

BVCRB-Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board

Approved Minutes

Date: Mar. 18, 2019, Smithers Town Office

Present: Eric Becker, Ron Vanderstar, John Fisher, Bob Mitchell, Bryan Swansberg, Karen Price, Matt Sear

Visitors: Marc Schuffert presenting.

Recording: Chris Howard

Next Meeting Date April 15, 2019, Smithers Council Chambers

Introductions

Ron-Chairing

February minutes- discussion regarding minutes-**not needed to be so detailed**, essence/overview important (please leave out names of speakers) perhaps edit to make for concise points

Approval of minutes approved

No new business

Financials-\$5200 from MoF, trying for another \$5000 by early April, roughly \$13k total in coffers. Any moneys from Crown welcome.

Marc Schuffert presenting:

Handout and map

Map-see map for details

34 tenures for the Bulkley Valley

Explaining range act agreements, tenures. Spoke on compliance and enforcement. Administers forage and forage resource. Administers a 'moving target' due to the nature of cattle ranging. **Addressing fence issues.**

Board interjects: Concern for water, riparian zones (not just encroachment on private properties).

MS on fences: Management, protection, investment. Dependent upon natural range barrier. In NA the laws in the west we have a 'fence out rule'. Fence Act came in to define a lawful fence.

Trespass Act defines a lawful fence (not specific to livestock). There is no trespass without a fence.

Livestock Act deals with fences, Ministry of Ag. While Trespass is dealt with at the Attorney general office.

Livestock owner not responsible for damages (vehicle strike) incurred upon escape of animal(s).

Every tenure has a management plan included with its award. Current terms are preferred to be 25 years. Range use plan can be amended at any time.

No process to consult with adjacent land owners. No obligation to livestock owner to negotiate with private land owner.

Board question: What can you and can't you do to amend shortfalls (communications, encroachments on private land) in the Range Use Plan. Seeking collaboration, flexibility, communication etc.

Board Statement: Legislation is NOT doing what needs to be done to be effective in current uses, system. How can changes be made?

Conditions of tenure discussion. What make up the conditions and how can they be altered or amended.

Board says: Small stream damage points to cattle impacts.

Board says: let's discuss social licence, ethical considerations between range tenure holders and private property owners. Range tenure approved by Jevan Hanchard, District Manager when legal objectives are met.

Board says: Do range tenure holders know where landscape barriers/corridors are?

Board says: There is a set boundary to range tenures yet there are no fences to enforce said boundary.

Conclusion of board: is social aspect of connecting range tenure holders to their neighbours! Who does the board write a letter to suggest changes? Marc says write to the District Manager (Jevon). For changes to livestock act would be Minister of Agriculture. Perhaps writing to the Cattlemen's Association, for developing greater social license. For real change you need to go beyond the district manager. Marc pointed out resources for further information.

Propose Solutions... resolve to write a letter to the suggested persons (see above), stick to making communication the prime concern but include water, riparian as concerns

***Action Item: draft letter by John to Jevan Hanchard, DM MoFLNRO**

Karen's report on recent meetings:

LRMP report comments meeting: Report circulated, updated Kevin and Tara on what the CRB is concerned with and has been pursuing.

FPB considering updating the land use planning.

Carbon valuation meeting: Countering the 7 myths surrounding provincial strategies. Board debate on science supporting Jim Pojar's report. Forestry and Agric. Not included in provincial carbon accounting.

Northwest Institute meeting: provincial information gathering tour.

***Final review of compiled response...(Karen)**

Trail Mapping Project: tremendous response from Brandy Hughes, budget put together for project.

***Action Item: invoice Brandi for project funds, trail mapping. (Ron)**

Bob on Sub-alpine fir: start now in greater quantities. (150k current). Seed orchard. Enhanced balsam is only way for it to keep up to sx and pli. Partial cuts to preserve existing balsam. Fear of failing plantations of pli and sx. Need forward thinking to prevent future problems. More resistant to fire, climate change. Diversity and resilience.

END