

**Bulkley Valley
Community Resources Board
Box 985
Smithers BC V0J 2N0**

**PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF THE RECREATION ACCESS MANAGEMENT
PLAN (RAMP) TABLE MEMBERS**

Questions & Answers

Introduction

The Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) recognizes that the decision concerning the composition of the RAMP table will be a compromise between the “clubs only” model and the model that calls for an open selection process from the public at large. As such the Board has addressed some common questions on this issue. The answers focus on how the public component of the table would be selected and replaced, if needed. The Board has also addressed the question of why it is important to have a public component at the table.

The proposed process would involve a table of approximately 12 individuals, a portion (approximately 50%) of whom would represent formal recreation clubs (or groups of similar clubs), and a portion (approximately 50%) of whom would be members of the public at large. These members at large would be chosen by a selection committee comprised of current BVCRB board members. This process is intended to balance the important role of clubs in outdoor recreation and the need for a fair, open process that reflects the broad interests of the community. If participation of the public at large is not sufficient, the proportion of table members representing formal recreation clubs may be increased.

Q: How would participants in the initial meeting learn of qualifications and skills of the candidates nominated? Would there be speeches or would all candidates be vetted ahead of time or...

A: A selection committee will put out a call for expressions of interest from members of the public who are interested in participating. The selection committee will be comprised of current members of the BVCRB. This committee will interview nominees and select a group of individuals with a range of experiences and perspectives. This process is similar BVCRB member selection process and is outlined in our Terms of Reference (Section 12.0 Selection of New Board Members, BVCRB TOR http://www.bvcrb.ca/assets/pdf/terms_ref.pdf).

Q: How would the participants know if the candidates will represent the sector only, or if the candidates may choose to represent more than one recreation sector with an attending conflict of interest?

A: The selection committee will make that determination through candidate interviews. An attempt will be made to select members of the public at large who have diverse recreational experience or extensive local knowledge. The intent is to mirror the selection process used by the BVCRB, where candidates are selected to represent the range of values held by residents of the Bulkley Valley (Section 6.0 Resource Value Perspectives, BVCRB TOR http://www.bvcrb.ca/assets/pdf/terms_ref.pdf)

Q: How will the elected representatives from each sector continue to get feedback from the persons who elected them at the initial meeting? Would all participants of the initial meeting meet again on a regular basis?

A: The selection process would make this irrelevant. Club representatives would solicit feedback from their members through their respective processes. Members at large would be expected to represent broad public values without an expectation that they would consult specific constituencies.

Q: How will the elected table representatives ensure buy-in from the clubs in that sector? How would they obtain feedback from those clubs?

A: With club representatives sitting at the table, this would be a non-issue. However if the number of clubs is greater than the number of club seats at the table, groupings of like-minded clubs may be asked to select a single representative. This would require some process for soliciting feedback from more than one set of club members.

Q: If an elected table representative quit the RAMP process, how would the replacement be elected?

A: In this case, the selection committee would consult the list from the original call for expressions of interest, and select an appropriate replacement representative from this list.

Q: If other table representatives or the facilitator complained that one representative was unqualified to represent his or her sector, how would a replacement be selected? Would the BVCRB board decide?

A: See answer to previous question.

Q: How would the table representatives from each sector participate in the cabin and trail tenure and sponsorship agreements with government that flow from the RAMP recreation use designations?

A: The designation of recreation zoning through the RAMP and the establishment of cabin and trail tenure agreements by clubs (societies) are separate processes. The members of the public at large would be involved in the RAMP designations, however only the clubs would establish legal agreements with government. Future cabin/trail agreements would likely take place within the context of the zones established by the RAMP.

Q: How would each elected representative at the RAMP table ensure that the decisions of the table are implemented, monitored and enforced over the years until the next RAMP?

A: Having public participation at the table was not meant to exclude clubs from participating in the process. Clubs would be expected to accept and promote the outcomes of the RAMP through membership and activities. Ultimately, responsibility for monitoring, enforcement and implementation would rest with the provincial government.

Q: What are the disadvantages of a selection process where all RAMP table participants are representatives designated by clubs as proposed in the Vold report?

A: The disadvantage of a clubs-only process is the potential for the perception that the RAMP was negotiated by a select few, and therefore does not reflect the wishes of the larger public. The RAMP is intended to meet the needs of the entire community, not just those who are club members. It is important that the RAMP is consistent with the spirit and intent of the BVCRB Agreement (BVCRB TOR, http://www.bvcrb.ca/assets/pdf/terms_ref.pdf):

"It is agreed that good decisions about the use and management of the resources of the Bulkley Forest District (the District, as defined by the Boundaries of the Bulkley TSA) will be reached through processes which genuinely reflect the wishes of the residents. Such decisions should reflect fully all cultural, economic, ecological and spiritual values which members of the community attach to alternative ways such resources might be managed and used, and the course of action adopted should optimize values to the community and the Province."

"Processes which most fully represent the wishes of the District residents can be best achieved through the functioning of a Board composed of individuals who reflect the range of resource value perspectives of members of the affected community. Through the interaction of Board members who reflect these different value perspectives, consensus can be reached through accommodations which balance the values of the members and produce agreements which optimize values to the community as a whole, within the context of the needs of all British Columbians".

The compromise model presented here respects clubs' important contributions to recreation in the valley, while also allowing for involvement by community members who are not members of a club, or who wish to express the interests of more than one form of recreation. If no interest from the public at large is received, we would consider moving forward with a clubs-only model.

Dave Stevens
Chair of the BVCRB

Taylor Bachrach
Treasurer of the BVCRB

Ben Heemsker
BVCRB Board Member

Smithers, B.C.

June 30, 2011