

BV Community Resource Board

Minutes April 21, 2025

Present:

Directors: Anne Hetherington, Ted Vander Wart, Kevin Tyler

Secretary: Sue Brookes

Public: Les Ellis, Skeena Cattlemen's Association, Nicolas Dormaar

Regrets: Director Ron Vanderstar

Next Meeting: May 19 (Victoria Day) 7pm, Smithers Council Chambers

Meeting convened at 7:05pm

Chair: Kevin Tyler

Everyone in the room introduced themselves.

The next BVCRB Directors Meeting is May 19 (Victoria Day).

Acronyms:

More can be found at this link:

https://bvcrb.ca/images/uploads/documents/crb_acro_1.pdf

AI: Action Items

BVSC: Bulkley Valley Stewardship Council

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1. Referrals

Lands File Numbers: 6409512

Proponent: British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority

Tenure Type: Temporary License, Utility, Miscellaneous, confirm whether a member of the public's concern is looked at and how much they are staying within the existing Rights of Way.

Discussion:

Have they looked at other options for locating the route?

Are there booster stations along the route?

- a booster station will require a cement floor

Action Item (AI) **Sue to ask about using existing right of ways and not creating new access.

2. Motions

Note: for Minute taking, try to use the full name first then the abbreviation. Add clarity for public audiences, make briefer and use neutral language.

1. Motion to approve the Dec. 16, 2024 Minutes. Anne motioned to approve, Ted seconded, all in favour.
2. Motion to approve the Jan 17, 2024 Minutes. Anne motioned to approve, Ted seconded, all in favour.
3. Motion to approve the Feb. 17, 2025 Minutes. Kevin motioned to approve, Ted seconded, all in favour.
Three motions carried.
4. Motion to approve the March 17, 2025 Minutes - deferred.
5. Motion to approve the draft letter to BCTS and Rec. Sites and Trails (REC 3562) Canyon Creek Ski Area, LRMP Planning Unit 6. Kevin made the motion, Anne seconded, all were in favour.
6. Motion to approve the draft letter to Cam Bently regarding our help in establishing what is known about grizzlies in the valley bottom and address concerns by cattlemen. Motion deferred until review of second draft.

Action Item** Sue review Ted's changes in email.

3. Recruiting

A nomination form was received by Petra McDougall of Telkwa. Kelly Mattson of the Suskwa is also considering joining the Board. After review of the nomination form for Petra, a wildlife biologist, it was agreed she has sufficiently different values than those already on the Board.

Action Item: **Sue is to put Petra's name forward to the BVCRB Advisory Committee.

4. The Forestry Working Group (FWG)

- Anne updated Ron by phone on meetings with small forestry operators, including Marvin Strimbold, who has owned and used a small, Swedish harvester-forwarder. Anne was reminded of the logic behind the LRMP values of "economic benefit, improved habitat, retention of the 'old growth' and seral stage distribution." Anne was very impressed with previous tours of selective-cut treatments using this machine-system with timber-and-habitat-trained operators. Marvin is willing train local operators.
- Anne has located additional, potential advisors and collaborators for workshops and proposals for habitat-structure-retention treatments in biodiversity-objective special management zones as adaptive management through the Forest Landscape Planning process pilots. Nick says the municipalities are also considering joining this or a similar forestry working group.

- Anne asks if we could get a list of First Nations' stand-level, cultural values to include them with local retention based planning efforts. Witsset First Nation has the Wet'zinkwa Community Forest garden which identifies some values, spatially and they may be able to provide this. Next would be to layer this with cultural geography or political borders. Identifying potential sites could be part of a collaborative workshop, planned with Nick.
- We need to learn from the past planning, implementation and monitoring failures and successes, which is why the CRB wanted to sit on, or collaborate with, a Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) technical working group, specifically Cumulative Effects and Biodiversity. Perhaps we need to be more formal and specific: old growth, cores and Landscape Connectivity Corridors (LCCs) for instance; what's happening in the connectivity corridors. How do we maintain as much of the old-growth structure as possible in the suitable stands we have left? What didn't succeed in the past planning, and how will it be fixed through the FLP?

5. The Kalum Public Implementation Committee (PIC)

A meeting between a Director and Cheryl Brown of the PIC has resulted in identification of common problems and expertise for current land use planning considerations.

6. Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHMA) and Conservation Land Cancellation

The BV Stewardship Coalition (BVSC) sent a letter, and we our own, asking for a stop to development in LRMP directed WHMAs until the outstanding issues have been resolved. This was mailed to the Assistant Deputy Minister, then forwarded by them to James Cuell, as the designated decision maker. The Deputy Minister's interpretations with regard to these issue's has been questioned in writing and is at odds with other interpretations and the intent of the LRMP and supporting documents. A 30th of April zoom meeting was scheduled. BCTS is continuing with commercial harvest plans in the WHMA on Tyhee Mountain. Foresters' interpret it as a regular commercial harvest sale in the Resource Management Zone, as opposed to a specifically designated WHMA, decided by LRMP consensus. Years of public and stake-holder consultation are at risk.

7. Review of Action Items

Draft a letter for Ron and Board to approve, in support of using the spatial modelling app such as Patchworks in the Bulkley TSA. Add a blip about what happened with the Bulkley Valley integrated silviculture strategy - under Glen Buhr - this was supposed to have a spatial component what happened?	Anne
FLP Forestry Working Group (FWG) meetings, this is ongoing with Anne as the coordinator and Nic, a contributor and representing the Wet'suwet'en First Nation	Anne and Nic
BC Environmental Office (EAO) - Ted will be the liaison	Ted
Awaiting copy of letter from the BC Cattlemen Association regarding the Grizzly Hunt (issue). This will be forwarded to support our ideas in our letter to Cam.	Cattlemen
Drop a print copy of the agenda and relevant documents to Ron's house prior to the start of the next meeting.	Anne

8. Informal Discussions with Guests

1. Sitting with the board and pouring over maps, the public and stakeholders could conduct area based planning. Desired value descriptions are necessary for protections of legacies.
2. Timber plantations are killing habitat and grazing opportunities for cattlemen and consequently other animals. Its generally accepted we should ask for paired plot analysis when considering land use applications. This means habitat supply monitoring and timber supply monitoring. Perhaps a proposal to the SIP program, coordinated by the Research Centre would fund a project.
3. Attributes for a spatialized model must include a *solver* or guide to help develop scenarios which could meet a weighted set of objectives.

Adjourned 9:00pm.