

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) Minutes, Sept 15, 2015. Meeting convened at 7:10 PM, Skeena-Stikine District office, Smithers, B. C. Board members in attendance: **Paddy Hirshfield (Acting Chair and Treasurer), Eric Becker (Vice Chair), Bob Mitchell, Christoph Dietzfelbinger, Cor Vander Meulen, Ruth Lloyd.** Absent: **Karen Price, Joey Welch.** Executive Assistant: **Jill Dunbar.**

Item	Discussion	Action
Agenda	Agenda accepted with additional topic: Telkwa Caribou Wildlife Habitat Area update.	
Minutes, June 16, 2015 meeting	Minutes accepted as presented.	
Action items from June 16, 2015 meeting	<p>1. Paddy Hirshfield will request technical information on the NewPro pellet plant proposal, in digital format. Paddy will send information on the BVCRB to Dave Jacobs.</p> <p>The technical information is too large to circulate by email. The draft June minutes were sent to Dave Jacobs as requested. A Board member attended the open house and Town Council meeting on this project. The Town is supporting it. Most people at that meeting seemed to be in support as well. Particulate matter in the plant’s emissions will be lower than when the plant was producing panel boards, and will be less than P.I.R.’s dry kiln. They will use a different drying method than other plants in B.C. so adjustments may be needed. This is a more efficient system than others in B.C. They will be making industrial pellets and not selling locally but would be interested in working with someone to do this. Residential pellets are available locally and are produced in Burns Lake. Pellet stoves emit fewer particulates than wood stoves.</p> <p>Board discussion: Do we want to come up with a position on this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not strongly our mandate. • NewPro plans to obtain 50% of the fibre that is required from slash on landings and slash that is currently burned on site. The supply of waste material and the impact on the forest industry and the LRMP is our focus. • It is good to use roadside waste but waste in the cutblock is needed for biodiversity. It would not be good to bring more material to the roadside in order to meet pellet plant needs. • The company could not afford to do that. • Logging methods would have to change. • We are not judging the economics. • Where will they get the other 50% of fibre needed? • The Board will discuss in more detail later in this meeting. <p>2. Memorandum of Understanding with the BV Research Centre: Paddy will recirculate to Board members. Done.</p> <p>3. Website redesign: Paddy Hirshfield, Bob Mitchell and Jill Dunbar will be trained by Spark Design, and will work on updates over the summer.</p> <p>Training has been done, updating is on going.</p> <p>Action: All Board members are to review the website and forward comments on any changes needed to Jill Dunbar</p>	

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	<p>by October 20.</p> <p>4. Paddy will circulate the presentation slides from the meeting with TransCanada to Board members, and will send meeting notes to TransCanada with a request that they follow up on action items. TransCanada has responded. The crossing under Tsezakwa Creek has been relocated; other items are being worked on, and follow up information will be sent to the Board. It is not known if they have a work permit yet. Discussion: What does this mean for the integrity of the Core Ecosystem (CE)? There should not be a net loss.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be an offset for this one. An offset is not needed if a project is just going through a CE - then the right of way should be kept narrower than normal. • The 10% offset is not a legal order. But it is an aim of the proponent to meet the goal of the CE. • The CE environmental mitigation policy is to move a CE, offset the loss, or pay to compensate. There has been no such action yet for Tsezakwa Creek. • MOE should be looking at this. The BVCRB should push for this. • The company might be saying that they are mitigating. • Who in MOE would be looking after this offsetting? • MOE or FLNRO staff forward to EAO, which requires the mitigation action(s). • But no staff in MOE or FLNRO is doing this. • So what is the value of the LRMP? • The Board has to push for it. We did send a letter to TransCanada requesting some changes. They responded with some changes. • Monitoring is needed. We will wait until we hear more from TransCanada. <p>5. Signing authorities for the Board are to be revised so that Bob Mitchell, Paddy Hirshfield, and Eric Becker hold BVCRB signing authority. The June 2015 minutes are approved, so Bob and Eric can provide signatures to the BV Credit Union.</p> <p>6. Open house: Karen Price, Christof Dietzfelbinger, Eric Becker, Tim Penninga, Ruth Lloyd and Paddy will work on this as a subcommittee. To be discussed later this meeting.</p> <p>7. Member recruiting: Jill, Karen and Paddy will work on this. To be discussed later this meeting.</p>	
New Business	<p>1. Telkwa Pass Recreation Area. This is a referral for an Intensive Motorized Area. Action: Paddy Hirshfield will circulate the proposal for discussion at the October 20 Board meeting.</p>	

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	<p>2. Fulton North gate. The Board received an email from a member of the public concerned that people are going around the gate, contravening the purpose of the gate. The gate is to restrict access to goat habitat and to Babine Mountains Provincial Park. Action: Discuss at the October 20 Board meeting.</p> <p>3. Firewood cutting in the Smithers Community Forest. The Board received an email from a member of the public stating that the amount of firewood cutting in the Community Forest is of concern. Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Forest District enforces this. Some of it is in a CE so it is a Board issue. • This compromises the CE. • Up to 5% of a CE can be logged. That was done. The firewood cutting is over and above that. • The Board should contact the District with this concern. • Is there a problem with CE's in general? The issue seems to be coming up more and more. It would be good to see some monitoring - what is the state of CE's in general? <p>Actions: Paddy will send an email to Bernie Mattie, District Compliance and Enforcement Supervisor, with a cc to the author of the email. Ruth Lloyd will prepare a draft letter to the District Manager with cc to the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation requesting that they work together on a solution.</p>	
<p>Other business</p>	<p>1. Telkwa Caribou Wildlife Habitat Area There is a revised WHA package that has not been released to the public. However, the Babine River Foundation has received and responded to it with concerns about offset plans and concerns that the package wasn't released during the public comment period. Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the offset package, impacts on other resource values are unknown and the public hasn't had the opportunity to review it. • How legal is the 10% rule? Some tenure agreements state that the Province could change the agreement with no compensation. • The 10% rule goes back to the origins of the LRMP. It is based on timber volume, not area. • Is this premature? • This should have been discussed a long time ago. • Should we request a meeting with MOE? <p>Action: Bob Mitchell will email Len Vanderstar or Jocelyn Campbell, referring to the Board's previous letter, requesting that any affected protected areas be looked at.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on other values is a public concern. • It is troubling that we lack this information. • What is the current caribou population and number of calves in the Telkwas? An update is needed 	

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	<p>2. NewPro pellet plant proposal discussion, continued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the project at a stage where we need to deal with it? • They are revising the existing permit. This project will result in reduced emissions and better slash utilization. • Actually there would be an increase in emissions over what is being produced now. There are no plans to monitor the emissions. Polluters in Canada self-report; actual emissions may be underreported. We don't know if what is planned will actually happen. The plant is upwind of the population centre. Smithers' air quality went from 2nd worse to 8th worse in B.C. when NewPro shut down. Many people have respiratory issues in the area. • This message needs to get to wood stove users. • This new project would account for 2.5% of the air quality problem vs. former NewPro plant, which was 25%. • The proponents are optimistic. • The BVCRB focus is on fibre supply and air quality. Is there anything related to these that we should comment on? • Is there a threshold level for fibre that should be left on the site? • That depends on the forest types. What is left needs to reflect the range of natural variability. Provincial guidelines for what should be left, not what should be taken, are needed. Material that is useful for biodiversity (i.e. large structural pieces) is not the same as the material that comes to the roadside. • This needs to be put to government, not to the company. • This is a monitoring value under The Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP). We could ask if this is being sampled. • If not enough debris is being left on sites then this is an issue regardless of NewPro. <p>Action: Paddy will send the FREP and Multiple Resource Value Assessment (MRVA) presentation notes to Ruth; Paddy and Ruth will contact Todd Bresser regarding this issue.</p>	
Administration	<p>1. Member recruitment. Response to advertising for new Board members is low. Why the lack of applicants? Perhaps low emphasis by government on land-use planning, low public engagement by the BVCRB...</p> <p>Action: Efforts to recruit will be expanded to include emails to more groups. Paddy will contact Amanda Follett re a possible article for Northword Magazine.</p> <p>2. Fall Open House.</p> <p>Action: Paddy will email subcommittee members to arrange a meeting.</p> <p>3. RAMP mapping. Update: the BV Backpackers have been GPS-ing some of the trails so they can be downloaded to a device. QR codes will be put on the trail kiosks. "Avenza" is the application for the maps.</p>	
Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM. Next meeting October 20, 2015, Skeena-Stikine District office, 7 PM.		