

**Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) Minutes, Feb 17, 2015.** Meeting convened at 7:00 PM, Skeena-Stikine District office, Smithers, B. C. Board members in attendance: **Michael Sawyer (Acting Chair), Paddy Hirshfield (Treasurer), Tim Penninga, Bob Mitchell, Jack Hagen, Eric Becker, Joey Welch, Danelle Harris.** Absent: **Ruth Lloyd, Cor Vander Meulen, Christoph Dietzfelbinger, Karen Price.** Executive assistant: **Jill Dunbar**  
**Presenter: Glen Buhr, Stewardship Officer, Skeena Stikine District, FLNRO.**

Item	Discussion	Action
<b>Introductions</b>	<b>Introductions around the table. Welcome to new member Danelle Harris.</b>	
<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Add to agenda template: Agenda items for upcoming meetings. Agenda accepted with additions.</b>	
<b>Minutes Jan 20, 2015 meeting</b>	<p><b>Minutes accepted as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Question from Board member:</b> How would the pellet plant proposal fit into BVCRB mandate? Air quality is beyond our scope.</p> <p><b>Board discussion:</b> A presentation might be educational and informative. Fibre supply is within our scope. We would need to specify to an invitee what we would want addressed at a presentation. There is an air quality monitoring committee for the area already in place. Would a presentation interfere with their work? We are broadly concerned with the environment and this could be a community issue. Who would we invite? We would need to find this out, and acknowledge the sensitivity around possible overlapping mandates.</p>	
<b>Presentation by Glen Buhr</b>	<p><b>Timber Supply for the Bulkley TSA</b></p> <p>Goal of the Timber Supply Review is to project the future timber supply for a management unit (TSA in this case) – how much timber can be harvested sustainably, while addressing environmental, economic, and social issues. The review is done every 10 years. The Chief Forester considers input from many people and makes an AAC decision, and then the Minister decides how to apportion the AAC to the licensees. For the Bulkley, the resulting 2014 AAC is the same as the 2002 AAC.</p> <p><b>Question from Board:</b> What is the difference between area and volume-based tenures?</p> <p><b>GB:</b> Area-based tenures are TFL’s, woodlots, and community forests where harvest comes from a set area. With volume-based tenures, licensees can harvest from flexible areas. There are no rights to a specific area. Licensees with volume-based tenures have traditional operating areas, which are respected but not guaranteed.</p> <p><b>Question from Board:</b> Is there any point talking about the models?</p> <p><b>GB:</b> The models VDYP (Variable Density Yield Projection) and TIPSYP (Table Interpolation for Stand Yields) have been in use for many years and keep evolving.</p> <p><b>Board comment:</b> The models may show that there is more timber but the Chief Forester has to look at other factors.</p> <p><b>GB:</b> There are usually two public review periods during the review, with many groups contacted for input. The AAC determination meeting can take two days.</p> <p><b>Question from Board:</b> How is the Ministry dealing with the Supreme Court of Canada Tsilhqot’in decision from last year, in the context of AAC determination?</p> <p><b>GB:</b> First Nations have rights that must be considered in terms of modeling.</p>	

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	<p><b>Board:</b> Did the decision affect the Chief Forester's determination? In numerical terms?</p> <p><b>GB:</b> No. Mostly it halted the TFL process.</p> <p><b>Board:</b> Any First Nations claim will be considered on top of the timber supply.</p> <p><b>GB:</b> Guiding principles for the review include how to deal with information uncertainty. Economic and social objectives do influence the decision. A stable harvest is an objective.</p> <p><b>Board comments:</b> The age class distribution in the Bulkley is quite well balanced. There is a mid-term timber supply. In the Morice and Lakes TSAs it is more unknown. In the Bulkley the model showed less step-down adjustments. The estimate of stand growth has increased. There is better data going in. The Stand Index determination is more accurate. We also have plantations that are 30 or 40 years of age so we know what the actual rate of growth is. Seed stock and handling is better now. The Timber Harvesting Land Base is dropping but survival and growth is improving. Inventory work on ground truthing is continuing.</p> <p><b>Board question:</b> Has the accuracy of the inventory been analysed?</p> <p><b>GB:</b> Yes, P.I.R. has done some work on this. Impact on AAC would be about 8% but this adjustment wasn't used in the AAC calculation.</p> <p><b>Board:</b> Local knowledge was used in backing off on a cut increase due to this.</p> <p><b>Board:</b> The BVCRB submitted input to the TSR stating that, due to some of the uncertainty, there should not be a 10-year wait for a reanalysis. Was this considered?</p> <p><b>GB:</b> Yes all comments were considered to some degree. This may be addressed in the summary of public input.</p> <p><b>Board:</b> Will follow up on this for next meeting. With less certainty there needs to be more monitoring.</p> <p><b>Board:</b> In the Bulkley, scaling is weight-based, cruise information comes from selected stands only, and inventory is very broad. It is difficult to compare.</p> <p><b>Board:</b> With climate change there is likely to be more tree growth than less.</p> <p><b>GB:</b> But there may be more risk of pest damage.</p> <p><b>Board:</b> How were caribou issues handled in the AAC analysis?</p> <p><b>GB:</b> There was no Wildlife Habitat Area order in place so the AAC could not be affected. Sensitivity analyses were done to look at implications of enacting the WHA and they showed that the impact would be about 2%.</p> <p><b>Board:</b> So even if a species is threatened, the AAC isn't impacted until the legislation is in place.</p> <p><b>GB:</b> There are objectives for caribou management in the Higher Level Plan Order (HLPO).</p> <p><b>Board:</b> The AAC won't be changed but the timber will have to come from outside the WHA. This balance is an important issue for the BVCRB.</p> <p><b>GB:</b> The balance is formalized in the LRMP analysis. GB will forward this document to Paddy.</p> <p><b>Board:</b> The 10% balance needs to be addressed because when it was set, the caribou weren't threatened with extirpation.</p> <p><b>Board:</b> Is the LRMP a living document?</p> <p><b>GB:</b> It is still adhered to but not updated. New objectives set by government come up and influence AAC's and Forest Stewardship Plans.</p>	

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	<p><b>Board:</b> The model doesn't account for uncertainty. The inventory could be out by 10 %. The most conservative estimate should be used. Modeling is only as good as the input.</p> <p><b>Board:</b> The estimate was actually reduced by more than 10%.</p> <p><b>Board:</b> So the process is that the District gathers the info, sends it to Victoria where it is analysed, and the decision is made?</p> <p><b>GB:</b> The District assembles the info, and works with an inventory analyst regarding the modeling assumptions. District staff and the analyst present the info to the Chief Forester.</p>	
<p><b>Action items from Jan 20, 2015 meeting</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Paddy Hirshfield will ask for a copy of the <i>Proposed Pest Management Plan</i> presentation and circulate; Jill Dunbar will resend to new members. <b>DONE.</b></li> <li>2. Karen Price will finalize Telkwa WHA response letter and e-mail to Jocelyn and Len, with copies to the Board and Eamon, Tony Pesklevits, and Jevan; Jill will resend to new members. <b>DONE.</b></li> <li>3. Edited funding application letter will be sent to the agreed upon list of potential funders. <b>Eric Becker and Paddy Hirshfield have approached several agencies and will follow up.</b></li> <li>4. BVRC will be asked to work on backlog of website updates. <b>Underway.</b></li> <li>5. Mike Sawyer will e-mail Jeff Anderson re: Discussions with government and c.c. the Board. Mike has had brief talks with Jeff. <b>Board: Local government has some new goals re enhanced public engagement. Paddy will summarize and circulate to Board for discussion.</b></li> <li>6. Board members will forward comments on draft MOU with BVRC to Paddy Hirshfield so he can incorporate them for the next meeting. <b>Paddy has forwarded MOU to BVRC and is waiting for feedback.</b></li> <li>7. ToR. <b>Board members will review the draft ToR and provide final comments via e-mail by March 10 so that Tor can be adopted at March 17 meeting. Tim Penninga will resend draft MOU concerning Board relationship with government.</b></li> <li>8. TransCanada and Spectra Energy: <b>Tim will circulate government approval letter.</b> Discussion: What are next steps? Does Board wish to spend more time on this? TransCanada is opening an office in Smithers and work could have a big impact. If the Board doesn't engage further, it won't have any influence. However, companies get around requirements e.g. by setting up shell companies as certificate holders. <b>A Board subcommittee will be set up to discuss and define further work on this.</b> Members: Eric Becker, Joey Welch, Bob Mitchell, Tim Penninga, Danelle Harris and Paddy Hirshfield. Absent members notify Bob Mitchell if interested.</li> <li>9. Paddy Hirshfield and Karen Price will prepare a correspondence tracking template in order to assess outcomes, as a communication tool and for evaluating Board's effectiveness. <b>Carried over.</b></li> <li>10. Paddy Hirshfield will provide information on potential options for the board (trusts vs. societies). Funding groups</li> </ol>	

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	<p>approached so far have not indicated problems with Board status. <b>Board status will not be changed for now.</b></p> <p>11. Mike Sawyer will write letter of invitation to FN representatives. <b>Carried over.</b></p> <p>12. Paddy Hirshfield will send out letters to thank Board members who left within the last year, by Feb. 28.</p> <p>13. Mike Sawyer will check venue possibilities for Board social– Aspen, Alpenhorn, Hudson Bay Lodge, others. <b>Event delayed until funding permits.</b></p> <p>14. Paddy Hirshfield will contact Jen Chermesnok about tracking referrals. <b>On-going.</b></p> <p>15. Mike Sawyer will look into inviting the pellet plant proponent to a BVCRB meeting. Discussed above.</p> <p>16. Mike Sawyer will circulate dates of the Chamber lunch meetings with TransCanada and Spectra and then Board can decide who will attend. <b>Not done, luncheons have already been held.</b></p>	
<b>New Business</b>	<p><b>Georeferenced version of Summer RAMP map</b> has been taken care of and works well. Information on navigating to trail heads needs to be included. This could be at the Tourist Information Centre. There is REF funding available. A Board subcommittee will work on this: Tim Penninga, Danelle Harris and Eric Becker.</p>	<p><b>A Board subcommittee will be set up to work on Summer RAMP mapping.</b></p>
<b>Items for next meeting</b>	<p><b>-MVRA presentation, 30 minutes, 10 minutes Q&amp;A.</b></p> <p><b>-Board workload priorities</b></p> <p><b>-Discussion with Mark Fisher from the Regional District, 10 minutes</b></p> <p><b>-Terms of Reference ratification, 30 minutes</b></p> <p><b>-Board Executive positions – chair and vice-chair.</b></p>	<p><b>Tim Penninga will leave some copies of the MVRA report at the District office.</b></p>
<p><b>Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM. Next meeting March 17, 2015; 7:00 PM; Skeena-Stikine District office.</b></p>		