

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) Minutes, Nov 18, 2014. Meeting convened at 7:10 PM, Skeena-Stikine District office, Smithers, B. C. Board members in attendance: **Paddy Hirshfield (Treasurer, Acting Chair), Bob Mitchell, Jack Hagen, Karen Price, Eric Becker, Tim Penninga.** Absent, without notice: **Michael Sawyer.** Executive assistant: **Jill Dunbar**

| Item | Discussion | Action |
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| <p>Action items from November 4 2014 meeting</p> | <p>1. Paddy Hirshfield and Mike Sawyer will prepare a template funding application letter and approach groups for funding. Paddy will expedite this item.</p> <p>2. Mike Sawyer will follow up with Jeff Anderson regarding progress of selection committee and member recruitment. Paddy will ask Dave Stevens to update website email contact addresses. Bob Mitchell will contact Dave Stevens about gaining access to the website in order to update it. Applications for Board membership have been received. Bob is updating website and Facebook page. Email addresses on the website are a bit more complicated to update. Bob will take some online-tutorials to obtain info on this. Bob will populate the Facebook page with links to relevant documents, summaries of issues and BVCRB meeting minutes.</p> <p>3. Paddy Hirshfield will contact chair of Wetzin’kwa Community Forest Board concerning operational funding opportunities. Paddy contacted Marc Steynen, director, Wetzin’kwa Community Forest, who advised that the decision and funding cycle just ended. They don’t support operational funding but project funding for the BVCRB would be considered. Wetzin’kwa would like increased knowledge of what issues are important to the community – as would BVCRB – perhaps partnering is possible. Paddy will stay in touch with Marc and Eric Becker will talk to Bill Golding as well, on an ad hoc basis.</p> <p>4. Tim Penninga will prepare a draft MOU with government based on Section 15 of the draft BVCRB Terms of Reference. Karen Price will review, and then circulate to Board for comment. Section 15 requires revision (as discussed below) and then the MOU can be prepared. Carried forward.</p> <p>5. Mike Sawyer will follow up with Jeff Anderson regarding status of discussions with government. Board members will be invited to any meetings that arise pertaining to these discussions. On-going.</p> <p>6. Paddy Hirshfield will contact Rick Budhwa regarding renewal of MOU with BVRC, when funding has been received. Paddy will do this once operational funds from government have been received.</p> <p>7. Eric Becker will forward VRAM group minutes to BVCRB for review, when available. VRAM group minutes are not available to date. BVCRB will not have an official rep at the VRAM table. Updates from Eric, and VRAM minutes, will be sufficient to inform BVCRB for now.</p> | |

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| | <p>8. Paddy Hirshfield will follow up with Jeff Anderson re responses from TransCanada and Spectra. Done. Paddy will circulate email from Jeff. Apparently a response is not required from the companies. However, Paddy will check to see if there is an on-line vehicle where responses are posted publically or if there is other public input and response. The Board letters will be copied to OGC (Oil and Gas Commission). It would be good to track our letters and assess outcomes as a communication tool and for evaluating Board's effectiveness.</p> <p>9. Tim Penninga will ask if TSA Technical Report can be released to the Board. Status unknown.</p> <p>10. Paddy Hirshfield will contact the District office re using the meeting room phone for conference calls. Done. Use is approved, but fees are unknown.</p> <p>11. Karen Price will circulate the draft Telkwa WHA letter to Board members for review and comment. Done. Discussed further below.</p> <p>12. Board members will review and comment on the draft BVCRB Terms of Reference. Discussion: The ToR requires a 2-year workplan. It would be useful to see all referrals and then chose which ones are priorities to be dealt with. Paddy will ask Terry Sullivan how the Board can best be kept updated on new development applications. Paddy will look at Summer RAMP financials and talk to Ben Heemskerk about progress of Summer RAMP implementation. The Terms of Reference should be streamlined so that it won't go out of date soon with terms such as FLNRO, budget specifics and commitments assigned to government in Section 15 removed. By next meeting, all Board members should review and comment on how the ToR could be streamlined.</p> | |
| New business | <p>Pest Management Plan. Discussion: This 5-year plan is being updated for Crown land in Central and Northern B.C. There are places where pesticides are regularly used (farms) and others where they will not be used (some forestry applications). Level of coverage is unknown – i.e. is it governed at the cutblock, cutting permit, or TSA level? This is an integrated pest management plan so biological, mechanical, cultural and chemical methods are all considered. The LRMP doesn't state anything about pesticides. Hawkweed must be dealt with. In the Community Forest hawkweed is affecting regeneration. It would be good to have an update from the Northwest Invasive Plant Council. The draft plan can be found here: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/plants/publications/PMPs/PMP-DRAFT_2014-6_Final.pdf</p> | <p>Eric Becker will contact Marc Schuffert, Range Officer, to arrange a presentation on invasive plants.</p> |
| Other business | <p>Telkwa Wildlife Habitat Area. Discussion: The draft BVCRB response letter has been circulated. Board comments:</p> | <p>Board members are to forward any additional comments to Karen Price so that the draft</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the WHA is approved, subsequent government funding will apply to caribou monitoring. If the herd is extirpated, will WHA status be removed from the area? WHA status affects many other resources besides caribou. The issue is around the review process, not funding. • The bigger question is – why try to keep this herd? It is not genetically unique. However, arguing on a genetic basis is not valid, since animals can have traits that are more strongly related to how they interact and are influenced by their environment than their genetics. • This is a huge area that is used for recreation. Not anymore – access is limited, with no bridge over Goathorn Creek. With the WHA all roads would be deactivated. Only roads required for environmental reasons would be maintained. Quads and snowmobiles could get in, so it would become a motorized use area only. In any case, intent of the proposal is to block all access. • Is the Provincial proposal as good as the Federal? The Board needs to look at predator management. Studies show that predator control must be done. The Federal proposal contains some objectives for predators, as does the Provincial. What are the LRMP objectives? The Telkwa Planning Unit (PU 11) states that maintenance of caribou habitat or population is a primary objective, and states that agencies are to develop a plan for sustaining and enhancing a viable caribou population, for some of the subunits. Only 7 wolves would be allowed in the entire WHA. Must grizzlies also be controlled? There needs to be an integrated package in order to maintain the caribou. The WHA proposal doesn't do that. The WHA gives authority to stop access in addition to road deactivation. Do local biologists want predator control? It is not entirely a biological decision. The designated decision maker (DDM) for this case will be informed by other experts as well as biologists. In the south of the Province they are getting rid of animals that are sustaining wolves i.e. deer and moose. • The argument should be for ecosystem diversity so that there is resilience, rather arguing for stability. The Board's draft letter should be balanced by listing the other values that are of concern. The proposed WHA area could sustain 150-250 animals, as long as the interactions are in balance. The predator issue will be added to the draft letter. Some development proposals for the area have already been rejected. | <p>letter can be finalised.</p> |
| <p>Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM. Next meeting December 16, 2014; 7:00 PM; Skeena-Stikine District office</p> | | |