

**Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) Minutes**

**Meeting Date: April 13, 2010. Meeting convened at 7:00 PM, Alpenhorn meeting room, Smithers, B. C.**

**Board Members Present:** Greg Storie (Chair), Dave Stevens, Anne Harfenist, Rob Boyce, Mike Murray, Taylor Bachrach, Jeff Anderson, Eugene Wittwer, Ben Heemskerk, Jill Dunbar (Executive Assistant)

**Visitors/Presenters:** Dana Atagi, Rick Marshall, Brandin Schultz, Mark Williams, George Schultze, Greg Tamblyn, Greg Brown, Brian Edmison

**Regrets/absent:** Don Goalder, Jack Hagen

Item	Discussion	Action	By Whom	By When
<p><b>Ministry of Environment Monitoring Presentations and Question and Answer Session</b></p>	<p><b>Greg Tamblyn, MOE Impact Assessment Biologist:</b>  <b>Water Quality around Mine Sites:</b> The Environmental Protection Division is concerned with air and water quality. The Waste Discharge Regulation is referred to frequently; both point and non-point discharges are looked at. Water quality monitoring is particularly focused on effects on fish. Baseline monitoring measures conditions pre-development. Water quality objectives monitoring is conducted by MOE. Site specific targets are developed over Provincial guidelines. Most current monitoring concerns the Blue Pearl project, but is very limited since this project is on hold. At Toboggan Creek some metals exceed limits naturally (Al is high). At Kathlyn Creek site specific targets are being developed.                      Q: What monitoring is taking place at Equity Mines?                      A: The company is spending \$1 million per year in perpetuity to treat acid rock drainage; MOE is regularly reviewing the reports.                      Q: Are temperature trends in local streams being monitored?                      A: Unsure. Climate change monitoring, focusing on benthic invertebrates, needs to be developed.                      Q: Cronin Creek site: Does Lands have any responsibilities?                      A: Unsure. MOE encourages at least one year of baseline monitoring.                      Q: What is being monitored at other sites – Minalta, Telkwa Coal, and so on?</p>	<p><b>Link to the 2007/08 report will be forwarded to the Board.</b></p>	<p><b>Greg Tamblyn</b></p>	

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	<p>A: No action currently at these sites.  Q: What is the relationship between benthic invertebrate populations and water quality?  A: The population needs to fall within a certain expected range to be considered to be healthy.</p> <p><b>Rick Marshall, Wildlife Biologist:</b>  <b>Moose, deer and elk populations:</b>  The Skeena management area is very large and has diverse wildlife populations. <b>Moose:</b> The Bulkley Valley Lakes District is the highest priority area for moose management. Stratified random block (SRB) surveys are used for monitoring, but are expensive and time consuming. The last one was carried out in 2004. There have been about 20 of these surveys over the years at a cost of around \$50,000.00 each. The last survey showed that the population looks healthy. There may have been some decline in 2006/07 after heavy snows but the amount of the decline is unknown. The long term outlook is good; however, climate change, ticks, willow borers, and human impacts may all have an effect.  Q: Can anything be done to affect the number of twins that are born?  A: Habitat enhancement may be an option, however this is very expensive.  Q: How much highway mortality is there?  A: There isn't a lot of data – just reports from the public. It is suspected that it is higher in winters with more snow.  <b>Deer:</b> Populations mainly consist of mule deer, but white tail are starting to come onto the area. No formal deer surveys have been done so there is no good inventory information other than hunter survey information. A winter severity index is being developed.  <b>Elk:</b> There is a small population near Quick and a few other isolated spots. This population seems to be stable but may increase. This is a low priority for monitoring at present.  They do not compete with moose but may impact agriculture</p>			

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	<p>at some point.</p> <p>Q: As stewards of the LRMP, what should the BVCRB consider with regard to wildlife management when reviewing development applications?</p> <p>A: Good habitat needs to be maintained so development needs to be considered carefully.</p> <p><b>Mark Williams, Wildlife Biologist:</b>  <b>Grizzly bear populations:</b>  The consensus management direction for 4 planning units was reviewed. Nilkitkwa: General impression from MOE is that objectives are being met. Babine River: Objectives are being met. Telkwa River: Main area of interest is road deactivation/access management. Currently relying on MOF to manage the corridor. Copper River: One road was under construction, then stopped. The watershed is mostly pristine, with potential for development.  General studies: There is no inventory for grizzlies. In the Babine, there have been many changes. Baselines have been established. A snaring program was started however, funding was cut. “Problem bears” are being shot and that is a concern. Bear harvest by limited entry is carefully controlled. Most information suggests that bear populations are stable or increasing, in the northern part of the Skeena region.</p> <p>Q: Road density in the Babine was identified as a problem by the Babine Watershed Monitoring Trust – is the MOE concerned?</p> <p>A: Increasing road densities will create mortality. Habitat fragmentation also prevents bears from moving. The Babine River is the main spot of concern. Objectives are mainly being met and populations are relatively healthy.</p> <p><b>George Schultze, Wildlife Officer:</b>  <b>Caribou update:</b>  George last made a presentation to the BVCRB 2 years ago.</p>			

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	<p>There is no funding for the Telkwa Recovery Project animal collar sampling. Helicopter surveys were done in November, 2008; March, 2009; and March, 2010. A vehicle survey was done in February, 2010. The population may be in decline or at least fluctuating. Public reporting of sightings is useful. Establishment of the Telkwa Caribou Wildlife Habitat Area is being worked on in order to support caribou recovery.</p> <p>Q: Must funding come from sources other than government, particularly to protect investments already made?</p> <p>A: MOE keeps hoping for funding and reestablishment of the project. Letters of support from BVCRB and other groups would be helpful.</p> <p>Q: What should the BVCRB consider when reviewing referrals?</p> <p>A: Where there is greater human use the caribou seem to disappear. Recreational development and access development may have big impacts.</p> <p>Q: What activities have impact?</p> <p>A: Timing is important, e.g. during calving season.</p> <p><b>Goats:</b> Goats are habitat sensitive. Escape terrain needs to be protected from disturbance. Lack of inventory is a concern.</p> <p><b>Brandin Schultz, Skeena Region Planner:</b> Protected areas have expanded in the last 15 years. 100 new areas have been added. The process for getting new parks and conservancy areas approved is difficult. It is an accomplishment that MOE has 6 of these in for approval now. MOE has worked with First Nations on these areas. The Babine River Corridor Park plan hasn't yet been completed. Lots of consultation and information gathering during the process was valuable, however. Land acquisitions near Smithers are being worked on, e.g. the Call Lake site is now an Ecological Reserve, 15 hectares adjacent to Tyee Lake Park have been acquired, and there is a</p>			

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	<p>potential deal at Trout Creek. There has been funding support from the Habitat Conservation Trust.</p> <p>Q: What should the BVCRB consider when reviewing referrals for development applications?</p> <p>A: Existing plans won't be revisited for quite some time. Recreational issues are important – e.g. ATV's at Call Lake.</p>			
<b>Agenda review</b>	Agenda for balance of this meeting was reviewed.	<b>Accept agenda.</b>	<b>Board Members</b>	<b>This meeting</b>
<b>Review of minutes of March 9 , 2010</b>	Minutes discussed.	<b>Minutes accepted as presented.</b>	<b>Board Members</b>	<b>This meeting</b>
<b>Subcommittee Reports/Issues/ Correspondence</b>	<p><b>1. Recreation</b>  <b>RAMP update: Anne:</b> No action other than looking for funding.</p> <p><b>2. Mining and Energy Development</b>  <b>Rob:</b> No new business</p> <p><b>3. Forestry, Range and Agriculture</b>  No new business</p> <p><b>4. LWBC Referrals and Land Tenures</b>  Petursson referral: Discussion: There has been an objection circulated. Does the BVCRB want to support it? Ben: The objection has already been submitted. Dave: Does MOF need to approve the License to Cut? Yes, but the MOF District Manager cannot revisit information used by ILMB to make the decision. Dave: There are other means to voice objections as well – e.g. roadblocks, lawsuits, and call for judicial review. Taylor: The BVCRB is concerned with how the LRMP deals with Core Ecosystems. As stewards of the LRMP the Board must help to interpret the LRMP. Anne: A letter to Doug Donaldson, MLA, is needed. Greg: Our interpretation is that no permanent roads are allowed in Core Ecosystems. Ben: As an aside, some mountain biking trails are being constructed that are similar to roads in design</p>	<b>Prepare a response to the Petursson application decision for the Interior News.</b>	<b>Ben</b>	

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	<p>– are they allowed in Core ecosystems? Greg – The Board needs to be guided by the wording in the LRMP, i.e. no permanent roads in Core Ecosystems.</p> <p><b>5. Water and Fish:</b> See presentations by MOE reps above.</p> <p><b>6. Monitoring and Land Use Plans</b> Investigation of issues arising from the Babine Watershed Monitoring Trust presentation: Dave: Looked at Bull Trout monitoring results (BWMT report 2008-04). The report, by McElhanney, is clear.</p>			
<b>Administration</b>	<p><b>LRMP Edits:</b> Letter and edits can be sent.</p> <p><b>Website:</b> The new website should go live before letter re: Petursson application is published in the Interior News.</p> <p><b>Post Office box charges:</b> Charges were imposed because address was out of town (Adrian de Grout's).</p> <p><b>Update on incorporating the BVCRB as a society:</b> Taylor spoke with Richard Overstall, who is a proponent of the trust model, where members are trustees of an agreement. The BVCRB could fit this model where the LRMP is the agreement or trust.</p>	<p><b>Finalize letter to RRMC re: LRMP edits.</b></p> <p><b>Launch the new website.</b></p> <p><b>Change BVCRB P.O. address to Taylor's office address.</b></p> <p><b>Circulate notes on Trusts vs. Societies.</b></p>	<p><b>Taylor</b></p> <p><b>Dave/Taylor</b></p> <p><b>Taylor</b></p>	<p><b>April 21/10</b></p>

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<b>Other business</b>	<p><b>MOE Presentations:</b> The presenters here tonight may be a source of support for updating the LRMP and making it more valuable. A letter to each of them would be useful.</p> <p><b>Membership:</b> Nomination forms for returning Board members need to be submitted.</p>	<p><b>Prepare letter to MOE presenters requesting support for LRMP updating.</b></p> <p><b>Submit nomination forms</b></p>	<p><b>Jeff</b></p> <p><b>All returning Board members</b></p>	
<b>Meeting adjourned 10:00 PM</b>	May 11, 2010, 7:00 PM, Alpenhorn Meeting Room.			