

**Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) Minutes, November 15, 2016.** Meeting convened at 7:05 PM, Skeena-Stikine District Office, Smithers, BC

**Board members in attendance:** Paddy Hirshfield (Acting Chair and Treasurer), Eric Becker (Vice Chair), Bob Mitchell, Cor van der Meulen, Mathias Westphal, Ron Vanderstar

**Recorder:** Melissa Sawatsky, Bulkley Valley Research Center (BVRC)

**Absent with notice:** Christoph Dietzfelbinger, Karen Price

**Guests:** Anne Hetherington, Dan Fries

Item	Discussion
<b>Agenda review</b>	Addition: Anne Hetherington's presentation. Agenda approved with this revision.
<b>Review of action items from October 18, 2016 meeting</b>	Previous action items reviewed in lieu of minutes from October meeting.
<b>Presentation: Anne Hetherington</b>	<p><b>Update on the goshawk strategy:</b> Habitat stabilization plan is in the works to identify areas that have 100 hectares of mature forest for their breeding area. Results are expected in the next month. Wildlife habitat management areas to be unified under regional conservation plans. Goshawk habitats will have priority; a collective partnership between private landowners and crown land is worth exploring. Speciality forestry and selective cuts can work together with conservation concerns.</p> <p><b>Update from the Kalum Land &amp; Resource Plan Implementation Committee:</b> The Kalum PIC had sent a letter to gov't asking for more involvement with referrals, to act as a conduit for public opinion. Suggestion to frame it as a link to social licence and monitoring implementation; they can look for gaps, omissions, or themes and share these findings to inform input for the future. Input on referrals is too late in the process, which is why monitoring from organizations such as the CRB and PIC are so important. Anne would like to work on an avenue that facilitates more effective public consultation—to put information in a format that makes sense for the public to access. It's important to start from objectives at the landscape level (feature you're trying to protect) and from there design a plan going back to site staging level. Board members can contact Anne at <a href="mailto:Anne.Hetherington@gov.bc.ca">Anne.Hetherington@gov.bc.ca</a> with any follow up questions.</p>
<b>New Business</b>	<p><b>Adventure Tourism Application on Bulkley River, Passby Ridge and Hudson Bay Mountain</b> Discussion: It would be nice to have more detail on the map and information on the river is quite light. There is no inventory of goat habitat in the area; perhaps this can be brought up as a community concern. The Environmental Management Plan mentions minimal disturbance to "the integrity of wildlife habitat and ecosystems," however, it's good to have a wider public consultation in addition to scientific input. Suggestion to</p>

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	<p>reach out to the contact person at FLNRO (<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Chermesnok@gov.bc.ca">Jennifer.Chermesnok@gov.bc.ca</a>) and ask to see the written comments from ecosystems. Length of tenure term of 45 years is quite long; it would be nice to see a shorter term with expectations and accountability for good behaviour, but long enough for an operator to invest in the business. What limitations are in place? Speed limits and noise limits on motorized boats would be a good addition. There should be a general acknowledgment of support for this type of business pursuing a permit. Consider adding Christoph's concerns from previous email to board.</p> <p><b>ACTION: The CRB will put together considerations and feedback on the application in point form, based on the minutes. Paddy will draft this.</b></p> <p><b>Summer/Winter RAMP Processes</b>  Discussion took place with Brandy Hughes (Rec Sites and Trails). Brandy is coming up with a list of priorities and working on outstanding items to close out the summer RAMP. There is seed money left over from the summer process that can be designated to the upcoming winter process. The CRB is here as a partner for Brandy regarding outstanding site designations and the creation of maps.</p> <p><b>RDBN Agriculture Forum in Burns Lake</b>  Cor attended this forum, which was primarily concerned with enhancing agriculture in the Bulkley-Nechako area. <i>Some takeaway points:</i> The criteria for ownership and investment in the north are much more lenient than in the south. There are no limitations on foreign ownership that yields no local economic benefit beyond a farmer receiving payout for the land. In the north, 42,000 acres are owned by foreign investors and this land is mostly used to grow alfalfa hay; they are buying up family farms and making them one unit. There is also pressure from rural residential investment on available farm land. The forum organizers communicated their intention to circulate feedback and comments from the participants.  <i>Role of the CRB in private land:</i> The board's obligation is to reflect popular opinion, in addition to considering agricultural concerns. Pesticides and other aspects of production can impact wildlife habitat in the hedgerows. We should aim to get ahead of some of these issues, but currently there is no system in place to counteract them. How much can the CRB involve itself with private land? Perhaps focusing on a general strategy surrounding land use of private property and how it might affect/negate what is done with Crown land.</p>
<b>Old Business</b>	<p><b>Public Feedback</b>  It is the board's responsibility to reach out to the public through the Trade Show and Fall Fair to create meaningful, multi-level public engagement. Perhaps eye-catching posters/information that address hot button</p>

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	<p>topics can be used at these events to attract interest. Another option would be canvassing door-to-door with questions to engage the public.</p> <p><b>MOTION: At the next meeting, 15-20 minutes will be allocated to this item.</b></p> <p><b>Use and Recreation Enjoyment of the Public (UREP) letter</b>  The board is happy with the content of the letter, which now needs to be formatted and sent out. Discussed concerns about UREPs accessibility to the public and acknowledgement of their importance.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Paddy and Ron will revise/formalize the letter and send it to Ben Heemskerck.</b></p> <p><b>Howson Creek Road</b>  Road transfer from PIR is underway. Future use of the bridge is up in the air; the road may not be an area where motorized use will be approved, and if that's the case the bridge will be removed. There will be a public review after recommendations are made.</p>
<b>Administration</b>	<p><b>Support for CRB</b> (replacement for Jill Dunbar &amp; support person)  Paddy discussed the transition of the CRB with Rick Budhwa and Melissa was contracted out to record minutes. The board could use a regular administrative support person to oversee action items and deliverables. There is a potential new administrator at the BVRC who could take on this role.</p> <p><b>Endorsement of Ron Vanderstar for Treasurer position</b>  Ron has expressed interest in the Treasurer position.</p> <p><b>MOTION: Paddy moved to have Ron Vanderstar take on the role of Treasurer at the CRB. Eric seconded. Carried.</b></p> <p><b>Financial Update</b>  Transferred \$3,000 to the BVRC for assistance with the minutes and potential administrative support going forward.</p> <p><b>Terms of Board membership &amp; Member Recruitment</b> (review and succession planning)  Mathias shared that he will potentially be resigning in next month or two due to his schedule. An advertisement</p>

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	<p>to recruit new members has been placed in the Interior News and will run up until the next meeting. The wrong version of the ad ran last week, but the updated draft will be in this week's paper. The BVRC is also going to assist with advertising and recruitment through their email lists, website, and Facebook page.</p> <p><b>ACTION: The board will look into reserving booths at the Fall Fair and Trade Show next year.</b></p>
<p><b>Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM. Next meeting December 20, 2016, Skeena-Stikine District office, 7:00 PM</b></p>	