

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 12, 2017

PRESENT: Chair Eileen Benedict

Directors Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 10:37 a.m., left at 11:01 a.m.
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers
John Illes, Village of Burns Lake
Rob MacDougall, District of Fort St. James – arrived at 11:00 a.m.
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Benedict called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2017-1-1

“That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for January 12, 2017 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

**Rural Directors Committee
Meeting Minutes
-November 3, 2016**

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2017-1-2

“That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of November 3, 2016 be received as amended.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

Colleymount Recreation
Commission – Request for
Grant in Aid – Electoral
Area “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake
Rural)

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2017-1-3

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Colleymount Recreation Commission be given \$2,250 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) for the purchase of a new sound system for Trout Creek Hall.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Technology,
Innovation and Citizens’
Services – Network BC
-Follow-Up: UBCM Convention

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2017-1-4

“That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Administration Correspondence from Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens’ Services – Network BC – Follow Up: Union of British Columbia Municipalities Annual Convention.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Melany de Weerd, CAO mentioned that staff are preparing a report to bring forward to the Regional Board providing an outline of Connect to Innovate funding available for internet services. Applications can be submitted starting next week, January 16-20, 2017 to the end of March, 2017. It will require the Regional District to be the applicant and partner with an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

Discussion took place regarding the need to still identify the areas throughout the Regional District that do not receive internet service and or adequate internet service. Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development noted that Connect to Innovate Application Guide included a map where areas that require internet service have been identified and will potentially be eligible for funding. Staff is developing Electoral Area maps that will include the mapping information from the funding program to provide to the Regional Board.

Director Newell spoke of the importance of ensuring the ISP’s are able to meet the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunication Commission’s (CRTC) criteria for internet services.

Discussion took place in regard to contacting the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation to discuss the development of the Kootenay Regional Strategy and the approach used to improve internet service in its region.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Concerns were brought forward regarding the delivery of internet service being based on non-compete clauses and the ISP's do not always have the capability to provide adequate service levels. Director Fisher spoke of the need to forward a letter to the CRTC and Northern Development Initiative Trust regarding the Regional Board's concerns.

Write a Letter to NDIT and CRTC

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2017-1-5

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors write a letter to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunication Commission (CRTC) and Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) outlining the need for Internet Service Providers (ISP) to have the capability to provide and ensure the provision of the highest level of upload and download speeds; and further, that the impact of non-compete clauses do not always allow for the best possible service provision for the region."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Administration Correspondence

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2017-1-6

"That the Rural Directors Committee receive the following Administration Correspondence:

- o Government of Canada – CRTC Establishes Fund to Attain New High-Speed Internet Targets;
- o Municipal Information Network – CRTC Broadband Decision: Big Win for Rural and Northern Communities."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (All Directors)

REFERRALS

Land Referral File No. 6406985 Bear Enterprises Ltd. Electoral Area 'G'

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2017-1-7

"That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 6406985" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 6406985."

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2017-1-8

"That Motion RDC.2017-1-7 be amended to include:
"That a public consultation process takes place that includes community consultation with Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

"That the question be called on Motion RDC.2017-1-7 as amended."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REFERRALS (CONT'D)

Land Referral File No.
6406883 Reddog Logging
Electoral Area 'G'

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2017-1-9

"That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 6406883" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 6406883."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Smithers Tradeshow Booth

Director Fisher spoke of the Smithers Tradeshow Booth and sharing the booth with the Town of Smithers. He mentioned that there is a need for two booths at the tradeshow: Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) and the Town of Smithers Booth, and an Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) Booth to be shared with local Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) established services such as the Smithers TV Rebroadcasting Society, the Bulkley Valley Regional Pool and Recreation Centre etc.

Discussion took place regarding the budget for tradeshows and conference travel and the need to have all monetary decisions approved by the Regional Board. The use of grant in aid for tradeshows for service providers and community groups to have a booth was also discussed. The administration budget allocation for tradeshows is currently \$2,000. Director Miller provided an overview of the past intent of the budget and that Electoral Area Directors and Municipalities were to partner and utilize those funds to attend tradeshows. Discussion took place regarding the potential to utilize those funds for Directors to attend Fall Fairs or other local events to promote the Regional District.

Smithers Tradeshow Booth

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2017-1-10

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize two Smithers Tradeshow Booths to be shared between Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural), Village of Telkwa and Town of Smithers from the administration tradeshow budget."

(All/Directors/Majority)

DEFEATED

Director Miller noted that the Tradeshow budget line item under administration is contributed to by both the Electoral Area Directors and Municipalities thus the discussion needs to be brought forward at a Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Director Fisher mentioned that the cost of the booth is approximately \$400-\$450 per booth. Director Fisher noted that if the budget is not being utilized consideration should be given to eliminate the line item from the budget.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

Northern Development Initiative Trust

Discussion took place regarding:

- Initiating a review of the current Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) Pooling of funds model;
- The current model vs. the past practice of allocating funds to each area within a Regional Advisory Committee (RAC);
- The original intent was to review the new process after five years;
- It is approximately half way through the five year term;
- benefits and disadvantages of the two funding models;
- Opportunity to gather information to determine which funding model is more advantages;
- Allocation and utilization of funds between the Northwest RAC and the Prince George RAC;
- Economics and more projects being initiated in the Northwest RAC has played a role in the utilization of funds;
- Staff and Director's Miller and Fisher to obtain information to determine the best funding model.

Director MacDougall spoke to the idea of the original funds earned in interest by NDIT prior to moving to the pooled approach should be given to each area to use as leveraging funds for future funding opportunities. That the original monies provided to NDIT be moved to the pooled fund but the interest be allocated to each Electoral Area/Municipality.

Northern Development Initiative Trust RE: Pooled Funding vs. Direct Area Funding

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2017-1-11

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize staff and Directors Miller and Fisher to compile information in regard to Northern Development Initiative Trust's pooled funding vs. direct area funding and bring forward to the Regional Board for review."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2017-1-12

"That the meeting be adjourned 11:20 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Eileen Benedict, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant