

BV Community Resource Board – Final Minutes

Nov. 21, 22

Present: Bob, John, Eric, Matt, Christoph, Ted, Jeff
Guests: none
Regrets: Ron
Chairs: Matt
Recording: Sue

Next Meeting: Dec. 19, 2022
Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Organizational

Review of minutes.

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

2 items were added to the agenda: discussions about our future and the Skeena Round Table

For a full list of acronyms please check the link:

https://bvcrb.ca/images/uploads/documents/bvcrb_acro.pdf

1. Election of Officers, Jeff is the new chair. Thank-you!

2. It was unanimous the CRB would like to invite **First Nation participation** at the BVCRB as either guests or Directors or observers.

Action Items: Sue to draft, circulate and print a hard copy invitation and leave it at Mountain Eagle for signatures from the board. Matt will share with Sue some contact information for Bands and Chief's Offices.

2. Matt Rodgers EAO

- Ted had clarified some points with regard to the letter, he didn't get a personal invitation yet but we have a clearer understanding of the public hearing process soon.
- we will table the invitation for now.

3. Seymour Ridge

- the operators have pruned all trees up till 3 m, there are lots of piles 2mx3m in diameter, 40 m apart - quite a few piles were done by hand. You can see 50 m in all directions, it's now more appropriately classed as park land versus forest or bush.
- a Director suggested biochar but this was not considered by the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation (WCFC).
- The WCFC comment they will burn the piles and extinguish them quickly.
- There are some piles higher up the mountain and will be some small scale burning but they need to meet OBSCR requirements.

- Why the perimeter? Apparently it gives firefighters some place to slow fire and mount a defence.
- Using big limb grinders are hard to find and not economically feasible according to the WCFC.
- Chips (knifed) aren't economically feasible either. They need to be clean and sized. Terms discussed included:
 - cubic meter of a log, to a chip is 2.3 cubic meters
 - ODT - oven dried tonne - a standard measure that takes the moisture out so moisture content is roughly a 20%
 - most trucks top out at 39 tonnes
 - Bone dried units for chips. This term is used interchangeably with oven dried

Other Discussions:

West Fraser has finished their burn program this year. The contact for this was They did take advantage of Provincial Custom Venting Forecasts, a pay per use service. Fly bys using an infra red camera are also a procedure used when there is an insulation of snow preceding a burn.

A Director witnessed smoke into the Babine Range. There was brief discussion on the concept of burning - the waste and usefulness is non scientific.

Sue - Matt is happy to provide pile counts, remind him.

4. Caribou Offsets Matt will ask the planning crew at West Fraser.

- There was a brief discussion about some career changes among industry folks.

5. Potential Guests

- A discussion of potential guests included:
 - a fire ecologist, ie Kiera Hoffman
 - Has she guided any fire mitigation strategies and where is her research, what are her theories?
 - exploration
 - ... Jackson, not working right now, what about exploration companies like Seabridge, north of Stewart, Pretivum, Galore Creek - yes it's the golden triangle and out of the LRMP but there are still local impacts.
 - JT Thomas - sold the drilling outfit as Dorado.
 - Smithers had the highest 2021 exploration economy of any other BC community.
 - back country resource based groups, ie. the ski association
 - Tourism Smithers - the role tourism plays, the value of resources, what are the trends?

Action Items**

1. Jeff to invite Aurora regarding questions on burn plans, alerts and notices to nearby neighbours and communities
2. Christoph will ask Gladys for leads

Facebook links - nothing posted by Bob recently perhaps its time for a news interest piece for FB.

6. Ron no email address, Jeff will contact him about what he might need from us for registration as a society.

7. The Pellet Industry

- The 5th estate report was topical, Matt has a presentation he can share.
- Trade publications are pro pelletization of the forest.
- There is an ecological argument - primary (living) forests were being cut for pellets, this is not refuted by the media.
- The industry argues primary forests are being cut for lumber, not pellets, pellet profits are not enough for layout costs, reforestation and silviculture. This is funded by lumber harvests and there are no trade off's in the accounting.
- Another Director says he has seen Aspen stands layed out for pellet harvest.
- Drax power plant - some discussion?
- A clear cut is a net carbon emitter for 30 years, how can we remove carbon that carbon in the air?...per Jim Pojar research
- One difference between coal and wood burning is the production of methane, a result of incomplete combustion or the slow burning of coal.
- Hemlock is part of the Bulkley AAC but not harvested for Lumber, will Hemlock be the next target for the Pellet Industry?

Financial Report

None today.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.