

BV Community Resource Board – Final Minutes

Sept. 18, 23

Present: John, Eric, Sue, Bob and Matt

Regrets: Christoph, Ted

Recording: Sue

Next Meeting: Oct. 16, 7pm, Smithers Council Chambers, 2023

Meeting convened at 7:05pm

Future Guest Presentations:

- Dean Daly December 18, 2023

Additions to the agenda

For a full list of acronyms please check the link:

https://bvcrb.ca/images/uploads/documents/bvcrb_acro.pdf

Motion:

To approve June 19 minutes, all in favour.

News:

Our chair Jeff McKay resigns.

Financial Report:

none given

Other Business:

Referral Number: 161384335 - 009, the Davidson Property

Reference Number: 760289

Request Sent: September 18, 2023

BC Rec. Sites and Trails will be looking at route access if this mining application is about road access. BC Parks may also have done work in the vicinity. We don't have a map and can't reference the BCeID case file so Sue to contact the Ministry directly and ask for this information. Toboggan Creek Rd. has ATV access only. There should be access off the Kroker subdivision too. The Mountain Bike Association may also have applied for access to this area.

Action Item** Sue to contact the Ministry for more information before the Board can respond.

WHMA Cancellations

Letter from Regional Executive Director re: Conservation Lands Cancellations (ref: 275369)

Received Sept. 13, 23

Cam Bently officially DM, Cheryl McKenzie is Resource Manager, Jevan Hanchard: Regional Director

The Province stands by their decision to remove the WHMA, Ag and Wildlife Zones from the Land Act. The LRMP was very specific about LRMP management areas and maintaining them but the province maintains they were not valid classifications. The letter mentions the Province engaged in a public planning process to remove these areas but we have no knowledge of this process, what was it? These areas remain as valued under the land use plan. The Board knows of at least one UREP that was converted to a park and is now managed by BC Rec. Site and Trails. There was also reference to the Ombudsman's report that supports the above decision. It seems none of the

present Directors were consulted in this investigation, raising questions about whether the inquiry consulted anyone other than the Province's agents.

The Ministry's response invalidates the LRMP and is not in compliance with established community land use plans. This undermines all future action in landscape planning.

Cessation of the Board?

There is a 2 fold problem that faces the board.

- 1) the invalidation of the Board's mandate by the Province.
- 2) the appointment of new officers.

It's a feedback loop that some current Directors find as an exercise in futility. In addition at least 4 Directors are about to finish their term and resign.

Action Items*Sue**

1. Draft a note for the Board first, then submit to all the previous board members, tell people we will fold without the election of new officers.
2. Post the next meeting date in the Interior News community calendar and on the Chamber's calendar.
3. Gather talking points about the Board and request a journalist from the Interior News report on this. Ducks Unlimited may also be interested to know. Draft a possible press release.
4. Look up the Tara Dunphy diagram showing the future public consulting model for reference.

The Directors present unanimously agreed the value of keeping the current LRMP, a lot of good work was done during its term to get BC Timber sales to maintain certain values. How this level of public engagement will be maintained is unknown. Perhaps local FLP processes will be done for each area.

Additional Comments:

- The decision to cancel WHMA and UREP zone designation is a bureaucratic bypass of the LRMP.
- Community landscape planning seems to be no longer about existing plans and diverse communities, industries and user groups who are still engaged in maintaining these values.
- The Province is not upholding its commitments at the LRMP table. One being the Deputy Minister's signed acknowledgement the Province would review the success of the LRMP every 5 years.
- We cannot expect better outcomes from any new forms of landscape planning.

Other Discussions:

- about the new Canfor Mill on the old mill site in Houston and its timber harvesting volumes
- the Morice license and who is buying timber for the Wetsu'wet'en. Lowell Johnston may be retired now and Witsset may now own the Morice licence.

CRB Milestones:

- original sponsors of the Telkwa Caribou meeting forums
- establishment of the summer RAMP
- always open for public involvement for over 20 years
- impacts on the ground: less clearcuts, less mud creeks, many forestry practices have totally improved over time...
- no complaints about the Boards conduct or lack of action have ever been received
- diverse interests are represented at the table

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Next Meeting Date: Oct 16, 2023