

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) Minutes, February 11, 2014. Meeting convened at 7:10 PM, Alpenhorn meeting room, Smithers, B. C.

Board Members in Attendance: Jeff Anderson (Chair), Tim Penninga, Harold Kerr, Jack Hagen, Karen Price, Paddy Hirshfield, Debbie Wellwood, Mathias Westphal, Eric Becker, Bob Mitchell, Trish Oosterhoff, Michael Sawyer. **Guests:** Len Vanderstar, Karen Diemert, Ed Hinchliffe, Lloyd Kilback, Jevan Hanschard. **Executive assistant:** Jill Dunbar

Item	Discussion	Action
Agenda	No additions.	Agenda accepted as presented.
Minutes, January 14, 2014	Change “Compressor location km 487 (west of Nilkitkwa R.) operates without staff but has housing on site if needed” to “Although compressor station could operate without staff, it would always be staffed, and would be...”.	Minutes approved with revisions.
Administration	Executive vacancies need to be filled. Descriptions are found in Board Terms of Reference.	Board members are to consider standing for selection as executive members; selection will take place at March 11, 2014 meeting.
Action items from January 14, 2014 meeting	<i>Jeff Anderson will facilitate a continuing discussion by e-mail, to determine top BVCRB concerns and priorities (regarding Spectra Energy). Jeff Anderson will request a presentation from TransCanada Corporation.</i>	On-going. Done, no response from TransCanada to date.
Presentation: Telkwa Caribou Wildlife Habitat Area	Len Vanderstar and Karen Diemert: In the 1970’s the Telkwa caribou population was about 270. Helicopter hunting reduced the population. In the early 1990’s a survey found 18 individuals. MOE imported 27 animals, and this was thought to be a recovery. However, the herd now numbers in the teens. MOE is trying to isolate causes of the decline. The Regional Director of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has established a wildlife habitat area (WHA) for northern caribou; area boundaries and general wildlife measures are described in the Order. With land set aside for caribou there is less area for timber supply. MOE is working with PIR to develop an offset package to maintain the 10 % balance and comply with the direction of the LRMP. Other components of the recovery strategy include: 1) funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund to monitor caribou and wolves with radio collaring, 2) implementing motorized and non-motorized use restrictions under the Wildlife Act and FRPA Section 58. MOE is meeting with user groups and will fine tune restrictions as collaring information comes in, and 3) guidelines for mineral exploration. A Land Act Reserve will be applied to the area so no new applications for development will be accepted for 5 years. MOE is working to have the pipeline that is proposed through Telkwa Pass	Len Vanderstar will provide the analysis to the Board prior to the April presentation.

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	<p>moved southward. The herd will be monitored each year for 5 years. If not successful, i.e. the herd does not recover over a 20-year horizon, the Order will be removed.</p> <p>BVCRB: An example of finding a path forward is the Quick Core Ecosystem where flexibility in CE location was found via discussions and field trips.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Budget: How much has been spent on the recovery? Is there funding for enforcement? Is there money to sustain the strategy for the long term?</p> <p>Response: Expenditure to date could be in the order of \$1 mm but exact amount is unknown. MOE is working on funding for enforcement and monitoring.</p> <p>Impact on timber supply: Was climate change considered? Does the Crown have contractual obligations to maintain the cut with tenure holders?</p> <p>Response: The 10% balance did not factor in climate change. The bottom line impact on timber supply, shown by modeling, is that about 90 ha of harvestable timber per year must be found. A finalized package will be presented to the BVCRB in April. There are contractual obligations however the 10% balance is separate and is not a legal obligation. But all parties have cooperated in maintaining it.</p> <p>Recovery potential: Why even consider this if the herd is decreasing? If this is a genetically isolated herd can it recover?</p> <p>Response: The full recovery strategy has never been implemented. There is no evidence that this is a genetically isolated herd. In southern B.C. herds are decreasing but they are working on recovery options and not writing off the herds.</p> <p>Detrimental impacts: Is there evidence that human interaction impacts caribou? Why collar the wolves? There were lots of caribou in the 1960's, after wolves were poisoned in the 1950's. Bears and wolf populations have spiked in the last 3 years.</p> <p>Response: There is background research including info on dog/caribou interactions and impacts of motorized traffic on caribou. Caribou will check out hikers and then leave the area. The caribou predators are mainly wolves and bears. We manage that now with habitat management.</p> <p>Recreation restrictions: It is a very small group that is not complying. Restrictions are unfair to the rest of the users. A permitting system would be good. Mooseskin Johnny is a good ATV area. With a couple of permitted trips per year you would gain more support from user groups. Why is helicopter access allowed?</p>	

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	Response: Voluntary compliance has not been working but MOE would consider trips and is working with user groups. There are designated flight lines for helicopter access.	
Other business	Path forward for Telkwa WHA: Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOE is not considering cumulative effects. • It is difficult to maintain a working forest and keep other values in balance; considering cumulative effects is also very difficult. • Board’s main goal is to consider LRMP values. • The Higher Level Plan Order (HLPO) provides the legal objectives. • Yes, but professional reliance comes from FRPA (Forest and Range Practices Act). • The Ecosystem Network was the main reason behind the 10% balance. 	Mike Sawyer will prepare a draft response to MOE, stating BVCRB concerns with MOE proposal, circulate to Board members for comment, incorporate comments, and present final version at next meeting.
	Terms of Reference update: Board should finalize TOR, and then decide on implementation strategy.	Jeff Anderson will send out draft Terms of Reference and feedback that was received from FLNRO for discussion at next meeting.
	Telkwa Official Community Plan: The OCP will be presented at an open house in Smithers on Feb 18. The Board should send a letter describing the BVCRB and issues we would be interested in for the future.	Karen Price will prepare a draft response for Board member review and comment. Jeff Anderson will send standard letter template to Karen.
	Spectra Group discussion: Following up on the Spectra Energy presentation at the January 14, 2014 BVCRB meeting the Board discussed these options for next steps: 1) write a letter to Spectra requesting more information regarding issues of concern to the Board such as access management, 2) write a letter to government requesting a strategic review of all local pipeline projects, and/or 3) request a detailed technical review whereby a consultant would be hired to report on impacts of the pipeline to LRMP values. Members agree to carry out options 1 and 2.	Bob Mitchell will prepare a draft letter to Spectra Energy for Board member review and comment requesting more detail on access management. Board member will prepare a draft to government requesting a coordinated review of regional pipeline projects.
Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM. Next meeting March 11, 2014; 7:00 PM; Alpenhorn meeting room.		