

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**(Committee Of The Whole)**

**Thursday, September 7, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Taylor Bachrach  
Eileen Benedict  
Shane Brien  
Mark Fisher  
Tom Greenaway  
Dwayne Lindstrom  
Rob MacDougall  
Bill Miller  
Rob Newell  
Jerry Petersen  
Darcy Repen  
Gerry Thiessen

Directors John Illes, Village of Burns Lake  
Absent Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle

Alternate Directors Susan Schienbein, Village of Burns Lake

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

Other Theresa Fresco, Assistant Regional Manager, Fraser Basin Council

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director MacDougall  
Seconded by Director Miller

AG.2017-5-1

"That the Agriculture Committee Agenda of September 7, 2017 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Agriculture Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
-June 8, 2017

Moved by Director Brien  
Seconded by Director Repen

AG.2017-5-2

"That the Minutes of the Agriculture Committee Meeting of June 8, 2017 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **REPORT**

### **Connecting Consumers and Producers**

Moved by Director Brien  
Seconded by Director Newell

### **AG.2017-5-3**

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's August 29, 2017 memo titled "Connecting Consumers and Producers."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development noted that available funding remains for further Connecting Consumers and Producers Events

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Northern Development Initiative Trust**

Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director Miller

### **AG.2017-5-4**

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the following: correspondence:

-Northern Development Initiative Trust – Agriculture Coordinator Pilot;

-Northern Development Initiative Trust/Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako-Media Release – Bulkley-Nechako Farmers Get a Helping Hand."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discussion took place regarding the positive response from the Agriculture Sector in the region in regard to the Agriculture Coordinator Pilot Project and the agriculture initiatives being taken by the RDBN and Northern Development Initiative Trust. Chair Parker spoke of the positive responses he's received in regard to the support for the agriculture sector during the Sutherland Wildfire that occurred in the region.

Director Thiessen mentioned that Northern Development Initiative Trust spent a day in Vanderhoof to obtain an overview of agriculture in the area. There was a very positive response from participants.

Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer commented that the Agriculture Coordinator Position posting closes September 15, 2017.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has also been in contact with Ms. de Weerd in regard to the pilot project and is interested in continuing to follow up as the project moves forward.

Discussion took place in regard to the Agriculture Committee reviewing its strategic priorities and ideas with the successful Agriculture Coordinator candidate at a future Agriculture Committee Meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)**

Co-existence Discussion Moved by Director Fisher  
-May 18, 2017 – Glenwood Hall Seconded by Director Thiessen  
-Smithers

AG.2017-5-5 “That the Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence titled “Co-existence Discussion – May 18, 2017 – Glenwood Hall Smithers.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Fisher mentioned that the event provided a good opportunity for attendees to discuss Genetically Modified Organisms and the different farming practices in the Smithers area. Chair Parker noted that the event also provided an opportunity to dispel false perceptions and speak to the facts.

Correspondence Moved by Director Brien  
Seconded by Director MacDougall

AG.2017-5-6 “That the Agriculture Committee receive the following correspondence:  
-Laurie Gallant – Bulkley Valley Food Security Forum  
-Update #1 – June 30, 2017  
-Update #2 – July 25, 2017;  
-Laurie Gallant – Final Farm School Program – August 8, 9, 10, 2017;  
-Plant and Animal health Strategy of Canada – FPT Ministers of Agriculture Endorse the Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Miller noted that the Bulkley Valley Food Security Forum reiterates the importance of food security in the region in the event of a natural or manmade disaster event that could potentially impact the regions access to food.

**ADJOURNMENT** Moved by Director Brien  
Seconded by Director MacDougall

AG.2017-5-7 “That the meeting be adjourned at 2:34 pm.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant