

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 12, 2015

PRESENT: Chair Eileen Benedict

Directors Mark Fisher
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen

Director Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Alternate Director Bob Hughes, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Protective Services Manager – left at 3:05 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 3:09 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers – arrived at 2:57 p.m.
Dwayne Lindstrom, Village of Fraser Lake – left at 2:28 p.m.
Darcy Repen, Village of Telkwa – left at 2:09 p.m., returned at 2:57 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Benedict called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Alternate Director Hughes

RDC.2015-2-1

"That the Supplementary Agenda be received and dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGENDA

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2015-2-2

"That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for February 12, 2015 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes -January 15, 2015

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2015-2-3

"That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of January 15, 2015 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Request for Grant in Aid

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2015-2-4

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve the following grant in aid applications:

- Burns Lake Minor Hockey Association Midget Team be given \$500 grant in aid monies from each of Electoral Areas "B" (Burns Lake Rural and "E" (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) to assist with costs for the Midget Team to attend the Provincials in Clearwater, B.C. from March 15-20, 2014;
- Stuart Lake Outreach Group Society be given \$2,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) for costs associated with its Hot Lunch Program/Food Bank;
- Fort St. James Sled Dog Association be given \$2,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) for costs associated with the Caledonia Classic Dog Sled Races;
- Fort St. James Secondary School be given \$350 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) for an "End Gang Life" evening presentation;
- District of Fort St. James be given \$2,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) for costs associated with Canada Day 2015 celebrations;
- Fort St. James Secondary School be given \$1,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) for a Grade 12 Scholarship;
- Nechako Valley Rodeo Association be given \$2,500 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) for costs associated with the 3rd Annual Nechako Valley Rodeo."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

REFERRALS (All Directors)

Mines File No.14675-20/
1650866 Radley Contracting
Electoral Area "B"

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Alternate Director Hughes

RDC.2015-2-5

"That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Mines File No. 14675-20/1650866" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Mines File No. 1475-20/1650866."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (CONT'D)

REFERRALS (All Directors) (CONT'D)

MoTi File No.2014-06076 Moved by Director Miller
Lillian and Donald Tychowsky Seconded by Director Parker
Uncha Lake Road
Electoral Area "E"

RDC.2015-2-6 "That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on MoTi Referral 2014-06076" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on MoTi Referral 2014-06076."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION ITEM

Bylaw RE: RDBN Administration and Regulation for the Provision of Fire Protection in RDBN Established Rural Fire Protection Areas

Discussion took place regarding the regulations outlined by the Office of the Fire Commissioner and the provincial government and the responsibilities being downloaded to Regional Districts in regard to rural fire departments. Concerns were brought forward regarding the involvement required by Regional Districts in the administration and oversight of rural fire departments. A Regional District is responsible to manage the training and evaluation of all fire departments as the authority that oversees the jurisdiction.

Director Miller noted the struggle that rural fire departments are having in maintaining adequate levels of capacity and meeting the guidelines being brought forward from the Office of the Fire Commissioner. He noted concerns in regard to rural fire departments being able to fund the administrative component of operations. Director Petersen spoke to a past referendum held for the Cluculz Lake Fire Protection area and the residents' decision to decline increasing taxation. Without the necessary funding small rural fire departments may not be able to continue to function in the future.

Director Newell noted that Topley Fire Protection is investigating the option to expand its boundaries. All other fire protection service areas within the RDBN have been extended to the limit allowed for a fire protection boundary. The Topley Fire Protection Society is researching options to enable them to continue to operate under the budget constraints that they face.

Director Miller and Gail Chapman, CAO mentioned that in the past the RDBN has brought its concerns forward to the provincial government.

Alternate Director Hughes suggested amendments to the draft bylaw for further clarification.

Discussion took place regarding the fire departments meeting necessary requirements in order for the Regional District, in writing, to authorize one or all of the following: Medical First Response, Road Rescue and Extrication, Mutual Aid to other Fire Services, and Hazardous Material Incidents.

Discussion took place regarding the hard work and dedication of the volunteer firemen and women wanting to better the communities they live in and help their neighbors but the challenges in doing so may prevent future small fire departments from continuing to operate.

Chair Miller and Gail Chapman, CAO will be bring the issues and concerns regarding small rural fire departments forward for discussion at the CAO/CEO Meeting they will be attending on March 24-25, 2015 in Victoria, B.C. It may be beneficial to also bring concerns forward at the North Central Local Government Association Annual Convention, May 6-8, 2015 in Prince George, B.C.

DISCUSSION ITEM (CONT'D)

Letter to the Ministry of
Justice RE: Rural Fire
Departments

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2015-2-7

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors write a letter to the Ministry of Justice outlining concerns regarding funding and responsibility for rural fire departments.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The draft bylaw for the RDBN Administration and Regulation for the Provision of Fire Protection in RDBN Established Rural Fire Protection Areas is based on the RDBN's legislated requirements from the Ministry of Justice.

Draft Bylaw RE: RDBN
Administration and Regulation
for the Provision of Fire
Protection in RDBN Established
Rural Fire Protection Areas

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2015-2-8

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to amend the draft bylaw to meet legislative requirements and provide clarification in regard to when a fire department may respond to an “Incident”, the use of “Occupier”, and “Conduct of Incidents” number 8 to read “No person shall maliciously damage or destroy the Fire Department Apparatus or Equipment; and further, that a second draft be brought forward to the Rural Directors Committee for consideration.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Pacific Northwest Regional
Science Fair – Request for
Grant in Aid – Electoral
Area “A” (Smithers Rural)

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2015-2-9

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve Pacific Northwest Regional Science Fair be given \$4,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural) for costs associated with the Pacific Northwest Regional Science Fair.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

REFERRALS (All Directors)

MoTi File No.2014-06070 Moved by Director Fisher
Canyon Creek Resources Ltd. Seconded by Director Miller
Electoral Area "A"

RDC.2015-2-10 "That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on MoTi Referral 2014-06070 be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on MoTi Referral 2014-06070."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral File No.7409756 Moved by Director Petersen
Crystal Lake Resort Ltd. Seconded by Director Parker
Electoral Areas "D" & "F"

RDC.2015-2-11 "That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 7409756" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 7409756."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral File No.7409759 Moved by Director Petersen
Tyrol Craig Forfar Seconded by Director Newell
Electoral Area "F"

RDC.2015-2-12 "That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 7409759" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 7409759."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Letter of Support for
4 Wheel Drive Ambulances

Director Newell mentioned that he brought forward an issue to the Northwest Regional Hospital District Board of Directors to write a letter to the Minister of Health regarding the need for 4 wheel drive ambulances in northern B.C. He noted an incident wherein an ambulance was stuck on a rural road in the Houston area attending a call out.

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2015-2-13 "That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors write a letter of support to the Northwest Regional Hospital District regarding the need to have 4 wheel drive ambulances in northern B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

BC Broadband Conference
April 28-29, 2015, Richmond,
B.C.

Director Newell spoke of the BC Broadband Conference being held on April 28-29, 2015 in Richmond, B.C. He noted that the theme for the conference is "Bringing Urban Internet to Rural Canada" and he felt that it may be beneficial for the RDBN to have a representative attend.

Chair Benedict mentioned that the information that the RDBN has gathered will be brought forward at a future RDBN Board Meeting for further discussion. Director Newell will provide staff with the information in regard to the conference.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2015-2-14

"That the meeting be adjourned 3:12 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Eileen Benedict, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant