

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 8, 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
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 1:17 p.m.
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle

CALL TO ORDER Chair Benedict called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

AGENDA Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2017-6-1 “That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for June 8, 2017 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2017-6-2 “That the Rural Directors Committee Supplementary Agenda be received and dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MINUTES

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes -May 11, 2017 Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2017-6-3 “That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of May 11, 2017 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

REPORTS

Northern Society for
Domestic Peace-Request
for Grant in Aid -Electoral
Area "A" (Smithers Rural)

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2017-6-4

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Northern Society for Domestic Peace be given \$2,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) for costs associated with providing training for Bulkley Valley Critical Incident Response Team Volunteers."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bulkley Valley Christian School
-Request for Grant in Aid
-Electoral Area "A" (Smithers
Rural)

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2017-6-5

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Bulkley Valley Christian School be given \$200 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) towards the Litter-a-Thon."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Electoral Area Allocation of
Federal Gas Tax Funds
-First Quarter 2017

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2017-6-6

"That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Finance/Administration Coordinator's May 15, 2017 memo titled "Electoral Area Allocations of Federal Gas Tax Funds – First Quarter 2017."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to the expanded criteria that has allowed for more Federal Gas Tax application allocations. The criteria expansion has provided a better opportunity for municipalities and rural areas to partner and work together to better their communities. The possibility to review the criteria and submit suggestions to the Union of B.C. Municipalities to further expand application criteria was discussed along with having staff attend a future meeting in discussing criteria expansion.

Director Parker thanked Kristi Rensby, Finance/Administration Clerk for her assistance in determining whether an application may be eligible and assisting with the application process.

Discussion took place in regard to the possible challenges of changing the criteria as it would require senior government to reopen the entire agreement to make any changes. The date of the last renewal and length of time of the current Federal Gas Tax Fund contract was discussed.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (All Directors)

REFERRALS

Land Referral File No.7409908 Moved by Director Greenaway
Takla First Nations Seconded by Director Parker
- Electoral Area "C"

RDC.2017-6-7 "That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral No. 7409908 be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 7409908."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral File No.
7409932 BC Hydro Moved by Director Greenaway
- Electoral Area "C" Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2017-6-8 "That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 7409932" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 7409932."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral File No.
7409792 – Ski View Ranch & Moved by Director Petersen
Timber - Electoral Area "F" Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2017-6-9 "That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 7409792" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 7409792."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

REPORT

Fort St. James Humane Society Moved by Director Greenaway
-Request for Grant in Aid Seconded by Director Miller
-Electoral Area "C" (Fort St.
James Rural)

RDC.2017-6-10 "That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Fort St. James Humane Society be given \$1,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) for costs associated with the travelling spay and neuter clinic."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

FCM Update - Director Miller

Director Miller mentioned that he attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Convention in Ottawa, Ontario June 1-4, 2017. While at FCM he attended the Rural Broadband Forum. There were four panelists, three telecommunications companies and a financial analyst that has completed business case research for the major equity banks. They discussed the need for backbone as various technologies improve rapidly. The \$500 million of federal funding will be utilized very quickly and more funding will be required in order to provide adequate service to rural communities. The majority of the panelists also expressed the need for the funding to be competitively neutral with no competitive advantage for one carrier over another.

Director Newell noted that the backbone in the region runs along Highway 16 only. He also spoke of his download and upload speeds utilizing Explornet and that the cost may not be prohibitive for all users.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2017-6-11

“That the meeting be adjourned 1:21 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Eileen Benedict, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant