

BV Community Resource Board - Final Minutes

Apr 15, 2024

Present:

Directors & Secretary: Sue, John, Anne, Ted, Eric
Guests: Sybille, Bryce and Eddie
Public: Bob Mitchell, Kevin Tyler, Irena Wieland
Regrets: Directors: Ron Public: Deb Wellwood

Next Meeting: May 20, 7pm, Smithers Council Chambers, 2024

Meeting convened at 7:05pm

Chair: Ted Vanderwart

Acronyms:

- IPCA: Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas
- IGPPC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- https://bvcrb.ca/images/uploads/documents/bvcrb_acro.pdf, for a full list of acronyms

Everyone in the room introduced themselves.

Organizational:

- No financial report
- Defer the discussion total cost accounting to May

Guest Speaker Presentation:

Bryce Miller, ATV BC, Northern District and Eddie Hinchcliffe

Bryce spoke briefly about his involvement with ATV BC and together he and Ed talked about ATV trails, rider involvement, projects and current challenges.

Summary:

- ATV BC is separate from the local club, its a Provincial body and Bryce has only recently become involved as Director.
- ATV BC is responsible for all terrain use in the province.
- ATV BC advocates for mix trail use and public access, they create riding opportunities, and emphasize safety - mixed trail projects in our district are joint with the BV Horsemen and Snowmobile Association.
- BC has about 43 clubs, roughly 5000 members and together they maintain about 7000 trails.
- ATV BC advocate tread lightly programs.
- About 11 clubs have BC Rec. Site and Trail agreements, maps might be there - but they also use the Snowmobile Association for website trail maps.

- The local club has an operating budget of about 40K in trail and safety grants.
- Locally there are about 50 members and projects include Poker Runs, the Dome loop, erosion control and regular rides.
- The demographic of the members is 50 years plus.
- Eddie would like to see more access to the timberline - the Onion for example, old timers would like to see more ATV access for seniors who once would have hiked but are now riders.
- Gates are preventing motorized access on trails that are designated motorized, especially in the case of old mine sites. Moose Skin Johnny for example. Discussion with the Board concluded that the decision to gate this trail was the Ministry of Forests, they would have to maintain the bridge if it was used. The argument was also made the gate was in aid of Caribou and in either case riders would like to see a trade off of access points allowing them to ride somewhere else.
- No-one is undertaking to do the RAMP, BC Rec. Sites and Trails don't do the qualitative and multi user consultation that would result if a summer RAMP was conducted.
- Ed and Eric were both on the last RAMP exercise, the agreements of user groups haven't really changed.

Discussion:

- Is there a protocol to address the challenges around mixed trail use or multiple users and incompatibility? It didn't seem that ATVBC had one.
- What about facilitating inter club meetings with BC Rec. and Trails?
- The Microwave Plateau - there is one trail almost to Dennis Lake, lots of Terrace traffic is coming through the pass. It's a Provincially recognized motorized pass.

Guest Presentation by Sybille Haeussler PhD RPF. Maintaining Ecological Integrity of the Bulkley TSA Planning/Landscape Units

Sybille introduced herself and gave a history of her involvement in land use planning in the valley, including her role in the foundation of what is now the BVCRB. Her slide show gave some insight into how we can zero in or select a landscape unit and measure the effectiveness of Forest Level Planning. Also mentioned was the distinction between implementation monitoring and effectiveness monitoring.

Summary

- CRB member from the 1990's.
- In 1978 she got a forestry job in Smithers and it was a perfect fit.
- Sybille's community involvement with the Skeena Roundtable in 1991 led to the creation of the BVCRB.
- She currently sits as a Director on the BVLD AMS (airshed Management Society and the BV Research Centre).
- Sybille's perspective is biocentric, scientific and pluralistic.
- The Babine FLP Pilot that is underway now, one in which the CRB wasn't consulted, appears to be using state of the art cumulative effects monitoring indicators. From her point the project is looking thorough. If they do that for the Bulkley they will do

what the LRMP should have been enabled to do. It will include First Nations and will address lot of monitoring issues.

- The LRMP is excellent with a 33 year success story.
- Industry has been monitoring every 5 years but they don't do forest level planning.
- The plan was formalized in 1998 and then in 1999 when they developed the landscape unit plans and then from that moment on the Province agreed to monitor these plans, they never did once.
- The Babine River had been exposed to a planning process before the LRMP. In 1994, the Babine Watershed Monitoring Trust took over that focus.
- We the people worked really hard for 8 years before the Province took a look at the LRMP. Local Provincial staff worked paid office hours to provide comments but until there a legal plan, the draft development was all written and edited by the community volunteers. Jane Lloyd Smith was very hands on and there were occasional Ministry speakers.
- Bolder Creek is our Northern boundary.
- One weakness of our plan is First Nation involvement, their land use planning is overlapping and splintering processes and priorities.
- Things to think about if selecting a landscape unit for monitoring:
 - A. accessibility
 - B. representation
 - C. diversity
 - D. existing information
 - E. indicators for biodiversity monitoring in the forest - structure of bird communities, simplified lichen monitoring, forestry cruise plot data etc.
- Based on the slideshow, the Copper LU seems to be a good place to start
- There was a brief discussion of the private funding of the Babine Monitoring Trust.

Discussion:

- Directors note that the interpretation of the LRMP is broad and not everyone has the same lens.
- If we did this monitoring, what about the connectivity corridors in the forest and across the landscape? Sybille agrees the corridor behind her house is just a disaster, no-one is monitoring for compliance or effectiveness. We could evaluate the CORE ecosystems and landscape corridors of the Copper LU.
- The Bulkley was a different model from the rest of the Province.
- Ecosystem networks were thought to be good thing but they were never checked.
- On the ground there is a huge difference between BC Timber Sales harvests and PIR. Things as simple as leaving deciduous trees - how much, how many and young trees in the block is one example.
- Funding will come if we decide to do this monitoring project.

Organizational Business:

There was a Motion to approve the Feb minutes by Eric, Seconded by Anne.
There was a Motion to approve the Mar minutes by Anne, Seconded by John.

There was no discussion and all were in favour.

General Discussion:

- Representation at the FLP table, and building relationships with First Nation representatives.

- The Bulkley-Morice FLP Stakeholder Review and Input Group (SRIG): Tara Dunphy reported there, supported by Cam Bently. It was a different presentation but the processes and arrows were very similar to the LRMP. They responded that their process is not driven by timber but a Director commented that when you have high timber values you have difficulties fulfilling other values. The audience was reported to have indicated the CRB should grow. The presenters will update these same stakeholders in about 3 months. One comment at the presentation was that Forest Licensees are in the inner circle, when if it is a truly democratic process it should just be government to government negotiation. The licensees are actually stakeholders.

- There was brief discussion on keeping comments on behalf of the board as balanced. Repositioning some comments may be necessary to recognize the diverse values of the board.

- There was some discussion about the difference between valuation of a mine site versus the Dome for instance. Is there some way to systematically manage the negatives versus promoting the positives. Directors are digging up frameworks for consideration. In 2008 BC Hydro came up with this structured decision making matrix and this was thought pretty good!

The Boards response to Dean Daly and the Review of Land Use Designation for Area - Ag/Wild Zone FID #79

- refer to the minutes of January 2024.
- we are not an environmental activist group
- a letter from the CRB could ask that we fine tune this designation a bit more. If we look at this in more detail and redefine the boundaries, remove steep creek slopes or other areas, look at a 1:5000, can we divide this and look at the other values to make a better site specific decision?
- there is nothing taken to the lands branch at this moment
- we can ask for a reevaluation on the land use designation for that value, that would trigger a referral back here. This brought up the discussion - can we ask for a referral? Can we change it from an agricultural value to a wildlife and habitat management area? The value of the Class 2 waters should justify this.

AI Sue to draft a response to the Ministry and circulate**

- look at the letter from Anne and Sue draft another
- ask Dean for a tour in June - several are interested

- under existing rules there will be no problems selling this licence and making an application
- we deal with the TSA not the private land
- the pressure on the valley bottom now is immense because of wildfire resiliency and risk reduction, how well maintained are the values in the valley bottom now and how will they be maintained going forward?

Funding:

- There is a community advocacy group doing a destination resort evaluation. You have to be a non profit to access this so perhaps we could pair up with the BV Research Centre. Sue to follow up on this with Dawn.

Other Discussions:

1. The Suskwa Bridge: The argument for moving it is forestry's. They own the bridge and have determined turning onto the current bridge doesn't meet truck requirements, also turning onto the highway from the road is not standard, there are also slope stability issues. An alternate route North puts you into the Village of 2 Mile. This is not good for truck traffic. In comparison the Quick Bridge, it was 40 years from condemnation to replacement.
2. There is a Mineral Tenure Act reform process going on right now due to a court case. The Province has 1 year to change the staking of claims.
3. Telkwa Mining Limited is the new name for Telkwa Coal, Bathurst Resources Limited are the owners name. The EA still in process, it maybe a year before the statute runs out.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm