

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) Minutes, Jan 20, 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), Cor Vander Meulen, Bob Mitchell, Jack Hagen, Eric Becker, Joey Welch, Ruth Lloyd.** Absent, with notice: **Tim Penninga, Karen Price.** Executive assistant: Jill Dunbar

Presenter: Ben Heemskerk, District Recreation Officer

| Item | Discussion | Action |
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| Introductions | Introductions around the table. Welcome to the new members joining the Board as of January 2015: Ruth Lloyd, Joey Welch, and Cor Vander Meulen. | |
| Agenda | Agenda accepted as presented. | |
| Minutes Dec 16, 2014 meeting | Minutes accepted as presented. | |
| Presentation By Ben Heemskerk, District Recreation Officer | <p>Ben Heemskerk was a Board member, and chaired the Recreation Subcommittee while the Summer RAMP completion project was underway.</p> <p>Board member comment: The RAMP project had been under consideration since the mid 1990's. During the project the 12 member Table met at least 20 times. Goal was peace in the Valley with regard to recreation access. The Table did come to consensus on most recreation areas. There was good representation from recreation clubs but difficult to gain input from people who are not members of any club. It was decided to start with summer access since that seemed most straightforward.</p> <p>BH: The Recreation Subcommittee oversaw the process. The Table members included 8 representatives from clubs, and 4 people representing the public at large. The project took a lot of energy but the Table members were passionate, and not positional. The community wanted a say in recreation use before it was dictated or imposed. A major success was that clubs that had never worked together began to do so. Winter clubs in the valley are now working together and this is partly a result of the summer process. The project was financed by several sponsors. An MOU with the BV Research Centre was signed and North West Community College provided support as well. Issues that came up during the project: The profile and mandate of the BVCRB were not well understood by the public; the values of Board and Table members were not understood. Comment: Currently 10 of 12 Board members identify non-motorized recreation as a value. Board members must keep this in mind and endeavor to keep a balance in discussion/decisions.</p> <p>Board member: The project will feed well into a Winter RAMP.</p> <p>BH: It did lay the groundwork. The Summer RAMP report contained 7 recommendations. The Board should review these. Some of the recommendations are being implemented by government but some need to be implemented by the Board. Commitments on the part of all parties must be upheld.</p> <p>Question from the Board: Are the outcomes accepted and being implemented?</p> <p>BH: P. 14 of the RAMP report gives the recommendations. Ben uses these to guide planning – since it represents the most current public consensus in the valley. Ben is working with the clubs to designate the important trails. Examples:</p> | |

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| | <p>Working with the Quad Riders to enhance the Jonas Creek Rec Site and another site closer to Telkwa Pass, to improve motorized access; working on enhancing the Crater Lake trail – it’s a signature trail. It is easier to justify this work with the direction given from the Summer RAMP Table. The Table recommended that an Intensive Motorized Area be set aside and Ben is looking at possible sites for this.</p> <p>Question from the Board: What compliance and enforcement is being done? Have there been any tickets/charges/citations?</p> <p>BH: Approach is to try to get compliance. Ben doesn’t have number of tickets etc at hand.</p> <p>Board member: There have been inspections by C & E staff – Bluff Trail.</p> <p>Board member: Has personally seen motorized vehicles in the Telkwa caribou recovery area as well as side-by-side vehicles in a wetland.</p> <p>BH: Environmental degradation in a wetland in the Microwave area has been investigated. The Telkwa caribou recovery area was left out of the Summer RAMP. Trails are being legally designated and the Summer RAMP is being used as policy. Designation gives trails a higher status. For example, along the Barrett Hat trail visual quality is being maintained during salvage logging operations. There is currently a period of staff transition.</p> <p>Board member: People are more likely to support designations because of the Summer RAMP consensus direction not because of the legal designation.</p> <p>Question from the Board: What is the authority for the legal designation? What is the default?</p> <p>BH: Legal authority is Section 56 of FRPA (Forest and Range Practices Act) and Section 20 of the FRPA Regulations. Default – if there is a hard packed trail any motorized or non-motorized activity can take place as long as there is no environmental damage. Page 20 of the Summer RAMP Report – The Table recognized that there has been a loss of motorized access due to the Telkwa caribou recovery area and the Babine Mountain Park. The Board should keep this in mind. Winter RAMP – It would likely be easier to complete, since the Summer RAMP laid the foundation. The Board must remember to find a better balance of values. Ben is working on a river access project, which may involve finding new sites or resolving conflicts at existing sites. The Board could be kept informed on this.</p> <p>Board member: Has anything been done regarding the Summer RAMP recommendations that are the responsibility of the Board? Is government waiting for the Board?</p> <p>BH: The Board hasn’t taken any action on the recommendations. Commitment from recreation groups is needed.</p> <p>Board member: Clubs tend to represent the compliant users. How many users are not represented? Where did the 500 signatures protesting the Summer RAMP process come from?</p> <p>BH: Around 200 of the 500 are in the clubs. We can’t manage for that. Some of the most vocal people had little to say when the final Summer RAMP came out. We are seeing the clubs spread the word about the need for this, and that is partly the result of the Summer RAMP.</p> <p>Board member: We can’t really do what is in Section 11 of the Summer RAMP (Future Planning Process). We don’t have a Terms of Reference. We need government to provide some tools to take this on.</p> <p>BH: The Summer RAMP was a Board-led process. Government committed to consider Board recommendations.</p> <p>Board member: We need an agreement with government, and resources.</p> | |

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| | <p>BH: Sees the biggest challenge to be how the Board interacts with government. How does the Board want to provide input?</p> | |
| <p>Overview of BVCRB for new members</p> | <p>Board member: Experience so far is that the work becomes easier and more fun. We have presentations/proposals from various groups, and then we provide input if we choose. Board has some admin issues to deal with – funding, executive. Board needs to connect with the public and be aware of what is happening in government.</p> <p>Board member: The LRMP keeps the Board on track. Responses have to be consistent with it. The LRMP needs updating but the values don't change. The Board makes decisions on a consensus basis. Some good letters have been prepared. It is exciting work.</p> <p>Board member: Recognizes that this is a volunteer Board; sometimes members can contribute, sometimes not.</p> <p>Board member: We do a lot of work by email. No response usually means no objection.</p> <p>BH: Chair will call around for clear responses on important issues. The Board developed the LRMP and the first ToR. Initially the Board responded to referrals, now provides balanced public input on more strategic issues like Telkwa caribou, pipelines.</p> <p>Board member: Some things are missed. Board needs government to provide input on strategic issues.</p> <p>BH: There are government directors who need strategic input as well.</p> | |
| <p>Action items from December 16, 2014 meeting</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paddy Hirshfield will ask for a copy of the <i>Proposed Pest Management Plan</i> presentation and circulate. DONE. Jill will resend to new members. 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. DONE. Jill will resend to new members. 3. Edited funding application letter will be sent to the agreed upon list of potential funders. Board members have no objections to the letter. Paddy will begin to send out. 4. Bob Mitchell will ensure that new contact information is added to the website and will meet with Kirsteen Laing in January. Bob and Jill met with Kirsteen and will proceed with website updates. Jill will prepare a cost estimate for this. Jill will request bios from Board members. 5. Board members will review the draft ToR and provide comments via e-mail for discussion prior to the next meeting. Jill will send draft ToR to new members. 6. Mike Sawyer will e-mail Jeff Anderson tonight re: Discussions with government and c.c. the Board. Mike has met with Jeff. Discussions are on-going. Key government contacts and how best to approach them to be most effective are being discussed. 7. Board members will forward comments on draft MOU with BVRC to Paddy Hirshfield so he can incorporate them for the next meeting. Board members are to send any further comments to Paddy by Jan 27. | |

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| | <p>8. Eric Becker will forward VRAM group minutes to BVCRB for review, when available. Complete prior to the meeting. DONE.</p> <p>9. Paddy Hirshfield will forward the link with the EA response to members. Bob Mitchell will look at the comments in the TransCanada project to share with Board since it is most likely to happen. Bob will look for the letters that Jeff signed, and then Paddy will send the letters to the OGC since the decision is already made. Jill will send out the BVCRB letters and the responses to new members.</p> <p>10. 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. Carried over.</p> <p>11. Tim Penninga will invite Glen Buhr to February meeting. Paddy Hirshfield will invite Ben Heemskerk to January meeting. FREP presentation will be scheduled for March. DONE.</p> <p>12. Paddy Hirshfield will provide information on potential options for the board (trusts vs. societies). On-going.</p> <p>13. Tim Penninga will get a copy of the most recent gates policy from Ron and share with the board. DONE.</p> <p>14. Mike Sawyer will ask Jeff Anderson for a membership update. DONE.</p> <p>15. Next meeting, find someone to write this letter of invitation. (Re FN representation). Letter should say that meetings are open to public, Board considers historical and cultural features of Crown land, and that Board would like to know what issues are of concern. Ryan Holmes would have list of contacts. Mike Sawyer will do this.</p> <p>16. Paddy Hirshfield will write a letter to thank Board members who left within the last year, for next meeting. On-going.</p> | |
| <p>New Business</p> | <p>Board social. Board should have a gathering of former Board members: Purpose is to reconnect, socialize, and thank them for their work. Tentative dates: First two weeks of April.</p> <p>Tracking of referrals. A tool is needed.</p> <p>Winter RAMP. Discussion: Should board initiate this project? Ben Heemskerk: Without a Winter RAMP, Recreation Sites and Trails BC will continue to make decisions according to the Future Planning Process. Does the community want a strategic plan or carry on with one-off decisions? Terje Vold wrote a report about how a plan could proceed. Board member: Would role of BVCRB be the same or different? BH: It would be Board-led. Having a plan is</p> | <p>Mike Sawyer will check venue possibilities – Aspen, Alpenhorn, Hudson Bay Lodge, others.</p> <p>Paddy will contact Jen Chermesnok about tracking referrals.</p> |

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| | <p>never a bad thing. In the past, recreation groups sent letters to push for a RAMP. This is not happening currently. Board member: Groups are working together. Board member: There are some grumblings amongst one of the motorized groups about what is going on. BH: Fish and Wildlife is looking at hiring a facilitator to help sort out recreation in the Telkwa caribou recovery area. Board member: What are the rules around private plowing of Forest Service Roads? BH: There are Road User Agreements. Contravening these carries penalties. Safety, drainage and so on must be dealt with.</p> <p>Pellet plant proposal. Does the Board need to look at this? BH: The Board could comment if impacts are out of town and within the TSA boundaries. There are no provisions for air quality values in the LRMP. Board member: The proponent could be invited to make a presentation at a Board meeting.</p> <p>TransCanada and Spectra Energy at Smithers Chamber of Commerce lunches: The two companies will be attending upcoming Chamber lunches, and it is possible for BVCRB members to attend and raise the question of response to the BVCRB input. Mike Sawyer is Chamber member and could bring BVCRB member(s) as guests.</p> <p>BVCRB Facebook Page: Any members that would like to bring forward items of interest please let the Facebook page admins know – Bob Mitchell and Jill Dunbar. Members should “like” and/or share the page, and invite friends to “like” it in order to increase the BVCRB profile.</p> | <p>Mike Sawyer will look into inviting the pellet plant proponent to a BVCRB meeting.</p> <p>Mike Sawyer will circulate dates of the lunch meetings and then Board can decide who will attend.</p> |
| Other business | <p>River Access Plan. Ben Heemskerk: A mini planning process will get underway and the Board could be involved. This is currently a bigger issue than the Winter RAMP.</p> <p>Board member: Can an individual make a trail by clipping a few branches along the way? Board member: Can a trail be designated without a club to sponsor? Ben Heemskerk: RSTBC won’t designate a trail without sponsors. A development request would trigger a referral to the stakeholders.</p> | |
| Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM. Next meeting February 17, 2015; 7:00 PM; Skeena-Stikine District office. | | |