

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) Minutes

Meeting Date: April 12, 2011. Meeting convened at 7:00 PM, Boston Pizza meeting room, Smithers, B. C.

Attendance: Board Members: Dave Stevens (Chair), Ben Heemskerk (Vice Chair), Taylor Bachrach (Treasurer), Trish Oosterhoff, Bob Henderson, Jack Hagen, Barry Smith, Jill Dunbar (Executive Assistant).

Guests/Presenters: Anne Hetherington, Ecosystem Biologist, Natural Resource Operations; Steve Jennings, Regional Manager, Rescan, Smithers office, Harold Kerr.

Regrets/absent: Dustin Harvey, Rob Maurer, Emily McGiffen, Don Goalder

Item	Discussion	Action	By Whom	By When
<p>Perspectives on 20 Years of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Referrals</p>	<p>Anne Hetherington, Ecosystem Biologist, Natural Resource Operations, Smithers There is increasing demand on the land base and constantly changing processes. Habitat Branch doesn't have any legislative powers, so can only advise. Staff is involved in forestry, agriculture, and Regional District developments. Common problems experienced over the last 20 years of reviewing development applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • guidelines (optional) vs regulations (cumbersome). • reduced role of Environmental Stewardship. • referrals (reactive, received late in the process, ad-hoc). • cumulative effects. • lack of incentive and knowledge by decision-makers. • scale - lack of intermediate-level planning. <p>Recent initiatives have helped:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collecting, organizing and presenting environmental info so that it is readily available. • informing public and enabling participation – Valley Vision website, Crown Land Interface conference. • collaborative problem solving – e.g. Lakelse project. <p>Information tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlement Zone Environmental Information Map • Biodiversity Atlas <p>Forestry – ideas and opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • looking at all risks and values to come up with optimal plans. • working with local researchers. • participating in TSR review. <p>Settlement Zone ideas and opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved referral system. • collaborative solutions – Pope Road – having multiple experts involved improved the outcome. • NWCC student field project – where students intensively examined a site - could be done in this area. <p>Summary: We are losing habitat and ecosystem resilience. We need to maintain it while providing development opportunities through improved processes, better map information, collaborative and pro-active site visits.</p>			

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	<p>Discussion: Steve Jennings: It would be useful to have the Settlement Zone map at front at Front Counter for applicants to see right at the start of the process. Anne: It is easier to ask for setbacks and so on at the start of the process. Barry Smith: It seems like duplication when the BVCRB looks at applications and so does Environment – why wouldn't Front Counter send out the information? Ben Heemskerck: Front Counter has a checklist but doesn't do any quality assessments. Anne: The community must work from the ground up and plan ahead to minimize the negative impacts. Anne has worked with 100's of referrals where what happens on the ground isn't what is in the plan and is often disappointing. Taylor: We could have a better system with just a few improvements.</p>			
<p>Mine Life Cycle and Permitting</p>	<p>Steve Jennings, Regional Manager, Rescan, Smithers office.</p> <p>Rescan is a medium size consulting company which specializes in mining. The public has positive views of mining – jobs, taxes, commodities; as well as negative – environmental impacts. In B.C. only 0.03 % of the land base is actually disturbed by mines but the effects are much wider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration stage: Much of the activity in the NW is at the exploration stage. Less than 1% of projects actually become mines. • Permitting stage: Engineering design and Environmental Assessment (EA) stages are the most intense. The EA stage takes a minimum of three years. Federal, provincial, regional, and municipal levels of government may all be involved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of reference are developed. The CRB can participate at this step. • Environmental baseline studies, and public and First Nations consultation takes place. The EA office keeps track of submissions. The Davidson project received 1200 comments, which is a very high number. Socio-economic studies such as identifying stakeholders, conducting community research, and carrying out impact assessment take place. • The assessment application is prepared. The CRB can review the application, however this may be very technical. • Regulatory review and the Minister's decision process take place. • Once the EA certificate is issued detailed permitting begins. Water licenses, licenses of occupation, waste management permits, fisheries authorizations, and many others must be processed. • Closure: Many permits may still be required at this stage – discharge permits etc. <p>Summary: Public input is critical. Numerous avenues exist for public input. Proponents have lengthy periods of planning and analysis. Rescan helps clients to achieve sustainable development of projects and to meet regulatory requirements and public objectives.</p> <p>Ben: Rescan should not hesitate to contact the BVCRB for information at any time.</p>			
<p>Agenda review</p>	<p>Agenda for this meeting was accepted.</p>	<p>Accept agenda as presented.</p>	<p>Board Members</p>	<p>This meeting</p>
<p>Minutes of March 8, 2011</p>	<p>No quorum, therefore minutes not approved.</p>	<p>Approve minutes of March 8, 2011.</p>	<p>Board Members</p>	<p>Next meeting</p>

Item	Discussion	Action	By Whom	By When
Presentation for next meeting	Dean Daly of the Community Forest will be invited to the next meeting.	Invite Dean Daly to the next meeting.	Ben Heemskerk, Jack Hagen	
Report on April 4, 2011 Balance Workshop meeting	<p>Taylor Bachrach: Meeting outcomes: 1. There is a need to rewrite the BVCRB Terms of Reference, updating descriptions of what the Board does and its relationship with government.</p> <p>2. The Board must decide on its working model. Currently it is reactive and dealing with referrals, rather than having the public coming to the Board with issues. The Board needs to define priorities. It is currently working on RAMP, Revisiting the Balance, etc. Should it be involved with the Timber Supply Review (TSR) as well?</p> <p>Bob: There are elements of the TSR that are very pertinent to the Board.</p> <p>Ben: A Main Street presence for the Board was suggested. Rick Budhwa will present this case to the BV Research Centre (BVRC) Board for their consideration.</p>	<p>Look at these two recommendations and submit comments back to the Board.</p> <p>Contact Glen Buhr to develop draft principles for implementing the WHA while maintaining the 10% budget.</p> <p>Inform the Board as a whole of results of discussions with the BVRC.</p>	<p>Monitoring and Land Use Planning Subcommittee</p> <p>Barry Smith</p> <p>Ben Heemskerk</p>	
Subcommittee Reports/Issues/ Correspondence	<p>1. Recreation</p> <p>RAMP: Ben Heemskerk: Members of the Recreation subcommittee for upcoming work are assumed to be Trish, Ben, Emily, Dustin, and Taylor.</p> <p>Trish: There are going to be some snowmobilers who will want to derail the RAMP process.</p> <p>Bob: With strong Terms of Reference and a good facilitator we should be able to deal with this.</p> <p>2. Mining and Energy Development</p> <p>No news.</p> <p>3. Forestry, Range and Agriculture</p> <p>No news.</p> <p>4. LWBC Referrals and Land Tenures</p> <p>Referral 6408330 Commercial recreation/snowmobiling: Deadline for response is May</p>	<p>Prepare a response</p>	<p>Ben</p>	

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	<p>7, 2011. Board will review and respond to this application.</p> <p>5. Water and Fish: No update.</p> <p>6. Monitoring and Land Use Plans: See “Balance Workshop” above.</p>	and circulate to Board members.		
Administration	<p>Memorandum of Understanding with the BV Research Centre: The MOU with BV Research Centre is in effect. The Board should ask for a list of resources that could be available for BVCRB use, and the possibility of use of the BVRC meeting space.</p> <p>Funding: Driftwood Foundation is contributing \$1000 towards “Revisiting the Balance” workshop. The fund that Jill’s invoices will paid out of should be confirmed.</p> <p>Letter to Ruth Edwards regarding revisions to the referral form: Barry: The Board needs to decide whether it will continue to review referrals or not.</p> <p>State of the Forest Report: This 2004 report was mentioned at the April 4 meeting. A copy should be made available to all Board members.</p>	<p>Obtain list of possible resources from BVRC; check for meeting space availability. Confirm which funding sources are to be used for payment of Jill’s invoices.</p> <p>Circulate State of the Forest Report</p>	<p>Ben</p> <p>Taylor</p> <p>Ben</p>	
Action items from March 8, 2011 meeting		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Forward two background papers on the LRMP to Ben Heemskerk:</i> Done. 2. <i>Notify Jack Hagen - or alternate - of details of the upcoming Blue Pearl PLC meeting.</i> Meeting is still pending. 3. <i>Contact Gary Runka regarding his availability to facilitate the “Revisiting the Balance Workshop”.</i> Done, Gary attended April 4, 2011 meeting as well. 4. <i>Investigate possible funding support for the workshop.</i> Done. 5. <i>Work with Glen Buhr to develop draft principles for implementing the WHA while maintaining the 10% budget.</i> Barry Smith will contact Glen. 6. <i>Sign and send out the McConnell referral response.</i> Done. 7. <i>Prepare a response to the gravel quarry application and circulate the Village of Telkwa response.</i> Done. 8. <i>Prepare list of expiry dates of Board member terms.</i> Jill to complete ASAP. 		
Meeting adjourned 9:45 PM	Next meeting: May 10, 2011, 7:00 PM, Boston Pizza Meeting Room.			