

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) Minutes, Oct 21, 2014. Meeting convened at 7:10 PM, Skeena-Stikine District office, Smithers, B. C. Board members in attendance: **Michael Sawyer (Chair), Paddy Hirshfield (Treasurer), Bob Mitchell, Tim Penninga, Jack Hagen, Karen Price, Eric Becker.** Executive assistant: **Jill Dunbar**

Item	Discussion	Action
Agenda	Additions: Fundraising, First Nations Board membership	
<p>Presentation by Jocelyn Campbell, PhD, R.P. Bio, Ecosystem Biologist, FLNRO</p>	<p>Telkwa Caribou Management Plan Caribou herds are divided into 3 types ecotypes – boreal, mountain, and northern. Most caribou in B.C. are in the northern category, including the Telkwa herd. Federal designations differ from those of B.C. Under COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) status of the Telkwa herd is “threatened”. All critical habitat must be protected. This includes all of the Telkwa mountains. In B.C. caribou is a “blue-listed” species. This means a Wildlife Habitat Area can be established. The Telkwa herd is very small (16 animals) and doing well but is at risk.</p> <p>FLNRO Pillars of Telkwa Caribou management:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communities. Communication, education, collaboration. 2. Monitoring. Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF) monies are used for this, and includes collaring of caribou and possibly wolves; and trail cameras to monitor recreation use. Monitoring data is on the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Telkwa-Caribou-Recovery/458801530905180?ref=br_tf. Funding is secure for this fiscal year. 3. Recreation management. Compliance with voluntary access restrictions is deteriorating. 4. Population management. Penning, predator management. 5. Habitat management. The proposed WHA is 262 462 hectares, with two zones – no harvest zone; seral stage management zone. This reflects the LRMP, except that a couple of key polygons were dropped and there were some additions to the no-harvest zone. Current forest structure is close to these targets. <p>Question from the Board: What is the effect of wolf populations? Jocelyn Campbell: Wolf population statistics are unknown; wolves are not the primary predator. Q: How do you know that there are bears in the area? JC: Grizzly bears were counted – there were 13 animals in the area.</p> <p>In The Bulkley TSA the WHA would be consistent with the LRMP 10% budget plus additional offsets. FLNRO is working with PIR. The plan would be for 20 years with reviews at 5-year anniversaries. Offsets would be managed in 5-year increments. On October 27, 2014 the public review and comment period will begin. Q: What happens if the population drops to 0 animals? JC: It’s a political decision to abandon a management plan. If there are 0 animals after 5 years the program would be dropped. Q: How does the Federal strategy fit with this? JC: The Provincial government considers the Federal strategy to be advice. The Federal strategy doesn’t account for</p>	

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	<p>socio-economics. The Federal government has the ability to take over management.</p> <p>Q: If this is a political decision, have staff been given direction from politicians regarding contents of the management strategy?</p> <p>JC: No, but funding is limited. Staff can write any kind of management plan they want.</p> <p>Q: Why would any harvesting at all be allowed in the critical habitat area, if the population is so at risk? Also, why the push for offsets? In spite of the fact that the 10% balance is a “gentlemen’s agreement”.</p> <p>JC: Government mandate is to balance economics and biology.</p> <p>Q: Why incorporate this into the plan unless politicians have imposed it?</p> <p>JC: We are upholding the 10% balance.</p> <p>Board comment: It is based on a well-established 25-year-old agreement. It is not legal but is well respected.</p> <p>Q: How can we be sure that the biodiversity budget will be maintained if we take from the biodiversity budget to give to caribou?</p> <p>Q: Are there collared animals?</p> <p>JC: There are 15 collared caribou.</p> <p>Q: Do they spend a lot of time at high elevations?</p> <p>JC: Caribou habitat choice is often a trade off between food and safety.</p> <p>Q: Moose came in to the area and the wolf population increased. What about elk numbers?</p> <p>JC: In areas where moose were natural, caribou populations are still declining.</p> <p>Q: Would an additional supplement to the herd be considered?</p> <p>JC: Yes, but many factors would come into it.</p> <p>Q: There should be 5 years of funding for a 5-year plan, not 1 year of funding.</p> <p>JC: Government budgets are annual.</p> <p>Q: Under the Federal Species-at-risk Act, the Federal government can intervene if the Province is not doing an adequate job. Would FLNRO apply for Federal assistance?</p> <p>JC: Zones would change.</p> <p>Q: What can the BVCRB do to help front line biologists get better results?</p> <p>JC: Lobby decision-makers.</p> <p>Q: What if decision makers say no?</p> <p>JC: That likely won’t happen. But a letter from the BVCRB would help.</p> <p>Q: How does the Telkwa Coal application factor in?</p> <p>JC: If it is for a large enough project, an Environmental Assessment would be required and a WHA would be a major factor in the assessment.</p>	
<p>Presentation by Alan Baxter, RPF, PIR</p>	<p>Overview of PIR operations</p> <p>Consumption annually: 885 000 m³, production 270 – 275 mmfbm, equivalent of 17 – 18 000 truckloads.</p> <p>Quota in the Bulkley: 392 313 m³ from Forest License, 185 000 from non-renewable FL. Morice: 301 064 m³ FL.</p> <p>Q: What percentage is lodgepole pine?</p>	

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	<p>Alan Baxter: Very little. Most is now higher elevation balsam.</p> <p>Major infrastructure projects in 2014 include crushing, km 0-41, 4000 RD; Casqua Creek bridge replacement; Bainsfather Creek culvert replacement; Tanglechain bridge replacement at 96 km; main haul road realignments; inclusion of Lake Babine Nation license under the PIR Forest Stewardship Plan; HLPO (Higher Level Plan Objectives) analysis</p> <p>Q: Has P.I.R. had discussions with TransCanada? AB: No. They may do road improvements and if so they would be significant.</p> <p>Major planning projects: Telkwa caribou – main issue is the 10 % balance. Morrison connector. Q: It is great to see the Morrison Connector Rationale and Grant MacHutchon’s report. Is PIR going to implement Grant’s recommendations? AB: Some of them are already in the plan. As well, PIR is looking at deactivating as much temporary road as possible. Q: When you get a report like this what do you do with the recommendations? AB: As professional foresters we take them into consideration. We want better management. Q: What’s legal and what’s not with LRMP objectives? AB: The HLPO of 2006 took LRMP objectives and wrote them into a legal document. Board comment: The BVCRB did not have input to the HLPO. They were industry–based. Broad LRMP objectives were narrowed down to a forestry focus. AB: Values are written into LUPs (Landscape Unit Plans). Board: Not sure that strategies will maintain values. Board: HLPO should be compared to Bulkley State of the Forest report. AB: The 2011 HLPO analysis went through many of the values. Board: But not road density and grizzly bears. AB: The HLPO analysis needs to be updated. For example, it needs to look at what are open roads and what aren’t. Q: Where do we sit relative to other Districts? There is a long history of decisions here. Board: It is unique here. Great Bear Rainforest and Clayquot Sound have similar long histories but the situation on the Coast can be very complex. Q: Why wasn’t the 10% budget put into the HLPO? AB: It is addressed in the introduction. Board: The committee working on the HLPO agreed by consensus that it was contentious and should be carried on. It was not flippant. AB: Concluding comments: In the winter of 2014 most wood will come out via the Babine Lake and 4000 Rds. There will be some purchase wood from other areas, some from the back of the Blunt.</p>	

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Minutes, June and September 2014 meetings	Minutes accepted as presented.	
Executive	Mike Sawyer confirmed as Chair. Paddy Hirshfield confirmed as Treasurer and Acting Vice Chair.	
Financial report	FLNRO has committed verbally to contribute \$3,150.00 for basic services. Board will need to report back to FLNRO on activities at year-end. Would minutes serve as a report? Fundraising Committee would like to reach out to some other groups for funding, and address security of funding. A fundraising policy is needed to direct where the Board will go for funds to avoid perceptions of bias. The Board agrees that banks, insurance companies, and groups not directly involved in resource development could be approached. A simple consensus on a group-by-group basis would work.	Paddy Hirshfield will submit invoice to FLNRO for basic services. Paddy Hirshfield will ask FLNRO if meeting minutes would be adequate as a year-end report. Paddy Hirshfield and Mike Sawyer will provide a list of groups to approach for funding by next meeting. Mike Sawyer will send out funding request letter to CIBC.
Membership	Board should continue to keep member selection at arm's length by having an independent selection committee take care of the process. Is the process transparent and objective? Perhaps using a computer model to analyse candidate values would work. However, there are not many applications at hand. It is difficult for the Board to go forward without more members. These are two separate problems – recruitment and selection.	Mike Sawyer will contact Jeff Anderson to find out status of selection committee.
Action items from September 16 2014 meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paddy Hirshfield will contact Jevan Hanshard regarding government funding for BVCRB day-to-day operations. DONE. 2. Paddy Hirshfield will contact chair of Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Board – Gary Hanson – concerning operational funding opportunities. CARRIED OVER. 3. Paddy and Mike Sawyer will meet before the next Board meeting to discuss funding and to prepare a plan for Board approval. DONE. 4. Jill Dunbar will prepare a budget for her services with core and enhanced levels included. DONE. 5. Paddy Hirshfield will contact Jevan Hanshard about having a District staff person attend Board meetings 	

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	<p>and act as a resource person. DONE. FLNRO is willing to have staff attend 4 meetings per year. Board should send agenda and draft minutes to the staff rep ahead of time. Board would be interested in presentations on FREP and MRVA (multiple resource value assessments) and questions could accumulate.</p> <p>6. Mike Sawyer will follow up with Jeff Anderson regarding progress of selection committee and member recruitment. ONGOING.</p> <p>7. Paddy Hirshfield will contact Len Vanderstar to give an update on the Telkwa WHA at the October 21 meeting. DONE.</p> <p>8. PIR will be invited to give an update at the October 21 Board meeting. DONE.</p> <p>9. Tim Penninga will ensure that the Morrison Connector rationale is circulated to Board members. DONE.</p> <p>10. Bob Mitchell will check on room availability for extra Board meeting for November 4. DONE.</p> <p>11. 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. CARRIED OVER.</p> <p>12. 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. ONGOING.</p> <p>13. Tim Penninga will circulate a proposed field trip plan to Board members and invited government representatives. DONE.</p> <p>14. Paddy Hirshfield will contact Rick Budhwa regarding renewal of MOU with BVRC. CARRIED OVER. Is the Board getting value from this relationship? The Board is getting in-kind benefits as well as financial services.</p>	
New business	<p>VRAM group. Eric Becker could represent LRMP values and the BVCRB. It is a voting group that gives advice to MOE. The Board should review VRAM minutes and give input, if any, through Eric.</p> <p>Field Trip. Board needs a copy of Gate Policy. It would be good to know where FREP monitoring sites are, and the results. A presentation would be good.</p>	<p>Eric Becker will forward VRAM group minutes to BVCRB for review.</p> <p>Paddy Hirshfield will discuss FREP status with FLNRO.</p>

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Other business	<p>TransCanada and Spectra letters – any responses?</p> <p>Mail and email. Paddy will check postal box once per month and will check with Dave Stevens to see that Board is receiving all email.</p> <p>First Nations representation on BVCRB. It would be helpful to have First Nations member(s) on the Board. The application process would need to be followed, and more than one Nation would need to be invited.</p> <p>Bulkley AAC determination. Information of interest to the Board came out of this process and should be discussed.</p>	<p>Mike Sawyer will follow up with Jeff Anderson re responses from TransCanada and Spectra.</p> <p>Paddy Hirshfield will ensure that all email and mail is received distributed to Board as required.</p> <p>Board will discuss First Nations representation at November 4 meeting.</p> <p>Tom Penninga will ask if TSA Technical Report can be released to the Board.</p>

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM. Next meeting November 4, 2014; 7:00 PM; Skeena-Stikine District office (in-house meeting to discuss administrative topics.