

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

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

**Thursday, November 9, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Taylor Bachrach  
Chris Beach – left at 2:53 p.m.  
Eileen Benedict  
Mark Fisher  
Dwayne Lindstrom  
Thomas Liversidge  
Rob MacDougall – left at 2:55 p.m.  
Bill Miller  
Rob Newell  
Jerry Petersen  
Darcy Repen  
Gerry Thiessen – left at 2:44 p.m.

Directors Shane Brienen, District of Houston  
Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James)

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Repen  
Seconded by Director Beach

AG.2017-7-1

“That the Agriculture Committee Agenda of November 9, 2017 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Agriculture Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
-October 26, 2017

Moved by Director Benedict  
Seconded by Director Newell

AG.2017-7-2

“That the Minutes of the Agriculture Committee Meeting of October 7, 2017 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Introduction of Regional Agriculture Coordinator**

Chair Parker thanked staff and the Agriculture Committee and introduced Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator.

Ms. Evans provided a brief outline of her agriculture experience:

- Grew up in the north Okanagan
- Degree in Agriculture from the University of B.C.
- Worked with a show herd in Richmond, B.C.
- Dairy farm background
- Joined Ministry of Agriculture – Youth Development Specialist
  - o Worked with 4-H, Cattlemen's Okanagan
  - o Youth, First Nations and women in agriculture programs
  - o Workshops
- Four years as Executive Director, BC 4-H
  - o 17.5 years with the 4-H program
- Managed a dairy farm in Wainwright, Alberta
  - o Milked 450 cows
  - o 1500 Holstein cows
  - o 75% of Alberta's calf/cow population is in the area
  - o \$96,000 in cull cow sales in last year in Wainwright, AB
  - o Feed mill/mineral mill
  - o Three broiler barns
    - 39,000 birds per barn
  - o Farmed 20 sections of land
  - o Amazing opportunity
- Salmon Arm Fair Coordinator for 2 years

Chair Parker welcomed Ms. Evans to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.

### **2. Development of Agriculture Coordinator Work Plan for 2018**

#### 2018 Agriculture Coordinator Work Plan

- RDBN SWOT (Strategic Workforce Opportunities Team) participation
- Coast Field and Forest Cooperative
  - o Putting forward an application for proposed usage of Lake Kathlyn School:
    - Agriculture research component
      - Intensive fruits and vegetable growing
    - Folk school proposal
    - Tech hub proposal
    - French immersion component
- Youth engagement - Priority
  - o Assist agriculture groups to build youth and aboriginal youth engagement
  - o Support youth engagement programs
  - o Support/assist in senior levels of high school and college agriculture education initiatives
    - Need young people for succession into farming and agriculture
- Allow time to assist community groups and provide support
- Promotion of the Agriculture Coordinator position
  - o Make connections and contact with all the community agriculture groups and individuals across the region
    - Determine the needs of the agriculture sector
  - o Skeena Cattlemen's representative would also like to connect with the Agriculture Coordinator

## **2. Development of Agriculture Coordinator Work Plan for 2018 (CONT'D)**

- How to initiate contacts and connections?
  - Social media
  - Meetings/Delegation with municipalities within the region
  - Newspapers and radio advertising
  - RDBN Newsletter
  - Directors to promote the Agriculture Coordinator
    - Local media/radio contacts
- Assist in bringing local farm products to market
  - Eg. mobile (beef) inspection programs to assist in bringing products to market
- Roles and contribution of local government in regard to the agriculture sector
- Coordination of workshops and forums
  - Agriculture Forum – February 2018 - Priority
  - Some grant funding options – dates for submission – November 14, 2017
  - Agriculture Forum potential Topics for Discussion:
    - Premise ID's – Emergency Events
    - Succession planning
    - Youth component
    - Farmers Markets
      - BC Association of Farmers' Markets
      - Webinar series
      - Coffee Table Workshops – Training Opportunities
  - Staff to determine grant funding opportunities and possible dates to be brought forward for consideration by the Agriculture Committee
- Agriculture Land Commission – Agriculture Land Reserve

### Water Sustainability Act – Water Licensing Regulations and Ground Water Registration

Chair Parker received an e-mail November 8, 2017 from the Ministry of Environment to arrange a teleconference to discuss the *Water Sustainability Act* - Water Licensing regulations and process. Chair Parker will bring forward the information at a future meeting.

Ms. Evans noted that she has made contact with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development in regard to emergency planning for livestock. Discussion took place in regard to existing youth programs in the region: Nechako Senior Secondary School Greenhouse Living Classroom – School District 91 Nechako Lakes, Hazelton Farm School, Groundbreakers Collective, School District 54 Bulkley Valley – Geodome project.

Ms. Evans mentioned that on February 23, 2018 Farm Credit Canada is hosting a free Trends and Trades Opportunity in the Beef Market and Communicating for.... Workshop in Vanderhoof.

### Agriculture Grant Funding Opportunities

Moved by Director Repen  
Seconded by Director Newell

### AG.2017-7-3

“That the Agriculture Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to submit relevant grant funding opportunities for an agriculture forum in early 2018.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **2. Development of Agriculture Coordinator Work Plan for 2018 (CONT'D)**

### **2018 Agriculture Coordinator Work Plan**

Moved by Director Miller  
Seconded by Director Newell

AG.2017-7-4

“That the Agriculture Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to bring forward a 2018 Agriculture Coordinator Work Plan for review.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **SPECIAL IN CAMERA MEETING MOTION**

Moved by Director Miller  
Seconded by Director Newell

AG.2017-7-3

“In accordance with Sections (1)(c) of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that matters pertaining to labour relations or other employee relations (Agriculture Coordinator) be held in confidence, and therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Benedict  
Seconded by Director Repen

AG.2017-7-4

“That the meeting be adjourned at 3:02 pm.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant