

BV Community Resource Board – Final Minutes

June 19, 23

Present: John, Eric, Jeff, Sue, Bob and Christoph, Ron, Matt, Ted
Guests: none
Chair: Jeff
Recording: Sue

Next Meeting: Sept. 18, 7pm, Smithers Council Chambers, 2023

Meeting convened at 7:05pm

Future Guest Presentations:

- BVRC in the fall
- Sarah Campbell, Licensed Authorizations Officer, Sarah.1.Campbell@gov.bc.ca

Additions to the agenda

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

For a full list of acronyms please check the link:

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

Field visit to Deception Lake FS Road WRR Fuel management treatment

Summary:

The Technical Advisory Panel treatment prescription was wrong for the site and the the WRR assessment was inaccurate. Please refer to the notes from Bob and Paula Bartemucci, MSc, RPBio. dated May 24, 2023.

Observations:

- The site was wetter than described.
- Spruce stumps were over 160 years old. No Balsam was logged presumably because there is no market.
- The site no longer has old growth as far as visitors could see.

Discussion:

- Old growth along the base of Hudson Bay Mountain is at risk, so is the old growth on Seymour Ridge.
- Who should we be talking to? Sarah Campbell? The tactical plan addresses property proximity - this is a strategy of sort, it's short term
- Landscape planning is an inadequate process. It's based on tonnage of fuel per hectre, there is no attention paid to taking the fuel off and hence changing your fuel type.
 - after harvest you are basically preparing a seed bed
 - 10 years later grass and brush regeneration poses a greater fire risk
 - 30 years later you get a resistant stand again
 - 80 years from the initial harvest you are back to the beginning
- It's an expensive fire break due to the maintenance cost of a high fuel loading on the ground level.

WRR Discussion:

1. Discussion about the resiliency of old growth from fire. What factors influence resiliency and thus the prescribed treatment? Values? Fuel loads or interfaces near private property have higher priorities.
2. How extensive are fires if we didn't put them out? We don't know, historically there were massive fires BUT the interior tree species tend to burn but not in entirety. If you want fire breaks you have to work different forests. Fire climax forests are the result of comeback after a fire like pine stands. These forests help themselves burn, allowing for volatility.
3. We need to change our forest structures and have more diversity. The economic model for forestry management just doesn't jam with WRR strategic planning. We are homogenizing our landscape, we need a plan in place where can we stop fire and match our silviculture plans to these.

1. **Action Item**** ask Sarah to present on the success of the tactical plan for WRR and more importantly long term land use or fire planning on the landscape. Does it address property proximity? This is a strategy of sorts.

- Check out the BC WILDFire service comments on the Donnie Creek Fire
- Predictions for the future:
 - range land in the valley, agriculture is moving to Babine Lake, 2 tiered tree-lines where forestry happens above a 800 ft altitude

Tenas Change in Ownership:

- A New Zealand company is looking at buying the company. They have a similar management philosophy. The team will be here in mid September. Is the CRB interested in having a brief discussion with the new owners in September?

2. **Action Item**** Eric to respond yes we are interested let us know when they will be in town

Financial Report:

Approx. \$9100 in the bank.

Managing the Treasury is easy but if we become a fundraising board then there will be more work. We need a new Treasurer but Ron will continue until one is found.

Other Business:

1. Review the letter from Ron in response to Glen Buhr's notification to staff regarding Ag. & Wild polygons. This is found in our email chain. Ron wrote a letter backing this sentiment and will ask Len to circulate it again.
2. Do we want to post other letters of support we have been getting from the community? We should ask, leave off for now.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.