

# BV Community Resource Board - Final Minutes

December 18, 2024

Present: Ted, Christoph, Bob, Ron, Sue, Anne  
Guests: Dean Daly, Cam Bentley, Tara Dunphy, Marisa Ashley  
Regrets: John Fisher

Next Meeting: Jan. 15, 7pm, Smithers Council Chambers, 2023

Meeting convened at 7:05pm

For a full list of acronyms please check the link:

[https://bvcrb.ca/images/uploads/documents/bvcrb\\_acro.pdf](https://bvcrb.ca/images/uploads/documents/bvcrb_acro.pdf)

Everyone in the room introduced themselves and it was agreed we had quorum, 3 of 5 Directors 60%. Ron volunteered to chair.

A **Motion** was made to approve the Nov. 17th minutes - it was first and seconded.

There was a motion to defer appointments of new Directors to the Jan. 17th meeting. All in favour.

## Financial Report:

\$ 9000 in the account, Sue's last payment isn't cashed. Ron reports not much changed since last meeting. There are no outstanding accounts.

## Guest Presentations (3):

**1) Dean Daly, RFP** on the land use designation for FID79 as an area for potential future agricultural development. Dean has submitted a letter to Glen Buhr, Stewardship Forester, regarding the negative impact of development.

**- FID79: 320 acres N of Lake Kathlyn West of Highway 16. A copy of the letter is on file.**

## Comments from Dean, Directors and Public:

There were responses to Dean's letter not from Glen's office but from Marc Schuffert and Jon Stevenson. Their responses are insufficient in helping retain the measures undertaken by the forestry practices to protect community values on this land.

The gallery agrees there are other ways to expand lands into agriculture but the revenue incentive to buy crown land forests, log and resale them is the 'norm'. If you sell these WHMA's and agricultural and wildlife zones through an agricultural lease you lose control of land management for protection of the community values before they are even evaluated for success.

Is it an ADA? An agricultural development acreage (ADA) has a higher potential designation for agricultural development. There are few protections for keeping agricultural lands for agriculture once they get their ADA designation.

Len references the letter to the Ministers and gives a background on the WHMA cancellations. Dean didn't know about this nor the WHMA designations back in 2005. He knows he wasn't con-

sulted through the Bukley SRMP in 2005 nor consulted that he remembers, by the Province about their removal from section 16, 17 status in 2018.

The gallery is aware of local logging of at least 10 quarter sections in the vicinity in the past year. It's well known among the gallery that these lands are intended for residential development.

Dean is offering tours to anyone present and the Province. Dean asks that the Board lobby for protection of these lands. We also need to lobby for the restoration of balance, contiguous wildlife corridors and more landscape planning strategies. Dean has used wildlife cams and personal observation to establish this parcel as a credible corridor with moose, mule deer and black bear recorded.

Apparently the OW has asked for a Provincial moratorium on privatizing ADA's. Dean has been in touch with the OW to notify them about this parcel.

The standard Provincial response is we need more agriculture, shunting wildlife. Dean asks who in the Province can re-evaluate? The 6 pillars of biodiversity and planning involved connectivity. Small clearcuts don't give you connectivity. We also need the public sector to recognize and evaluate the loss of wildlife and corridors.

Its recommended serial crops should be divided out of the agricultural sector, its separate from the umbrella of agricultural crops that include haying.

Who is responsible for this particular ag./wild zone? Answer: John Stevenson. It is suggested Dean ask for documentation of when the decision was made and who made that decision to allow for the development. Historically the BC Ministry office has 'lost' maps and files related to the rationale and supporting documents. There needs to be some accountability from the Province for this mismanagement.

High on the agenda of those present is to have functional WHMA's.

Neighbours like Rick Trowbridge are also in agreement, Regina Siamoto - neighbours and ecologist/biologists.

**2) Tara Dunphy, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Forest Landscape Planning and Cam Bentley** on the Bulkley and Morice Forest Landscape Planning processes, the presentation on line at ....

### **Background:**

TSA's are due for timber supply reviews. Different models will appear all over the Province. The FLNRO 'fracture' or reorganization will present an added challenge to integrating Provincial departments. The public consultation period of this process is months as opposed to the 10 years it took to build consensus in the LRMP process. Digital tools for land use planning will emerge from this process, draft products will be offered to the public for feedback. The spatial models are based on FLP guidelines, not legal objectives. FSP's are produced by licensees and not monitored.

The Pilot has created an inventory of existing legal orders in the Lakes District. It has also discovered legal objectives in biodiversity were not net positive.

The Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum (SSAF) is truly out in front in the Province. This is a 2015 process to develop relationships between 10 different First Nation entities in the area. The collective has agreed to a trusted data set used for the Bulkley and Morice Landscape Unit.

### **The Board, Gallery and Province's response:**

The LRMP objectives remain unchanged but we need a current status report. An integral part of the FLP process should be an examination of the success of current practices, like the former State of the Forests Reports.

Without effectiveness monitoring, how can you assess the trunk value - forests? Did the Chief forester follow guidelines and intent in the past? Did the physical outcome in the forest improve the possibility of meeting the LRMP objectives? Cam acknowledges that because there were no legal objectives set for the LRMP, they need to look at the 'intent' of the LRMP as part of this process.

What about the use of existing maps and updating them with ground truth. First hand observations, public expertise, the TSR links and systemic cumulative effects are all valid data sets.

Its recommended the Province use a different lens for modelling and not the standard clear cut model. For example PATCHWORKS is an integrated silviculture tool.

Climate crisis mode dictates a requirement to revisit all land use plans.

The higher level plan (HLP) needs amending as part of this FLP. The LRMP is a higher order plan than the FLP.

Mining and Exploration is largely left out of this planning except for issuing special use permits.

### **3) Marisa Ashley, DSS Land and Resource Coordinator, CLWRR**

**and Cam Bentley** on Wildfire Reduction and Resiliency success and long term planning.

#### **Summary:**

The Province is using expanding science and extracting knowledge from studies in the Kootenays to inform planning in this District. The Department is in a phase of planning exercises without public input and no forest ecologists. They are starting with this - if there were no other values of the land than this is what we would do. They acknowledge there will be and are mistakes made along the way like the 'sterilization' of Seymour Ridge. They have 2 imperatives: 1. the public wants them to move fast and 2. they don't know the correct direction entirely. They are consulting with forest industries like PIR, BCTS, and Witset.

#### **Comments from the Guests, Board and Gallery:**

With regard to Seymour Ridge they way overachieved. The contractor didn't understand the intent of guidelines.

Call Lake: getting rid of the ladder fuel, they took away habitat structure. In addition thinning the stands allows for more sunlight to hit the forest floor and actually speeds the regeneration of the understory and surface fuel for fire. It is the wrong approach, a forest ecologist would know this.

Site series planning is very important.

Fire resiliency changes at stages of serial growth. For example: Burnt Cabin. Current plantation management is not considered and its exacerbating the problem.

We are generating more slash than necbiodiversityessary in forestry operations.

What about smoke management planning, air quality, old growth protection, ecosystems, biodiversity and conservation, monitoring and other strategic plans? There is at least one yellow polygon on the map provided, a CORE ecosystem, can you reconsider that?

Another strategy for improving habitat and reducing fire risk is the leaving of wet and rotten logs or bringing them in perpendicular to something?

Why is BCTS not talking to FLNRO? Fuel breaks on a mountain are a result of poor land use planning. Allowing residential development in high risk forest than financing fuel breaks is a losing situation. Revisit all land use plans. WUI versus landscape level resiliency.

Its general consensus among all present that no amount of WRR planning will help prevent fire if we have another summer like 2023.

**Action Item\*\*\*** Sue invite these 2 back in 6 months for an update.

**Referrals:**

none today

**WHMA Cancellations:**

UREP cancellations, heritage trails with values are becoming prioritized. Anne mentions some designations may have changed status to Parks. If you call the Lands office and ask for status and you find out the info. MAP BC also allows for looking at the parcel status.

**Other Discussions:**

Deb mentions she has been following UN reparations and local planning functionality. She could take what Dean is saying and document a case study. She will contact Dean outside of the meeting., I'll forward his contact info.

**Next meeting: Jan 15, 23, 7pm Smithers Council Chambers**

Agenda: Appointment of the 2024 Board.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.