

# **Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board – Final Minutes**

## **For June 20, 22**

Present: Bob Mitchell, John Fisher, Eric Becker, Ron Vanderstar, Matt Sear, Christoph Dietzfelbinger, Ted Vanderwart

Guests: none  
Regrets: Jeff McKay  
Chairs: Matt  
Recording: Sue

Next Meeting: Sept. 19, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm in the Town of Smither's Council Chambers.

### **Organizational**

Review of minutes.

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

A brief discussion of the legal status for the organization was begun. Our treasurer would volunteer to register the BVCRB as a society. As such Ryan Holmes suggests it would be easier to get funding from the Province, we did not receive our annual grant from his Ministry this year.

There was some discussion about going to a higher level of the BC government for funding and how the administration would change under the Society Act. Also there was mention of the possibility of Director's Insurance.

Today's agenda was approved.

**Action item\*\*\*** Schedule further discussion about achieving society status, this has been tabled for now.

### **Discussion**

1. **Forest level planning** is a new forestry model being piloted in the Lakes District and Quesnel. It will likely be implemented here the Bulkley TSA but how and when is unknown. Tara Dunphy spoke about this briefly in the April meeting.

### **2. Telkwa Coal**

Discussion points:

1. Personal opinion and the consensus opinion of the board are very different.
2. The Board encourages everyone to comment independently, some members already have.

3. It was generally agreed that complete opposition to the Coal Industry was not going to get consensus from the Board.
4. It was discussed whether the board should consider this assessment in terms of site specific impacts or the broader or larger impacts this has to the planet.
5. The LRMP states it's intent to protect sub surface resource exploration and development, thereby maintaining opportunities for coal mining. There were comments from Directors that this intent is out of date with the urgency of climate change and should be updated.
6. The failure of government agents and Ministries to measure, monitor and protect commonly held values was discussed again and there is little confidence this development will be 'done right'.
7. There is an Industry argument that this is metallurgical coal, clearly it's not and the buyers will discern this.
8. There was no consideration of the impact of noise on Caribou. Caribou hate ambient noise! Directors also question the impact of lights and coal dust on Caribou.
9. What other holes are there?
  - What about a wash of the coal by the rail siding? What impacts on LRMP values are there here?
  - What is base line data on things like water and air quality and when and how will the project measure up, at what intervals using what estimates and measurements?
  - What about cumulative effects?
  - How do you improve on the starting conditions instead of return it to these conditions? 'No net loss' is a mitigation strategy. Is it reasonable to expect industry to make improvements when there is no regulatory obligation to make things better.
  - There was also a comment about the seral stage development of the forest at the site and the loss of time that forest has for regrowth.

We have until July 3rd, 2022 to make comments. Refer to Bob's email distribution and his last paragraph concerning the Board.

A summary of comments were sent to Directors for consideration and these will be written up as a formal comment to the project.

**Action item\*\*\*** Eric to draft a comment from the Board on the Coal Project EA.

3. **Seymour Ridge Trail** - A Director recently visited the trail and comments that the dry debris on the ground won't likely contribute to the spread of a wildfire but instead make a fire hotter and harder to fight. This is why we supported the clearing of debris along the trail in reference to our letter dated May 25, 2022 to Adam Burdett. <https://bvcrb.ca/about/minutes/>

Other Comments: Its better to spend money improving building code regulation and fireproofing buildings than fireproofing your landscape.

4. **WHMA's** UREP status' are unknown. Logging is finished in one WHMA. (Refer to Jay Gildea's letter June 20, 22, <https://bvcrb.ca/about/minutes/>). Some Ministry offices might support reinstatement of the WHMA's and their conversion into reserves. FYI: Glen Buhr is on board with reinstatement of UREPs.
5. A letter from Christoph to Dr. Bonny Henry was shared. This concerned Pinnacle's AQ Emissions and air quality impacts on human health.

### **Financial Report**

There is approximately \$12 500 in the bank.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.