

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) Minutes

Date: October 16, 2017. Meeting convened at 7:00 pm

Location: Smithers Town Office

Board members in attendance: Eric Becker (Chair), Ron Vanderstar (Treasurer), John Fisher, Ted Vanderwart, Cor van der Meulen, Debra Flemming, Christoph Dietzfelbinger, Matt Sear

Absent: Karen Price, Bryan Swansburg

Recorder: Laura Guillon (BVRC)

Guests: Ryan Holmes (presenter), Glen Buhr (presenter), Carl Vandermark (presenter), Greg Yeomans (presenter), Alan Baxter, Bob Mitchell, Colin Vandergaag, Dave Ripmeester, Len Vanderstar, Tammy Rancourt, members of the public

Item	Discussion
Introduction /Agenda Review	Agenda accepted with addition of administrative update. Reminder to group of time constraints and to keep questions for after the presentations
Past Minutes	June 19, 2017 minutes accepted
Presentation by Ryan Holmes and Glen Buhr	<p>Overview of the spruce bark beetle situation in the Bulkley TSA with PIR, impacts to the Cores and LRC's [Presented By Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations]</p> <p>2016/17 Beetle Tactical Planning, Bulkley TSA</p> <p>Skeena Stikine District (DSS) conducted Detailed Aerial Surveys (DAOS) in fall 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waypoints and area of Mountain Pine Beetle (IBM) and Spruce Bark Beetle (IBS) infestation in TSA • Province expects the behaviour and spread of IBS to be less aggressive than IBM due to a slower life cycle and a narrower dispersal range <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See Ref 1 and Ref 2 for more information <p>Major licensees & BC Timber Sales, the Community Forest, and Woodlot licensees, identified a beetle management Tactic of L or HTL (log, or hold to log) to waypoints and areas already under cutting authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary licensees (small scale) tactics were assigned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SSS – small scale salvage; accessible with significant infestation that could affect other areas ○ SDF – search and destroy; less accessible, treated under contract, better for IBM ○ CTT – conventional tree trap; use draw points to sanitize the land base, better for IBS ○ NTR – no treatment recommended; low counts, not accessible, geographically isolated from hazard forest types, within no-harvest areas, or constrained LRMP zones <p>Question: After logging is completed in winter, what about the leftover beetles that mature from the stumps?</p> <p>Reply: Mop up activities take care of leftover beetles.</p> <p>See Reference 3 and 4, Harold Price tactical plan</p>

Question: How are infestations in a landscape riparian area managed?
To FSP Constraints – depends on licensee

The BBTP is the first plan developed since the IBM and contains three main elements:

- Operating Area Maps
 - See Reference 6 – “Harold Price North Operating Area” Map
- IBS and IBM Tactics – Tabular Summaries
- Annual report of successful Tactics implementation

Question: How successful was the IBM program?

Reply: There were many successful treatments of identified points and beetle management unit objectives were met for suppression up until 2008/09, at which point the IBM spread.

The advantage of the Bulkley TSA is there are very mixed stands.

PIR Operational Beetle Stewardship 2017 [Presented By PIR]

Reminder: PIR operates in both Bulkley and Morice TSAs

The height of awareness of Spruce Bark Beetle occurred in the Spring of 2016.

- A large blow down event was observed in April across the northern areas of the Bulkley and Morice TSA’s
- One patch along Babine Lake was much larger than anticipated, which caused issues with Visual Quality
- One blow down area was as large as ~45 hectares and contained mostly Spruce
- Spruce beetle infestation was found and led to action
- A fringe of disease was found along the edge of the blown down area
 - when salvaging, the fringe trees were taken as well

Spruce Beetle Trap Trees: absorb population, suck out of an area (used for mop up as well)

- IBS prefers down trees; 10-20x more beetles found in a down tree than a standing tree;
- Trap Trees emulate a blow down tree
- Placed in shade
- Lay down 15-40 trees in Spring before beetle flight, haul and mill after flight and prior to next flight
- ~1400 trap trees in 61 sites: Tanglechain, Morrison, 4000 road, 418 road, Harold Price

Funnel traps

- To monitor populations and flight timing
- 20 set up in chart areas

- Use Spruce tree and Spruce beetle pheromones
- Traps placed in the PIR log yard caught little to no beetles ensuring nothing is coming out of the log yard

Blowdown/salvage permits (100,000 m3)

- Mainly blowdown
- Cutting Permit 695- Bulkley
- Cutting Permit 895- Morice (Tanglechain)
- Cutting Permit 896- Morice (Morrison)

Post-harvest condition after blowdown clearing

- Lots of breakage from blowdown, large stumps
- Shattered trees
- Tangled, more breakage than normal

Riparian reserves (3-20 m from stream)

- In blow down blocks PIR didn't harvest any reserves,
- Nothing harvested that would further compromise stream beds/banks

Cultural heritage assessments cannot be done in blowdown; discussed with archeologist branch; instead PIR is doing post-harvest assessments on blocks

Visual Quality in the block along Babine Lake. Not much opportunity for retention (trees half falling over already, not safe to keep)

Upcoming Harold Price cutting permit: focusing on blocks with high amounts of Spruce Beetle

- Is a Sawlog Permit " as opposed to "marginal sawlog" see Bulkley AAC Rationale.
- Three beetle in permit (Balsam, Spruce, Pine)
- Multiple year blow downs
- Need to do large scale salvage

A discussion is needed on how to balance beetle control and other concerns

- Larger cut blocks and remove infestation but have compromised connectivity
- Smaller block sizes and let infestation carry on, keep connectivity within corridors. The infestation is with Landscape corridors, and core ecosystems.
- If the infestations are left in these areas, they can grow beetle to attack surrounding timber
- You may not be able meet constraints AND deal with the forest health issue.

Would like to discuss constrained areas within the LRMP with the CRB

Comment from audience: beetles are endemic and have been around a long time; sceptical of repeating alarmism from IBM when actions didn't have much positive effect.

	<p>Reply: An epidemic of IBM did hit the area and Spruce Bark Beetle is moving beyond endemic to epidemic.</p> <p>Audience Comment: In the North Thompson similar trap programs were use for Douglas Fir Bark Beetle, Spruce Beetle is something that can be controlled better than IBM e.g. trap trees</p> <p>The intent of this presentation today is to raise awareness of the Spruce Bark Beetle situation, present what has been done to date and discuss what should be done going forward . PIR is currently working within existing guidelines associated with our FSP and we are now at a point where we need to start considering what to do about the infestation in the core ecosystems and Landscape Corridors, to get ahead of it, and have timely discussions.</p> <p>Question: Do you want the CRB to comment on something specific or philosophical? Reply: We need to assess the instances of infestation to get something solid to put on the table to show what we are dealing with and figure out how we want to deal with it. We are here as early as we can to ask for feedback on the LRMP and how to manage the situation. We don't know what the outcome will be. Our feeling is that we didn't engage the CRB early enough in the process with IBM and want to start early now.</p> <p>PIR Comment: Looking for a general assessment to come from the ministry first. PIR is happy to help the board and ministry to come up with a plan.</p> <p>Board Discussion: Should we create a subcommittee to discuss this situation or keep the topic for the whole CRB? As it is a big topic, it would be good to have all the interests of the board. Since this is a topic that needs attention now and the board only meets once a month, it might take too long to make decisions.</p> <p>Action: Decide through email about the formation of a subcommittee. Ron has volunteered to chair.</p>
<p>Presentation by Carl Vandermark and Greg Yeomans (CanFor)</p>	<p>Canfor does not have cutting rights or tenure within the Bulkley TSA, come to represent Lowell Johnson, which holds licenses for Moricetown Band.</p> <p>An invitation to the new Moricetown chief was extended, but he could not make it today.</p> <p>CanFor's relationship with the Moricetown Band goes back to the early 90s.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fingerjoint facility in Moricetown, now entirely owned by Moricetown band. • Kyah Wood Resources, 50% Moricetown band, 50% family. Logs go to sawmill in Houston • HPLP, major pellet facility in Houston, primarily go to Europe and Japan

Telkwa High Road

Constrained to Meed Creek (off the 'nine thousand road')

Existing non replaceable forest licence overlapped with their license so this needed to be dealt with first. The roads are very steep which caused further delays, losing two years overall.

This will affect the Telkwa High Road. Faced with situation with taking more than 50 thousand/haul this year and again next year.

- Concerns about volume coming over road
- Safety (bus route, residents) is the biggest concern
- What direction volume will flow

Not going to be able to keep within 50 thousand as the licence is due to end in the spring. Have a three prong strategy:

- Checking on speeds, adhering to correct speed
- Being aware of bus schedules and avoiding interaction
- Limiting the number of loads to less than 24/day

Route of haul: North to Moricetown and not South (which was a concern).

How long will this continue? Currently having discussions about operating area right now and extending the license.

Comment from the public: There are concerns about visual quality and impact to the LRMP.

Reply: Modelling shows area can be seen from Harvey Mountain and Bulkley Valley, which could be a potential problem. We are not contemplating violating anything and will model additional volume.

Question: With focal activity in the basin, are there any studies on maintaining the watershed?

Reply: The special management zone has a limit of 40 hectares/year and the objective is to address watershed concerns. There is a 20 m reserve around Riparian areas.

Comment from the public: There was a planning process that directly involved the CRB in late 90s/00's and led to guidelines. Could be useful to presenters to be consistent.

Question: Will the logging impact the recreational values in that area in the winter?

Answer: Will not be working in the winter as the road is too steep, so there will be no conflict.

Comment from the public: People have seen logging trucks going by while the bus is running on the Telkwa High Road.

Reply: That should not be happening and we will look into it.

<p>Update on NewPro by Christophe</p>	<p>NewPro Permit</p> <p>Permit reflects what Newpro presented to the board previously There will be significantly lower emissions than before; however, a letter was sent to the Ministry highlighting issues with the permit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit allows certain amount of emissions, but no one knows the actual amounts coming out (no regular monitoring), • Regulators visit every three months, but these are announced in advance so likely do not represent real values • Permits make people feel good, but don't have much effect • People would rather have continuous monitoring available, but this has been completely ignored <p>We do have ambient air monitoring and know air quality (especially particulate matter) is very poor in the Bulkley Valley, but we cannot tell what the sources are. Particulate matter causes health problems.</p> <p>Since Newpro shut down, we saw an improvement in air quality. The Ministry has solid information on what health effects emissions cause.</p> <p>Questions: Where are policy efforts best spent? Should the CRB review the letter that was sent to the Ministry? Is there anything you would like the CRB to do further? What is the role of the board on commenting on the permit?</p> <p>The board deals with the TSA (not private land) and we don't have air quality in our mandate, although we do have a say in the source material they are using.</p> <p>There have been many discussions on why air was left out of the mandate in the past. We could repeat the discussion on the mandate as air quality affects the values of what we are here for a great deal. The board should keep asking and facilitating these questions. The CRB reflects public opinion so policy makers know what the issues are. Air quality is going to become a bigger issue. The CRB is a forum for getting this issue out; we are not looking to gain more power to the board, just more involvement. However, there are other organizations that have air quality in their mandate.</p> <p>Action: Set up a meeting in the winter with 2-3 presentations on air quality.</p>
<p>Administrative and funding update by Ron</p>	<p>Received a Wetziinkwa grant for \$1700 exclusively for public liason (trade shows, fall fair, farmers market etc.)</p> <p>Received MOF funding of \$5000 Operating funds can be included, but the bulk of the funding is for the Telkwa Caribou project (planted caribou; 24+ numbers in fly over) and winter access management in Telkwa.</p> <p>This management area has a big chunk of timber allocated in the wildlife</p>

	<p>management area; if industry is not getting timber from there, where are they going to get the bulk of amount allowed in the next 20 years? This could potentially impact some of the values of the board.</p> <p>*Note: Send MOF invoice before March 15 * Send a one-time invoice that covers activities for the projected budget. Eg. Telkwa caribou will go beyond the fiscal year. The funding is not solely for projects listed in application, but to support the CRB.</p> <p>The CRB does not currently have a lot of funds in the bank, \$2024 is left over from RAMP, so need to invoice ministry soon.</p> <p>Action: Talk to the BVRC about billing a year in advance (Ron) Some operating is fixed and predictable, other items such as advertising depend on what comes up.</p> <p>The CRB lost the post box, but very little mail comes to it. Ron is getting the financial statements sent to his house for the time being.</p> <p>Action: Check if can use the BVRC mailbox</p> <p>Action: Ron volunteered to store CRB maps, bring to next meeting</p> <p>Other business: Looking for a recreational motorized vehicle user on the board</p>
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Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. Next meeting 7:00 pm, November 20, 2017

Actions

Task	Due	Responsibility
Decide through email about the formation of a subcommittee on the Spruce Beetle situation. Ron has volunteered to chair.	Next meeting	All
Set up a meeting in the winter with 2-3 presentations on air quality.	December	TBD
Talk to the BVRC about billing a year in advance	Next meeting	Ron, BVRC
Check if can use the BVRC mailbox	Next meeting	BVRC
Ron volunteered to store CRB maps, bring to next meeting	Next meeting	Eric, Ron