

BVCRB-Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board

Final Minutes

Date: April 15, 2019, Smithers Town Office

Present: Eric Becker, Ron Vanderstar, John Fisher, Bob Mitchell, Karen Price, Matt Sear, Cor VanderMeulen

Recording: Sue Brookes

Next Meeting Date May 13, 2019, Smithers Council Chambers

Karen -Chairing

March minutes- no comments. Minutes approved. Sue to check with Chris for cheque.

No new business

Financial Update: \$13489.00 in acct with ptp's deducted, Wetzinkwa Grant has \$764 remaining, there is \$2300 left for RAMP reserved funding. This amounts to operational expenses for a few years. The preference is to fundraise for projects as they happen. An invoice has gone to Brandy for Trail Project funding.

Update and invitation to the Wildfire Resilience Conference in Burns Lake, 24 - 26th. Laurie Daniels, our Chief Forester, Paul Hesper, Chief Maureen Chapman and others will be there for workshops and presentations. Thursday night Karen presents on a wildfire restoration project she and Dave are working on.

*****Action Item** - please remind Karen to send invitation out to board

Trails

Brandy is invited to the next meeting. Legal title or ownership of the trail will be a field maintained in the database and this will be known as the sponsor. They are responsible for providing the database coordinator with the maintenance level of the trail. Both fields will be included in the database and updated each time the database is uploaded to the net. Brandy worries about a delay on uploads of the database, sponsors ability to provide maintenance levels and any legal implications that result. The database user interface will have a line "contact the sponsor for trail conditions..." which should be obvious to users so there should be no legal responsibility on our part for the maintenance level of the trail.

- BC Parks and FLNRO can provide legal designations and sponsors, we await this from Brandy
- Sponsored trails exist where there is a contract to maintain a trail

Coal

The board is looking for more info. from somewhere, perhaps add a spot for Ted to report on what he knows next month.

Winter RAMP

Aside: 4000rd access to Netastel Mtn has led them into goat territory, this is vulnerable territory and some people are starting to get worried. Seems like there might be more pressure to get access to snowmobiling areas - this was addressed to the Ministry.

*****Action Item** - Matt will try to find and forward this email chain.

*****Action Item** - read Brandy's questions (circulated previously by Eric) and come to the next meeting informed.

*****Action Item** - someone ask Brandy about Winter RAMP at the next meeting

Free Range and Grazing Tenure

Discussion regarding John's draft letter to Marc regarding the free range issue.

Board Says: The cause of the problem is insufficient monitoring, lack of sufficient supervision and enforceable policy. In the range agreement there has to be included a measurable monitoring requirement of tenure holders. Also there is no 'good practice' requirement to report newly assessed sensitivity zones and there should be. If, for example, someone brings up there is issue x - there needs to be a procedure to investigate, monitor and measure the impact of the issue.

Board Says: Legislation is messy but without changing the legislation, range management plans should and could be more specific and made to cover off public concerns (besides the concern of wildlife habitat). As they are now range plans are really a contract agreement not a management plan. Also there should be a clause referring to consultation with adjacent land holders.

Board Says: The gov't doesn't accept that these plans are out of date with standard industrial uses of the land base and urban growth. The CRB should mention this.

Discussion:

Riparian issues, Karen reiterated her report.

A Pound District is established near Round Lake. There haven't been problems in RL for quite some time with ranging cattle. Teh pound was more often used for local cattlemen not necessarily tenure cattlemen.

If there is a grazing lease, cows can go where they want on that lease.

Fencing is divisive, there will be differing strategies for different places.

Conclusion of board: Our mandate are issues of land use as they relate to the TSA. We can't speak on private property rights. We propose a review of range management planning to include consideration of other values expressed in the LRMP. We'll start with John's list and add what we feel are shortcomings. Including:

- CRB 'our' values are not respected in range use management planning.
- Our values are not sufficiently monitored and there are known impacts on sensitive ecosystems resulting from grazing.
- There are unknown impacts on our values because again they aren't properly monitored.
- A collegial relationship should be developed between neighbours of lease lands and ranges, this improves monitoring and impact awareness.
- There could be consultation when the crown issues range tenures.
- 25 yr or long terms tenures will not work, electronic filing for application should include enough filters to determine eligibility but still removes the human element.

- There could be terms in the management plan for lease holders to respond to wildfire, loss of natural range barriers and more.

*****Action Item:** everyone input on John's letter to Karen and she will compile a concise letter for Marc.

Other Topics

Board considers Value Cross Over Like: Air How and when do we get concerned when an activity in the TSA has an impact on adjacent lands including a private lot? The energy of the board on these issues needs to be consensus based, on a case by case basis. John is a proponent for Total or True Cost Accounting when we assess impact on the values expressed in the LRMP. Industry is not.

FYI A Minister - which? made a statement about reducing wildfire risk by adding cattle to crown land.

Karen shares her work on collaborative wildlife rehabilitation Karen intends to address the wildfire convention on how to have fully collaborative plans. Eco system based management is a term for integrated land value management - Karen's field of work. Planning for future units that aren't necessarily timber values Please share your slides with the board!

Latest moose stuff.... forestry used to be thought of as habitat improvement for the moose. A provincial 5 year study has proved moose are starving and if summer habitat doesn't provide for a certain body weight (forage limits of nitrogen very important) then moose #'s will continue to decline. Turns out cut blocks don't support enough production of nitrogen in their centres yet moose graze there rather than areas at the edge where nitrogen levels are higher.

Invasive species... not part of natural biodiversity, regrowth is a cycle of change but limiting invasive species allows for more improved natural diversity/regrowth - "Nature Needs Half Movement." Invasive species are generalists and do well in good times, but when nature needs the characteristics of a rare species to be a sustainable and healthy unit, the invasive species can't provide it. The result is decreased pollinators & reduced productivity of diverse natural species.

Bob on Sub-alpine Fir... No news really and a letter should go out.

Eric, Cor and Karen intend to retire in the summer.

*****Action Item:** Sue look for an add on the website and send to Ron to send to paper.

Board Question: should we set up at the fall fair?! for recruitment purposes? Food for thought.

END