

BV Community Resource Board – Final Minutes

Oct 17, 22

Present: Bob Mitchell, John Fisher, Eric Becker, Matt Sear, Christoph Diezfelbinger
Guests: none
Regrets: Ted, Jeff, Ron
Chairs: Matt
Recording: Sue

Next Meeting: Nov. 21, 2022
Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Organizational

Review of minutes.

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

2 items were added to the agenda: discussion 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, Matt would stay vice, Jeff will be asked to chair and an email will be sent around to confirm this. We believe Ron will remain as Treasurer, an email will also confirm this.

2. Skeena Round Table

A Director was present at this event and we discussed...

- Mayors, Councillors, Skeena Wild, in total around 60 people attended a zoom presentation on initiatives like the Skeena ESI. At this round table the Province encapsulated how they are engaging with First Nations.
 - An ESI (Environmental Stewardship Initiative) is a First Nation land management tool.
 - The Skeena Round Table has 5 values and what seems like loose definitions of how to measure them on the landscape. These include bear, moose, wetlands...and more. Presumably mountains, lakes and lands are included.
 - This is a process that the Province has adopted since managing pipeline development.
 - This meeting this seemed more a government download than an avenue for public input.
 - The BVCRB was not invited.

Action Item**: Matt will share the Terms of Reference.

3. The Future of the BVCRB

Discussion:

- How do we recruit new and vibrant energy?
- Forest Landscape Planning: this is a 'redesign' of the Forest Stewardship Planning model. It's being piloted in Burns Lake and it's expected it will roll out in the Bulkley TSA soon. The BVCRB would have a lot to contribute to this process already having the LRMP and the consensus of the community. The knowledge of the board is also a huge asset of the BVCRB and would be valuable in this model.
- Our last delegation was concerning the Range Act.
- Review of the Winter RAMP and other projects can be subcontracted. Initial commitment of the board to provide a minimal amount of leadership or create a subcommittee will go a long way toward getting more specific projects accomplished. Financing subcontractor services is administrative and this can be managed by contract.
- At least 2 Directors suggest we file as a society.
A **Motion** was made to file for society status. All were in favour.

How do we get First Nations to the table? We could invite them as Delegations by House or Clan. Each Nation will have to have it's own invitations.

- We are not trying to preempt or undermine government to government efforts but this is a community organization lacking a First Nation presence.

Action Item:** Sue to draft a letter of introduction and invitation to territorial Houses, Clans and Bands.

4. Tenas Coal

Discussion:

- No letter was drafted concerning our comments related to April's meeting but there was discussion that we should draft a letter to the EAO supporting a Public Hearing.
- Matt Rodgers, head of the Environmental Assessment Office has contacted a Director to ask whether the CRB would be interested in filling a role of liaison between industry, government and the public.
- Tenas Industry staff have also expressed appreciation for the board's model and it's good fit as a liaison.
- There was discussion of this possibility and it's perception it might be pro industry, on the other hand it would be a good opportunity to ensure values are protected, the CRB would have to consider its capacity to do so.
- If approval of the project happens before Dec. 16th, than according to EA Act, a first public hearing is required.

- At the last council meeting the Town was planning to ask for a public hearing sooner rather than later.
- It was pointed out that historically the Enbridge Pipeline public hearing was attended by hundreds in opposition and yet it was still approved by the Province. It took a Supreme court order to stop that project from going ahead.

Action Item:** Eric will invite Matt Rogers or his office to the November meeting.

Action Item:** Christoph will draft a letter to support the Town's request for a public hearing.

5. Serb creek

Discussion:

- There was a comment about the market getting shorted certain timber supplies? but I didn't catch the nuance - Matt please elaborate!
- There hasn't been any news of activity in this area.
- There was mention of a 5th Estate episode on pellets.... also the BBC on pelletizing Hemlock and Aspen? - there is some shared sentiment this is not the most appropriate 'value added' forest product for these timber stands.

Financial Report

None today.

Review of previous Action Items

We reviewed the list of open items and there is now no backlog of open items.

News:

Seymour Ridge Trail

There has been 3 weeks work on the Seymour Ridge Trail despite our comments on inconsistencies in the prescription. The most significant being no prescription for the private land nearby. It also appears Hudson Bay Mountain Road is being logged 30 m either side past a strip of green. The rationale for this is unknown.

Oct. 26th there is a luncheon at the Old Church on Wildfire Mitigation Strategies.

Action Item:** Bob to send out the notice.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.