

Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management
Board of Directors Meeting
April 15, 2009

Present: Sybille Haeussler (Chair), Phil Burton, Brian Edmison, Brian Fuhr, Anne Harfenist, Jim McCormack, Don Morgan, Irene Ronalds, Laurence Turney, Rick Budhwa (RPM), Kirsteen Laing (AM)

Note: monthly information update was circulated with agenda

- 1) Acceptance of Agenda (revised version distributed April 15)
 - *Anne moved to accept; Jim seconded. Approved.*
- 2) Approval of Feb. 11 draft Minutes
 - *Brian F. moved to adopt minutes with edits (April meeting date changed and action item under Board Nominations reworded); Don seconded. Approved.*
- 3) Welcome to New Board Member and Officer Elections
 - Irene welcomed to board
 - *Laurence moved to approve slate of officers: Sybille Haeussler as president, Don Morgan as vice-president and Director of Operations, Brian Edmison as Treasurer and Anne Harfenist as secretary; Jim seconded. Approved.*
- 4) Action Items from Previous Meeting(s)
 - a) Research quality assurance update: Laurence still to incorporate comments submitted
 - **Sybille to send Laurence her comments**
 - b) Foundation access document: on hold until know whether budget can support further work
 - c) Strategic plan revision: Debbie circulated reworked Strategic Goal 4; discussion on how to proceed; sub-committee formed to take this on: Jim, Don, Debbie to be asked; timeline Sept/Oct. for draft to board
 - d) Board and meeting evaluation tools: results of first evaluation were good with exception of circulating relevant information in a timely manner (i.e. not at last minute)
 - **All members to submit board evaluation by end of week**
 - e) Research plan workshop: (Don; discussed under agenda item 8)
 - f) Community radio: deferred (Sybille)
 - g) Publishing seminar series on website: Rick working with NWCC to make changes to seminar series; notes based on experience with UNBC colloquia – ensure speakers are aware of opportunity and allow to accept or decline; can team up to support bringing speakers from outside area; video conference links to other community colleges
- 5) AGM
 - In general, people had a good time; dinner + meeting format seems to be best one that we've tried
 - Timing (end of March and shortly after spring break) was inconvenient for some; try for Feb. next year
 - Some people signed up for membership at the AGM specifically for cookie
- 6) Membership Satisfaction Survey
 - Just have AGM responses to date
 - Survey being distributed to membership and will be available on-line shortly
- 7) Workshops
 - R Workshop was well-attended; good feedback; desirability of another statistical workshop discussed
 - **Rick to discuss another stats workshop with Carolyn**
 - Complexity Workshop had excellent turnout; very interesting; maybe do again in fall; keep informal so not fund-raising needed
 - Skeena Workshop planning continuing; early fall date
- 8) Funding Update
 - Still no word on FSP proposals; no spending permitted, even on continuing projects, until decisions have been made; timeline for decisions uncertain but possibly after election, legislature recalled, & budget passed which could be as late as fall; MoF has been given some funds through the temporary budget and can choose how to allocate that
 - FFESC workshop held locally; BVRC submitted Letters of Intent with provincial workshop to follow; money will be available in December at the earliest

- Re new sources of funding, we need proposals to shop around; this is purpose of research plan workshop; one idea in agenda item 9; conversation to be continued next meeting
 - Discussion of what information the board needs to inform its decisions about how to move ahead; what issues need to be addressed by when; what are drop dead dates by quarter for projects (but if funding provided late, proponents may be given opportunity to rework project to work within new timeframe)
 - Staff have been discussing scenarios and personnel shifts
 - **Rick to prepare 3 scenarios: no FSP \$, continuing FSP projects, continuing projects but money not received until fall – results to show how operations of BVRC would change and how affect people; distribute to board in 2 weeks for discussion at next meeting**
- 9) Community Education on Climate Change/BVRC as advocate for science
- Discussion involved several related threads – 3 ideas/issues brought up at AGM by members (one board member)
 - Idea from Frank D. circulated; re BVRC acting as central location that schools could contact for local expertise about how climate change is and will impact the region; would raise profile of BVRC; not as advocate of particular view; example topics: Climate Change impacts on Ecosystems, Ecosystem Dynamics, Focal Species Management, Managing endangered-threatened species, Ecological research partnerships with First Nations
 - Ideally would interpret what climate change means to NW communities in terms of infrastructure (eg. Culverts, roads), agriculture, First Nations use of land, non-timber forest products etc. but requires research funding
 - After success of local FFESC proposals is known, maybe shop around proposal to hold community conversation on climate change; look at community vulnerability; Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, Pembina, were mentioned as potential funding sources/partners
 - **Don to lead, depending on FFESC outcome**
 - Similar idea is for BVRC to advocate for science in schools and local government
 - BVRC could be resource for scientific expertise on a wide range of topics including the nature of science itself
 - **Irene to speak to school board about developing a pd day program on science**
 - **Irene to write letter to Smithers council introducing our role as science advocates, summarizing our idea**
 - Discussed role of BVRC wrt reviewing Official Community Plan in light of changes to wording around sustainability and climate change; decided that efforts outlined above are a more appropriate role for the BVRC at this time
- 10) BVRC Support for Alternative Projects
- Possibility of BVRC involvement in RAMP not dismissed out-of hand; wait to see what form RAMP takes and how research incorporated into process
 - BC Hydro had opportunity for long-term research related to Williston Arrow Lakes posted on BC Bid
 - Need mechanism to develop ideas to shop around; would be purpose of research planning workshop
- 11) New Business
- Rick and staff planning Earth Day event at Riverside Park
 - **Rick to send out notice about plans**

Next Meeting – May 13 at BVC office @ 15:30; Anne H. to chair

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes taken by Anne Harfenist