

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

## **Final Minutes**

**Date:** Nov. 18, 2019, Smithers Town Office

Present: Ron Vanderstar, John Fisher, Bob Mitchell, Ted Vanderwart, Eric Becker, Francois Depey, Anne Hetherington, Christof Dietzfelbinger

Absent: Brian Swansberg, Matt Sear

Chair: Ron                      Recording: Sue Brookes

Changes to the agenda:

- added discussion time for Balsam, the letter to Wetzin'kwa, and election of officers

\*\*\* AI: Sue to send out an official notice that that will happen in Dec.

**Next Meeting** Date: Dec.16, 2019, Smithers Council Chambers, Elections of officers

Motion to approve the Oct. minutes: Add Christof as present, all seconded.

### **Nominations to the board:**

- the Village of Hazelton expressed some interest but they are outside the TSA and don't have a stake in the values. Eric spoke with them via email.

### **Financial Report:**

Funds in the kitty, roughly \$12000.

### **Updates:**

1. No reply to the letter sent to Silvacon(Wetzin'kwa) re: the CORE ecosystem.
2. A local 'integrated silviculture strategy' is being developed, led by consultants. Bob wants to know how to make Balsam part of it - there's a real lack of scientific research or silviculture studies to support it's inclusion. Planting is suggested but many believe that with climate change it won't be warm enough for them. West Fraser may look at high elevation plantations and consider Balsam, they are great at shedding snow, tough and so on, Balsam is naturally regenerating and there's an adage 'they'll take care of themselves' but they do need assistance.
3. There was a rumour the gates at 24 km (455rd) and/or on the 465rd in the Nichyies'kwa are apparently open due to seasonal fire rd access. According to the Province today 'no' the gates are not open. FN are blockading so there is no access but once they leave there is a gate lock requirement, this is in order to reduce circle routes between Hazelton or Houston and Smithers. This is a shared value in the LRMP, for instance in the backcountry, bear populations will overlap with .6 km of road per 100 hectares.

### **Anne Hetherington, Goshawk Stabilization Strategy**

Slides available from her upon request.

Discussion Points:

- there are consistently unoccupied nests found in cut blocks
- they (Anne and the team) started to id woodland areas that could still maintain the breeding of Goshawks, 65% of this area has to be mature or old forest structure
- a lot of assumptions in early LRMP days about how to maintain diversity and mature and old growth are wrong, these features are critical to maintaining into the future.
- 1 problem is the issuing of licences: they change hands and on one parcel one company can leave habitat another can take it. We need assurances that these areas will be logged consistently despite changes in ownership, management and/or contractors. Also forest practices will need to protect non economic values like habitats.

- Goshawk management areas are not reserves but a place you manage with more sensitivity. Try to overlap suitable Goshawk boundaries with areas of other values in the LRMP, this is called co-locating a management area. IE a Goshawk area might include an ungulate winter range, landscape corridor, watershed, VQ value, fisher habitat (about to be red listed) and so on. Its hard to find 2400 hectare areas not logged so the group considers the structural outcomes they want and consider adjacent overlapping areas. Lump them together, adjust boundaries.
- Partial cutting or leaving structure would go a long way to resolving habitat issues (non clear cut harvesting) while maintaining other values, again we've got to get better at managing these BV TSA there are 3 areas that have 1 breeding Goshawk pair in them, they are not migratory, they are an indicator species (umbrella) for the suite of wildlife that need that forest structure (martin, fisher, more).
- After mapping Anne's group gets in touch with a CORE stewardship forester - the contractor for licensees. He provides comments from licensees and between them they try to come up with a better plan to preserve habitat. One of Anne's team goes into the forest and regularly tracks birds and locates nests. They also have data from a Terrace contractor on the costs and impacts of different harvesting technique. This they share with licensees.
- in BC the Goshawk is the HIGHEST RISK species for loss of habitat
- by collocating they've come up with about 60 possible nesting locations
- Goshawk characteristics are cool - they only exist in the old structure or canopied woods or say 30m in from a woodland perch, breed as a juvenile by 3 yrs, live to about 10 years, if your near they will let you know they're there, they move fast and can navigate dense cover easily.

**Reiseter Creek Special Management Zone (Sub-unit 5-6)**

Discussion Points:

- 2014 Reiseter Consensus Agreement, it's observed the agreement is not adhered to where it applies to Visual Quality
- logging trucks on the High Rd., we should raise this with the District, 2 years ago it was raised and we should send another note
- a director is asking for the Forest Service Plan and not getting any response. He wants the plan and then will escalate this to the Forest Practices Board. There should be a consequence for not following the law. What is the penalty?
- Canfor holds the licence, someone else is the contractor, there is inconsistent practice when operators, contractors and licensees change.
- Bob submitted a report in September to the FPB for the same area. They have 3 years to make a decision. He hasn't heard anything.

\*\*\* Action Item: Christoph to send a draft letter to the board

**RDBN re: the recreational panel survey**

- meet on Tues. at Louise's, fyi Eric will let you know where (if it changes)
- what kind of programs could the Regional District sponsor

**Action Items Summary**

Christoph to send a draft note to "Compliance and Enforcement" about the VQ values in the Reiseter Creek Agreement	Christof
Sue to send out an official notice about the election of officers in Dec.	Sue

Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.