

BVCRB-Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board

Final Minutes

Date: Tues. May 19, 2020, Skype for Business, most are on line, 2 people dialled in.

Present: Bob Mitchell, Christoph Dietzfelbinger, Ted Vanderwart, Matt Sear, Sue Brookes, John Fisher and Carl Vandermark

Absent: Ron Vanderstar, Bryan Swansberg, Eric Becker

Chair: Matt

Recording: Sue

Next Meeting Date: Mon. June 15th, 2020 Skype for Business - 7pm, possibly Town Hall

Matt called the meeting to order 7:15pm.

Motion to approve April 20 meeting minutes by Bob, all approved.

Acronyms:

Lowell Johnson Consultants LAJ

Reiseter Special Management Zone SMZ2

Visual Quality Objective VQO

Compliance and Enforcement Branch CEB of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
FLNRORD

District Manager DM

opportunity to be heard OTBH

BC Timber Sales BCTS

Government Actions Regulation GAR

Wildlife Habitat Management Areas WHMA's

1 Witset Tenure in the Reiseter SMZ 2

Carl Vandermark prepared an annual report for the board, assuming annual reports have been provided annually from Canfor. Carl is a forestry consultant currently working for the Witset First Nation (licencee). Formerly he worked for Canfor and has been working with Witset and Lowell Johnston (contractor) in some form since the 90's. The presentation is available upon request.

The Witset Tenure is held by Lowell Johnson Consultants (LAJ) on behalf of the Witset First Nation. The first nation was awarded the tenure by government as part of Bill 28 (Forest Revitalization Act 2003) "take back" of volume from major licensees for the purposes of reconciliation. The Witset First Nation was partnered with Canfor in the Kyah Wood Resources Trim Block plant. Due to concerns of softwood lumber action by the US at the time, the arrangement with Lowell Johnson was set up to separate the tenure from the plant to avoid getting assessed duties by the Americans. The arrangement has persisted to today. In exchange for logs, Canfor is contracted by Witset/Lowel to do all forest management and harvesting on the license.

The Nation is currently working on an application to convert the current Non replaceable forest licence into a more permanent First Nations Woodland Tenure. This type of tenure is area based and must be held by a first nation.

The Witset tenure area overlaps the Reiseter SMZ2, but covers other areas as well. Have they met the FSP requirements of the LRMP Reiseter SMZ2?

- yes in terms of harvest quota in 2019
- yes also on average harvest rates over a 5 year period
- yes in terms of the riparian zone setbacks
- yes in terms of trucking and moving the load in summer
- the VQO complaint pertains to an area outside of the Reiseter SMZ

Q and A, Discussion:

1. Can you please provide harvested volumes in 5 year increments over the course of logging? The numbers presented don't really speak in terms of the objectives of the LRMP.
2. A few board members have personal observations that trucking has occurred during school bus travel hours in contradiction to the LRMP.
3. Does the Witset FN have knowledge of the complaints? Answer: presumably they are alerted to the fact, this would be due diligence.

Action Items:

- AI*** Carl to provide a table of cut rates over the last 15 years and send to Matt
- AI*** Carl to research and try to provide data that demonstrates trucking compliance during restricted travel times
- AI*** Christof to send us all a table on the 18 items of the consensus agreement

2 Complaints to the FPB (Forest Practices Board):

From the slides:

- Fall 2017 Canfor received enquiries from member of the public regarding visual impact of REIS0031 (The Reiseter cutblock).
- Correspondence exchanged between parties regarding visual objectives and impact.
- Block harvested late summer, early fall 2017, outside Reiseter SMZ.
- In May 2018, LAJ and Canfor are contacted by the Compliance and Enforcement branch of Forest, Lands, Resource Operations, Rural Development Ministry (known as CEB) regarding the visual impact of REIS0031.
- CEB conducts formal investigation.
- January 2020, LAJ and Canfor are notified by the FPB, a formal complaint is launched by a member of the public.
- January 2020 LAJ and Canfor aware CEB investigation has been completed.
- Skeena Stikine District Manager (DM) has granted a September 2020 opportunity to be heard (OTBH). This is usually before a penalty by the DM designated decision maker.
- FPB investigation stopped pending outcome of OTBH.

Board Discussion:

- a board member stated there is a statute of limitation, meaning complaints not resolved within 3 years are dropped with no further action, it is surmised by the member that there will be no fine because of this limit
- a member stated that OTBH often finds against the licensee
- a board member stated that apparently there has been only one fine of \$10 000 in the last 12 years because of non compliance

3 Reporting on the objectives in the LRMP:

- in 2019 BC Timber Sales (BCTS) collated data from all licencees and reported, this was helpful in painting a holistic picture of whether or not targets are met, this should be requested again in 2021
- West Fraser also provided a good report on meeting their targets and perhaps we should share this as an example of best practices

AI*** Bob to make a request for a BCTS collated report from Curtis Paul at the June meeting

4 Next Meeting:

AI*** Ron - can you confirm whether it's possible to have our June meeting in Town Hall?

5 Other News

FYI The Ministry of Environment has reported that Mountain Goat protection is now under the domain of the Government Actions Regulation. Under the Forest & Range Practices Act, the Government Actions Regulation (**GAR**) directs how the **B.C.** provincial government establishes land designations or stewardship measures for forest and range values. Mountain Goat Protection is now removed from the LRMP by Order in Council.

A board member reports that they have written a personal letter to Bonnie Henry indicating that they feel Pinnacle's air pollution levels are up 22% . There are grave concerns they are not using slash, they are not taking measures to reduce yard dust and there are no measurements available on reductions.

Some discussion moved to grinding in the bush and the economic feasibility of hauling it out vs hauling pulp type logs. Bush grinding is expensive and has a small economically feasible radius. "Pulp" logs are logs that are not usable as sawlogs (too much rot/and or checking), and without a pulp mill or a pinnacle to deliver to, would otherwise be a missed economic opportunity. The same 'logic' applies to normal logging slash (branches and bucking waste). Hauling the pulp log material greatly reduces the amount of material in the slash piles of a harvesting block.

A question was asked about what percentage of the volume of block would be this type of material. The answer is quite variable from very little in a healthy green stand to much more in a stand with many dead trees. A board member will have access to data on this being collected over the summer and could report on it in the fall.

6 Update of the LRMP, winter RAMP

AI*** Matt to contact Eric and get some news, agenda item for next meeting. We will table this till the fall.

7 Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHMA's)

- no discussion

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.