

## Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) Minutes

**Date:** June 19, 2017. Meeting convened at 7:00pm

**Location:** Smithers Town Office

**Board members in attendance:** Karen Price (Chair), Eric Becker (Vice Chair), Ron Vanderstar (Treasurer), John Fisher, Ted Vanderwart, Cor van der Meulen

**Absent:** Christoph Dietzfelbinger, Bryan Swansburg, Debra Flemming

**Recorders:** Laura Guillon (BVRC)

**Guests:** Alan Baxter (Presenter), Bob Mitchell (Presenter), members of the public

Item	Discussion
<b>Introduction /Agenda Review</b>	Introductions, welcome to new members John Fisher and Debra Flemming (absent) Agenda accepted with revisions (bike path presentation replaced with slash burning)
<b>May, 2017 Minutes</b>	May minutes accepted with revision (a note that data presented from the Trade Show questionnaire was preliminary, a full analysis is now available)
<b>Presentation by Alan Baxter on the HLPO</b>	<p><b>HLPO Presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impetus was land use planning in relation to forestry activities and to ensure values are still being maintained. Answering the question: Are we meeting the objectives of the LRMP? This morphed into higher level plan objectives (HLPO) and then forest stewardship plans.</li> <li>• PIR, owned by West Fraser Mills – a dimension sawmill that operates on 3 forest licenses in the Bulkley and Morice TSAs             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sustainability focus (facility and forest)</li> <li>○ Employs 450 in the valley</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Forest stewardship engagement –             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Babine river interim land resource use plan signed in 1998</li> <li>○ Bulkley LRMP Objectives set by government was signed off 2006</li> <li>○ To find social license (what does the public want?), there are many areas foresters have to balance, manage values and prioritize to move forward.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Higher level plan order objectives were assessed (collaborative, all licensees participated and agreed on how to assess indicators, planned on how to collect data (see HLPO report for more detail)</li> </ul> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seral Stage – stages of forest development, have a target for amount of each landscape unit (exceeded or shows number of hectares left that can be harvested). Mature and old are often mixed.</li> <li>• Core Ecosystems – retain representative forests across the Bulkley. Not a lot of harvesting (may go in for forest health e.g. MPB). Spruce beetle coming back, easier to manage than MPB, will likely have to harvest more CORE in future.</li> <li>• Landscape Riparian Corridors (LRC's) – provide habitat connectivity across</li> </ul>

	<p>landscape. Most meet targets, ones that don't are remnants of previous harvesting and a few are from MPB management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ (Comment from previous CRB member) Everyone was in agreement in the past with CORE ecosystems and landscape corridors.</li> <li>○ One of things that have changed is there is no longer local control, must go through government.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Open Road Density – open and closed road density, a FLNRO project to classify all roads as drivable, estimate amount of activity has helped a lot; will be updated every five years.</li> <li>● Telkwa Caribou – WHA order sets seral stage targets for the Telkwa Caribou recovery area, changed seral stage targets.</li> <li>● Grizzly Bear High Value Habitat – security and bedding habitat, minimum 80% of FMLB greater than 50yrs. Diverse understory for feeding. Want 10m height. Max 25% less than 3m height. Some areas not meeting requirements may be wetlands, but still good habitat (stand level vs. landscape).</li> <li>● Watershed Assessments – 38 watersheds in Bulkley. Different amount of water absorbed depending on heights. Road density and road stream crossings affect sediment scores. None exceeded (1 projected).</li> <li>● Wildlife Tree Retention – percentage of area left as WTR (target percentage of cutblock area to be retained in WTR patches). The current goal is 11%. (Comment from CRB member) Recent studies show number should be 20%.</li> <li>● Patch Size – spatially and temporally placement of blocks. Mimic the pattern of natural disturbance occurring within the landscape. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Getting more consistent in analyzing this, previously grouped all area within 40 yrs of each other and physically touching, now group 0-20 yrs of age if 100m of each other.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Areas reserved from harvest – Not in any objectives; what foresters wanted to know. Crown land reserved from harvest: parks, protected areas, SMZ's, no harvest zones, core ecosystems, WTR areas, Crown reserves (constitutes 26% in Bulkley).</li> </ul> <p>New : Web Based Mapping Service – communicating with public, all data on what harvested, planned for harvest (3 yrs). Update every 6 months,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PIR put a lot of time/money into the data we have seen, not available to the public right now. Happy to talk about and answer questions.</li> <li>● Question from the Board: How is PIR addressing climate change? Are having these discussions currently.</li> <li>● <b>Action: All - Read report and discuss questions in the fall</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion led by Bob Mitchell on Slash Burning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Last fall, companies received a venting index which was good and lit their slash piles. Venting crashed and the valley saw 5-6 days of thick smoke. People were concerned; a group called VOICES FOR GOOD AIR came up with</li> </ul>

	<p>recommendations (report emailed to members).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slash is left over wood from logging that is piled up. An enormous amount is accumulated, approximately 10 mill tons slash/year and most is burnt. The numbers of piles in the Bulkley are estimated at 20,000, with 400,000 total in BC, which release greenhouse gases (GHG), (1 kg wood ~2kg CO<sub>2</sub>) and smoke when burnt. Approximately 20 mill tons of CO<sub>2</sub> is released by slash burning, which is equal to the total amount released from transportation in the province.</li> <li>• Currently slash burning is Exempt from BC Carbon tax (recommending a carbon tax) although the International committee of climate change says forestry is carbon neutral.</li> <li>• Next 20-30 years is crucial for GHG. Smoke inhalation = health problems.</li> <li>• Alternative ways to get rid of slash (convert to biochar (like charcoal), burying, stacking, and pellets).</li> <li>• Voices for Good Air recommend a moratorium on slash burning or a carbon tax on wood burnt as slash.</li> <li>• <u>Board Comment</u>: Decomposition of the wood will release the same amount of GHG over time. This will not accomplish the goal if decomposition releases GHG anyway. <u>Answer</u>: Slash Burning is the immediate release of CO<sub>2</sub> and does make a difference in the short term &lt;30 yrs.</li> <li>• Risk of wildfire is a factor (first 4-5 years especially)</li> <li>• Have the health costs been quantified? Actually the effects of breathing smoke are quantified but not specifically smoke from slash burning. <u>Board Comment</u>: How would this affect the industry? Could they just absorb the cost and not change?</li> <li>• <u>Comments from Alan Baxter</u>: Switching from slash burning to another method has been a push for a long time. Different methods have been tried and industry is taking this seriously. There are usually alternative methods to use some of the slash. Trying to keep revenue neutral is a big point. We have been dealing with the slash for so long (over 50 years); it is hard to know how leaving the piles will affect wildfires. There is some research on MPB stands showing the early risk might not be as bad as thought.</li> <li>• No action asked of CRB, just a presentation of information</li> <li>• <b>Action: BVRC - Send report to new BVCRB members</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Action Items from last meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Trade Show</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The analysis of the long form results was sent out for review (amalgamated the two analyses).</li> <li>• <b>Action: All – Review the analysis</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Operational Funding Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update from Wetzinkwa (usually hear back at end of June), just asked for \$1000 to cover trade show and fall fair, public liaison.</li> <li>• Positive feedback from District Manager, MOF, likely \$5000 or better</li> <li>• Funds left: under \$3000 total</li> <li>• <b>Action: Ron and Karen talk to Tony</b></li> </ul>

	<p><b>Fall Fair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 24 to 27</li> <li>• Cheapest option, mall, 8 ft booth \$240, comes with 8 single day passes</li> <li>• Insurance \$50</li> <li>• Availability, been years since full</li> <li>• Benefits: pursue further questioning of public and reach different segments of the population (diverse group, family oriented). Find new CRB members.</li> <li>• Are there enough members available to volunteer? Two people would be best, but could do with one person. Could leave booth unstaffed at slow times. Worth pursuing even if only staffed half the time.</li> <li>• Cor, Debra and Ron are unavailable. Eric and Ted can help a little. Karen is around. Ask former board members: Bob out of town, Jeff, Patty, Jill, otherwise not enough.</li> <li>• <b>Action: All - Find past board members to volunteer (Bob will try to find a list of old members) Karen will email. Make decision on fall fair by end of week.</b></li> <li>• <b>Action: Ron – Write Ted a cheque for the Fall Fair.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Consensus of board for all members to stay on: Yes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more members from industry. Are some benefits but hold the risk of an understaffed board being dominated by industry.</li> </ul> <p><b>Presentations to the board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protocol should be to make clear at the beginning of the presentation that it is to the board, no questions from non-board members unless there is time, special permissions can be made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Societies Act</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No consensus.</li> <li>• Do restrict yourself with rules, may be able to get more revenue. Money is already coming from people that are not concerned with the board's status.</li> </ul> <p><b>Future meetings: Reconvene third Monday of September</b></p>
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**Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. Next meeting 7:00 pm, September 18, 2017 (Smithers town office)**

**Actions**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Due</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Read HLPO report and discuss questions in the fall	September	All
Send report to new BVCRB members	June 21, 2017	BVRC
Review Trade Show analysis	September	All
Search for new funding (talk to Tony)	July	Ron, Karen
Find past board members to volunteer (Bob will try to find a list of old members) Karen will email. Make decision on fall fair by end of week.	June 23, 2017	All
Write Ted a cheque for the Fall Fair	June 23, 2017	Ron