

BVCRB-Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board

Final Minutes

Date: Mon. Oct 19, 2020, Exploration Group Building 3423 Fulton Ave.

Present: Bob Mitchell, Christoph Dietzfelbinger, Ted Vanderwart, Matt Sear, Jeff McKay, John Fisher

Absent: Sue Brookes, Bryan Swansberg Ron Vanderstar

Chair: Matt

Recording: Matt

Next Meeting Date: Nov 16, 2020 Location TBD.

Matt called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

Matt made introductions of those on line. Ron sent his regrets.

A Motion to approve the Sept meeting minutes was seconded and approved.

Meeting Location:

- Group prefers to meet in person. This space available, however not great for guests, nor open to public.
- Will continue to keep Online meeting option should it be required
- Still checking into Genealogy room at Muheim
- Archery ground another potential, but out of downtown area
- Still hope we can use the town hall office

Agenda additions:

- Discuss VQO issue with block in the Reisetser Drainage
- Silvern Lake Trail Society proposal

Financial Report:

- \$11,100 in bank account. Have plenty of operating funds.

Discussion of Presentation on Section 16/17 Crown Land Review Process Sept 21st

- Action item to connect with Bobby and confirm what areas are removed, did not connect, but should do before next meeting.
- Built a map to show history of Ag/Wildlife Zone, and how they evolved into a Land use order for the "Wildlife" areas or "WHMA" areas from 2008.
- AI: Matt to forward the 2008/order and map to the group.
- The Project undertaken by the Ministry was across the Skeena region, and involved many different types of land act designations.
- A discussion was about what is the scope of the CRB with respect to this process? Agreed that the CRB interest is in the WHMA areas as last designated by the 2008 Land Use Order.
- Some members are concerned about the other designations as well outside of the land use plan area, but those are out of scope for the CRB.

- AI: Matt and Jeff to work together to clarify what may or may not have been removed from the Wildlife zone and clarify what if any land use objective now apply to those areas.
- A member stated the intent of those areas was primarily for wildlife, and that the only timber harvesting that would occur there should be at the request of the Ministry of Environment. This is how the WHMA areas were intended to be set up and this management would have been formalized by officially designating them as WMA's under the wildlife act..
- This transfer has not occurred due to internal ministry issues.
- One member is concerned and would like to draft a letter to have the areas re-instated immediately. Agreed that a draft letter could be written for review and adjusted as we gather more information.
- A member noted that BCTS is proposing harvesting in a WHMA area as a "Pilot project" but the member suggested that the Ministry of environment may not be aware, nor interested.
- Note we were asked to "look into this" - we are not a compliance and enforcement body.
- AI: Ron to draft letter and pass around the group for review and comment.

Seymour Ridge Core - Wild Fire Risk Reduction Tour

- Bob toured the Seymour Ridge Core with Patrick Ferguson, from FLNRORD, Brandy Hughes Recreation Officer, Merle Crombie, Biologist from the Ministry (which one?), and Jay Gilden from the B.V. Backpackers
- Some but not all the area may "require treatment"
- Some of the possible risk reducing treatments include:
 - o 1. Flattening the elevated criss-cross 'downed' trees but not all. Leaving some for wildlife.
 - o 2. Falling and laying flat the dead 'standing' snags but not all. Leaving some for wildlife trees. Machine falling could be used but not for timber removal.
 - o 3. Making biochar or chipping of ground accumulations of branches and fine fuels from falling, limbing, pruning, and thinning activities.
 - o Note: All these treatments may require some small machine work and some disturbance may occur as a result.
 - o The focus should be on leaving all the above material on site to help maintain many of the CORE values.
- General agreement with this thought patten.
- A member suggested if some wood is readily close to the "driveway" why not sell some of it to cover costs of the treatment. Most other members felt this is not consistent with value of the CORE.
- Wait and see what prescriptions the Ministry produces.
- Some discussion around the road (driveway) through the CORE and whether it should be gated to prevent public motorized access.

VQO Reisetter Drainage

- A member discussed a personal complaint to the Forest Practices Board on this issue was dropped as local district was in an OTBH process with the licensee.
- Seems like the process has stalled.

Silvern Lake Trail Society

- Jeff McKay who is a member of the Silver Lake Trail Society discussed this proposal: *“ to upgrade the trails to a sustainable standard in consideration of historic use - motorized and non-motorized - and identified safety and environmental concerns. Trail upgrades would see water managed more effectively; existing wood crossings replaced; and the western 400 m of the Horlings Trail abandoned and a new trail built. The intent is to legally establish the trails and STS(Silvern Trails Society) formally partner with Recreation Sites & Trails BC (RSTBC) for their long term maintenance.”*
- Jeff presented a map and discussed the plan.

ACRONYMS:

AWZ: Agricultural Wildlife Zones

BCTS: BC Timber Sales

OTHB: opportunity to be heard

WHMA: Wildlife Habitat Management Area

WMA: Wildlife Management Area

RSTBC: Recreation Sites & Trails BC

STS: Silvern Trails Society

OLD ACTIONS

- AI** Sue to review member recruitment letter/posters, get feedback from Matt/Bob and send out mass mail
- AI**: Matt to forward the 2008/order and map to the group.
- AI**: Matt and Jeff to work together to clarify what may or may not have been removed from the Wildlife zone and clarify what if any land use objective now apply to those areas.
- AI**: Ron to draft letter and pass around the group for review and comment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.