

BVCRB - Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

Final Minutes

Held 16th September 2019 at the Town of Smithers Council Chamber.

Present were Eric Becker, Bob Mitchell, Dave Stevens, Jay Gilden, Dave Daoust, Karen Price, Jay Baker, Matt Sear, Christoph Dietzfelbinger, Raymond Chipeniuk, Sybille Haeussler, John Fisher, 2 anonymae

The meeting came to order at 7:04PM

Minutes of the June 17th 2019 meeting were discussed but tabled pending further information.

The agenda item on Telkwa Coal was discussed. Telkwa Coal has asked for a voluntary deferral until May 2020 to allow Wit'suwet'en Chiefs government to government discussions to complete. See here:

https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/api/document/5d7a86af26583700218b6efb/fetch/348039_Gray_FINAL%20%28002%29.pdf

There was a general discussion around recruitment and Board membership, response to advertising has been poor; alternatives were discussed, basically person to person recruitment seemed to be the best option.

Ryan Holmes and Roxy Hirshfield were to have been present but were not. Their information was not available.

The Board proceeded to Jay Baker's presentation of powerpoint slides and talk around *Wildfire Fuel Reduction Considerations*. The meat of the presentation is in the slides, and included topics such as the basic geography, fire processes, urban interface (with an emphasis on Smithers) Wildfires categorized by rank and fuels. There is a lot of thought going into balancing values that may be in conflict, such as Core Ecosystem Values and Core Community Values.

Basically fire behaviour is being more closely studied around both fire actions and prevention, especially the role of fuel removal.

Bob Mitchell raised a point around ground fire risk to the Town of Smithers and asked about fire risk from embers. Jay said yes it is a real consideration and presented information about observed ember spread, citing that ember propagation 8K ahead of a fire has been observed. There was another point raised that decision making in management needs to include the option of no intervention, it isn't a given that management must be done. Various views were presented by those present.

Jay discussed the difficulties of achieving a balanced response in a complex situation.

Karen raised concerns around climate. Bob questioned the relation of a response by WCFC to core ecosystems and achieving consensus. What will the effect be on the LRMP going forward?

The meeting **ended** at 8:58pm.