

BV Community Resource Board – Final Minutes

Mar 21, 22 – Virtual Meeting

Present: Bob Mitchell, Matt Sear, John Fisher, Eric Becker, Sue Brookes, Ted Vanderwart, Ron Vanderstar

Guests: Luke FLNR:EX <Luke.Weyman@gov.bc.ca>; Sarah FLNR:EX <Sarah.1.Campbell@gov.bc.ca>; Burdett, Adam FLNR:EX <adam.burdett@gov.bc.ca>; Tara (Resource Manager) FLNR:EX <Tara.Dunphy@gov.bc.ca>; Bentley, Cam (Resource Operations Manager, Nadina-Skeena Stikine District) FLNR:EX <cam.Bentley@gov.bc.ca> , Aurora Lavender (Assistant GM, Wetzin'kwa Community Forest), Jade Laramie <jade.laramie@westfraser.com>, Paul Schwartz (PIR)

Absent: Christoph, Jeff

Chairs: Matt, Jeff

Recording: Sue

Next Meeting: April 18, 22 Easter Monday 2022

Matt called the meeting 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 - Ron suggested adding time to talk about our social licence versus non profit status and how this will affect Ministry funding going forward.

Guests

Tara Dunphy

- Intro to New Resource Manager
- Old Growth Deferral Strategy – update on the impact on the Bulkley LRMP

Cam Bentley gave a brief recap of the presentation in the November 2021 regarding the old growth deferral process. Luke had a presentation prepared but the Board opted for a higher level discussion.

Wildfire Reduction/Resiliency

- Patrick Furguson, RPF from Bulkley Valley Wildfire Preparedness and Prevention last presented in Sept. 21, 2021. He reviewed the crown land wildfire risk reduction strategy and crown land/wild land interface, refer to minutes.
- Adam Burdett spoke with regards to the Seymour Ridge Trail
 - FTU (field treatment unit) - these are a heavy priority. The prescription for the Seymour Ridge was completed in 2021, the Ministry has a final copy now.
 - It's acknowledged by FNLRO that BC Recreation Sites and Trails and wildfire service work has caused increased risk to public safety and increased risk of

fire hazard in the area. These 2 groups are now being asked to assume some responsibility for the increased hazards but it wasn't clear what they are being asked to do, if anything.

- There is an estimate of 60 - 80 tonnes per hectare of downed trees. The Ministry wants the licensees to remove this and truck it to Witsset for firewood.
- Adam mentions a low literacy of forestry among the general public.

Director's comments:

- This tonnage does not accurately reflect the volume of timber that is deemed a fire hazard. It's actually carbon sequestration and should be left, it's moist and attached to the ground.
- The 'requirement of abatement'...is this debated and generally accepted by scientists, the industry and public or is it set by the Wildfire Service and on what basis is this defined?
- This is a CORE ecosystem, its just as important to preserve as a CORE than it is to mitigate fire hazard.
- Fire runs uphill, the risk of fire running down hill is low. Why is it necessary to cut in the CORE?
- The hillside and the private land adjacent should also be managed to provide for **Wildfire Reduction/Resiliency**.
- Where are the after logging mock ups? What will this CORE look like? What will be left?
- What is the valley wide strategic plan? When will the BVCRB hear about this?

Further comments from Cam and Adam: it's a 5000 hectare plan

- this plan is science based
- some members of the community have come forward and asked why haven't you moved forward with logging as the solution to reduce fire hazard in the CORE? or in the Park? or on Crown land in general? There was no clarification.
- WUIs are wildfire urban interfaces - approx. 2.75 km wide perimeter around community structures
- There is tactical plan, available for about 8 months now, concerning the WUIs in Nadina to Burns to Cassier to Witsset
 - our guests showed us a map showing the WUIs and risk areas in the valley and around the communities
 - the expansion of risk areas is double what was originally discussed in public forum
 - private land is excluded from this analysis

General discussion:

- If public use is putting the Park at risk of fire hazard, then mitigate this risk with signage and education about the CORE, myth busting - this might be too late.
- Discussion about the Ministry diminishing the value of the CORE

- A private road approved through the CORE also diminishes its value.
- Initial work with even small machinery going in for site preparation will also diminish the value of the CORE.
- The plan calls for pile burning of residual material when and if present. Wood removed will be going to Witset for firewood.
- Wetzin'kwa wants to log and believes this is the best strategy for WRR

Telkwa Caribou GAR (GAR: Government Actions Regulation) Order Timber Supply Impact Offsets

- This discussion was led by Jade Laramie and Paul Schwarz, our guests from PIR.
- Jevan Hanchard and Cam came and discussed the GAR Caribou order Jan 18, 2021. At that time they presented principles that were discussed for offsets.
- the LRMP has stakeholders agreed to a 10% impact on available timber supply when making conservation and land use decisions, the specific application of this 10% was never discussed with the CRB.
- The Ministry uses a 10% balance in its HLPO process so according to this logic:
 - Forestry or is it PIR specifically? needs about 1.8 million - 553 thousand cubic meters over a 23 year time frame to harvest elsewhere.
 - Breaking this down into 5 year increments, they are trying to find 280 thousand cubic meters to harvest from available - Crown Land.
 - Directors ask: How many cubic meters would that forest in Telkwa even grow over 5 years?
 - This WHMA has 10% of the forest land base in the Bulkley Valley.
 - Where are we going to find this timber base?

Background on the original agreement:

- There are constraints with where to find the unit (timber base) because of serial stage units - the growth might not be mature enough for the offset yet but will be in future.
- 10% equity - questions - why are we trying to replace the equity in full? Apparently there was previous use of this volume equity in other areas and so we may have used up 18% or more of the equity.
- Where are these numbers? Cam's department is working on the accounting.

General Discussion:

- What happens if the caribou die out and all the offsets have been taken elsewhere? What then happens to this forest, How do we find balance?
- This WHMA offset is a 'grade 4 subsidy'.
- Dead logs provide a minimums stumpage of 25cents.
- The offset would be part of their (who's?) AAC.

- If some secondary processing facilities like Seaton or Pinnacle get this subsidy then the harvest is sourced to a major licensee and is part of their AAC.
- Asked of the CRB:
 - Is the principled approach the right one?
 - Where can you find the smaller units?
 - Do offset suggestions come to the CRB one by one or do we get a running total as it is logged?
 - How does the CRB consider the suitability of offset units? The CRB doesn't normally share block by block level information - we are more interested in the LUP, and FSP planning.

The effectiveness of the LRMP

How do we assess this, how can the Province help in this assessment?

- We keep asking the Province how effective the LRMP is anyway?
- When will the Province support a State of the Forests report?
- Which values can we impact and get away with?
- FYI: The Bulkley TSA has an HLPO analysis underway, it will be similar to earlier versions.
- Do harvest patterns achieve the goals of the values?
- Have alternate silviculture systems been used for offsets?
- What other tools are there to provide for offsets - perhaps we can manage this without using a clear cut system?
- There are some instances of this working, a Goshawk project is an example.
- Tara mentioned a Lakes Resiliency Project that might also provide analysis of LUP effectiveness

Other questions to guests:

- What Ministry will provide coordinated service to First Nation land use planning, the CRB, LRMP and others?
Reconciliation is forefront in each Ministry - land use planning is in the LARS, it will transcend all Ministries.

Financial Report

There is Approximately \$12 500 in the bank.

The Province is requiring society status now before providing funding, we would have to do the society registration and all work this entails. We would have to file annual reports, lists of Directors, goals, constitution and purpose. Ron says he has to write up a lot of this anyway so it might not be a huge difference in terms of annual reporting compared to now.

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

Closing Discussion:

- wildlife urban interface zones

- meeting the requirements of the values - the Province recognizes they are there but doesn't offer evidence they are upheld, maintained and/or effective
- a rock solid fuel management plan requires larger planning and consideration of greater ecosystems
- ecologists generally agree to leave the logs behind, they're moist, becomes part of the forest
- foresters generally accept you need to get that wood down on the ground, it won't be a dangerous 100ft flame wildfire, it'll just be a smudgy ground fire

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm