

BV Community Resource Board

Final Minutes March 16, 2026

Present:

Directors: Ted, Anne, Petra, Ron, Kevin

Secretary: Sue Brookes

Public: Daphne Hart, Len Vanderstar, Jay Gilden, Glen Buhr

Next Meeting: April 20, 2026, 7pm, Smithers Council Chambers

Meeting convened at 7:15pm

Chair: Anne

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

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1. Review of Agenda Items

1. Introductions.
2. Appoint a Chair.
3. Call to Order.
4. Review additional agenda items and motion to approve the agenda.
 1. A motion to accept the agenda was made by Petra, all voted in favour.
 2. A motion to approve the minutes from the Feb. meeting was deferred to allow for a few corrections.

2. An update on the SMBA and the HBM Resort

1. There has been no response from Cassandra Enns (P.Ag, Licensed Land Officer, Mountain Resorts Branch, Tourism Sector Strategy Division, Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport) regarding the July 13, 2025 comment about the failure to follow the LRMP.
2. Questions remain about the Crater Lake portion of the trail, which lies outside the Controlled Recreation Area and required sign-off from Brandy Hughes. It is unclear whether this approval was obtained.
3. Lawrence Turney conducted an Environmental Assessment on the first section of the trail. His conclusion was that the assessment work to date has been insufficient.
4. The area contains Water Fan Lichen, with populations among the highest documented in the world.
5. Seth VB, the former project coordinator, halted trail construction due to concerns raised by citizens, including BVSC, BV Backpackers, BV Clean Air Now, the Pojar family, and others. Len and Jay subsequently mapped the remaining trail and identified undisturbed habitat.
6. It is also noted that, outside of nesting season restrictions, there is only a two-week window each year during which the trail could realistically be used.
7. Seth later resigned from the project after the SMBA Board decided to continue and expand trail construction. Members of the SMBA executive declined to meet with concerned citizens.
8. Last week, a private citizen filed a lawsuit against the Province; this action was personally financed.
9. Additionally, there appears to be ambiguous language in the Summer RAMP. This should be addressed by the CRB, particularly given that the boundaries of the Controlled Recreation Area have changed and appear to remain altered.

Summary of Issues

The SMBA has stated that it is repairing an existing trail; however, there is no evidence to support this claim.

Guests and concerned parties are anticipating a judicial review in June of this year.

From the outset, the project appears to have been in violation of the LRMP. Entering the area identified as the 10-2 zone on the provided map may also constitute a violation of the Summer RAMP. This boundary extends beyond the 2008 CRA boundary.

There are concerns that this project was preferentially approved, reflecting a broader pattern seen across the Province where local land use plans are not being respected. Notably, approval for the project appears to have been granted after physical work had already begun. If such actions go unchallenged, it raises questions about the value of existing plans and stewardship efforts.

The Ministry of Forests did not receive detailed trail maps clearly delineating the project's path. Instead, they were provided with a general description and a list of perceived impacts.

The project appears to have originated as a post-COVID initiative to support tourism.

Proposed Remedies

- Decommission and restore the trail.
- Rehabilitate the section of trail beyond the 10-3 purple line to the CRA boundary.
- Restore ground cover and impacted habitat.
- Halt any further development and initiate amendments to the LRMP.
- Require HBM Resorts to fund remediation efforts.
- Ensure all future development follows the RAMP process.
- Consider filing an injunction.

CRB Options

- Issue additional correspondence outlining concerns and LRMP violations, and begin formally tracking responses.
- Consider joining as a plaintiff; the situation reflects poorly on government oversight.
- File a Freedom of Information (FOI) request.
- Send a follow-up letter to all relevant parties, including Brandy (Recreation Sites and Trails), requesting mediation between SMBA, HBM Resorts, and concerned citizens.

What Would a Positive Outcome Look Like?

- Renewed emphasis on the LRMP, with a formal process initiated to amend the plan where necessary.
- Protection of vegetation, ground-nesting birds, and marmot colonies from disturbance.
- Broader consideration of the balance between commercial development and community access to land.
- Clear guidelines distinguishing trespass from permitted use within the Controlled Recreation Area.
- Why not consider backpacking as a facility?

Action Item**

1. Consider a follow up with another letter to all concerned including Brandy (Rec Sites and Trails) requesting mediation between the SMBA, HBMR and other concerned citizens.
2. Draft a list of letters sent, responses and measuring average response time.

3. The Cattlemen's Association

1. The Cattlemen weren't happy with how long it took for the CRB to act. They originally wanted a quick fix but did come around to the workshop idea. This idea took some time to develop and by the time the final proposal on a workshop went back to them they decided they would act on their own.
2. The CRB did thoroughly discuss a number of ideas around workshops, potential guests and strategies in coming to some recommendations. Correspondence between the CRB and the Province did result in time lags.
3. Long term solutions to this problem involve the Province and range land planning.
4. The workshop idea remains on the table with the FWG but will be deferred for now.

4. Forestry Working Group (FWG) Update

1. Cam seems to have misconstrued the workshop ideas saying hold off and once the working groups are established then the workshops will be integrated in the BuMo FLP Process. He didn't seem to understand that these workshops would be outside that process.
2. The BuMo FLP process needs to show completion by year end in order to get more funding.
3. A director suggests focussing on FLP overlapping interests by organizing tours of Date Creek (Dave Coates) and partial cutting examples in Wetzink'wa. We can generate a catalogue of partial cutting examples in the valley. There is also a project in Collier Creek and we can connect with this info..
4. Demo's are another way to observe different operators in the field and different strategies. These observations and more commonly shared values and understanding will provide better quality jobs and more utilization of the forests to achieve multiple objectives.
5. Canopy retention forestry...
6. A comment from the gallery was "We are in a crisis and its time to make recommendations and stop making people feel comfortable."

5. Tyhee Mountain and Hidden Lake

1. Seek a regionally significant wildlife designation with legal objectives.
2. Move the WHMA into this area.

Action Item**

Write a letter seeking the designation.

Status: this was discussed but was not assigned or approved.

6. Director or Business Updates

SERN BC

Anne has joined this organization and thinks working strategically will produce more efficient results. They are looking at stand density and doing some forestry modelling. Its a good opportunity for her to comment on CRB values in this process.

Judicial Review

The FOI request regarding the results of an ecology and biologists recommendations with regard to the WHMA's has no response. Some discussing about the capitulation of WHMA's as the current result of current practice.

Telkwa Coal

As cohost we need to address the RDBN, Telkwa and Smithers, OW and Wltset Band - asking for a presentation to council and a letter of support for the panel discussion event.

Action Item**

This was unanimously agreed to and so Sue was assigned to draft the letters and request a delegation to council.

7. LRMP Implementation

Issues:

1. With so many developments perhaps we should continue with meetings into the summer. This was cited as difficult for community groups when dealing with the SMBA trail expansion.
2. It was suggested we could use our leverage and power more.

8. Review of Open Action Items

Open Items are on the next page.

9. Adjourned at 9:45 pm

Action Items

type	task	who	date
Referrals	Amend the LRMP to read - no further development should occur in the areas - just sitting to find out what will remain of the current SMBA trail.	all	Apr 20226
Referrals	Lands: ask to review Tantalus format with Lands Officer and see if an additional column might help link legal and non legal direction sections. Check with Front Counter that CRB has a valid BCID for accessing and responding to public referrals. Check individual BCIDs also. Work with MOF and WLRS to link effectiveness and implementation monitoring for LRMPs and related planning.		May 2025
Ongoing	Drop a print copy of the agenda and relevant documents to Ron's house prior to the start of the next meeting.	Anne	Mar 2025
Ongoing	CRB to FLP reps officially proposing the FWG workshops and asking how collaborative linkages might be structured. It needs to include reference to several past letters from Ministers, directing the CRB to work within the FLP to resolve the issues sent to Ministers, including WHMA cancellations. This gives some formal, higher direction and establishes a record and rationale for our involvement beyond just a 'stakeholder'.	Anne	Dec 2025
Ongoing	Keep Mitch Flowers in the loop about the CRA:	Sue	Jun 2025
Ongoing	Follow up with BCHydro regarding Walcott and wire technologies available in California and why they are not using the same. Spoke to Hydro and they will get back to us. Another public consultation period will begin soon. Put them in touch with Swan Lake Protection Area users - Kalum PIC and SWC - Shannon McPhail. Feb, 2026	Sue	Feb 2026
Ongoing	BC Environmental Office (EAO) - Ted will be the liaison	Ted	Apr 2025
Mapping	Connect with Glen Buhr possibly and ask for the original shape files or updated versions for the WHMA's.	Anne	Dec 2025
Mapping	Create layered maps, that can help us identify the areas in the Bulkley TSA experience high intensity development or projects. We need the groundwork for spatial modelling. Anne and Les suggested seeking support for combining maps from the Province and Wetzinkwa.	Anne, Les	Nov 2025
Correspondence	A follow up with another letter to all concerned including Brandy (Rec Sites and Trails) requesting mediation between the SMBA < HBMR and other concerned citizens. This was discussed but no motion made		Mar 2026
Correspondence	Anne was to make a request to suspend logging in the WHMA within Tyee Trails Rec Area, adjacent to Burnt Cabin Bog. The Burnt Cabin Bog Ecological Reserve itself being a BC Park is not within BCTS' jurisdiction to offer up for logging, but any adjacent logging affects its integrity.	Anne	Nov 2025
Correspondence	Draft a list of letters sent, responses and measuring average response time.	Sue	Mar 2026
Correspondence	Propose a regionally specific wildlife designation for the Type Mountain Recreation Area (Hidden Lake) and get others to submit similar requests. Proposed in March but not assigned and no motion made.		Mar 2026