



## Minutes

Village of Tahsis

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<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Committee of the Whole</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Tuesday, December 5, 2017</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<b>Place</b>	<b>Municipal Hall - Council Chambers</b>

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**Present**  
Mayor Jude Schooner  
Councillor Brenda Overton  
Councillor Kathy Bellanger  
Councillor Louis Van Solkema  
Councillor Randy Taylor

**Staff**  
Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer

**Guests**  
Kindry Mercer, RPF, Western Forest Products  
John Waring, RPF, Western Forest Products  
Paul Kutz, RPF, Western Forest Products

**Public**  
10 members of the public

### Call to Order

Mayor Schooner called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. and acknowledged and respected that we are upon Mowachaht/Muchalaht Traditional Territory.

### Approval of the Agenda

**Overton: COW 82/17**

**THAT** the Agenda for the December 5, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**Recess**  
**Overton: COW 83/17**

**THAT** the meeting be recessed until the WFP representatives arrive.

**CARRIED**

**Reconvene**  
**Overton: COW 84/17**  
**THAT** the meeting be reconvened

**CARRIED**

**Overton: COW 85/17**

**THAT** members of the public be permitted to speak following the conclusion of the items on the meeting agenda. As per the Village's procedure bylaw the maximum time allotted for each speaker is two minutes. **CARRIED**

**Business  
Arising**

**1 Western Forest Products Inc. plans for logging in Tahsis community watersheds.**

WFP representatives presented the proposed road building and harvesting plans in the Tahsis area including the McKelvie Creek, Tahsis and Leiner watersheds. The maps illustrate the planned road construction and cutblocks for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 as well as future planned cutblocks (no specific years). As planned, there will be 100 ha harvested/year with a volume of about 60,000 m<sup>3</sup> /yea About 16.5% of the McKelvie Creek community watershed is slated to be logged. WFP representatvies also described the regulatory and policy requirements set by the province that they are required to meet in planning and carrying out harvesting. More details about WFP's assessments and plans are described and mapped in the Central Island Forest Stewardship Plan <http://www.westernforest.com/sustainability/environmental-stewardship/planning-and-practices/our-forests/forest-stewardship-plan-central-island-forest-operation/>

**2 Response to Kindry Mercer, RPF, Regional Iniatives, Western Forest Products Inc. Letter of November 3, 2017.**

Mayor Schooner and Kindry Mercer read points from their respective letters (Mayor Schooner's October 3 letter on behalf of Council and Kindry Mercer's November 3 letter in reply).

**3 Community Unity Trail - Update**

**Taylor COW 86/2017**

**THAT** the the minutes of the November 27, 2017 Community Unity Trail meeting be approved for inclusion in Council's Agenda for its Regular Meeting on December 5, 2017. **CARRIED**

Paul Kutz stated that WFP has a history of working co-operatively with trail groups. WFP has no immediate or any future plans to harvest in areas near the trail route. Much of the trail is outside of TFL 19 and is in the North island Timber Supply area which is being harvested by Attu. WFP has been involved with the trail project from the outset and will continue to be involved.

### **Establishing regular meeting dates with Western Forest Products Inc.**

Tahsis Council and WFP agreed to establishing a regular meeting schedule. No specific dates were discussed but staff will follow up with WFP. Tahsis Council requested that WFP commit to attend a public meeting to share the proposed road and cut block plans for the Tahsis area. WFP staff agreed to consider the request. WFP staff offered that since the proposed plan presented at the meeting may not be the penultimate or even final plan it might be more productive to present a more finalized version to the public.

### **Head Bay Forest Service Road improvement project**

There was a brief discussion on the upgrade to the HBFSR. Staff will share the improved map showing the sections that will be chip sealed or re-sealed.

### **Public Input**

Members of the public raised the following issues:

1. Road building in high slope hazard areas above the Village
2. Access to WFP's maps and survey documents
3. Consideration of road alternatives
4. Need for broader public consultation and communication on the plans
5. Opposition to logging in Mckelvie Creek watershed and the other watersheds

### **Mayor Schooner's closing comments**

As we enter the year 2018, forestry companies, contractors, all levels of government and other stakeholders are faced with a new era in the forestry sector and new responsibilities in the stewardship of our forests and watersheds.

The challenges are to achieve a balance with nature as the world copes with climate change and a change in political thinking. Forestry corporations are obligated to go forward with careful, thought out harvesting plans. Western Forest Products (WFP) must meet the regulatory obligation of consulting with First Nations and should not dismiss meaningful consultation with local governments and communities in their region. I mean significant communications and not just the practise of "ticking boxes" or providing "window dressings" for onlookers.

Relationship building is paramount. Council has seen solid results from past benefits from working with Western. Some examples are the building of the fence around the old Cedar Mill, the cleanup of Western's properties in the Village, creating accessibility for community members to get firewood and assistance on the Community Unity Trail (CUT), to name a few. On behalf of Council, I would like to express our gratitude.

Council understands the forestry industry as members on this council have been involved in the industry. I, worked for the West Fraser Mill (a branch of the Skeena Sawmill in Terrace, BC) in the payroll department, my husband drove logging truck for many years both up north and off-highway logging trucks here. We have the wives of fallers at this table and contractors at this table. We recognize the value of responsible harvesting as an economic driver in the province. Saying that, council also is keenly aware of the need of protection of our watersheds, the trees within those watersheds – particularly the security of old growth, the defense needed for the various species living within those watersheds from the elk, to the gray jays to the invertebrates that feed our blue planet. Climate change is a reality and is and will continue to affect the delicate balance of nature.

By the time you start your TFL logging plans in 2018 the faces at this council table may change, though most of us will still carry our passion for the protection of our watersheds (especially the McKelvie Creek watershed) as residents of the Village of Tahsis. Whether, we are at this table or not, we will hopefully still be strong publicly-minded individuals and will stand strong with our First Nation communities and voice our opposition to anything that would impact our surrounding watersheds in a harmful way.

Trees are our treasure, parent trees feed young seedlings when there is not water falling from the skies due to climate change and trees are part of a vast, now compromised ecosystem with many species affected. Forests are the "Lungs of our Planet" (David Suzuki) and WFP, as we all do, have a responsibility to manage them in a clearly planned and responsible manner.

We are the stewards and we are the voices that need to be heard.

I want to take this opportunity to thank WFP for coming today and hope that our relationship builds and trust and respect, on all sides, is achieved.

Thank you.

**Adjournment**

**Overton: COW 87/17**

**CARRIED**

**THAT** the meeting adjourn at 1:44 p.m.

Certified correct this

2nd Day of January 2018



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Corporate Officer

November 3, 2017

Village of Tahsis  
977 South Maquinna Drive  
P.O. Box 219, Tahsis B.C.  
V0P 1X0

Dear Mayor Schooner,

**Re: Response to October 3<sup>rd</sup> Letter to Western Forest Products Inc. Logging Plans and Consultation**

Thank you for your October 3, 2017 letter, on behalf of Western Forest Products I am happy to respond to the issues you outlined. I apologize for the length of time it has taken to provide you a response. We wanted to make sure that we took the time to fully consider each comment in your letter.

Let me begin by thanking you for your comment that Tahsis residents value the relationship with Western Forest Products (Western) and Council's commitment to open communication. I echo those sentiments and want to reiterate Western's desire and commitment to continue to work with you, council and your staff to ensure the community is informed with, and has input on, operational plans as they are solidified.

Please find below Western's responses to the specific issues you raised in your letter.

1. Economic Benefits of Logging Activity for the Community of Tahsis

Potential economic benefits from forest management activities in lands adjacent to the Village of Tahsis may include local employment and economic spinoff from the increase of people working in the vicinity of the Village. Unfortunately, Western cannot commit to contributing to an independent economic impact analysis. However, where we are able, we would be pleased to work with the village in its efforts to promote Tahsis as a service and employment hub for the forestry related activities that will be occurring locally. If you can provide us with a list of local service opportunities, we can work together to look at potential economic benefits for the Village.

2. Head Bay Forest Service Road

We are in agreement that favorable road conditions and maintenance are important to the community. We are happy to work with council to advocate government for investments that will allow for improved maintenance of the road.

3. Western Forest Products use of Tahsis Municipal Roads

I can confirm our current projections to access TFL 19 lands in the McKelvie and Tahsis Watersheds do not include municipal road use for heavy industrial traffic. At our next meeting we will share access projections with council.



4. Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation

Western Forest Products has a long standing, information-sharing process with the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation which we will continue to maintain for all activities proposed in their traditional territory, including in the McKelvie watershed. Understanding the interests of and finding mutually-beneficial relationships with First Nations in whose traditional territories we operate is important to our business.

Additionally, the Province maintains the duty to consult with First Nations, and will carry out its own consultation process with Mowachaht/Muchalaht with respect to any authorizations Western may require to carry out harvesting activities.

With respect to Council's June 21 meeting with the Council of Chiefs, Western would be pleased to respond to any concerns that were raised by Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation and will follow up with the First Nation. Western also welcomes Mowachaht/Muchalaht's participation in future discussions with Tahsis Council.

5. Lack of Confidence in Professional Reliance

Thank you for informing Western of your reservations about professional reliance and your interest in engaging an independent forester.

Western Forest Products has confidence in the professional foresters we employ to ensure that the forests we manage meet or exceed requirements of all provincial and federal legislation including, but not limited to, the Forest and Range Practices Act. Western also employs independent consultants from other fields of practice, including geotechnical engineers, fisheries biologists and archeologists to provide advice and direction for their fields of practice. As you are likely aware, the Government of British Columbia has initiated a review of the province's professional reliance model to ensure the highest professional, technical and ethical standards are being applied to resource management in BC. Western Forest Products will be participating in the review through the Association of BC Forest Professionals and are looking forward to those discussions.

6. McKelvie Creek watershed

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the McKelvie Creek watershed. We are aware of the town's use of water from the creek as a secondary drinking source. As mentioned during previous meetings, Western harvests within several community watersheds within our tenures and we will ensure that forest management activities within the watershed will follow the Central Island Forest Operation Stewardship Plan requirements for harvesting within a community watershed.

With respect to concerns expressed by the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation Council, the timber resource within McKelvie Creek is used in the provincial government's accounting for long term sustainable harvest rates for TFL 19. We would be happy to provide further detail on this process and questions regarding harvesting can also be addressed to Romona Blackwell, District Resources Manager, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

7. Regular Communication

Western Forest Products would be pleased to set up a regular communication schedule with council. I will be in touch with your staff shortly to arrange details for this communication.



Once again, thank you for your letter, I look forward to continuing our dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kindry Mercer'.

Kindry Mercer, RPF

Manager, Regional Initiatives  
Western Forest Products Inc.

Attachment: Village of Tahsis - Letter to Kindry Mercer, October 3, 2017

cc: Shannon Janzen, RPF – Western Forest Products Inc., Vice President & Chief Forester  
Doug Meske – Western Forest Products Inc., Operations Manager, Central Island Forest Operation  
John Waring, RPF – Western Forest Products Inc., Planning Manager, Central Island Forest Operation  
Romona Blackwell, District Resources Manager, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development





## Village of Tahsis

October 3, 2017

Our File No.

Kindry Mercer, RPF  
Manager, Regional Initiatives  
Western Forest Products Inc.

Via email: [kmercerc@westernforest.com](mailto:kmercerc@westernforest.com)

Dear Kindry,

Re: Western Forest Products Inc. Logging Plans and Consultation

I am writing on behalf of Tahsis Council regarding the WFP's 15-year plan to log three community watersheds in the Tahsis region and WFP's communication and consultation.

You may recall from the March 14, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting Council's high degree of interest in WFP's logging plans and proposed road access to the McKelvie and Tahsis watersheds. Since that meeting, there has been intermittent communication with staff, but no formal communication from WFP to Council regarding its plans.

To preface, I need to stress that Council, as representatives of all Tahsis residents, values the past and current relationship with Western. Despite the policy and or operational disagreements that arise from time to time, Council is committed to keeping open communication channels so as to continue the dialogue moving toward mutually beneficial outcomes. The points below are offered with this context in mind.

In response to the 15-year logging plan in the Tahsis, McKelvie and Leiner watersheds, Council's response is as follows:

1. WFP has advised Council that the Village would realize economic benefits from this logging activity. To substantiate this assertion, Council believes an independent economic analysis of the costs and benefits is required. We would ask WFP to contribute to the cost of this study;
2. WFP should strongly advocate to the Provincial Government for paving, or at least chip sealing, the entire length of the Head Bay Forest Service Road and improving overall maintenance of the road;

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3. It is understood that WFP will not be accessing the proposed cut blocks, hauling or using Tahsis municipal roads for any activity in relation to this harvesting. All road use and/or road construction are subject to Tahsis bylaws which are available from the Village office;
4. The three watersheds are largely within the traditional and unceded territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation so they must be consulted on the logging plans. When Council met with the Council of Chiefs on June 21, the Chiefs raised a number of issues and concerns regarding logging of the old growth forest in the McKelvie watershed. Tahsis Council will need to know WFP's response to these issues. The MMFN will be invited by Tahsis Council to any future meetings between WFP and Tahsis Council;
5. Council has deep reservations about the professional reliance model for monitoring compliance and enforcement of the *Forest Practices Act*. Council is considering engaging its own independent forester to observe the harvesting activity;
6. Logging in the McKelvie Creek watershed poses considerable risks to the Village. McKelvie Creek is a secondary drinking water source and feeds the Village drinking water aquifer. The old growth forest is habitat for bird, mammal and fish species. In meeting with Tahsis Council, the MMFN Council of Chiefs expressed their opposition to logging this old growth forest; and
7. Council believes a framework or protocol for resolving issues and concerns over the 15-year plan would benefit the Village and WFP. It is noted that WFP holds regular meetings with other local governments where the company has ongoing operations. While Tahsis expects the same level of commitment from WFP, Council also sees the benefit of a formal protocol for resolving issues.

We invite WFP to arrange with staff to meet with Council to provide an update on the 15-year logging plan and to respond to the above.

As an aside, we raised some of the above items with Minister Donaldson and staff during a meeting at the UBCM convention.

Sincerely,



Mayor Jude Schooner

Cc: Shannon Janzen, RPF, Vice-President and Chief Forester, Western Forest Products Inc.  
John Waring, RPF, Planning Manager, Western Forest Products Inc.  
Romona Blackwell, District Resources Manager, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

## Community Unity Trail Working Group Meeting

27 November 2017 - 1000am – 230pm

Ehattesaht Chinehkint First Nations,

Health Wing, Ehatis BC

### Minutes

1. Opening Remarks by Chairs
2. Approval of Agenda
  - Added item 3b UBCM Meeting Updates
3. Introductions
 

Round table introductions: Present were Village of Zeballos (VoZ) representatives CAO Eileen **Lovestrom**, Mayor Donnie **Cox**, Councillor Julie **Colborne**; Village of Tahsis (VoT) representatives Mayor Jude **Schooner**, Councillors Randy **Taylor**, Kathy **Bellanger** and Brenda **Overton**, CAO Mark **Tatchell**; Ehattesaht/ Chinehkint (E/C) representatives Councillor Tim **John**, Members Alice **John** and Samantha **Billy**; Campbell River (CR) ATV Club representative Mike **Coulter**; Western Forest Products (WFP) representative Paul **Kutz**; Recreation Sites and Trails of BC (RSTBC) representative Graham **Cameron**; Onsite Engineering representatives Mike **Foster** and Mitch **Lowe**.
- 3b. UBCM Meeting updates
  - The regulations of the ATV framework speak to ATV use on public roads. \$26/ year gives registration and highway crossing. These ATV users need further insurance to ride on the road, on the FSR and on Crown Land. This disparity was discussed at the UBCM with the law makers.
  - BC Hydro was approached and asked to supply a staff person to champion the trail project. Earlier today, Ted Olynyk contacted VoZ to express his apologies in not making the meeting and to say the answer is no to a staff person.
  - Without hard numbers in hand the villages used their meeting at the UBCM to remind the politicians that we had this project underway and would be seeking help in the future.
4. Presentation by Onsite Engineering (Mitch Lowe and Michael Foster) on bridge design/water courses and environmental assessments
  - Mitch Lowe provided an update on their work and helped everyone present to understand the work that has been completed and the remaining tasks.
  - From the Tahsis end the route starts by passing through private land where an easement will be needed and continues on Extravagant Main logging road. The area in Map 4 required re-routing brought to everyone's attention with the recent weather conditions when there was a slide along the planned route. From there it goes to the headwaters of Little Zeballos

and into the Little Zeballos river valley where the road has been deactivated with cross ditches. Maps 6 thru 9 are in good shape and present good viewing opportunities. The trail head at the Zeballos end is still being discussed with three options presenting – at the boat launch, behind the library and at the end of Ferris Road.

- In all there are 21 crossings – 5 existing, 15 deactivated and 1 new needed at the slide are in Map 4. Five of these 21 have been identified as fish habitat.
  - Other parties which may be interested in capitalizing on economies of scale are biologist Mike Wright doing environmental assessments for E/C; Stacey Larson, DFO education of E/C youth; Greig Seafood investing in hatchery and habitat; WFP with the Nootka Sound Watershed Society restorative work in the area.
  - Onsite Engineering will make the connections with Mike Wright.
  - Maintenance will be a BIG item over time. Access will need to be restricted from day to day.
  - LIDAR – Tim suggested a letter to E/C Council and said he will speak to his Council on our behalf. Lidar is particularly needed for Map 4 area. A geotech has looked at the area as well.
  - Timelines: December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 complete 30% design; Jan 31, 2018 – designs for review by all; March 15, 2018 - finalize design for inclusion with submission under the Forest and Range Practices Act.
  - The trail is 27 km overall and includes 1.5km of new trail.
5. Forest and Range Practices Act - process, decision approvals, issues - Onsite Engineering and Recreation Sites and Trails
- Graham Cameron is a statutory decision maker and must maintain neutrality on our project. His job is to manage recreation opportunities on Crown land.
  - Section 57 gives approval to make changes to Crown land and gives the Crown the ability to make rules governing the trail or improvements.
  - Liability is assumed by the partners during construction. Use of the finished trail is at users' risk. A Non-Profit Society, if formed, would carry liability insurance for use by others as well.
  - WFP will still have the ability to harvest via cut blocks along the route.
  - Onsite will send WFP shape files to identify any economies of scale that might be present.
  - Section 56/57 applications have a turn around of 30 – 60 days. The funding requirement for construction is a necessary part of the application.
6. Establishment of Non-Profit Society - review of application steps
- A Non Profit Society would establish a legal entity to provide governance of the trail and perhaps other common interests.
  - There are 4 steps to the application: 1) get a society name approval, 2) establish a constitution 3) set bylaws, and 4) decide on number of directors and makeup.
  - A brainstorming session resulted in three name to be submitted in order of preference Community Unity Society; Uniting 4 Communities Society; METZ Society (M/M, E/C, VoT, VoZ)
  - The constitution needs to recognize that the trail goes through E/C and M/M ceded territory. Perhaps it should include the phrase “encourages rural development” as well.
  - Some bylaw discussions included having 8 directors, 2 from each community with a quorum of 5. Recording Clerk could be provided by the meeting host community. Makeup of directors shall be determined by the governing body of each respective community.

- Deadline of December 31<sup>st</sup> for director appointment. Application for society cannot be completed until the directors are known.
7. Rural Dividend Fall 2017 intake
- The next intake has a closing date of December 15<sup>th</sup> 2017
  - Suggestion from Kathy Lachman is that we chose a particular chunk of the project and apply for the construction. A smaller project inside the total project parameters.
  - This is a 60/40 partnership stream with a maximum ask of \$500,000 project. Applying for the maximum would mean a project with a total budget of \$800,000 would receive funding of \$480,000 and \$320,000 (\$80,000 each) from the four communities. We could have in kind donations in the amount of 10% or 80,000 making the equal share amount \$60,000. Alternatively the \$320,00 could be found from other (currently unidentified) sources.
  - Staging is needed to get the ball rolling with taking advantage of a discrete (a separate and definable part of the overall) project.
  - Due to capacity issues at Zeballos over the next month, VoT will put the application together.
8. ATV BC AGM - invitation to present
- Correction it is not the AGM but a "Face To Face" meeting with the new North Island representative Graham Lindenbach. Kim Smith of the CR ATV has a tentative date of May 2018 for this meeting.
  - The trail project will be willing to give a presentation on our project to date.
  - Kim has contact information about the National Trail Coalition for a possible source of \$5,000.
9. Next Meeting  
Tahsis February 27 2017  
Suggested invited guests to next meeting: Mike Wright, DFO Stacy Larsen, Greigs Seafoods, NTC  
Doug Neff
10. Closing Remarks  
Thanks and good byes  
Adjourn 2:45 pm