

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) Minutes, June 16, 2015. Meeting convened at 7:10 PM, Skeena-Stikine District office, Smithers, B. C. Board members in attendance: **Paddy Hirshfield (Acting Chair and Treasurer), Eric Becker (Vice Chair), Bob Mitchell, Jack Hagen, Christoph Dietzfelbinger, Cor Vander Meulen, Ruth Lloyd, Karen Price, Tim Penninga.** Absent: **Joey Welch.** Executive Assistant: **Jill Dunbar.**
Presenter: Dave Jacobs, NewPro
Guests: Dave Stevens, Gina LaHaye

Item	Discussion	Action
Agenda	Agenda accepted as presented.	
Pellet Plant proposal	<p>Dave Jacobs, Vice President, NewPro: Technical details and permits are available for viewing at the NewPro office. Proposal is to repurpose the existing particleboard plant in Smithers to a pellet plant. Emissions would be reduced by 94%. Suspended particulates will go from 442 to 26 per ton, and the array of types of particulates will change. The project will meet or exceed B.C. standards. At the site, shavings and conveyors will be covered. Everything will go through the bag house.</p> <p>Question from the Board: What is the bag house?</p> <p>Dave Jacobs: This houses all pneumatics. Air containing particulates enters, is filtered through socks, and goes out. Socks are cleaned off every once in a while. The plant will have state of the art drying technology.</p> <p>Q: What does the rotary dryer do?</p> <p>DJ: It is a large drum – 10 x 40 feet. There is almost an open flame. Sawdust goes in, gets dried.</p> <p>Q: What size of material is needed?</p> <p>DJ: Material needs to be small. It is resized after drying.</p> <p>Q: Why not just filter the air as it comes out?</p> <p>DJ: We could not build a filter large enough. There is a lot of moisture in the material as well. The dryer would run at 120°. The particle plant dryer ran at 155°. Lower temperatures mean material is not baking. Material will come from P.I.R. but additional material will be needed which will come from the bush. This will be ground. About 60k bone dry tons would come from P.I.R. This is about 120 green tons or 150K m³. Another 20 to 40k green tons would be needed.</p> <p>Q: Will you be able to get the same amount that you got for the particleboard plant from P.I.R.?</p> <p>DJ: Yes, we still have a contract with P.I.R. We would grind material in the bush. We can use everything except needles, which are highly flammable.</p> <p>Q: Would NewPro or another contractor do this?</p> <p>DJ: NewPro would likely do this. 20 – 40k tons is a small amount and the equipment is expensive.</p> <p>Q: Wouldn't it be better if loggers removed the limbs and needles?</p> <p>DJ: No – we would have to pay them to do this.</p> <p>Q: Wouldn't the grinder only run 50% of the time?</p> <p>DJ: We don't think so. There is more and more waste each year, especially with balsam.</p> <p>Board comment: Limbs get in the way, and must be scattered.</p>	

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	<p>Board: That doesn't happen as much now, with danglers and more winter logging.</p> <p>Q: Do you have to delimb?</p> <p>DJ: We will take the tops (which don't have many needles) but not the rest of the limbs. We don't want needles or rocks.</p> <p>Q: How would this residue affect stumpage?</p> <p>DJ: New licenses now require that the pellet industry would be able to use the residue. 25 to 30% of the volume off the cutblock could be used.</p> <p>Q: Are there any species that can't be used?</p> <p>DJ: Each species has a different energy value, e.g. pine is 16.5 gigajoules per ton; hemlock is about 14. Buyers will specify energy levels.</p> <p>Board: We have a new AAC in this TSA. Wood harvested is mostly scale-based, so waste surveys are required. Dry pine is cruise-based, so everything including waste is paid for.</p> <p>DJ: Dry pulp logs on scale-based sales are not counted in waste surveys currently, so you end up with more volume. FLNRO is looking at changing what is measured. These may contribute to cut control one day. We are looking at areas that are less than 100 km from the plant. We need to use the waste, reduce slashburning, and get more value from our fibre.</p> <p>Board: We are not likely to have biofibre licenses here. We don't have the pine component.</p> <p>DJ: New plants must use the latest technology. Pellets would be shipped by rail to Prince Rupert and then by ship to England. These are commercial not residential pellets, which produce more ash. Delivery of small amounts locally might be a problem. It would be good to convert some wood stoves to pellet stoves.</p> <p>Guest: There is a wood stove exchange program.</p> <p>DJ: It would be good to have that for pellet stoves.</p> <p>Q: What is the conversion from bone dry tons to green tons and m³?</p> <p>(Answer not clear)</p> <p>Q: Can cottonwood be used?</p> <p>DJ: Thick bark is not an issue. If it is all ground together in the bush that is fine, otherwise it would need to be mixed at the plant.</p> <p>Q: What about decay, such as with old balsam?</p> <p>DJ: There isn't a large amount here so that is likely not an issue.</p> <p>Board: Old balsam is a valuable wildlife resource.</p> <p>DJ: Yes, if it is left scattered in the bush. We don't want coarse woody debris at the roadside.</p> <p>Q: What is the ideal percentage of CWD left in the bush?</p> <p>Board: 100% - whatever is there is used. A threshold level hasn't been found. For marten, it is 100 to 200m³. Provincial guidelines are inadequate.</p> <p>Q: If there is a local air quality advisory, what will you do?</p> <p>DJ: The current permit has an episode management plan. We can't store more than 4 days worth of material. With the</p>	

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	<p>particleboard plant we would run dryers at a higher temperature, or shut down. It depends on the level of advisory. Board: With lower emissions this will be a different story. DJ: Yes. Q: How do the particulate sizes compare between the old plant and the proposed plant? DJ: The technical reports contain this information. Q: The monitoring that we have now is in residential areas. Would you measure emissions right at the stacks? Could we get this information on-line? DJ: That would be difficult. Guest: Monitoring at the stack would be done by MOE, with lots of notice. Perhaps this could be more random, and not ambient = source emissions reporting on a random basis more than once per year. DJ: We would not be opposed to this. The cost would be \$10 – 12,000.00 to do this, though. Guest: There is technology to do this. DJ: We could use this, if affordable. We have had a Vancouver company do the testing in the past. Q: Could this plant put more pressure on the forest resource? DJ: There will always be pressure. We don't want to use anything that P.I.R. would use. Board: The Timber Supply Review for this TSA showed that we are one of the few areas in B.C. not facing a large drop in timber supply. As well, the Kispiox TSA has little harvesting going on now. We are also a long distance from any pulp mill, so our chips are high cost compared to closer areas. DJ: In Prince George only one pellet plant buys material from the bush. Board: It is a legitimate comment. We build up an industry that relies on this material for pellets, and we might be forced to keep our cut high. DJ: NewPro will hold public presentations and tours at the plant located at 2749 Railway Avenue on July 9th, 10th, and 11th. Appointments will be set up for small groups. Board: Would like to see local sales of pellets and conversion of old wood stoves to pellet stoves. Guest: Pellet stoves emit less than wood stoves. But this would account for a very small amount of sales – perhaps 300 tons of pellets per year. DJ: Contact the NewPro office (Rose) for technical information. ACTION: Paddy Hirshfield will request this technical information, in digital format. Paddy will send information on the BVCRB to Dave Jacobs.</p>	
Minutes, May 19, 2015 meeting	Minutes accepted as presented.	
Action items from May 19, 2015 meeting	1. Memorandum of Understanding with the BV Research Centre: This MOU has been signed. Paddy will recirculate to Board members.	

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	<p>2. Board Terms of Reference: The Board accepts the revised ToR. In future, some values such as air and water quality may be considered. First Nations representation should be discussed.</p> <p>Survey questions designed to collect public input as to Board priorities: A goal is needed. Survey can be developed over the summer.</p> <p>Open House: Discussed later this meeting.</p> <p>3. Website redesign: Paddy Hirshfield, Bob Mitchell and Jill Dunbar will be trained by Spark Design.</p>	
Meeting with TransCanada	Paddy will circulate presentation slides to Board members, and will send meeting notes to TransCanada with a request that they follow up on action items.	
New Business	<p>Signing authorities: Signing authorities for the Board are to be revised so that Bob Mitchell, Paddy Hirshfield, and Eric Becker hold BVCRB signing authority. No objections were heard from Board members.</p> <p>Work over the summer break: Jill will coordinate website work.</p> <p>Open house: Karen Price, Christof Dietzfelbinger, Eric Becker, Tim Penninga, Ruth Lloyd and Paddy will work on this as a subcommittee. Board members need to discuss goals for this event and the survey, e.g. reengagement with the community, types of issues of concern to the community, socializing with former members.</p> <p>Member recruiting: Jack Hagen and Tim Penninga are leaving the Board as of this meeting. They are sincerely thanked for many years of combined service to the BVCRB. Jill, Karen and Paddy will work on recruitment of 5 new Board members in order to fill current vacancies.</p>	
Items for September Meeting	<p>Firewood collecting</p> <p>BWMT update and monitoring in general</p>	
Meeting adjourned at 10 PM. Next meeting September 15, 2015, Skeena-Stikine District office, 7 PM.		