

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) Minutes, Dec 16, 2014. Meeting convened at 7:00 PM, Skeena-Stikine District office, Smithers, B. C. Board members in attendance: **Michael Sawyer (Chair), Paddy Hirshfield (Treasurer), Bob Mitchell, Jack Hagen (on phone), Karen Price, Eric Becker, Tim Penninga.** Acting for Executive assistant: **Cristina Soto.**
Visitors: Jay Gilden, Ed Hinchliffe, Alain Labrecque, Gord Wadley

Item	Discussion	Action
Agenda	Agenda accepted as presented.	
Minutes, November 18 2014 meeting	Minutes accepted as presented.	
<p>Presentation: Denise McLean, Invasive Plant Specialist, FLNRO, Prince George; with Steve Kiiskila, Advisor, First Nations Consultation – Skeena: <i>Proposed Pest Management Plan</i></p>	<p>Denise handed out hard copies of "Invasive Alien Plants Pest Management Plan for Provincial Crown Lands in Central and Northern British Columbia". She has PowerPoint slides available – contact her to get them. NWIPC has a summary on its website of various types of treatments applied in specific areas. Biocontrol options are first screened in Switzerland before coming to Canada (or places where originated). Takes up to 20 years and up to \$20M to screen. Questions and discussion:</p> <p>1. Jay has observed hawkweed take over a field and then disappear after spruce naturally seeded in and grew back. A: We're trying to knock back invasive plants (IP) so that natural vegetation can regrow – gave an example of treatments. Used 2-4D and grass came back very well.</p> <p>2. On Crown Land in this area, which are the worst for ecological integrity? A: Marsh plume thistle, common tansy is out of control in Terrace; himalayan balsam gets into riparian areas, field scabius, mountain bluet (more invasive in northern BC than southern), knotweed is a concern everywhere in BC; Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) is used.</p> <p>3. What is provincial budget on annual basis? A: 1.6M. Does the legislative context take into account climate change and its potential effects? A: Somewhat. We look on an annual basis to see if species are moving and if we need to change our lists.</p> <p>4. Why should we care? A. Knotweeds infest infrastructure – in England you can't get insurance or a mortgage if knotweed found on your land – it will go through pavement and pipes; a lot of these weeds affect rare and endangered species e.g. knotweed on a stream side bank and is now found at a water intake on Haida Gwaii. They don't hold soil, so huge amount of erosion occurs on salmon streams in Cowichan. Siltation and chunks of bank are eroding (replaces native plants that</p>	<p>Paddy Hirshfield will ask for a copy of the <i>Proposed Pest Management Plan</i> presentation and circulate.</p>

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	<p>would hold the soil) and with little nutrition in its leaves it sucks nutrition into its roots and leaves canes behind; hawkweed is not palatable to livestock, so it is reducing forage (also applies to elk); rare south facing grassy ecosystems will be affected.</p> <p>5. Is there monitoring? A: Yes, NWIPC carries out monitoring of all their treatments (10% of our treatments).</p> <p>6. Who is legally responsible? A: The applicator, who has a provincial license that can be pulled.</p> <p>7. How many licenses have been pulled lately? A: The Ministry of Environment has pesticide officers but they have been reduced in numbers too.</p> <p>8. What is the state of affairs of invasive plants? Where can we go to get a sense of this? A: We're winning in some cases, with EDRR. We lost the battle for hawkweed. It overtook without us realizing it. Except in the far north – we still have a chance e.g. Cassiar Region.</p> <p>9. Where do you think public education is at compared to where it should be? It seems that very few instances are reported. A: There is a toll free weed hotline. It is very well represented with calls from the Bulkley Area. There is always more room for more education. We have a Facebook page and website. We have a plant sale with the Genealogical society. We are making more news with invasive animal species.</p> <p>Potential action item: Steve is willing to do a talk on invasive species here.</p> <p>10. Where do people go to learn about the chemicals and the ecological impact of these (for the public not the primary literature)? i.e., which are higher risk ecologically, and what are potential impacts. A: Contact Denise for the pesticide specialist for the province: denise.mclean@gov.bc.ca</p> <p>11. What do you do in no herbicide zones if you have a highly invasive plant? A: Hand pull it repeatedly.</p>	
<p>Action items from November 18, 2014 meeting</p>	<p>1. All Board members will forward any additional comments on the Telkwa WHA response letter to Karen Price so that the draft letter can be finalised. Comments on the draft have been incorporated. Board members agree to send letter as is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Karen Price will finalize Telkwa WHA response letter and e-mail to Jocelyn and Len, with copies to 	

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	<p>the Board and Eamon, Tony Pesklevits, and Jevan.</p> <p>2. Paddy Hirshfield will prepare a template funding application letter and approach groups for funding. He would like to reframe it as a 3 year budget. Board comments: achievements such as summer RAMP and work to undertake the winter RAMP should be included; something like "advised on..." preferred to "list of letters"; additional contact information could be included; if a funder wants to fund a specific part of the program that could affect Board mandate. Members agree to be ready to allow for specific contributions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Edited funding application letter will be sent to the agreed upon list of potential funders. <p>3. Bob Mitchell will update the BVCRB website and Facebook page. FB page is up and running. Website is in development. FB and websites are not effective unless they are kept up to date. Bob is keeping up with it – at least once a month, ideally more. Board agrees to have a goal that by next meeting, 5 people will like the page. Additional contact information needs to be on website other than just P.O. Box.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Bob Mitchell will ensure that new contact information is added to the website and will meet with Kirsteen Laing in January. <p>4. Tim Penninga will prepare a draft MOU with government based on Section 15 of the draft BVCRB Terms of Reference. Karen Price will review, and then circulate to Board for comment. Reviewed what has been done to date but this item will be re-tabled for next meeting. Board needs to remove the part of the TOR that talks about the relationship with government and that will be the separate MOU.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Board members will review the draft and provide comments via e-mail for discussion prior to the next meeting. <p>5. Mike Sawyer will follow up with Jeff Anderson regarding status of discussions with government. Board members will be invited to any meetings that arise pertaining to these discussions. Mike Sawyer met with Jeff Anderson; Jeff will introduce him to the key people he is to meet. This is critical to inform the MOU. Having our own ideas ready is helpful and everyone agreed this draft MOU would then inform Mike's further discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Mike Sawyer will e-mail Jeff Anderson tonight and c.c. the Board. <p>6. Paddy Hirshfield will contact Rick Budhwa regarding renewal of MOU with BVRC, when funding has been received. Paddy presented a draft MOU with BVRC. Board received FLNRO funding - \$3150, which has been deposited with BVRC. MOU guides how \$ will be used, so important to finalize it. Board members want clarity about what is received for the flat fee and the 10% charge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Board members will forward comments on draft MOU with BVRC to Paddy Hirshfield so he can incorporate them for the next meeting. <p>7. Eric Becker will forward VRAM group minutes to BVCRB for review, when available. Complete prior to the meeting.</p>	

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	<p>8. Paddy Hirshfield will check if TransCanada and Spectra have responded on-line to BVCRB or other public input. See #9.</p> <p>9. The Board letters to TransCanada and Spectra will be copied to OGC (Oil and Gas Commission). Jeff submitted our letters through the EA process. Those letters can be accessed through the EA Centre. Both gas projects that the Board commented on already received EA certificates. They are included on a huge spreadsheet on EAO table – the one for Trans Canada is 400 pages long. Each part of Board letter is placed in different sections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Paddy Hirshfield will forward the link with the EA response to members. Bob Mitchell will look at the comments in the TransCanada project to share with Board since it is most likely to happen. Bob will look for the letters that Jeff signed, and then Paddy will send the letters to the OGC since the decision is already made. <p>10. Paddy Hirshfield and Karen Price will prepare a correspondence tracking template in order to assess outcomes, as a communication tool and for evaluating Board’s effectiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: carry this item forward to the next meeting. <p>11. Tim Penninga will ask if TSA Technical Report can be released to the Board. Tim contacted appropriate people. It is a public document. If Board wants to review it, there will be opportunity to respond to issues raised. Tim suggests for a future meeting, Glen Buhr be invited for an hour. Members will be interested in % of particular ecotypes to be harvested, in particular. Discuss with Glen: What is the decision and what does this mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Tim Penninga will invite Glen Buhr to February meeting. Paddy Hirshfield will invite Ben Heemskerk to January meeting. FREP presentation will be scheduled for March. <p>12. Board members will review and comment on the draft BVCRB Terms of Reference, with the goal of streamlining them. Addressed above.</p> <p>13. Paddy will ask Terry Sullivan how the Board can best be kept updated on new development applications. This is in the MOU. Terry Sullivan said, "send in periodic inquiries"; only a notion of potential website. Mike Sawyer raised his involvement with the TC issue; Jeff is not too concerned about it.</p> <p>14. Eric Becker will contact Marc Schuffert, Range Officer, to arrange a presentation on invasive plants. DONE. Presentation given earlier this meeting.</p>	
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Financial update. Board is working on getting additional funding.</p> <p>Societies vs. Trusts</p>	<p>Paddy will provide information on</p>

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<p>Other Business</p>	<p>Gates policy</p> <p>FREP monitoring</p> <p>Membership update. Seven applications have been received.</p> <p>First Nations representation. Mike spoke with one of the hereditary chiefs who said to contact Dave Belford. He will be part of this if directed by OW. Agreement by all members to invite all three First Nations (W, G, LB) to attend meetings as guests.</p> <p>Pesticide Management Plan. No Board consensus on whether and how to address IP and PMP. Eric mentions how to engage people to learn more about it.</p> <p>Previous board members</p> <p>Executive. Mike Sawyer considering stepping down as chair due to time commitment, anyone else interested should step up. Carried forward for now.</p>	<p>potential options for the board.</p> <p>Tim Penninga will get a copy of the most recent gates policy from Ron and share with the board.</p> <p>Tim Penninga will arrange for presentation on FREP at March meeting.</p> <p>Mike Sawyer will ask Jeff Anderson for an update.</p> <p>Next meeting, find someone to write this letter of invitation.</p> <p>Paddy Hirshfield will write a letter to thank Board members who left within the last year, for next meeting.</p>
<p>Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM. Next meeting January 20, 2015; 7:00 PM; Skeena-Stikine District office.</p>		