

Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management
Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes
September 23, 2009

Present: Sybille Haeussler, Phil Burton, Anne Harfenist (Chair), Rosemary Fox, Jim McCormack, Irene Ronalds, Kirsteen Laing (AM), Bob Mitchell, Don Morgan, Laurence Turney, Rick Budhwa (RPM)

Absent: Brian Fuhr, Debbie Cichowski, Brian Edmison,

- 1) Acceptance of Agenda (distributed September 22)
Jim moved to accept; Irene seconded. Approved.
- 2) Approval of June 10 Minutes
Jim moved to accept; Laurence seconded. Approved.
- 3) Action items from June and earlier meetings
 - a. Foundation access document – Rick said document to be placed on FTP site for board members. Don suggested that it could also be made available in Director's binder, along with meeting minutes, at office as well.
 - b. New sources of funding – Sybille and Adrian have a proposal in with HCTF; Pacific Salmon Foundation – has an Oct 15 deadline; FSP – Kirsteen phoned Elizabeth Easton who indicated that ongoing projects would receive 90% of funding, no word yet on new proposals; Anne suggested that this item be moved to a standard agenda item for the time being, instead of an action item.
 - c. Publishing seminar series on our website – BVRC to ask speakers for their powerpoint pdf where appropriate in future. (Breeann could do this. See item 9 re Breeann.)
 - d. Research Quality Assurance – Laurence says its ready to go (received a few comments following June meeting).
 - e. Research plan workshop – Don would like to roll this into the work on strategic plan – agreed.
 - f. Scholarship – Rosemary indicated that a letter has gone out to the first recipient. Once it is accepted we can make an announcement. Laurence has a map of the recipient area
 - g. BioBlitz – Laurence to take lead, to start looking into how and when for spring.
 - h. New website – most of the sections to be edited are complete. Sybille to do "our history" and "research overview".
 - i. Conflict resolution package – Don sought advice from Tom Buri. Need to clarify expectations with new employees re: working "through" the centre, not "for" the centre. Need for BVRC to be clear on **people** to involve and the **process** to follow, rather than a prescriptive policy, should an issue arise. This will be presented as part of Strategic Plan for April.
 - j. Letter to town council – Sybille had reservations on sending it out in the spring. She will take another look, but may be best to wait until we have something substantive to present ie. Idea of community conversation on climate change that could flow from some of the work that Don is doing.
 - k. Carbon offset program – Don to check to see if MoF process is openly available to adopt. This program would be aimed at research projects run through the centre. Could be part of existing travel expense spreadsheet. Want to keep the extra accounting workload (For Kirsteen) to a minimum. Phil volunteered to be a test case.
 - l. School Board – Irene spoke w Barb Turney regarding approaching School Board to arrange Professional Development Day with focus on Science Fair for teachers. Local BVRC professionals could be a valuable resource. Irene to check in with Barb, and to continue with this.
 - m. Strategic Plan – subcommittee of Jim, Bob, Don, Deb to carry on, plan for a workshop.
- 4) Streaming of UNBC's weekly Natural Resources and Environmental Studies colloquium. Still working out a few glitches, but Phil hopes to send instructions re website and password this week. Could do same locally, but more discussion required. Concern expressed that regular attendees may prefer to stream, and not show up for talks.

5. Aboriginal Pilot Program – Sybille and Rick decided to defer for now. Rick is working with NWCC and BVRC on a different proposal with Social Sciences and Humanities Research Centre (SHRC).

6. Newsletter – topics for: Salmon conference; LIDAR (produces 3D maps of forest using ground-based laser technology, U of New Hampshire and European researchers here in Smithers; new staff; scholarship.

7. Financial Statement – distributed – Rick says it looks good for this year, next year a concern

8. Salmon Conference – a success. Moore Foundation interested in further research but there is a need for a follow-up conference to determine research priorities. BVRC could play a non-partisan role, w focus on linking, research, facilitating, and encouraging research.

Rick made a contact w WWF rep and will follow up with him. WWF runs a Marine Matters seminar series in Prince Rupert – we could exchange speakers. WWF has research funding. While BVRC as limited marine ecologists, Don emphasized that BVRC can do dendrochronology, climate, and hydrological research, within the Skeena watershed, which may be of interest to WWF.

9. Wetsink'wa Community Forest (WCF) update

WCF has hired a Community Outreach Coordinator, Breeann Semeschuk, 1-2 days/wk. One of her responsibilities will be to coordinate the BVRC seminar series.

WCF has granted Valley Vision \$5000.

WCF may consider granting annual funding (\$5-15,000) to BVRC for local research within WCF.

Rick spoke of idea of a joint BVRC/WCF social to build on this new relationship.

10. Meeting dates for coming year – Anne to check w absentees to see if Mondays work.