

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 12, 2017

PRESENT: Chair Eileen Benedict

Directors Mark Fisher
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen

Director Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Alternate Director Bob Hughes, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Chris Beach, Mayor, Village of Burns Lake – arrived at 10:49 a.m.
Dwayne Lindstrom, Mayor, Village of Fraser Lake
Alistair Schroff, Burns Lake

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Benedict called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2017-9-1

"That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for October 12, 2017 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes -September 7, 2017

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2017-9-2

"That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of September 7, 2017 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

Lakes District Arts Council
- Request for Grant in Aid
- Electoral Area "B"
(Burns Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2017-9-3

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that Lakes District Arts Council be given \$2,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "B" (Burns Lake Rural) for costs associated with events during the 2017/18 season."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

District of Fort St. James
- Request for Grant in Aid
- Electoral Area "C"
(Fort St. James Rural)

Moved by Alternate Director Hughes
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2017-9-4

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the District of Fort St. James be given \$5,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) for costs associated with equipping its new fire truck."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nechako Valley Community
Services Society- Request for
Grant in Aid – Electoral Area "F"
(Vanderhoof Rural)

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2017-9-5

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that Nechako Valley Community Services Society be given \$500 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) for its 3rd Annual Christmas Dinner for seniors."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Electoral Area Allocations
of Federal Gas Tax Funds
-Third Quarter 2017

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2017-9-6

"That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Finance/Administration Coordinator's September 30, 2017 memo titled "Electoral Area Allocations of Federal Gas Tax Funds – Third Quarter 2017."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INVITATION

BC Natural Resources Forum
-January 16-18, 2018
-Prince George, B.C.

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2017-9-7

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize attendance of Rural Directors wanting to attend the BC Natural Resources Forum – January 16-18, 2018, in Prince George, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Parker spoke of the importance of Rural Directors reviewing event attendance to ensure the most efficient use of time.

NEW BUSINESS

Nechako Roundtable Request
for Grant in Aid

Discussion took place regarding the need for budget information from the Nechako Roundtable to outline specifically what the grant in aid funding would be used for and if this is a one time request for funding. The use of grant in aid funding was discussed. Support was voiced for the Nechako Roundtable and the need for a better funding model. Chair Miller spoke to the potential use of Federal Gas Tax Funds for the initiative. Chair Benedict mentioned that in the past when the Nechako Watershed Council was in place funding was provided by the province and Rio Tinto Alcan.

Chair Benedict brought forward concerns in regard to not having more representation from the areas directly connected to the Nechako Watershed including both the river and the reservoir. She spoke to the Electoral Area “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) residents having an opportunity to provide input early in the process of formulating a Nechako Watershed Plan.

Director Petersen commented that there had been discussions in regard to the grant in aid funding being a temporary source of funding until a service area could be established.

The Rural Directors granted Director Beach permission to speak. Director Beach mentioned that he is a member of the Nechako Roundtable and noted that the request for grant in aid funding was to be utilized as bridge funding and provide leverage to access larger funding sources. He mentioned that the Nechako Roundtable is incorporating the entire Nechako Watershed in its discussions and is hoping to provide a location for all source material that exists regarding the watershed. Director Beach voiced concerns that northern B.C. is one of the areas remaining with clean water and is a tourism attraction and spoke to the importance of a Nechako Watershed Plan.

Discussion took place in regard to the importance of the Nechako Watershed Roundtable and its initiatives along with providing support for the Roundtable.

Chair Benedict mentioned receiving an invitation for today’s Nechako Watershed Roundtable event being held in Vanderhoof. Discussion took place in regard to bringing forward concerns to the Regional Board’s appointed Nechako Roundtable representative.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2017-9-8

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:04 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Eileen Benedict, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant