

# BV Community Resource Board – Final Minutes

May 16, 22

Present: Bob Mitchell, John Fisher, Eric Becker, Sue Brookes, Ron Vanderstar,  
Matt Sear, Jeff McKay  
Guests: Anne Hetherington, Jay Gilden  
Regrets: Christoph, Ted  
Chairs: Jeff  
Recording: Sue

Next Meeting: June 20, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Everyone present introduced themselves.

## Organizational

Review of minutes.

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

Agenda - approved.

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)

## 1. Review of the April 18, 22 presentation by Glen Buhr Exploring “10% LRMP Re-Balance” Volume Offsets for Telkwa Caribou WHA Implementation.

### Discussion

#### 1. “Acceptable” Offset generating categories

- Should categories be removed?

1. CORES for instance - roads put the CORE more at risk than actual harvesting, CORES count as part of the timber harvesting land base

2. the seral age restriction - look more at stand structure (distribution) and condition (functionality) of stands rather than age. By asking what is the functional requirement and whether the stand makes the grade we learn more about success. Restricting plans to an algorithm or math equation reduces the chance for strategic success.

3. co-location let downs - the problem with VQO's is that the treatments are still clearcut (2 phase clearcut) with optimal 'greening' soon after. If the value were established for selective cuts instead of VQO then you could likely do a lot more for habitat and focus on logging high quality pole structure. A site plan will identify the areas for reserves and you could likely use the volume for VQO values as offsets, again, don't let the accounting drive the process.

- Selective logging might make more volume available but with current take and pay systems, stumpsage is priced for the least cost operator. This systems doesn't meet stewardship goals, it's a political issue. We require a paradigm shift, even

reverting to historical implementation of variable systems for timber valuations would be of value.

- It was mentioned it would be better to take timber from the environment where there is least impact to biodiversity and ecosystems health. This might mean the VQO values or others drop to a lower priority for protection.
  - The board is trying to ensure there isn't extreme valuations and there is landscape level stewardship.
  - The board agreed it would be of value to hear from West Fraser Forester's.
  - There was some debate about looking at AAC from a negative versus positive lens.
  - Local management strategies are expected to adhere to the Canadian softwood lumber agreement.
  - Using existing net downs are generally considered volume reductions that impact AAC, they might not be reductions in volume as perceived but opportunities for selective cuts or other management models.
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- What can we do? Suggestions follow but no action items at the moment:
    - write down this discussion and send it up the chain of command
    - could Tara put together a patchwork model for selective logging. Shouldn't she be able to provide an evaluation on net downs and can't she offer up some alternative forestry models?
    - perhaps Glen should elaborate on net downs in his plans

**AI\*\*** Matt will ask West Fraser if they would present to the board

## **2. Seymour Ridge Trail**

First a history from the Bob and a brief discussion of a historical report that mentions climate change impacts in the valley, that being: higher rainfall, higher evapo-transpiration, a 20-40 mm moisture deficit from today.

- 2019 Wet'zin'kwa was proposing moving the CORE to another location.
- The 2021 fire abatement precaution of laying the fuel on the ground and leaving it there has stopped. Apparently the wildfire service no longer subscribes to the theory that this reduces fire risk. They don't differentiate between this hazard and standing dead wood.
- Leave the fallen wood on the ground, if it burns the CORE burns so what, if you take it away then you create a Park and the CORE is no longer intact.
- Directors agree it's necessary to get rid of the fine fuel. Fire risk to the community is reduced by managing the fine particles. Some good strategies include: lop and scatter and leaving logs in depressions which leaves connectivity in a stand and is good for habitat.
- This year the wildfire Service is only talking about a prescription for 20m from the trail. There are no dead standing trees on that stretch. The large trees have already been removed. A guest mentions the trail corridor has the bulk of the dead standing. In the near future there is a 300m wide plan.

- Does the 20m plan speak enough to the principles of the CORE to be acceptable?
  - If they clean this up there is very little left to worry about, the rest of the forest is green. Other than a couple pockets.
- Shouldn't we focus on a perpetual plan now? There are pockets of piled dead trees all over the mountain. They aren't continuous, why is there the focus on the Wet'zin'kwa CORE?
- Why not use Pederson's Driveway? Why create a second trail?
- Why do this prescription at all? We can only guess.
- Fire hazard versus fire risk and definitions were discussed.

**AI\*\*** Jeff volunteers to draft a letter to the Wildfire Service (Adam Burdett) to address:

1. The desire to maintain the integrity of the CORE while reducing fire risk. We agree to only the 20m plan. We do not agree to the 300m plan.
2. The original board decision remains with conditions that apply to all 7 treatment units within the 20m plan:
  1. don't widen the trail or damage it with tracks and so on
  2. don't cut any more accesses
  3. leave the green trees,
    - the young pine should be left
    - pruning isn't really necessary
    - there isn't really the density to suggest a need for thinning and delimiting
    - don't take out the understory
3. Areas where the pile ups are obvious take them. Areas not finished by the last danger tree removal process should be finished. Take the jack straws or jigsaws away, but not with just any equipment. Use compact equipment.
4. What will be communication between the operator and the forester. You need common, clear understanding between the Wildfire Service, Wet'zin'kwa and the contractor.

More discussion:

- can't you walk the trail and GPS the locations of harvest or snags? Then we can map this.
- fire breaks should be done outside the CORE
- 25% of the CORE is already modified
- the Ridge is the most actively used hiker trail in the valley
- 300m isn't a large enough fire break
- Elkford comes up again as an excellent example of perpetual landscape management near town
- if you change your fuel load, you will still have a fire risk, but under new circumstances
- there's reducing your fire risk versus your perception of fire risk

### 3. WHMA's

- Len Vanderstar will be presenting to the Kalum PIC
- On June's agenda Len would like us to discuss his rationales for reinstatement of WHMA's.
- If we have consensus he would like us to write a letter in support of his request for reinstatement.

### 4. Telkwa Coal

This is now in a public comment period for approx. 45 days. May 19, 22, the plan was released. Apparently it's 1000's of pages in 300 documents. Perhaps we should ask for a 3 month period to review the document and then make comment. This doesn't appear to be adequate community consultation.

- The Bulkey River is a type 2 class river based on noise and aesthetics, look for impact here.
- Acid rock drainage was a topic that it was raised during comments from our guests. They had been reviewing the details in the recently public Mine Plan as to storage/tailings facilities and parallels were drawn to other projects in the southeast of the province.
- The site location is in a 2nd generation pine stand, in 20 years those trees would actually bear lichen providing good Caribou habitat.

**AI\*\*** A Director will send us a link to the documentation.

**Guests departed at 9:25pm**

### Financial Report

There is Approximately \$12 500 in the bank.

Tabled: The Province is requiring society status now before providing funding. We have not received funding this year due to our governance under social licence.

**Action item\*\*\*** Should the Board apply for society status? This has been tabled for now but by fall we need to consider this.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.