

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING
(Committee of the Whole)

Thursday, January 14, 2016

PRESENT: Chair Rob MacDougall

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Thomas Liversidge
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Luke Strimbold
Gerry Thiessen

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Manager of Protective Services – left
at 11:09 a.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 10:52 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Daniella Oake, Planning Forester, Babine Forest Products
Bill Stewart, Alternate Director, Electoral Area “D” (Fraser Lake
Rural)
Darrell Whelan, RPF Resource Manager, Nadina Resource
District, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource
Operations

CALL TO ORDER

Chair MacDougall called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Greenaway

F.C.2016-1-1

“That the Forestry Committee Meeting Agenda of January 14,
2016 be adopted; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda
be received”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Forestry Committee Meeting
Minutes – November 5, 2015

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Brien

F.C.2016-1-2

“That the Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2015 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

FP Innovations – Tandem-drive 9-axle B-train and Tri-drive 9-axle B-train

The RDBN has yet to receive information in regard to FP Innovations analysis of the possible utilization of tandem-drive 9-axle B-train and tri-drive 9-axle B-train tractor trailers in the forestry sector.

Chair MacDougall noted that some testing has been completed in the Fort St. James region. Director Lindstrom mentioned that he was able to view a test run of the use of the 9-axle B-train trailer in Fraser Lake. He reported that trial run experienced a number of challenges and that he could not support the use of the trailer in Fraser Lake.

Discussion took place regarding other manufacturer's developing the tandem-drive 9-axle B-train and tri-drive 9-axle B-train and that FP Innovations is the innovative company completing the testing for Canfor, West Fraser and Tolko to determine the feasibility of the trailers. Director Thiessen spoke of the importance of local government input as the possible implementation of the tractor trailers will be significant.

Director Lindstrom noted that the trailers may have more tires to distribute the weight but the intention is to allow a higher weight volume in utilizing the trailers. He mentioned concerns in regard to the damage to highways and roads currently with the amount of weight being transported on trucks.

Chair MacDougall mentioned that he spoke with Karen Andrews, District Operations Manager, Fort George District Office, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in regard to the need for community consultation in regard to the possible implementation of the tandem-drive 9-axle B-train and tri-drive 9-axle B-train. Chair MacDougall will follow-up in regard to the concerns brought forward.

DELEGATION

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS – Darrell Whelan, RPF Resource Manager, Nadina Resource District RE: Update

Chair MacDougall welcomed Darrell Whelan, RPF, Resource Manager, Nadina Resource District, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Mr. Whelan provided an update regarding Initiatives for:

- Area Based Tenures in the Morice and Lakes Timber Supply Areas,
- the Skeena District;
- the Omineca District.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS – Darrell Whelan, RPF Resource Manager, Nadina Resource District RE: Update

1. Initiatives in the Lakes Timber Supply Area

- 8 Area based tenure initiatives;
- 6 First Nations bio-energy licenses;
 - Tenure documents delivered to First Nations first week of January, 2016;
 - Mountain Pine Beetle kill timber;
 - Fibre major licensees do not utilize;
- Chinook Community Forest
 - Signatures in January, 2016;
 - Awaiting Incorporation documentation from local government;
- First Nations Woodland Tenure
 - Nee Tahi Buhn Band:
 - Area Based Tenure;
 - Management and Forest Stewardship Plan submitted;
 - Lake Babine Nation Tenure:
 - Area Based Tenure;
 - Management Plan submitted;
 - Burns Lake Band
 - Renewable Forest Tenure License;
 - Forest Tenure Opportunity Agreement and Management Plan completed;
 - License document awaiting signature;
 - Cheslatta Carrier Nation:
 - Renewable Forest Tenure license completed;
 - Skin Tye Band and Wet'suwet'en First Nation Woodland Tenure – completed

Mr. Whelan noted the significance of the First Nations Woodland Tenure Agreements and mentioned that this is the first forest district to have agreements with First Nations in area based tenures.

2. Skeena Forest District Update

- Morce/Lakes Timber Supply Areas:
 - Last year Morce TSA review completed;
 - Apportionment decision to be completed in the next month;
 - Lakes Timber Supply Review:
 - Significant decision with the amount of Mountain Pine Beetle kill timber in Lakes Timber Supply Area;
 - Current cut level for Lakes TSA 2 million m³;
 - Last discussion paper anticipated that the cut would drop to 500,000 m³;
 - 500,000 m³ does not include the area based tenures just the remaining timber from volume based tenures;
 - Three stage process - 24 month period:
 - Data package being prepared – current stage;
 - Public engagement – 2016;
 - Timber Supply Analysis – public discussion paper with public engagement;
 - In two years a new annual allowable cut for Lakes Timber Supply will be determined.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS – Darrell Whelan, RPF Resource Manager, Nadina Resource District RE: Update

3. Stuart/Nechako Forest District Update

- Final submission for Vanderhoof Community Forest Area Boundary Agreement;
 - Probationary community forest agreement will be complete in a couple of weeks;
- Fraser Lake Community Forest:
 - Stakeholders have settled on a new geographic area
 - Fraser Lake to reengage with the community and First Nations consultation
- Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations responded to concerns from Fort St. James in regard to the Canfor and Conifex tenure subdivision
 - Response is being formulated in collaboration with the Tenures Branch in Victoria, B.C. – response expected to be received fairly soon
- Meeting on January 12, 2016 in regard to the Tache highway and concerns raised by Tl'azt'en Nation;
 - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Assistant Deputy Minister was in attendance along with the RCMP and other key stakeholders.

4. MFLNRO Omineca Regional Management Team

- Water Stewardship Group introduced all of the new Water Officers that would be taking on the new role for ground water approvals;
- New Legislation for ground water.

The following was discussed regarding the Lakes Annual Allowable Cut (AAC):

- Uplift in the Lakes AAC to 2 million m³ to salvage the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) kill wood over the past 10 years
- 2 million m³ currently will have a fall down to approximately 500,000 m³ in its volume based tenures;
- The 2 million m³ included volume (35-40%) that is now area based tenures whereas the 500,000 m³ includes only the volume based tenures;
- Unlike the Morice TSA the Lakes TSA has more area based tenures that are managed by community forests and First Nations Licensees;
- Area based license's still arrange flow of timber to area mills;
- The area based TSA will also be reviewed.

Discussion took place regarding the Canfor and Conifex tenure subdivision. Chair MacDougall mentioned that the District of Fort St. James has written letters to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Competition Bureau regarding its concerns with the tenure subdivision. Mr. Whelan will forward contact information for David Van Dolah, District Manager, Resource Management Vanderhoof/Fort St. James, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Director Petersen questioned how much timber was actually harvested in raising the AAC to 1.5 million m³ – 2 million m³. Mr. Whelan noted that even with the significant uplift in harvest levels the amount and rate harvested was less than allowed. Licensees have noted that access to stands that meet the determination are becoming less and less available. Mr. Whelan commented that a reason for the timber supply review is to re-evaluate the partition on the amount of pine vs. non-pine stands that could be harvested.

Chair MacDougall thanked Mr. Whelan for attending the meeting.

VERBAL REPORT

Bill Miller – Follow-Up RE: OBAC – RDBN Wildfire Workshop

Director Miller provided an overview of the progress and conversations that have occurred since the Wildfire Workshop held in Burns Lake in October, 2015. He also spoke to the Wildfire Workshop Plan & Proposed Implementation Priorities document that was drafted with input from the RDBN, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, Al Gorely, Triangle Resources and the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) for OBAC discussion. Next steps have been identified in the document and the intent is to develop a working group and continue to keep the lines of communication open and continue working on the initiative.

Director Miller spoke of the role the RDBN plays initiating open dialogue and conversation in regard to best practices in prevention of forest fires, reactions when forest fires occur and the aftermath of forest fires.

Director Miller mentioned that a future meeting is being planned for February and decisions will be made at that time as to the path moving forward.

The feedback from the Wildfire Workshop hosted by the RDBN in October, 2015 was extremely useful. Chair Miller noted the document in the Supplementary Agenda titled "Wildfire Workshop Plan & Proposed Implementation Priorities" is for review and will be brought forward at the RDBN Board meeting on January 26, 2016.

Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Chair Art Kaehn and Electoral Area Director Representative for UBCM invited Director Miller to present at the Electoral Area Directors Forum in Vancouver on February 2-3, 2016 in regard to the Wildfire Workshop Plan & Proposed Implementation Priorities along with Brian Simpson, Fire Management Consultant.

Director Repen mentioned that the Village of Telkwa received a \$10,000 grant for Fire Smart Initiatives.

Chair MacDougall commented that having another workshop in the future to provide an update would be very beneficial. Director Miller mentioned that the intent is to have smaller working groups to work through the plan and proposed implementation priorities and then bring forward an update to all stakeholders.

REPORT

Follow-up RE: RDBN
Wildfire Workshop
-October, 2015

The Chief Administrative Officer's January 7, 2016 memo titled "Follow-up RE: RDBN Wildfire Workshop –October, 2015" report has been shared with Al Gorley, Triangle Resources and Sharon Tower, OBAC.

Chair Miller noted that in 2015 during an interface fire event staff did an excellent job working cross regionally to support and work together with other Regional Districts.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations
-Forest Licensee Led
Communication

Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

F.C.2016-1-3

“That the Forestry Committee receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations regarding Forest Licensee Led Communication.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Wildfire Workshop Plan &
Proposed Implementation
Priorities

Moved by Director Strimbold
Seconded by Director Brienen

F.C.2016-1-4

“That the Forestry Committee receive the Chief Administrative Officer’s January 13, 2016 memo titled “Wildfire Workshop Plan & Proposed Implementation Priorities.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Chilako Watershed

Director Petersen spoke to an e-mail he had received in regard to concerns associated with the Chilako Watershed and flooding in the Mud River area along with the impacts from harvesting the Mountain Pine Beetle killed timber in the watershed. Director Petersen noted that the Fraser Basin Council has been addressing the issue for a number of years and that current discussion is to have a moratorium put in place on logging in the watershed until a consolidated plan for rehabilitation in the watershed can be completed.

Discussion took place regarding the need for further information prior to the Regional Board providing a letter of support. Director Petersen and staff will bring forward further information at the February 11, 2016 RDBN Committee Meeting.

Community Forests

Director Newell spoke to Regional Districts having the ability to apply for Community Forest License. Discussion took place regarding the benefits of community forests that are managed/owned by municipalities to the entire region including all rural residents. Community Forest Licenses are not just for the residents within a municipal boundary but for the residents of an entire community.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

Kluskus Forest Services Road Connector

Director Thiessen mentioned that he had received information regarding the City of Quesnel Council intending to lobby for a connector road to be built from Quesnel to the Kluskus Forest Service Road. Director Thiessen noted that this will have huge implications in regard to resource development and forestry in the RDBN and will potentially elevate the amount of crime in the backcountry.

Discussion took place regarding the impact of roads on the land base and the affects to the timber supply.

The impacts of the Mackenzie connector to the RDBN, Districts of Fort St. James and Vanderhoof were discussed.

Kluskus Road Connector

Moved by Director Repen
Seconded by Director Thiessen

F.C.2016-1-5

"That the Forestry Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors write a letter in regard to:

- a. the RDBN's investments in the area of the Kluskus Forest Service Road currently;
- b. the RDBN's awareness of the Kluskus Forest Service Road/Nazko Road connector project by the City of Quesnel;
- c. that the RDBN requests engagement in moving forward with the said project; and
- d. further, that the letter be sent to Premier Christy Clark, the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, City of Quesnel, the Honourable John Rustad, MLA Nechako Lakes and the Honourable Coralee Oakes, MLA Cariboo North."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Benedict

F.C.2016-1-6

"That the meeting be adjourned at 11:51 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rob MacDougall, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant