

# **BVCRB-Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board**

## **Final Minutes**

**Date:** June 17, 2019, Smithers Town Office

**Present:** Karen Price, Matt Sear, Ron Vanderstar, John Fisher, Bob Mitchell, Ted Vanderwart  
**Absent:** Cor VanderMeulen, Brian Swansberg Eric Becker

Chair: Karen

Recording: Sue Brookes

### **Changes to the agenda:**

Move to invite Jay Baker to the 16th of September re: the BCTS management plan for the local area.  
Site visit to Telkwa Coal, EAO hosting - July 11th, who can attend?  
Christof to speak about a recent tour of the Smithers pellet plant.  
Ryan and Roxy to attend 16th of September meeting, ryan.Holmes@gov.bc.ca, roxy.Hirshfield@gov.bc.ca  
FRPA comment period is open until July 15th. Changes will improve the efficacy of the LRMP.

**Next Meeting** Date: September 16th, 2019, Smithers Council Chambers - Ron to book it

Pellet plant - our discussion was there was some wood waste used but they are also using private land aspen.

\*\*\***Action Item** - Karen to confirm Roxy and Ryan for September

### **Financial Report**

\$13992.00 in the bank

### **Range Management Planning**

**Board discusses** draft letter submitted by Karen.

- Karen tried to use wording used by the Ministry and refers to the LRMP for values.
- Submit to Javen Hanchard District Manager with a cc to the regional manager, Geoff Recknel for the Skeena Region. Also submit to a Provincial range person - Mark may tell us a contact.

\*\*\***Action Item** - Karen to send out another copy with changes, updated letterhead and signature line

### **BCTS Operating Plan**

Rather than review the plan we would suggest they come and present on this, we are not going to comment on block maps and plans. It's a huge amount of review.

\*\*\***Action Item** - Bob to invite BCTS to the 21st of October meeting

**Board discussion** included:

- we want to take up the offer to input
- given that there has been history of impact on LRMP values we may need to take closer look at plans
- board wants a broad stroke presentation on how they will meet LRMP objectives

## Netalzul Mountain Proposal

- Matt reviewed notes from the Mountain Goat Society presented to West Fraser
  - their concern is a low slope below the alpine area provides easy access to the alpine area.
  - they indicated their concern about the proximity of trails cut by the snowmobilers to the isolated goat population. There's nowhere for goats to move.
  - it looks like snowmobilers are coming in from the 4000 rd a distance of 12km roughly
  - in future West Fraser committed to creating a decent deactivation point further away. They will try to be aware of the issue and want to help.
  - the 3000 Rd will be an alternate route - there are multiple access routes
- FYI - Game cams helped established trends in previous deactivation methods elsewhere.
- putting the wood back on the road in sections every so many km's was useful in deterring wolves and riders and encouraging caribou in AB.

### **Bottom Line:**

- the BVCRB would be interested in contributing more and welcome the invitation

## Pinnacle Pellet Tour Update

- there are numerous piles of feedstock, the majority comes from the mill residuals (sawdust, shavings, chips from Seaton)
- for logging residuals, wood is sorted in the bush and their payment covers part of the sort, loading hauling and not much else.
- According to one board member, as to air quality, opacity is a reliable indicator of PM in the air. Pinnacle admitted to not knowing the cause of the particulate and thought it might be the differences in dryness in fuel, they have one thermometer at the end of the process that controls burns rates for all 4 dryers (stacks) at once
- they didn't commit to making any attempts to monitor smoke or reduce smoking though the take was they might be open to change
- they have less employees than NEWPRO (did when it was running). More than no employees when its not.
- noise from the grinder seems to be an issue, the grinding is not enclosed it's a contracted service
- they have changes time on operation putting it back an hour
- logging material started to be delivered last December through to break up and is now being delivered again
- New waste rules will change the economics of whether leaving this material in the field is preferable or not
- some talk about logging ops and identification of rot w/out creating excessive slash, grinding only occurs usually on flat road access only as the trucks struggle in steep terrain
- economical haul distance roughly 5.5 hr time
- discussion on concern that complaints submitted to C&E (compliance and enforcement) are not actioned

## FRPA

- comment by July 15th
- one comment may be to extend the range barriers according to possibility of introducing new activities
- once use is established its much harder to restrict it - is it possible to put this into FRPA comments

### **Bottom Line:**

- it would be useful to get individual takes on the boards comments at some future meeting

**\*\*\*Action Item** - Christof to respond to the letter and invite them to the October 21st meeting

### Fuel Management Plan in the CORE within the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest

Jay Baker is preparing a fuel management plan for the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest.

- there are a lot of folks who should be informed – One board member's opinion is that BC Wildfire service folks are not meeting best practices when it comes to wildfire prevention science, complete fire suppression is not good science, their prescriptions are not based on the best evidence or science, they are not reliable 'leaders' despite their reputation, they are decreasing diversity
- diversity increases resilience, harvesting loses ecology and fire resilience, salvage is additive
- check out the Ted Talk of Paul Hessberg (American), Laurie Daniels - Canada's expert

### Telkwa Coal

- site visit from the EAO, July 11th - Eric intends to go but who else wants to? Christof will go if he can, Ted will book him. Matt would be an alternate.

**\*\*\*Action Item** - Ted to liaise with the EAO for tour bookings

### Board Responsibilities and Recruiting more Directors

- do we list values that we're short or not? The values are listed in the link - it'll be removed from the ad.
- run it biweekly for a month, 2 week break then another biweekly run
- facebook, kijiji, in the loop postings - Ron will send a revision, everyone feel free to post where they like

**\*\*\*Action Item** - Ron to edit and submit, first ad to run asap

**\*\*\*Action Item** - Ron will continue to manage the meeting space w/ the Town

### **Bottom Line:**

- chair remains open
- Eric, Cor and Ron have signing authority - Eric will remain a signing authority
- Ron will remain Treasurer

**END**