

Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management
Board of Directors Meeting
May 13, 2009

Present: Sybille Haeussler, Debbie Cichowski, Phil Burton, Anne Harfenist (Chair), Jim McCormack, Irene Ronalds, Rosemary Fox, Kirsteen Laing (AM), Bob Mitchell

Absent: Brian Edmison, Brian Fuhr, Don Morgan, Laurence Turney, Rick Budhwa (RPM)

1) Acceptance of Agenda (revised version distributed May 13)

- *Anne moved to accept; Deb seconded. Approved.*

2) Approval of April 15 draft Minutes

- *Sybille moved to adopt minutes with edits (item 9 BVRC – BV Centre for Climate Change a proposal, not and entity; Irene to write a letter to Town Council – delete “listing experts on climate change”; item 8 delete “supply budget”; item 7 action item on stats course assigned to Rick) Jim seconded. Approved.*

3)

- a. Research Quality Assurance update: Sybille is going to send comments to Laurence, Laurence to bring to next meeting
- b. Community Radio: deferred (Sybille)
- c. Letter to school board – Irene has made inquiries to determine best approach for reaching School District. Irene spoke to Barb Turney, Muheim School Professional Development Rep, who is going to recommend idea of a “science-focused” pd day to School District at their next meeting. Timing of this pd day would be for next fall, in time to build interest for spring Science Fair.
- d. Letter to Town Council – Irene brought draft to meeting; Jim recommended broader introductory paragraph re BV Centre science program in general; Irene also to seek input from Don re community conversation on climate change
- e. Board Evaluation survey: Sybille received only 2 completed Board Eval surveys so far; would like everyone to complete; if you prefer to remain anonymous, you can drop the completed surveys by the office.
- f. Carbon Offset program: Phil said that provincial employees have a template and that we could potentially use the same. Kirsteen mentioned that Rick had done some work on this and that she would bring it up w Rick.
- g. Earth Day event: Rick decided not to proceed w event
- h. *Funding access document: further contract work on it on hold until budget finalized (Rick)*
- i. *Community conversation on climate change/look at community vulnerability: on hold until FFESC outcome known (Don)*

4) Board Evaluation Survey results

Sybille identified two main issues from surveys completed to date: fundraising and community outreach (see item 10. New business).

5) FSP update

- Should be definitive news soon, now that election is over
- May 8 letter from Melanie Boyce confirmed that continuing projects would be approved for funding; administration of funds to be moved from Price Waterhouse to MFR; projects > \$60,000 to be reduced by 10%
- Concern exists that some of the \$ may be used internally by MFR to shore up their own shrinking budgets
- Sybille phoned Minister Pat Bell asking for news of FSP. Bell indicated that \$ would be forthcoming for tree growth, tree genetics, and forest health projects (that he was in favour of). Discussion ensued re: agenda for research appears more politically driven, than previously

➤ **Sybille to phone Melanie Boyce for news of new projects, given that field season is fast approaching**

- 68% of BV Centre funding from FSP – **key issue is to increase efforts to diversify funding base**

6) Newsletter: Anne and Rosemary and Irene to work on next one

7) Introduction of Alana Clasen

Alana is now working for BV Centre thanks to an Industrial NSRC grant, some BV Centre funding, and the help of a volunteer. She has her course work completed towards her Masters degree. She anticipates 1 season of field work to collect enough data for her thesis.

8) New Sources of Funding

- Funding document circulated for review (changes, corrections yet to be made according to Kirsteen)
 - **Board members divided up the list of potential funders to take a closer look at and to report back next meeting** (SCEK Anne?; PSF – Deb; MacArthur F – Sybille; FSP – Sybille; SSHRC – Sybille; SDTC – Jim; Environment Canada – Bob; Evergreen – Irene; NSERC – Phil; FFESC – Sybille)

9) Centre Workplace Dynamics: deferred to next meeting w Brian F. and Don present.

10) New Business

- a. Two issues identified from Board Evaluation surveys from membership:
 - I. Fund-raising (see item 8 above)
 - II. Community communication w larger public seen as a weakness of the centre
 - Minerals North Trade show attendance; Letter to Town council re climate change; and efforts to have a science presence for School pd day, all steps in the right direction
 - One Sky has approached BV Centre regarding a carbon car-sharing program where centre could help coordinate (more info to come at next meeting)
- b. BV Centre Scholarship: Deb, Rosemary, Sybille have this underway

Next Meeting – June 10 at BVRC office @ 15:30; Anne H. to chair

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes taken by Irene Ronalds