

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, November 3, 2016

PRESENT: Chairperson Bill Miller

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
John Illes
Dwayne Lindstrom
Thomas Liversidge
Rob MacDougall
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Gerry Thiessen

Director Absent Eileen Benedict, Electoral Area "E" (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Alternate Director Tom Shelford, Electoral Area "E" (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Janine Dougall, Director of Environmental Services
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Larry Hewitt, Smithers – left at 11:07 a.m.
Martin Littlejohn, Executive Director, Western Canada Mountain
Bike Tourism Association – via Teleconference 11:05 a.m. to
11:14 a.m.
Josette Wier, Smithers – left at 11:07 a.m.

Media Flavio Nienow, LD News – arrived at 10:50 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m.

**AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Repen

C.W.2016-9-1

"That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Committee of the Whole meeting of November 3, 2016 be
approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be
received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – September 8, 2016

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Parker

C.W.2016-9-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of
September 8, 2016 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

Josette Wier – RE: Genetically Modified Organism’s (GMO’s)

Chair Miller welcomed Josette Wier.

Ms. Wier has been addressing the issue of Genetically Modified Organism’s (GMO’s) in the Smithers area for the past three years and spoke to the following:

- Presented a petition with 511 signatures from residents in the Bulkley Valley against the use of GMO’s in the valley;
 - o People spoken with were unaware of the use of GMO usage;
- The Ministry of Agriculture had conducted three GMO trial studies in the Bulkley Valley;
 - o requested information through a Freedom of Information and Privacy request;
- Resolution passed by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors in April, 2013 in regard to GMO’s.
- Recently presented to the Town of Smithers in regard to her issue;
- An overview of her experience in regard to a resident that purchased property neighbouring Ms. Wier’s and planted GMO canola;
- Farming Industry Review Board and her request to have a four metre buffer and a one hour notice prior to the spraying of the canola crops with pesticides;
- Ms. Wier’s personal condition that makes her susceptible to chemicals;
- She is a farmer as well and only wants responsible farming;
- Studies of pesticides (herbicide/insecticide/fungicide) has shown that overspray has been found up to 500 metres away from the area being sprayed;
- Growing GMO crops require the spraying of pesticides and has also created chemical resistant crops;
- She has attempted to investigate the exact chemicals being utilized but has not been provided the information;
- Two regulating bodies for pesticides but monitoring is very limited:
 - o Provincial legislation – investigates the proper storage of pesticides and reacts to complaints to wrongful use in ditches and riparian areas;
 - o Health Canada Pesticides and Pest Management - Pest Monitoring Regulator Agency;
- pesticide health risks to humans;
- How to coexist:
 - o An organic farm next to a farm using GMO’s must have a minimum eight metre cultivated land buffer between the properties in order for the organic property to maintain organic status;
 - o Only coexist with proper rules and guidelines;
 - o The ability to communicate and discuss issues;
- The impact to beekeepers in the region due to the use of GMO’s;
- Encourage the RDBN to implement rules and guidelines;
- 18 jurisdictions in the province that have resolutions against GMO’s, most recently the City of Victoria.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

Josette Wier – RE: Genetically Modified Organism's (GMO's) (Cont'd)

Ms. Wier made three requests of the Regional Board:

1. Reaffirm the April, 2013 Regional Board resolution regarding GMO's;
2. Allow concerned citizens to attend the RDBN hosted Agriculture Forum to discuss GMO's;
3. Invite the RDBN to initiate meetings with the farming community and agencies addressing GMO's.

Director Parker brought forward the eight metre cultivated land buffer between farms in order for an organic farm to maintain its organic status and the potential ability to split the eight metres between the two farms. Ms. Wier indicated that could be a possibility but both farmers needs to be receptive.

Director Fisher stated his willingness to participate in discussion regarding GMO's in the farming industry in the Bulkley Valley and co-existing but spoke to the need for patience in the process moving forward. He noted the need to have discussions with all stakeholders to address the issue.

Chair Miller mentioned that the RDBN does not have the legislative authority to ban Genetically Modified Organisms but can potentially have discussions with agencies that do have legislative oversight of GMO usage.

The Bulkley Valley Dairyman's Association has submitted a letter titled "Genetically Modified Organisms" as well to the RDBN that is on the November 3, 2016 Committee of the Whole Supplementary Agenda. Director Fisher noted that there may be an opportunity to meet in the future to discuss the issue and he felt that it may have a greater impact in the Bulkley Valley area rather than the Nechako area of the RDBN.

Chair Miller thanked Ms. Wier for attending the meeting.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

WESTERN CANADA MOUNTAIN BIKE TOURISM ASSOCIATION – Martin Littlejohn, Executive Director RE: Update – Mountain Biking Trail Maps, Northern BC Brand and Logo –via Teleconference – 11:05 a.m.-11:14 a.m.

Chair Miller welcomed Martin Littlejohn, Executive Director, Western Canada Mountain Bike Tourism Association via teleconference.

Mr. Littlejohn provided an update in regard to the Western Canada Mountain Bike Tourism Association's Mountain Biking Trail Maps and Northern BC Brand and Logo application to Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT). He mentioned that there are currently four communities involved in the Destination BC Co-op Marketing program: Prince George, Burns Lake, Smithers and Terrace. The trail maps, Northern BC brand and logo were originally outlined in the Northern BC Mountain Bike Recreation Tourism Strategy in 2014/2015. There was a need identified to create a brand to represent the region that would also allow other communities once ready to join would be supported in the branding. The communities have made funding contributions with matching funds being provided by Destination BC. The funding request to NDIT is for additional financial resources to include additional branding components to promote mountain biking.

The goal is to have the maps completed by January, 2017 to utilize at the outdoor travel tradeshow to promote mountain biking. They will also be utilized by Travel Information Centres and the Mountain Bike Clubs to showcase opportunities in northern B.C.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

WESTERN CANADA MOUNTAIN BIKE TOURISM ASSOCIATION – Martin Littlejohn, Executive Director RE: Update – Mountain Biking Trail Maps, Northern BC Brand and Logo –via Teleconference – 11:05 a.m.-

Discussion took place regarding methodologies to determine if the marketing is working and assisting to increase mountain biking awareness and tourism in Northern BC. Mr. Littlejohn mentioned that communities have recognized an increase in mountain bike tourism in that trail counters available have shown an increase and campsites are full with riders. Mr. Littlejohn mentioned that a survey has been recently conducted with partner communities in the province in regard to what methodologies and key performance indicators being utilized to provide an overall picture for the province.

Chair Miller thanked Mr. Littlejohn for attending the meeting via teleconference.

PRE-BUDGET PLANNING SESSION

Chair Bill Miller, Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural)

Chair Miller mentioned that this pre-budget planning session is the first step towards developing the 2017 budget. It also allows for the review of works/projects completed in 2016 and the projected works/projects needing to be completed in 2017.

Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer

Ms. de Weerd commented that she has reviewed the budget process completed in past years and is receptive to suggestions by the Regional Board to any changes they may wish to implement.

Regional Board Recommendations and Priorities

Environmental Services

- Salvaging metal and wood at RDBN Solid Waste Management Facilities;
- Municipal Insurance Association of BC (MIA) for Risk Management grant funding regarding metal and wood salvaging at RDBN Solid Waste Management Facilities;
- Make salvaging safe and functional as soon as possible and not just a part of the Solid Waste Management Plan review in 2017-2018;
- Fort St. James – C-Can for end of life electronics;

Janine Dougall, Director of Environmental Services

- Salvaging and reuse will be explored in detail in the Solid Waste Management Plan review in 2017.

Bylaw Enforcement Function

- Be progressive in regard to individuals requesting permits after the fact to create a culture of compliance;
- Review other jurisdictions to determine possible solutions.

Administration

- Review the RDBN Strategic Priorities in reviewing the budget for 2017;
 - o Need to adjust the priorities to be more in line with the future:
 - E.g. focus on Agriculture, salvaging solutions etc.
 - Opportunity to assess energy efficiencies: eg. Bulkley Valley Pool;
 - o Review the RDBN Strategic Priority – legacy proposal;
 - o Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance moving forward and remain on the RDBN Strategic Priorities;

PRE-BUDGET PLANNING SESSION (CONT'D)

Economic Development/Administration

- Promotion items – support local businesses utilizing a “buy local policy”.

Economic Development

- Complete study on Rural Connectivity in the Region and ensure the implementation of rural connectivity;
 - o Possible to work collaboratively with other Regional Districts to ensure connectivity throughout the northwest;

Budget Presentations

- Significant changes in the budget to be highlighted;
- Present on PowerPoint to have an interactive responsive budget schedule to show case the implications of adjustments and changes;

Building Inspection Function

- Closer oversight of contractors building in the region;

REPORT

Canada-British Columbia Moved by Director Parker
Clean Water Wastewater Fund Seconded by Director Bachrach
-Application

C.W.2016-9-3

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Director of Environmental Services and the Manager of Regional Economic Development’s October 24, 2016 memo titled “Canada-British Columbia Clean Water and Wastewater Fund – Application.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to the inability to utilize Federal Gas Tax funding.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mark Fisher, Director - Zero Moved by Director Fisher
Waste Advocacy to the Seconded by Director Repen
Province

C.W.2016-9-4

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors become a member of the National Zero Waste Council (\$0 membership fee) and Zero Waste Canada; and further approve the membership fee for Zero Waste Canada in the amount of \$125.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Truth and Reconciliation Moved by Director MacDougall
Commission of Canada: Seconded by Director Newell
Calls to Action

C.W.2016-9-5

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the correspondence titled “Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Illes

C.W.2016-9-6

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to explore opportunities to move forward in regard to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action recommendations for the RDBN 2017 Budget year.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INVITATION

Local Government Leadership
Academy – 2016 Chief
Elected Officials Forum
-December 6-7, 2016
-Metro Vancouver

Moved by Director Bacharach
Seconded by Director Illes

C.W.2016-9-7

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize Chair/Director Miller’s attendance at the Local Government Leadership Academy re: 2016 Chief Elected Officials Forum – December 6-7, 2016, Metro Vancouver.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to encouraging the Local Government Leadership Academy to host the Chief Elected Officials Forum in Northern B.C.

The University of Northern
B.C. and Dr. Kathy Lewis, Chair,
Ecosystem Science &
Management Program – Doug Little
Memorial Dinner and Lecture
– November 24, 2016
– Prince George Campus

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

C.W.2016-9-8

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the invitation from the University of Northern British Columbia and Dr. Kathy Lewis, Chair, Ecosystem Science & Management Program – Doug Little Memorial Dinner and Lecture – November 24, 2016 – Prince George Campus.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

DISCUSSION ITEM

National Zero Waste Council

National Zero Waste Council

Moved by Director Illes
Seconded by Director Bachrach

C.W.2016-9-9

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the correspondence from the National Zero Waste Council."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Northern Health – Influenza
Season and Flu Clinics Media
Teleconference -November 7,
2016

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2016-9-10

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the correspondence from Northern Health re: Influenza Season and Flu Clinics Media Teleconference – November 7, 2016."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bulkley Valley Dairymen's
Association – Genetically
Modified Organisms

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Thiessen

C.W.2016-9-11

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the correspondence from the Bulkley Valley Dairymen's Association in regard to Genetically Modified Organisms."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the resolution passed by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors in April, 2013 in regard to Genetically Modified Organisms. Staff will forward the resolution to the Regional Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Omineca Beetle Action
Coalition (OBAC)

Director Newell brought forward the issue of OBAC no longer receiving provincial funding after March, 2017. Chair Miller mentioned that OBAC will be forwarding a funding request in the future to the RDBN for consideration. Other funding options are being considered and reviewed.

Passing of William (Bill)
Serle – Past RDBN Director

Director Parker mentioned that Bill Serle, Director, Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural) from 1978 to 1979 passed away at the age of 90.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

Agriculture Forum – Update

Director Parker provided an update in regard to the RDBN hosted Agriculture Forum scheduled for November 9, 2016 in Burns Lake. He mentioned that response to the forum has been positive and there are various stakeholders attending along with representatives of the Agricultural Land Commission, Ministry of Agriculture and BC Agriculture Council. Director Parker thanked Director Fisher and staff for their assistance in regard to the planning of the forum.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Illes

C.W.2016-9-12

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:04 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bill Miller, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant