



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, March 10, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

**MOTION TO HOLD SPECIAL BOARD
MEETING**

In accordance with Section 219 of the
Local Government Act, the Regional District of Bulkley-
Nechako Board of Directors calls a Special Board Meeting.

PAGE NO.

ACTION

AGENDA – MARCH 10, 2016

Approve

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Receive

REPORT

2-4

**Deborah Jones-Middleton, Protective
Services Manager – Consultation -
Strategic Emergency Management
Framework for Agriculture**

**Recommendation
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SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT



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**Regional District of
Bulkley-Nechako
Memorandum
Special Board Meeting
March 10, 2016**



To: Chair Miller and the Board of Directors
From: Deborah Jones-Middleton, Protective Services Manager
Date: March 2, 2016
Regarding: Consultation – Strategic Emergency Management Framework for Agriculture

The Government of Canada Ministry of Agriculture has issued the Consultation Paper Strategic Emergency Management Framework for Agriculture. The focus of the consultation paper is “to set the strategic direction for partners, Federal, Provincial, and Territorial and municipal governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry, producers, individuals to collaboratively manage emergencies facing the agriculture sector in a cohesive, forward thinking manner. It (the Framework) guides the development and eventual implementation of strategies to fully realize the desired long-term outcomes.

The Framework focuses on agriculture, including agricultural products, primary inputs (including fertilizers, seeds and feed), animals (including veterinary biologics, and animal welfare) and plants. The Framework applies to all types of risks to the agriculture sector. These include severe or extreme meteorological and climatological events, animal diseases, plant pests, contamination events and tampering at the farm level.”

Staff Comment

The Government of Canada is using the same language as the Province of British Columbia regarding all levels of government being responsible to work collaboratively to address the ‘Four Pillars of Emergency Management’ which are:

- **Prevention and mitigation: actions taken to identify, prevent and reduce the impacts and risks of hazards before an emergency occurs.**
- **Preparedness: actions to increase the ability to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies and to recover more quickly from their long-term effects; involves actions taken prior to an event to assure that the capabilities and capacities to respond are in place.**
- **Response: actions taken during or immediately after an emergency or disaster to manage the consequences.**
- **Recovery: actions taken after an emergency or disaster to re-establish or rebuild conditions and services to an acceptable level.**

The Regional District does not have the capacity or expertise to deal with potential agricultural emergencies, and certainly is not equipped to plan for and implement prevention and mitigation strategies.

Staff has expanded on this in the comments below.

The Government of Canada Ministry of Agriculture has requested responses to the following:

- What are your suggestions to improve the prevention and mitigation of risks in the Canadian agriculture sector?

Staff Comment

Regional District staff do not have the expertise to address issues regarding prevention and mitigation of risks, except regarding Evacuation of Livestock during an emergency (acting as a liaison with Ministry of Agriculture and providing payment to suppliers that is reimbursed by the province), and Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal emergency planning (assisting with local supplier Industry Association contacts, potentially supporting a Joint Emergency Operations Centre with Canada Food Inspection Agency, and information regarding potential burial sites)

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako currently has a Livestock Evacuation Plan and a Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Emergency Plan.

Staff is currently working with consultants for the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture to refine and update the plan, and working with Investment Agriculture to identify potential mass carcass burial sites within the region.

- What are your suggestions to improve collaborative action and cooperation?

Staff Comment

Two major procedural concerns that need to be addressed are the actual delivery of the framework agreement and the time afforded to conduct review of the framework once received. With regard to delivery, the framework was delivered indirectly to the Regional District via an elected official who is a member of the BC Cattlemen's Association. In the future, we request that governmental communications be addressed directly to local governments as well. Secondly, as a governmental organization we need a minimum of 60 days to properly assess the information, achieve Board approval, and provide feedback

- What are your suggestions to improve sector resilience?

No Comment

- Do the proposed strategies outlined in the draft Framework resonate with you?

No Comment

- Are there any additional strategies that should be added?

No Comment

- Do the proposed strategies reflect stakeholder roles, needs, and experience in emergency management?

Staff Comment

As stated above Regional District staff do not have the expertise to comment on the majority of potential risks faced by the Agricultural

Community, or the types of preventative or mitigative actions that would affect them, however, the Regional District will work on the emergency planning issues that may arise.

- What activities/practices do you or your members currently undertake that you see as contributing to emergency management, now and in the future?

Staff Comment

The Regional District has spent substantial resources on preparing for and responding to emergencies that affect the region. The Regional District has worked with industry and the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture to ensure planning for and responding to a Livestock Evacuation and a Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Emergency.

The Regional District has been forefront in identifying potential mass carcass burial sites within the region.

- How can Federal, Provincial, and Territorial governments best support you or your organization/association in terms of emergency management? Do the roles and responsibilities outlined in the draft Framework and Annex 1 resonate with you?

Staff Comment

It is important that the Government of Canada Ministry of Agriculture clearly identify the roles of all stakeholders in regard to all initiatives and proposed amendments to Acts, and ensure that local government have the opportunity to provide input through community consultation.

It is critical that the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial governments provide specialized teams to support industry during an emergency response.

Are there any additional suggestions you would like to see considered in this Framework?

Conclusion

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako does not have the capacity, nor the financial resources to commit to training, planning, or executing responses for agricultural emergencies beyond the existing plans.

Recommendation

AII /DIRECTORS/MAJORITY

1. That the Board of Directors receive the memo titled "Consultation – Strategic Emergency Management Framework for Agriculture" from Deborah Jones-Middleton, Protective Services Manager.
2. That the Board of Directors submit a letter to the Government of Canada Ministry of Agriculture outlining the concerns of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.