



Bouchie-Milburn Community Planning Team

<https://bouchielakefriends.ca/our-accomplishments/community-planning-team/>

Email: BMCommunityPlan@gmail.com

August 6, 2020

Cariboo Regional District
Suite D, 180 North 3rd Avenue
Williams Lake,
British Columbia
V2G 2A4
Delivered via email:
jmaclean@cariboord.ca

Dear CAO John MacLean

Thank you for your email dated **June 23, 2020** which was cc'ed to Cariboo Regional District Chair Margot Wagner and Director Barbara Bachmeier. In it you stated the following:

"I have been monitoring the interactions between the group you represent and the Bouchie Lake Recreation Commission and the Regional District.

While we respect and honour our legal obligation to provide public documents and information upon a proper request, we wish to point out that we are focused on the development of the Bouchie Lake Neighbourhood Plan. This plan has the support of Director Bachmeier and the Board of Directors. At this time, and for the foreseeable future neither the Cariboo Regional District, nor the Chair, will not be engaging in other third party processes. We feel that this would represent a duplication of efforts, a dilution of effect and the potential waste of scarce public resources.

We cannot, nor do we wish to, stop whatever efforts you are undertaking. We simply are not engaging. Thank you for respecting the Regional District's wishes on this matter."

While we understand and respect the decision of the Cariboo Regional District to not engage in the Bouchie-Milburn Community Planning/BMCP Project for the reasons stated in your email, we do feel that the Cariboo Regional District has an important role in providing input and support to this initiative that is happening in our community. We have formulated this opinion based upon the research the BMCP Team / BMCPT has done and commitments made by the Cariboo Regional District.

*Over the last 3 years, 2 surveys were completed in Bouchie Lake - Milburn Lake. One was a Facebook poll that was online from April 3, 2017 to present which asked "**Let us know what you feel is important***

Mission Statement for the Bouchie-Milburn Community Planning Team

To bring Bouchie-Milburn community residents together as involved members of the Community Planning Team. The Team will have a collaborative voice in planning, organizing, implementing any, and all, community development and initiatives, that the either promote or hinder the growth of our immediate area. This grassroots team will work together to promote growth, inclusion, transparency, and non-partisan community involvement.

Adopted by the Bouchie-Milburn Community Planning Team, June 26, 2018

to you...” whereas the other was **Survey #1** completed by the CRD in 2019 under the “Bouchie-Milburn Neighbourhood Plan” (<https://www.cariboord.ca/bmnp>). The results of both surveys were summarized by the BMCPT into a document titled “**Surveys - Tools in the Toolbox**” (see attached).

As can be noted, the results of both surveys were used to identify the following top 3 priorities identified:

i) Safety - Road, General (Crime Prevention, Emergency Evacuation, Fire Protection), reducing Natural Hazards (flooding, fire smarting)

ii) Lake Health / Water Quality / Protection / Trails / Green Spaces / Public Land

iii) Recreation - supporting community facilities and events; recreation facility access and usage

Based upon the survey results, the BMCPT supported the establishment of 3 separate committees: Safety, Public Lands / Assets and Recreation. These committees have been meeting regularly with the goal to have open discussion and ultimately set actions and recommendations for the final plan. The process is very transparent. Each committee will also host a public engagement event prior to October, 2020. The Safety Committee hosted a successful Safety Day on July 25th which was supported by 8 different organisations including Fire Smarting / Wildfire Mitigation, Emergency Services, Invasive Plants, Crime Watch, Bouchie Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Pet Safe Coalition of Canada, and the Bouchie Lake Watershed Stewardship Society. The minutes from each Committee Meeting are available on <https://bouchielakefriends.ca/our-accomplishments/community-planning-team/>

While the BMCP and the CRD lead “Bouchie-Milburn Neighbourhood Plan”/ BMNP are similar in some ways, they are also very different. We agree that there is a need to reduce duplication and use whatever resources we have available prudently and wisely; however, there is also value in working together in a collaborative way and sharing what has been learnt so it too is not duplicated and can be actioned upon by both parties.

In reviewing the **Bouchie Lake Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee Meeting #2 Minutes of August 27, 2019** the following is stated:

Discussed history of community events at the hall and changes in fee structures over time for the use of the hall leading to less events. Management and fee structures have changed, but hall use has not picked up. Committee generally agreed that this is a complex subject that may be outside scope of land use study.

From the above statement and in reviewing the BMNP Steering Committee Minutes, it seems that the BMNP has chosen to focus on land use; as such, has chosen to **not** move forward with discussing Recreation in Bouchie Lake as part of their process.

The BMCPT’s Recreation Committee’s approach to addressing the concerns around recreation has been proactive and solution focused with an aim to ask questions, gain information, review options, and seek to understand. The committee recently completed a detailed analysis of facility management options that exist today with the goal to increase community control, access and usage. The Committee has completed a “*Facility Comparison*” based upon 8 similar facilities located in the Cariboo Regional

District and the adjacent Regional District of Fraser Fort George. The committee has shared the information learnt with the community and is now at the point of wanting to share what we have learnt with the Cariboo Regional District starting with our own representative, Area B Director Bachmeier.

On July 28, 2020 the following email was sent to Director Bachmeier on behalf of the BMCPT inviting her to meet with the BMCPT so the Team could share the information sought and learnt about options to improve recreation in our community. Thus far, we have **not** had a response:

*Hello Director Barb;
We have done extensive research on multiple recreation halls and would like to share the findings with you. We are encouraged by the results and are eager to discuss some potential changes that may improve revenue for our Community Hall and increase non-profits to engage in holding their events here.
Would you be able to meet with a couple of our Recreation Committee members in the near future? We will leave the date and time up to you, as we are mostly retired and can work around your schedule. We come to you first, as our CRD Director and secondly, as a valuable Community member.

Looking forward to hearing from you,*

In reviewing the **Quesnel Fringe Area Official Community Plan** (adopted by the CRD Board of Directors on September 12, 2014), a commitment is made by the CRD to review and support recreation in Bouchie Lake as is captured below (<https://www.cariboord.ca/services/planning/ocps/quesnel-fringe-ocp>).

Section 9.1 speaks to the delivery of Recreation within the geographic area covered by the “Quesnel Fringe”. Reference is made to the value of **both** the CRD established Recreation Commissions and independent locally based registered non-profit groups working together in partnership.

Section 9.1 (pg. 80)

The CRD has traditionally established partnerships with the community, provincial government and the City of Quesnel to deliver parks, recreation and cultural services....

...As well the Regional District supports three recreation commissions, each of which is delegated the responsibility of maintaining a specific site and facilities:

☒ the Bouchie Lake Recreation Commission is responsible for with the Bouchie Lake Hall and the Claymine property;...

*In addition to these commissions there are also “not for profit societies”, such as the **Bouchie Lake Parks and Recreation Society**, that have evolved as grass root organizations to address local issues. These societies are governed by The Societies Act, they are directly accountable to their membership, and their mandate can be changed with the approval of their membership. Within this administrative structure they can be responsive to changes in community needs and interests. The co-existence of commissions and “not for profit societies”, working together, ensures an effective combination of community participation strategies for delivering services to the local area.*

Section 9.3.16 (pg. 84)

Work with the Bouchie Lake Recreation Commission and the Bouchie Lake Recreation Society to review and clarify working relationships and partnerships. There are clear benefits to the co-existence and collaboration of these two groups.

An equal and fair partnership does not currently exist between the Bouchie Lake Recreation Commission and locally based non-profit groups in terms of the delivery of recreation within our community. There is no collaboration at the local level in terms of community facility access, usage and /or maintenance. Rather, the exiting Bouchie Lake Recreation Commission meets and develops policies for the facility in isolation of the very community the facility is intended to serve. Community members at large and representatives of locally based non-profit groups do attend these meeting but they are often told they cannot speak and rarely is input sought on matters that affect the community at large and /or groups. This has created an atmosphere of fractured relationships and reduced community usage of the facility as was clearly identified by the BMNP Steering Committee.

The dysfunction in recreation has been identified many times by the community and brought forward to the Cariboo Regional District in hope that concerns can be resolved and a structure can be set up that will serve the community better. One such time recently was the presentation to the Cariboo Regional District Board a “petition” dated January 28, 2017 and signed by **114** Bouchie Lake residents. This letter was on the Cariboo Regional District Agenda for the **March 3, 2017** with the Minutes of that meeting accepted at the **March 24, 2017** meeting of the Board. Section 9 of the Minutes is "Community Services" (9.3). *The CRD Motioned to receive the letter and referred it to the North Cariboo Joint Planning Committee.*

This petition letter was presented to the North Cariboo Joint Planning Committee on April 11, 2017 (Meeting 5) under Section H., Correspondence, Item #2. The following motion was passed by the NCJPC:

17-5-40

*MOVED Director Bruce, Seconded Director Massier and resolved:
THAT the North Cariboo Joint Planning Committee receive the Open Letter
addressed to the Cariboo Regional and Residents of Bouchie Lake, dated
January 28, 2017 and petition regarding the Bouchie Lake hall.*

CARRIED

To date, the Cariboo Regional District has not taken the lead in addressing the problems and /or reaching out to the community as to how things could be structured so things are more positive and we can “*maximize the opportunities*” that exist. Many of the concerns are captured in the comments at the end of Survey #1 completed by the CRD under the BMNP. *By the CRD choosing not to participate in the BMCP process it is not meeting the commitment it made as outlined in the Official Community Plan.* It is disappointing that Director Bachmeier is now not standing with the very community she was elected to represent as she was one of the residents who signed the January 28, 2017 petition letter.

In closing, we are hoping that Director Bachmeier will meet with us so we can review and share with her what we have learnt on how our recreation facilities can be managed and governed to better serve our community. Regardless, we shall look forward to a response from you by the end of next week (August 14, 2020) and request that this letter, and attachments, be moved to the Northern Directors Rural Caucus meeting scheduled for **September 8, 2020**.

In community Spirit,

Susan MacNeill

**BMCPT Co-ordinator
on behalf of**

The Bouchie-Milburn Community Planning Team - Tier I

Attachments:

“Surveys - Tools in the ToolBox”

Petition Letter - dated January 28, 2017

cc:

Chair Margo Wagner, Area H - mwagner@cariboord.ca

Director Barbara Bachmeier, Area B - bbachmeier@cariboord.ca

Director Mary Sjostrom, Area A - msjostrom@cariboord.ca

Direct John Massier, Area C - jmassier@cariboord.ca

Director Jim Glassford, Area I - jglassford@cariboord.ca