

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 8, 2022

PRESENT:	Chair	Shane Brienen
	Directors	Gladys Atrill Mark Fisher Dolores Funk Tom Greenaway Clint Lambert Linda McGuire Bob Motion Chris Newell Mark Parker Jerry Petersen Michael Riis-Christianson Gerry Thiessen
	Directors Absent	Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

CALL TO ORDER Chair Brienen called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

AGENDA Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Greenaway

NRC.2022-4-1 "That the Natural Resources Committee Agenda for September 8, 2022 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes - June 16, 2022 Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Atrill

NRC.2022-4-2 "That the Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2022 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

Possible Approaches to Regional Forestry and Natural Resource Challenges

Chair Brienen provided a brief overview of meeting with Al Gorley, Triangle Resources Inc. on August 16, 2022.

The following was discussed:

- Bringing forward comments and information for the newly elected Board
- Village of Burns Lake expressed similar concerns as the RDBN to Mr. Gorley
 - o Hoping to continue further discussions
 - o Village of Burns Lake may be interested in working together with the RDBN to move forest challenges forward
- Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC)
 - o Dissolved due to the lack of funding in May 2017
 - o Formed to address the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic
 - o Worked to bring communities together in advocating to the Province
- Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition (CCBAC)
- Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition (SIBAC)
- The potential formation of another coalition similar to OBAC
- The possibility of continuing discussions with Mr. Gorley and other consultants
- Forestry and the larger picture of natural resources
- Continued advocacy for northern forestry challenges.

NEW BUSINESS

Mining Projects in the Region Discussion took place regarding the following:

- o Huckleberry Mine
- o Blackwater Project – Artemis Gold Inc.
 - September 8, 2022 – News Release - Artemis Prices Final EPC Contract for the Process Plant with Sedgman at \$318 Million
- o Telkwa Coal.

Forest Enhancement BC Highlights Village of Granisle Wildfire Mitigation Works Director McGuire commented that Forest Enhancement BC has highlighted the Village of Granisle wildfire mitigation works in its 2022 Accomplishments Report.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

BC Wildfire Services Base
-Vanderhoof

Director Thiessen mentioned that BC Wildfire Service purchased a hangar and completed converting it to a regional firebase at the Vanderhoof Airport. He spoke of the benefits of having the Base in Vanderhoof to support the north.

Smithers Drax Pellet
Plant

Director Atrill brought forward concerns regarding communication with Drax Pellet Plant in Smithers and bringing forward information regarding operations to the Natural Resources Committee.

The following was discussed:

- Concerns regarding the potential use of green wood to supply fibre for the Pellet Plant
- Need to retrieve and use wood waste
- Village of Granisle, when conducting its wildfire mitigation utilized as much fibre as possible – very minimal piles remained
- Impacts of the reduction of the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) to fibre supply to operations such bioenergy and pellet plants
- West Fraser co-generation plant in Fraser Lake is also experiencing fibre challenges with the recent curtailment of West Fraser Sawmill.

Natural Resources

Director Atrill spoke of the broader natural resources in the region as well as mining in northwest BC. There are large scale projects that are in close vicinity to Smithers but located outside the Regional District boundaries. Chair Brienens noted that mines outside the region provide employment and revenue in regional communities.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Lambert

NRC.2022-4-3

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:37 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Shane Brienens, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
Corporate Services