

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING
(Committee of the Whole)

Thursday, November 5, 2015

PRESENT: Chair Rob MacDougall

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

Directors Absent Mark Fisher, Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural)
Dwayne Lindstrom, Village of Fraser Lake
Luke Strimbold, Village of Buns Lake

Alternate Director Stoney Stoltenberg, Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural)

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 3:54 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Daniella Oake, Planning Forester, Babine Forest Products

CALL TO ORDER

Chair MacDougall called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Alternate Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Parker

F.C.2015-8-1

"That the Forestry Committee Meeting Agenda of November 5, 2015 be adopted; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY
AGENDA

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Benedict

F.C.2015-8-2

"That the Forestry Committee receive the Supplementary Agenda."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Forestry Committee Meeting
Minutes –October 8, 2015

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Miller

F.C.2015-8-3

“That the Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2015 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING

Coastal GasLink Timber
Salvage Strategy

Chair MacDougall mentioned that the Coastal GasLink Timber Salvage Strategy and that it could be used as a template for other pipeline projects. He spoke of Directors visiting sawmills and processing plants in their electoral areas to determine whether Coastal GasLink has approached them in regard to processing the volume of fibre from right of way clearing.

Discussion took place regarding other pipeline companies and whether or not they may have approached the processing facilities regarding the use of fibre from their rights of way.

Discussion with Albert
Nussbaum

Director Miller commented that he met with Albert Nussbaum, Director, Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch in Burns Lake recently. Mr. Nussbaum reported that the partition went into major forest stands to mitigate the mountain pine beetle. There is a major change to the landscape. He mentioned there will be pressure to keep in place the cut level. Cutting will become much more precise and surgical in the removal of timber to make sure the undergrowth is not impacted.

Director Miller spoke of the incredible importance of the fibre cleared for pipelines being utilized to influence the huge negative impact to the midterm timber supply.

Invasive Plant Management

Discussion took place regarding pipeline projects response to invasive plant management along rights of way. Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning mentioned that during the Environmental Assessment Review Process the RDBN requested that the RDBN be able to review and provide comment in regard to the invasive plant management plan. Coastal GasLink indicated they would provide their invasive plant management plan for review but that has not yet happened. The RDBN also requested that a program be implemented similar to the financial partnership between other right of way owners such as Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS

Reports

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Miller

F.C.2015-8-4

“That the Forestry Committee receive the following reports

-Summary Report – Wildfire Workshop – RDBN and OBAC –
October 13, 2015;
-Wildfire Workshop Follow-up Plan Draft for Discussion –
October, 2015.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the actions that could be undertaken by participating organizations to improve wildfire management in the region. Staff will bring forward a report to outline what initiatives are currently being undertaken by the RDBN. The RDBN Board can review the report and determine what more it would like to do in regard to wildfire management.

Concerns were brought forward that funding for the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition may not continue beyond March, 2016 but yet the communities impacted by the mountain pine beetle are just beginning to feel the impacts.

Discussion took place regarding the OBAC Pine Beetle Investment Account and the possibility to access funding for wildfire management initiatives.

Advocacy on behalf of the Regional Board and Forestry Committee was brought forward for discussion. The mountain pine beetle has also created more intense wildfires that cause more damage to the landscape than wildfires that go through green stands of fibre.

Discussion took place regarding the utilization of slash piles and burning slash piles. Director Brienens will follow-up with the sawmill and processing plant in Houston in regard to the slash piles in the area. The challenges of utilizing wood in slash piles was discussed.

Director Miller spoke of legislation that is drafted regarding the utilization of waste wood.

CORRESPONDENCE

Babine Lake Community
Forest Society – October, 2015

Moved by Director Repen
Seconded by Director Benedict

F.C.2015-8-5

“That the Forestry Committee receive the correspondence titled
“Babine Lake Community Forest Society – October 16, 2015
Wildfire Workshop.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Repen spoke of Telkwa salvaging the waste wood from their wildfire mitigation to utilizing for their heating plant for approximately two years. The concept of granting municipalities a buffer zone around communities to address wildfire management for a fuel source would be a benefit.

Director Liversidge mentioned that Josh Pressey, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations will be meeting with the Village of Granisle in November, 2015 to try to find options in regard to wildfire mitigation.

Chair MacDougall asked staff to respond to the correspondence from Babine Lake Community Forest Society dated October 16, 2015 and outline that a future workshop will include the topic of removing a wildfire management buffer zone from communities that can be utilized through different economic opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE

RDBN Write a Letter to
FP Innovations

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Repen

F.C.2015-8-5

“That the Forestry Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors write a letter to FP Innovations requesting further information regarding the analysis completed by FP Innovations in regard to a tandem-drive 9-axle B-train and a tri-drive 9-axle B-train.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion and concerns were brought forward regarding the possible impacts to changing the configuration of log hauling trucks.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Director Thiessen

F.C.2015-8-6

“That the meeting be adjourned at 3:59 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rob MacDougall, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant