

BV Community Resource Board - Final Minutes

Jan 17, 22 - Virtual Meeting

Present: Bob Mitchell, Matt Sear, John Fisher, Eric Becker, Sue Brookes, Jeff McKay, Ron Vanderstar, Ted Vanderwart
Guests: none
Absent: Christoph Dietzfelbinger
Chairs: Matt, Jeff
Recording: Sue

Next Meeting: Feb. 21, 2022

Matt called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

Agenda items were reviewed.

Organizational

Besides Matt's clarification, all are in favour of adopting the minutes from the Dec. 20, 21 meeting.

Financial Report

Today's bank account before the deduction of outstanding checks is \$13000.00, Feb's expenses will include web hosting for about \$120.00.

Website

Sue to perform some minor maintenance.

Review of the November presentation re: The Old Growth Deferral Strategy and its impact on the Bulkley LRMP.

Our Terms of Reference (ToR)

- There was some discussion as to formally include air quality in the CRB values.
- A **motion** to formally add air quality to the 2015 Terms of Reference as appropriate was put forward.
- All present in favour.
- An email distribution will be sent to absent Directors for approval.
- This means changes to:
 - Section 2, Purpose of the Board
 - Section 4, Scope and responsibility of the Board
 - Section 5, Management Principles a) air is implied and e) add 'air'
 - Section 6, The Resource Value Perspectives: add the additional value "Maintaining the integrity of the air sheds and the enhancement of air quality as a valuable resource."

Correspondence:

- none outstanding

State of the Forest

We were offered 5 year reviews by the Province at the inception of the LRMP. We've got one review in 15 years. We cannot expect government to uphold agreements like this in future.

Serb Creek Drainage

There was a comment from one Director who is trying to get an idea on how resources on Crown Land are assessed holistically. It was noted the BV LRMP is a holistic value assessment with many parameters for managing values across the landscape, agreed to by stakeholders and governments.

Other comments:

- the increasing value of carbon
- this area is unique for an intact watershed in the TSA

Telkwa Coal

- there was a meeting Jan. 19th, regarding the status of the project.
- At least 1 Director will be there, although not representing the BVCRB.

Seymour Ridge Trail

Questions about fuel management planning, is a prescription a legally binding document?

- Answer: A site plan is not a legal document but has to be signed off by the RPF (therefore sealed) and consistent with the BHLF level plan. Whomever implements the plan must follow it but there is no legal recourse for inadequacies.
 - A site plan might not include a biological review, we would recommend one.
 - A contractor or logger may not understand this! There is no mention of site supervision of the contractors.
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- Is it necessary to log?

There are targets in a prescription indicating 25 tonnes per hectare should be left on the ground. To help visualize: this amount might be 25 mature pine trees per hectare removed, plus poles, plus regeneration. A second way to visualize this quantity is to think of a half a logging truck might be about 20 tonnes so this volume might be equivalent to what's removed per hectare.

Problems with the prescription:

- Silvicon has put in the prescription – but we're not sure this is arm's length from Wetzin'kwa.
- The prescription is only for the 'operational' slope (rubber tire skidders Steep Slopes are avoided because they can't be logged even though they pose a fuel hazard.
- There was previous management along the x-country ski trails and off the main road right to the boundary of the CORE.
- Payment of the logging will be subsidized by government and the cash flow from the timber sales goes to the community forest, it almost seems like a make work for operators project.
- There are no specific objectives saying what quality or size or measures will be taken to protect the CORE, also the CORE that is on private land has no prescription.

- Regeneration will also be lost in the process of logging.
- SBSmc PSMC? Sub Boreal Spruce moist cool. Douglas Fir?
- According to their goals there would be stands left 3 meters apart – How do you quantify this? In the SBSmc areas you put the fuel on the ground and there is hazard because these sites are really moist and cool, sure it meets fuel definitions but it's not elevated therefore not at risk of burning.
- Discussion about:
 - burning and the affect of dry duff (litter layer can include leaves, moss, aka: LFH layer), thick snags and ground fuel as fodder for the next burn, thick understory, (regeneration) can cause a hot fire
 - retention is 1000 stems per hectare for L4 (a classification of tree size), this means trees remaining will be 3.3 m apart. The only way to maintain that density is to leave islands, otherwise these targets seem overly optimistic.
 - the need for specialized equipment and smaller more compact machinery. It's a good opportunity to have contractors work more intensively and longer term. "Buck at the stump." "One log logging." Take only the log out, not the tree.
 - a fireguard 200 meters further up the road and not on the CORE
 - a shaded fuel break is where you would stand and fight a fire
- The Call Lake experience left lots of timber on the ground. This is a successful example of protection of the values.
- Elkford has a perpetual forest strategy that includes constant management of the forest and with timber sales, a fuel management zone around the CORE may work.
- The logic that the trees are dead and so more dangerous a fire risk is false. When the needles fall off, or the fine matter is gone, fire risk is way reduced.
- lots of 1990 solutions for logging need to be reinstated in the CORE.

Action Items**

- 1) Bob would like a presentation from the Wildfire Service or the RPF, Backpackers might also like to meet with them.
- 2) Matt will ask Patrick for more on what their targets will look like (tonnes per hectare, waste assessment for example)

Note from BC Parks:

They are holding meetings with stakeholders regarding trail building and other needs of these groups in the Babines.

- 1 Director is attending with another hat.

WHMA's

Action Item**

Ron wants to invite a guest in the next couple months for an update.

Details will follow.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:40pm