3% target would never have been picked.

Jill noted the conflict with the Timber Supply Review (TSR), and advised to review the TSR in better detail to determine the expected rate of change. There was a suggestion by the group to change the age class groupings to 20 years and to increase the variance.

**ACTION ITEM:** Revisit Indicator 1.1.3 in a future meeting. Review TSR projections and propose a new target/variance that is in line with TSR.  
**Responsibility:** WFP and MIFLAG

#### Indicator 1.1.4: Forest Strategy Retention

Current target: Minimum of 10% in Enhanced Basic (EB), 15% in Enhanced Dry (ED) and General Basic (GB) and 20% in General Dry (GD) and Special (S).  
Variance: 3%.

Proposed target - For retention blocks, minimum stand level retention is 10% in the Enhanced Basic (EB), 15% in the Enhanced Dry (ED) and General Basic (GB) and 20% in General Dry (GD) and Special (S).

Recommended adding in retention block wording to be consistent with our report out methods.

Noted that WFP is overachieving on retention results. With new forest influence definition, % retention will likely increase further.

Indicator 2.1.4 (formerly 2.2.2): Harvest Level

Current target ii): The annual harvest level is within 50% of the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC). Variance: One out of five years in the cut control cycle may exceed +/-50% of the AAC.

Proposed target ii) - The volume harvested does not exceed the AAC authorized for the 5 year cut control period. Variance: +10%.

Old target ensures job sustainability, but it does not prevent the company from exceeding the long term sustainable harvest level. The new target prevents the company from over harvesting. Based on Cut Control Regulations, the licensee pays 2x stumpage on any volume over 110%.

The new target was accepted by the group.

Indicator 2.1.3 (formerly 2.2.1): Permanent Access (PAS)

Current target: The average percent of forest area harvested each year in the DFA that is converted to permanent access structure does not exceed 6%. Variance: 0.5.

Proposed target - Average percent of forest area harvested in the DFA that is converted to permanent access structures does not exceed 6.5% with a variance of 0.5%.

The new target was accepted by the group. The target was changed to address the increasingly challenging terrain for road construction and the indicator's poor performance since 2011. 6.5% was selected because the MIFLAG wanted to maintain the target above the legislated standard.

Indicator 4.1.1: Carbon

Current target: The net carbon uptake of the forest is positive measured on a five year average. Variance: +2%.

Proposal to delete the variance altogether.

The removal of the variance was accepted by the group.

#### Indicator 4.2.1: DFA Changes

Current target: The total area (ha) of the DFA remains constant. Variance: Some changes to the DFA are outside of the control of WFP.

Proposed target - Less than 0.01% change in DFA area over a 5 year period. Same variance.

The new target allows for infrastructure development that is necessary for operations to occur, i.e.: landfills, dryland sorts. A new landfill is under permit, and will developed over the next 3 years.

Taisa noted that the report was not previously accounting for area conversions under Special Use Permit (SUP). As a result, the 2.69 ha landfill development from 2013 was not accounted for.

#### Indicator 5.2.A: Recreation Trails & Sites

Current indicator: The following recreation sites and trails within the DFA are not rendered ineffective: 1) Tlowils Lake Site, 2) Rooney Lake Site, 3) Stewart Lake Site, 4) John Fraser Lake Site, 5) Nita Lake Site, 6) Santa Maria Lake Site, 7) Salmon Brewster Horse Trail.

Current target: No permanent destruction of defined trails and sites as a result of harvest or road construction.

Proposed indicator - All GAR recreation features and the following defined sites/trails are not damaged or rendered ineffective: Spirit Lake Recreation Site and Mount Kitchener trail.

Proposed target - All GAR or defined sites/trails are not damaged or rendered ineffective as a result of harvesting or road construction.

The purpose of the new indicator is to be more inclusive. The previous indicator did not account for many recreation features (trails, picnic sites, camping, boat launches). The new indicator will apply to all GAR features (all identified sites/trails under the old indicator were GAR) in addition to the Spirit Lake Recreation Site and Mount Kitchener trails (not under GAR).

Taisa noted that the horse trail and associated camp sites are now under GAR. There was a question regarding logging in proximity to the horse trail. Taisa noted that logging is allowed adjacent to features and WFP will follow the "Management Principles for the Salmon-Brewster Horse Trail and Campsites", which includes re-establishing any portions of the trail impacted by harvesting operations.

The new target was accepted by the group.

Indicator 6.1.2 (formerly 6.4.2): MIFLAG Meetings

Current target: Schedule and arrange the opportunity for members to attend two field trips and two presentations each calendar year. Variance: None.

Proposed target - To schedule and arrange the opportunity for members to attend one field trip and two presentations each calendar year.

The new target was accepted by the group.

**Approved Changes Review (6):**Indicator 5.2.1: MIFLAG Support

Current target: Report Summary of the "Support" category in the Communication Plan that are completed annually; maintain or increase the level of support. Variance: None.

Proposed target - List number of organizations supported and community

Under the new target, backup information (list of organizations) will be provided at the MIFLAG meeting, but will not be included in the report.

Taisa reviewed WFP's Community Investment Objectives, which outline how WFP selects organizations to donate to. Alex provided some insight into WFP's corporate strategy.

The new target was accepted by the group.

Indicator 7.2.1 (formerly 6.4.3): MIFLAG & First Nations

Current target ii): Report summary of efforts to promote capacity development for Aboriginal individuals, communities and forest based companies.

Proposed target - Report on WFP participation in First Nation employment building activities.

Question - Does WFP work with NIVEITS?

Answer - MIFO does not. Maybe corporately.

There was general discussion on the meaning of capacity building. The group decided that input from local First Nations would be beneficial. The group decided that the indicator should be revisited at a future meeting, and potentially evolved over time.

**ACTION ITEM:** Reach out to First Nations regarding discussion/input on the First Nation indicators/targets. Offer to meet at their office or give a presentation to council. Offer to hold a MIFLAG meeting at their office.

**Responsibility:** WFP

## Changes to Indicators:

### Indicator 5.1.2 (New) Open & Respectful Communication

Current target ii): All written communication with forest dependent businesses, forest users and local communities, related to integrating non-timber forest uses into forest management planning are recorded and reported out annually and where disagreement occurs, all efforts of conflict resolution are documented.

Proposed change - Drop written and include all communications.

The new target was approved.

Motion to accept all proposed changes to indicators/targets/variances as discussed, with the exception of Indicators 1.2.3 and 5.2.3 which require further discussion:

**Moved:** Jason Hutchinson

**Seconded:** Maureen Hunter

**Vote:** Unanimous

## Review of Indicator Reportings:

### Indicator 6.1.A (formerly 6.4.A): MIFLAG Representation

Sector Representation on MIFLAG- report on the list of active members and their sectors- Taisa reviewed the list of active members with the group.

Note: John Andres has already been changed to Member At Large on MIFLAG website for 2018.

### Indicator 6.1.B (formerly 6.5.1): Outreach & Education (formerly MIFLAG Communication Plan)

Taisa reviewed new target and results. WFP was involved in over 15 types of education and outreach activities/programs.

### Indicator 7.1.2 (New-formerly 6.1.2): Open & Respectful Communication with First Nations (formerly FN Info Sharing)

Taisa summarized WFP Mid Island's info sharing efforts with First Nations, as per Target i). Taisa reviewed the two new approved targets. They will be reported in 2018.

### Indicator 3.2.2 (New): Water Features

New indicator reviewed. To be reported in 2018.

The results for the following indicators (that were met in 2017) were reviewed with the group:

Indicator 1.1.A: Forest Influence

Taisa noted that the indicator will need to be revisited in September's meeting. It will no longer be possible to report out on this indicator due to companywide Cenfor standardizations.

Indicator 1.2.1: SAR Habitat Protection

Taisa reviewed the UWR, MAMU, Goshawk and Red Logged Frog areas.

Indicator 1.2.3: Regeneration of Native Species

The only non-native species on the DFA is noble fir. It is approved for use and included in FSP Stocking Standards.

Indicator 1.4.1: Cultural Features (*formerly Sites of Significance*)

100% of sites are managed. Sites identified in 2012 are still being managed (protected, in reserves).

Indicator 1.4.2: Sites of Significance (*formerly Cultural Features*)

In 2017, three blocks had karst, two blocks had bear dens, one block had a Northern Goshawk, and five blocks were located in the SMZ. All blocks had specific prescriptions to address these special sites. All prescriptions were followed based on the post-harvest assessments.

Question - Is there a requirement to monitor the effectiveness of the management strategy?

Answer - Yes, a forester completes a post-harvest assessment for all blocks and reviews the implementation and efficacy of all management strategies. If a prescription is ineffective or incomplete, an action is created in our EMS tracking system.

Indicator 2.1.1: Free Growing

All hectares declared FG prior to deadline.

Indicator 2.1.A: Regeneration Delay

Taisa noted that the current legal requirement is 6 years, with a target of 5.4 years. Mid Island is currently overachieving, at 1.8 years. However, this period is expected to lengthen due to the increased use of natural regeneration and a change in regeneration declaration procedures (waiting until survival now, instead of declaring off of planting).

Based on time constraints, the group was asked which indicators they would like to review next. The herbicide indicator was selected.

Indicator 6.1.D (formerly 6.5.B): Herbicides

Indicator i): The percentage of the DFA brushed using chemical herbicides on an annual basis.

Current target i):  $\leq 15\%$ ; Variance:  $\leq 0.05\%$ .

Current target ii): Zero chemical Herbicides applied within HEZ and within 20m of the Salmon Brewster Horse Trail; Variance: Chemical herbicide treatment is permitted for invasive plants.

An overview map showing the exclusion zone, the horse trail, 2017 herbicide treatment blocks and all hardwood management blocks was reviewed by the group. In 2017, no herbicides were used in the HEZ or within 20m of the horse trail, and  $<0.15\%$  of the DFA was brushed with herbicide treatments (0.12%). In 2017 Mid Island tried to proactively manage for brush by fertilizing at time of planting, planting larger stock, managing for hardwoods in extreme brush hazard zones and planting higher densities.

Question - How much manual brushing was done?

Answer – 48 ha.

Sandra asked how much chemical was used in 2017. As per the report table, 159 kg was used. Sandra asked for the concentration information and Taisa noted that it was included in the information package provided in January (MSDS sheets). Taisa noted that she could provide the information on a block by block basis, if desired. She offered to e-mail the 2017 treatment map, but Sandra took the hard copy map instead. Taisa offered to meet Sandra individually to review the proposed treatment areas for 2018 once the plan is ready.

Taisa also agreed to post the PMP overview map and NIT advertisement on the Public Advisory Group Website. She will send out maps and an invitation to review the PMP once complete to all MIFLAG members.

<b>ACTION ITEM:</b> Taisa to send out planned brushing map and NIT once complete to MIFLAG members. Taisa to advertise NIT on MIFLAG website. Taisa to meet with Sandra (and any other interested members) to review planned treatments.
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## D. Review of Action Tracker

Due to insufficient time, the action tracker will be reviewed at the next meeting on May 17, 2018.

## **E. Review Parking Lot Items**

The parking lot item regarding the herbicide indicator needs to be found. However, the indicator was reviewed and the upcoming herbicide plan will be sent out and reviewed at a future meeting when it becomes available.

**ACTION ITEM:** A section needs to be added to the SFMP for Parking Lot Items (documentation and follow up schedule).

**Responsibility:** Kelly McMahon

## **F. Adjourn**

**8:30 p.m. Meeting Adjourned**

**Agenda items not covered at this meeting to be carried forward to next regular meeting agenda.**

**Next MIFLAG regular meeting – May 17<sup>th</sup> 2018 @ Menzies Bay office Tyson Berkenstock presenting on Wetlands**

**5:30 PM dinner; Meeting from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM**