

BV Community Resource Board – Final Minutes

Dec 19, 22

Present: John, Eric, Matt, Jeff, Christoph, Ted
Guests: Len, Jay and Anne
Regrets: Ron
Chair: Jeff
Recording: Sue

Next Meeting: Jan 16, 2022
Meeting convened at 7:05pm

Organizational

Review of minutes.

A **motion** to approve the Nov minutes was made: All in favour.

Ted has an update that Tenas has transitioned to the new EA Process.

For a full list of acronyms please check the link:

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

1. Today's Guest

Len Vanderstar has an update concerning the Tyee WHMA

Highlights:

- Patricia Holmcheck works with Chris Schell who is the Section Head. Patricia is no longer assigned to this file.
- In 2000 the HLPO was established
 - In Appendix 2, it talked about the Agriculture and Wildlife Management Zones. They are conversation lands but not eligible for conservation land funding.
 - In 2006 we had the HLP defining the legal status of these lands.
 - In 2006 the BV Resource Management Plan also gave more direction on the status of these lands.
 - It took 8 years to get the Section 17 order, recommended by Karen Diemert.
 - In 2012, Len consulted with many stakeholders of these lands and updated his files on governance of range and forest management to meet habitat objectives. These all went to Victoria as was normal practice.
 - In 2018 thee was an agricultural range workshop where common ground was established.
 - In 2018 these orders were cancelled.
 - In 2020 a Freedom of Information Request was issued asking “What is your rationale for removing these lands from HLPO protections. The cost to file was \$850. and the rationale given was unacceptable.

Discussion:

- If there is disease on adjacent lands logging typically goes down to 70% cut rate.
- The request for logging from BCTS should come from ecosystems.
- Selling the licenses now is unauthorized activity according to the HLPO.
- Do licensees and operators know certain land forms? Have they got a qualified professional? We need to ask the Province if this a prescription to deal with wildlife and habitat values?
- Agricultural Development Areas - we have already lost possible WHMA's to the separation of the ADA's.
- The LRMP is a consensus agreement and the Province is parsing out blocks and choosing which parts they like. They are doing 6% cuts like in parks but not the 12% that is recommended by consensus to keep the WHMA.
- Where are the previous files concerning groundwork? In Victoria? Why do they need to redo this work, why can't they reference what has already been done? The Province already knows the necessary requirements to put them into the wildlife act.
- Reinstating the Section 16 designation are supposed to save a WMHA temporarily, while permanent protection is settled, except that it ends up in an infinity loop.
- Support letters from CRB exist.
- Everything goes through David Skidder due to the range act. 32k.
- The OW wanted further cultural heritage studies so they could support the CRB and conservation partners.
- This triad would ready us to present to Victoria for reinstatement although it's the same people in charge today, who made the cancellations.
- The province needs to the approval of conservation biologists. Instead they protected their staff.
- There is going to be a ground confrontation if this continues.

Other Comments:

BCTS seems to be looking for the highest bidder and has no oversight of the operator. The Reiserer Creek clear cut has followed the same pattern.

BCTS' primary motive is commercial. This is in opposition to the LRMP.

The BVCRB has evidence the Province is undermining the community based LRMP and it's process of establishing consensus. The Province is plainly not honouring community planning projects.

Land Officers are vetoing conversation officers: biology, fish and wildlife reserves and ecosystems work.

Schell's department has been contacted and before being reassigned Patricia said they have plans to sell and subsequently log this winter.

....a specific example of the removal of the section and implications

We know about other species at risk in the WHMA but we could manage for Goshawk and forget about the other values. It's easy for a qualified professional to indicate certain requirements and quite a lot of them are easy to meet. The whole Goshawk Territory (GT) is required to make the population healthy. Curtis and the Province of BC is still proposing a block or a cutting permit system which contravenes a 200 year rotation required for GT, as recommended by most professionals.

BCTS can say they have a wholistic plan but until the WHMA is signed off with its own Plan, habitats like Goshawk Territories (GT) are at risk.

BCTS does not have site specific plans. Important conservation projects are underway, we are losing values and there are lengthy delays.

Action Items**

1. Jeff to confirm with BCTS all this is true. We may need another letter stating our concern for the LRMP values.
 1. Does BCTS plan to sell the McDowel Lk/Tyee Lk WHMA for commercial interest?
 2. Have they have hired a professional ecologist or biologist? Who? Do they understand the intent of the LRMP and their role as a qualified pro.? They need riparian qualifications among other things. Why do they not reference existing work in Victoria?
 3. Why does the Province not finish these designations and their transfers before actively selling the timber licences of WHMA's and ecosystems for timber sales revenue. In other cases it could well be the allowing of motorized vehicles to travel over sensitive ecosystems.
 4. What accountability is coming out of the Auditor General's report on recommendations for management of these lands? They are in direct contravention of these recommendations.
 5. How do we reference the Victoria files? Every WHMA in the BVRMP was checked on the ground, all values were in the file. These were the files of Ruth Lloyd. Aerial surveys also exist.

Use, Recreation and Enjoyment of the Public Reserve: UREPS

The Auditor General recommendations made in reference to what happened in the Skeena with the cancelations of the ... Kitsault Nation? We are not aware that conservation partners have complained. Skeena Region Managers made a commitment to protecting these values, there is supposed to be continuous improvement but no evidence of this.

2. Bulkey Valley Forest Management exercise - in Burns lake 2024

Glen Buhr has been absconded to help with this. The amount of values they want to monitor is unrealistic. Forest Landscape Planning involves taking land use style plans and incorporating First Nation values, like the old Forest Practices Code. Where do Boards like ours fit? What consideration is there for existing agreements?

3. Future Guests:

Aurora Lavender will come to a meeting in Jan. to talk about the Environmental Stewardship Plan and remediation of the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation. (WCFC). Jeff spoke with Curtis Paul they are not available to present until later into 2023. Matt will ask Tara Dunphy to come again about the the FLP in Burns Lake.

Housekeeping: With groups presenting to the board, a Director wants their needs very clearly outlined prior to coming. Perhaps we can give more guidance on how to stay focused, or give them time limits.

4. Events:

Who would like to attend the WCFC RUG, Feb 1, 7pm - Bob might go with the hat on. Jeff will update Aurora. Eric will volunteer to go if no one else will.

5. Seymour Ridge

- This has lost it's value as a forest trail and is now a park.
- Apparently there is a new school of thought on fire mitigation strategies: half burn the debris - and then it's spread. If your piles are in a SSZ1 then you may have to season your debris longer.
- What about those 30 ft tall piles along Hudson Bay Mtn Rd.?

6. Wildfire Mitigation Strategies

- Biochar produces no smoke but retains carbon, this is a big scale solution.
- If the WCFC is doing so well according to the balance sheet then why wouldn't they pay for something like biochar?

AI Sue to see if there are funding pockets for these kind of solutions.**

Look UP: - Ministry of Energy and Mines innovation funds....

- Telus and Vancouver Foundation
- Real Estate Foundation

7. Member Recruitment

What about asking the Silicon GM or elected staff to become a board member?

AI Sue do up another member recruitment ad and seek out addresses to send this to for the next meeting.** Use website resources for this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.