

BV Community Resource Board

Final Minutes June 16, 2025

Present:

Directors: Anne Hetherington, Ted Vander Wart, Kevin Tyler, Ron Vanderstar, Petra McDougall

Secretary: Sue Brookes

Public: Les Ellis; Skeena Cattlemen's Association, Nicolas Dormaar; Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Ruth Ware, Daphne Hart, Eric Becker, John, Jay Gilden, Bob Mitchell, Bill Poirier, Deb Lamash, Ruth Wilkinson, Mitch Flowers, Norbert Klassen

Next Meeting: Sept. 15, 7pm, Smithers Council Chambers

Meeting convened at 7:05pm

Chair: Ted Vanderwart

Everyone in the room introduced themselves. The Agenda was approved.

Acronyms can be found at this link: https://bvcrb.ca/images/uploads/documents/crb_acro_1.pdf

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1. Guests: BC Hydro

Debra Lamash, Engagement Advisor: British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, with regard to the Lands File Numbers: 6409512, Tenure Type: Temporary Licence, Utility, Miscellaneous. Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship (WLRS).

Also Bill Poirier - Senior Environmental Coordinator at BC Hydro - ZoomInfo background in Fish and water.

Presentation materials and the records of public consultation will be posted here when available from BC Hydro: <https://www.bchydro.com/energy-in-bc/projects/north-coast-bc-electrification/glenannan-terrace.html>. To contact BCHydro: Email: projects@bchydro.com, Toll free: 1 866 647 3334.

The North Coast Transmission System Expansion is according to Hydro a clean, reliable electricity to the North Coast to foster economic growth. The Board asked BCHydro speak about hydrological impacts along the route and in the LRMP area.

Discussion Points:

- they are using existing roads as much as possible but are flexible on distances between towers and some road placement
- the location of worker camps are to be determined but dependent on water sources
- they are considering non water based solutions for dust control
- fire protection requires water
- they are using best practices for water course crossings but some permits are required
- they have an approved work practices guidebook as approved by the Province for riparian areas and sediment or erosion
- herbicides: these are used in the Province by Hydro. A former director informed BCHydro of a moratorium in the Bulkley Valley on herbicide usage. For information on the spraying of herbicides in the Central Interior see this post: <https://stopthespraybc.com/>.
- some discussion regarding a proposal for a 130kv line on the north side of the river near Wallcott, Hydro is to look into it
- wire technology: it was suggested by the gallery that new lines in California allow for doubling the capacity without doubling the infrastructure - are we using this technology? Hydro answered their 500 kv backbone (the biggest Hydro has) is aluminum/copper. In tandem with other lines it allows for redundancy but no, they are not using the same material as California but will investigate
- Special Management Zone 2 (SMZ2) was brought to our guests attention. There is concern about water quality along the Telkwa River. Hydro mentioned they are not required to appeal to the Environmental Assessment Office, there is a full EA already complete for Hydro developments.
- a detailed map for Walcott to Terrace was not available tonight but its clear the Telkwa River is along the main route which comes out the South side of the Copper River Forest Service Rd. They were not aware the head waters of the Copper River is Hudson Bay Mountain.
- a 70 m right of way is standard - it will likely be less
- they will use the same style of tower
- letters from Hydro to landowners have been mailed
- new access roads? there will be some, spurs off the forest service roads. A larger access management plan is still under development, some roads will be decommissioned.

Further comments about implementation and interpretation of their plan included having independent contractors and using First Nations to do water quality monitoring and construction. Hydro states that Environmental Management Plans have teeth that allow audits of the contractors work and corrections nearly real time.

1. Clean BC has renewable energy plans which are more a response to demand than supply. The Board questions how you allocate reduced supply and distribute it to current users, proposed LNG projects, industrial and mining projects. Hydro responded that the traditional transmission line system would work in tandem with new power sources.
2. A second project involved sending power north to service mines and other industry - this second line looks like it has a 2026 completion, the same time as the end of the EA process for some industrial and mine applications.
3. It was noted the BV Quadders have a site on the top of the Telkwa pass. Microwave ridge, it's a popular recreation area.
4. What about stepping down some of this power to remote communities and providing them power - economically it hasn't been worth Hydro's while. This will likely come up again as Hydro engages in consulting with communities up north.

The Board thanked our guests for the opportunity to talk.

Action item **Sue to follow up after a reasonable amount of time and ask for Hydro's results from investigating the Californian technology and the Wallcott location.

2. Motions

1. Motion to approve the March 17, 2025 Minutes. Anne motioned to approve, Kevin seconded, all in favour.
2. Motion to approve the April 21, 2025 Minutes. Kevin motioned to approve, Ted seconded, all in favour.
3. Motion to approve the May 17, 2025 Minutes. Anne motioned to approve, Kevin seconded, all in favour.

Anne offered to become a signing authority for the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB). The reason we need a new cosigner is that Jeff McKay has resigned from the Board.

4. A motion to approve Anne as a cosigner was made by Ron. Petra McDougall motioned to approve, Ted seconded the Motion, all in favour.

5. A motion to accept the letter regarding a consultation with a Provincial Bear biologist was made. Kevin motioned to approve, Petra seconded, all in favour.

A brief background was also provided to those present. It was noted managing cows on the range is another solution to reducing conflict with predators. There are routines and habits that predators learn, this and other solutions are techniques that we can use. These solutions will also inform forest landscape planning going forward.

6. Motion to respond to the Hudson Bay Mountain Resort referral mentioned below with a letter and ask them to maintain the intent of the LRMP and public access. Anne motioned to approve, Ted seconded, all in favour. We should include a comment about the technology and impacts, i.e. ebikes. How do you differentiate ATV's, side by sides and quads?

7. Motion to write a letter asking the Province to help us put together a layered reference map for public use of the Bulkley TSA. This is with regard to the update from the Forestry Working Group below, the Province could allow their GIS guy to help us produce some files (polygons vs lines, scaleable references). Petra motioned, Kevin seconded, all in favour.

3. Referrals

The HBM request to input on expansion of the Controlled Recreation Area (CRA)

Due June 26th, 2025

For background: the CRA was expanded without public review. Existing trails are no longer maintained on HBM property nor in the expanded CRA area. This area overlaps with Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP) zonations. Hudson Bay Mountain Resorts (HBM) need to address our concerns about the zonation overlap. The LRMP states: no facilities should be constructed on this area. Now this CRA is corporately managed, for profit and the Town of Smithers and general public is going to lose free and equal access for all to the recreation area.

Discussion Points:

2. Can we reference a map that shows the before and after CRA area. We will and post it.
3. It would be reasonable to keep in the spirit of the LRMP and keep access open and free. One way to do this would be for HBM to recognize the traditional trail and have responsibility for looking after the whole area for families and youngsters on foot, hikers, bikers and so on.

Action item** Sue draft a letter to this effect and circulate to the Board.
Ted will try to produce a map showing then and now CRA borders.

Problem:

The Smithers Mountain Bike Association (SMBA) trail has already increased access to the whole area including the CRA. Although the SMBA does not qualify ebikes as motorized, the Board does and is now concerned the terrain and ecosystems are subject to typical motorized impacts. The LRMP interpretation is intended to protect it's values, what plans does SMBA have for further motorized use such as side by sides, quads and other future motorized vehicle access? How do they propose to protect the LRMP interpretation by the Board?

The Green T development is considered Phase A. Phase B seems to require a lot more trail building and no maps are available yet. These should be 2 different proposals since they have are different impacts. Are bike trails on old ski trails? What are the cumulative effects? HBM Resorts have already gladed the forest for ski access through the trees. This is another example of non transparent development on community lands.

4. Forestry Working Group (FWG) Update:

No new updates, Nick is meeting with Tara Dunphy this week - she was to meet with the municipalities about their participation on similar or our FWG.

On Anne's end: she has a growing list of names of volunteers. She meets weekly with Martin Strimbold about using these small harvesters. There needs to be a niche for them.

- landscape connectivity corridors, sensitivity zones etc - this is the niche. Whats the feasibility - do we have the machines, operators and training? What are the administrative problems and opportunities? This could be a workshop idea.
- there was a provincial request for public comment on forestry stewardship. Another workshop idea is to help translate government forestry plans into plain language so the public can comment with clarity.
- Patrick Ferguson, the Society for Ecosystem Restoration (SERN), is doing some work with thinning and partial cutting. An upcoming meeting will allow for a comparison of notes on overlapping projects.
- a Provincial GIS analyst could help make the referral process more in depth. Anne is investigating. Perhaps using parcel map BC or web based GIS applications. In a volume based tenure it's almost impossible to look after biodiversity. You need an area based tenure &/or a value based system.

5. Treasurer's Report

\$3500 in the bank - discussion about fundraising deferred to September. Ron will stay on for now but ready to hand off the position of Treasurer anytime.

6. Review of Open Action Items, see next page

7. Motion to adjourn

1. Motioned by Anne, Kevin seconded, all in favour. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Table 1

type	task	who	date
Signing Authority	Anne to print draft minutes for when Ron returns to initiate the addition of Anne as a cosigner and removal of Jeff.	Anne/Ron	2025 June
Referrals	Look into the authorizations and see how we can improve referrals, for example one improvement would be to reference to LRMP map or management areas, perhaps using the Tantalus base more? Where is our master plan with maps?	All	2025 May
Referrals	Respond to HBM referral regarding the CRA and SMBA expansion of trails	Sue	2025 June
Mapping	Ted will try to produce a map showing then and now CRA borders.	Ted	2025 June
Correspondence	Follow up with BCHydro regarding Walcott and wire technologies available in California and why they are not using the same.	Sue	2025 June
Correspondence	Draft a letter for Ron and Board to approve, in support of using the spatial modelling app: Patchworks in the Bulkley TSA. Add a blip about what happened with the Bulkley Valley integrated silviculture strategy - under Glen Buhr - this was supposed to have a spatial component what happened?	Anne	2024 Nov
Ongoing	Drop a print copy of the agenda and relevant documents to Ron's house prior to the start of the next meeting.	Anne	2025 March
Ongoing	FLP Forestry Working Group (FWG) meetings, this is ongoing with Anne as the coordinator and Nic, a contributor and representing the Wet'suwet'en First Nation	Anne and Nic	2025 April
Ongoing	BC Environmental Office (EAO) - Ted will be the liaison	Ted	2025 April