

BVCRB-Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board

FINAL Minutes

Date: Mon. Nov. 16, 2020, Exploration Group Building 3423 Fulton Ave.

Present: Bob Mitchell, Ted Vanderwart, Matt Sear, Jeff McKay, John Fisher, Ron Vanderstar, Sue Brookes

Absent: Bryan Swansberg

Chair: Matt

Recording: Sue

Next Meeting: Date: Dec 21, 2020

Matt called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

A Motion to approve the Oct meeting minutes was seconded and approved.

Agenda additions:

- Discuss VQO issue with block in the Reisetter Drainage

Financial Report:

- \$11,100 in bank account. Sue has one outstanding invoice amount

Organizational:

- ask Bryan to officially resign in email ****Al Matt**

Discussion of Presentation on S16/17 Crown Land Review Process Sept 21st

- Finalization of letter to Bobby Love
- added SRMP tie in's
- land and water BC has been dissolved and the intent of the LRMP values was to last imperpetuity, there is no such thing as absolute protection
- grazing leases are constrained by WHMA status - particularly the amount of cattle and the length of time you can leave them on a section
 - o Eco systems makes the call on the level of activity allowed
 - o Forestry follows the same ecosystems review. process
- Glen Buhr is a good resource for LRMP history
- assuming S17's are land act reserves, reinstate the status
- land act reserves disallow timber harvesting all together
- some S16's are included in land act reserves
- the original package of WHMA's are now delineated as S16's, Fish & Wildlife reserves
- we are only interested in S16's in agricultural wildlife zones
- the pairing down first happened with S17's, then high agricultural valued sites were upgraded to S16 land act reserves. Slightly higher up in status than a S17. None legal - all social licence.
- before Jan 2006 there was public consultation, what were the contentious issues?
 - o the OW requested archeological impact assessments and have been involved in proposed solutions to remove some designations

- this should go to Geoff Recknell (GR)
- what are our options? If we assume it's a S16 land act reserve and GR can sign it off, then we need objectives described for that parcel. It will be site specific.
- another option is a wildlife management area designation - but this involves and transfer to another agency for management.
- we want to be consistent, not change the rules, we want to allow forestry and other activities, we want due diligence in the management process
- refer to an internal document on file about how to manage WHMA's
- discussion of whom to send the letter to...
- we're careful not to advocate but advise

Consensus is....

****Al Sue** to post final letter on the website, send the link to Ron and Matt

- Directors can circulate to interested parties and stakeholders
- http://bvcrb.ca/images/uploads/documents/Wildlife_Ag_Zone_Nov_18_2020.pdf

Seymour Ridge Core - WildFire Risk Reduction Tour

- Tye Mountain
- Jay Gildea's concern...
- Heather Snow lives up there and takes care of trails, she's been talking to BCTS in Smithers because of the layout of logging activity in a WHMA.
- Heather is concerned BCTS states they're harvesting will improve habitat so is consistent with S16's. She thinks they are determining whether they meet requirements or not. There is no referral nor ecological review or input.

Review session: from a forestry perspective mostly

- the LRMP is the document of record - March 1998
 - o the doc. contains values that aren't necessarily mappable
- the next step was the creation of Landscape Unit Plans - September 1999
- from these were created a Sustainable Resource Management Plan, <http://bvcrb.ca/lrmp/>
 - o this was a 20 person production team, done but never legalized - it's known and intent is respected but there are no legal repercussions
- Higher Level Plan Objectives or Order - 2000
 - o this made the biodiversity objectives of the LUP legal
 - o missing from this Order are a number of LRMP values that aren't strictly forestry related like recreation values, VQO's, grizzly, wildlife, treaty patches, biodiversity targets...
 - o these are prescriptive plans
- the State of the Forest Report - 2004
 - o this is a reflection of what these forests looked like before these plans hit the ground
 - o biodiversity, landscape corridors and status' in the core ecosystems were put on maps, WHA's were put on maps, red and blue listed species, timber, water, how much immature, mature, free growing trees there were, VQO, partial retention LUP's, preservation status
 - o this also talks about access, primitive being 8km from the road

- HigherLevel Plan Objectives of 2006 superseded parts of the previous HLPO
- an HLPO implementation plan was created, 2006
 - o this consisted of check boxes....
- now we need an effective assessment of our forests
 - o an FSP amendment from West Fraser in 2015 is an example why, it has to do with stocking standards
 - o FSP's lead the harvest - broad scale
 - o every cut block then has a site plan and indicates (pre harvested) silviculture prescriptions - how will you achieve free growing, this is guidance to the forestry field worker

Seymour Trail:

- the LRMP didn't legalize the trail but the road is public
- the gate is down and the road crosses the trail 5 times. First to appear were firewood getters then the motorized vehicles, wildfire risk reduction will follow
- the road access eventually leads to private lots - how would one reduce traffic?
- solution - non motorized trail signage - one at the beginning or one at every access

Silvern Lake Trail Society

- how to respond to the plan, how do we make a comment at front counter
- ****Al Jeff was** to pass along the e-referral that RSTBC helped the Silvern Trail Society put out but it has expired, if there is further action please ask
- concern about the highways road extension, there exists 200m between Williams Rd and the hydro line, Hydro made a request for the extension but apparently didn't follow up. It's not on the Hydro PG books,
- this area is one of the best preserved old growth decay
- one is a well trod quad trail, the OW are for one rehab. - rehab includes reducing the amount of board work in places, moving some ground and restoring usability in some places, *this is the Horlings Rd connector link*

ACRONYMS:

AWZ: Agricultural Wildlife Zones

OW: Office of the Wet'suwet'en

BCTS: BC Timber Sales

OTHB: opportunity to be heard

WHMA: Wildlife Habitat Management Area

WMA: Wildlife Management Area

LUP: Landscape Unit Plan

HLPO: Higher Level Plan Objectives

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.