

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, October 10, 2019

PRESENT:

Chair	Gerry Thiessen
Directors	Shane Brienen Mark Fisher Dolores Funk Clint Lambert Brad Layton Linda McGuire Mark Parker Jerry Petersen Bev Playfair Michael Riis-Christianson Kim Watt-Senner
Directors Absent	Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) Rob Newell, Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)
Alternate Director	Bob Hughes, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)
Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 1:05 p.m. John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning Rory McKenzie, Director of Environmental Services - arrived at 1:00 p.m. Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant
Others	Peter Dalton, Director, Security & Emergency Management, BC Oil and Gas Commission – left at 12:19 p.m. Sunny Deol, Project Manager for Section 6/7, Coastal GasLink Project, TC Energy – left at 12:19 p.m. Kiel Giddens, Public Affairs Manager, British Columbia, TC Energy – left at 12:19 p.m., returned at 1:04 p.m., left at 1:14 p.m. Kevin Frederiksen, Construction Manager, Pacific Atlantic Pipeline Construction Ltd. (PAPC) – left at 12:19 p.m. Dave Jonasson, Assistant Construction Manager, Coastal GasLink Project, TC Energy – left at 12:19 p.m. Tanner Moulton, Public Affairs Coordinator, TC Energy – left at 12:19 p.m. James O’Hanley, Vice President Applications, BC Oil and Gas Commission – 12:19 p.m. Bobby Seinen, Concerned Citizens Morice River FSR – left at 12:19 p.m. Garth Thoroughgood, Executive Director of Major Projects, BC Oil and Gas Commission – left at 12:19 p.m.

Media Blair McBride, Lakes District News – left at 12:19 p.m., returned at 1:05 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2019-7-1

“That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole meeting of October 10, 2019 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Minutes – September 5, 2019

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Parker

C.W.2019-7-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of September 5, 2019 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

BC OIL AND GAS COMMISSION – Peter Dalton, Director, Security & Emergency Management, Garth Thoroughgood, Executive Director Major Projects and James O’Hanley, Vice President Applications – RE: Emergency Management Requirements and Permitting and Approval Process

Chair Thiessen welcomed Peter Dalton, Director, Security & Emergency Management, Garth Thoroughgood, Executive Director Major Projects and James O’Hanley, Vice President Applications, BC Oil and Gas Commission (OCG).

Mr. Dalton provided a brief overview of OGC’s oversight of emergency management for oil and gas activities. He voiced appreciation for the opportunity to connect and establish good working relationships with local government where oil and gas activities are taking place. The OGC sees local governments as needing to be informed members of the emergency response team.

- Any provincially regulated or permitted oil and gas activities require companies to create, establish, maintain, update and communicate changes for an Emergency Plan
 - Must be a valid plan from construction to abandonment
 - Must be reviewed on an annual basis by the OGC Security and Emergency Management Team
 - Ensure permit holders have capacity and competency to enact their Emergency Plans
 - Evaluations are completed through exercises that are required to be held yearly with permit holders
 - Exercises are created and focused on the company’s primary risks
 - Must show capability of responding to and the ability to successfully manage the primary risk
 - OGC provides follow-up and feedback
 - Mostly successful but have had to provide feedback for additional training on occasion

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

BC OIL AND GAS COMMISSION – Peter Dalton, Director, Security & Emergency Management, Garth Thoroughgood, Executive Director Major Projects and James O’Hanley, Vice President Applications – RE: Emergency Management Requirements and Permitting and Approval Process (Cont’d)

- Encourage engagement with local governments for the occurrence of natural disasters/events
 - Providing the immediate ability to connect and support a larger coordinated effort on the landscape
- Majority of events during a project construction phase are mostly natural disasters/events
- What happens when you have a large contingent of additional people on the ground during construction phase of a project – each permit holder must have its own Emergency Plan in place to manage their infrastructure
- OGC expectation during a large-scale event – companies will want to remove people from the area as soon as possible
- OGC participates and involves permit holders as soon as it becomes aware of a natural event
 - Regularly participate in and provide information in coordination calls with Emergency Management B.C. (EMBC)
- Ensure permit holders are aware and involved in events
- Permit holders in construction phase will have an area specific plan
 - operate under core/corporate plan
 - overarching plan
 - Includes process for organizing a general response
 - Outlines how an event is reported up through an organization and how the threats/risks are communicated down through an organization

The following was discussed:

- Permit holder capacity regarding abandonment and financial guarantees required of the permit holder
- The *Oil and Gas Activities Act* outlines that permit holders have an obligation for any costs in regard to emergency events due to an oil or gas activity that they are responsible for
 - Similar to Emergency Support Services (ESS) provided to displaced residents in an event
- In B.C. a company that develops infrastructure for a project is responsible for that infrastructure and continues to be responsible through to decommission and applies in perpetuity.
- The OGC has the ability to require security for the discharge of obligation under *the Oil and Gas Activity Act*.
- The OGC has a system in place and is fully able to charge the necessary amount if there is a believed risk.

Director Lambert brought forward issues in regard to the abandonment of Equity Mine near Houston. Mr. O’Hanley commented that there are a small number of incidents being addressed in the Province in regard to insolvent companies and abandoned sites. He spoke of the Orphaned Obligation Fund that is funded by the Oil and Gas industry and the ability to address abandoned sites through that funding. Due to a number of recent insolvencies the OGC has increased that fund and the ability to utilize it.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

BC OIL AND GAS COMMISSION (Cont'd)

Discussion took place in regard to:

- Long-term costs for emergency events
- Permit holders being responsible for their activities on the land base and are subject to the *Wildfire Act*
- In the case of wildfires, oil and gas right of ways have been used as break points and safety routes by BC Wildfire Service
- Licence/Permit holder is responsible for the Emergency Plan
 - Contractors/sub-contractors and all employees must have the ability to work within that plan
 - The Permit holder is responsible
- Challenges regarding information provided to local government
- Plans and information need to be completed and provided at the start of the process
 - Waste disposal
 - Invasive weeds
 - Road usage
- Direct impact to residents and neighbors of the project
 - More information earlier is better.

Mr. O'Hanley mentioned that consultation and notification permits have been provided and a number of concerns are Provincial regulations. He indicated that the OGC is willing to follow-up with Provincial Regulators with concerns and/or questions.

Chair Thiessen noted that residents come forward to local government representatives and with the Coastal GasLink Project being the first major oil and gas project to come through the area , there is a need for local government and area residents to have the ability to contact the appropriate project representatives, whether it be the OGC or Provincial Regulators and receive a timely response to concerns and/or questions. Mr. O'Hanley commented that the OGC has the opportunity to speak internally with the Province and has oversight concerning a large part of the regulatory process. The OGC can take the lead and bring forward questions and concerns. He spoke of finding the best point of contact and method to provide information to local government representatives.

Discussion took place regarding the process in regard to Emergency Response. Mr. Dalton mentioned that the OGC is conducting its third Emergency Management Pilot exercise in Terrace October 22-23, 2019. The exercises are intended to bring all stakeholders together to build capacity and break down barriers. The hope is that further lines of communication will be developed through the pilot project and a solid robust line of communication that addresses the needs of everyone can be developed.

Mr. O'Hanley commented that the OGC is a part of a number of different Provincial Government committees to address the Coastal GasLink Project and LNG. The Committees comprises of a number of agencies that have input into the decision making process. The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has set up a coordinating group led by Michelle Carr, Assistant Deputy Minister, LNG Canada Implementation. Mr. O'Hanley mentioned that ADM Carr would be a good source of contact to build relationships and develop levels of contact. Mr. O'Hanley reiterated the need for communication and information processes. Director Parker spoke of the need for the Regional District to have a direct line of contact with the OGC. Developing a simplified process to speak with decision makers was discussed.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

BC OIL AND GAS COMMISSION (Cont'd)

Discussion took place in regard to gravel extraction. Mr. O'Hanley outlined the process for the OGC to authorize gravel extraction. He noted that limits do exist and the OGC has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources under the *Mines Act* to provide approvals within a limited size and scope. If the project exceeds these parameters it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Chair Thiessen encouraged Messrs. O'Hanley and Dalton to return to the RDBN to have further discussions as the project moves forward to ensure that the Board has the opportunity to address any issues and or concerns. Mr. Dalton commented that Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services may contact him at any time if there are concerns or questions.

Chair Thiessen thanked Messrs. Dalton, O'Hanley and Thoroughgood for attending the meeting.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

TC ENERGY – Kiel Giddens, Public Affairs Manager, British Columbia, TC Energy and Tanner Moulton, Public Affairs Coordinator – RE: Update

Chair Thiessen welcomed Kiel Giddens, Public Affairs Manager, British Columbia, TC Energy and Tanner Moulton, Public Affairs Coordinator. Mr. Giddens introduced Sunny Deol, Project Manager for Section 6/7 and Dave Jonasson, Assistant Construction Manager, Coastal GasLink Project, TC Energy and Kevin Frederiksen, Construction Manager, Pacific Atlantic Pipeline Construction Ltd. (PAPC).

Kiel Giddens provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project Update

- About TC Energy
- Coastal GasLink is Connecting Cleaner Energy to the World
- Rigorous Multi-Year Review and Assessment
- Project Milestones
- Delivering Local Benefits
- Prioritizing Local & Indigenous Contracting & Hiring
- Coastal Gaslink Pipeline Project: Progress at October 2019
- Section 8 Progress
 - “Cable Crane Hill:
- Preparing for 2020 Mainline Construction
- Building the Best – During Construction/After Construction
- Invasive Plant Management Plan
- Timber Salvage Strategy
- Emergency Response & Preparedness
- Workforce Accommodations & Waste Management
- Public Communications & Response
- Building a Legacy of Safety and Respect.

Mr. Giddens commented that once he was made aware of the concerns of Bobby Seinen, Morice FSR resident he contacted Ms. Seinen. He also noted that along with Mr. Moulton and Mr. Johansson he will be meeting with Ms. Seinen in regard to the Morice FSR. Mr. Giddens noted that the Morice FSR Permit Holder is Canfor Houston and CGL is committed to bringing forward the concerns of the Morice FSR residents to the road users' group.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

TC ENERGY – Kiel Giddens, Public Affairs Manager, British Columbia, TC Energy and Tanner Moulton, Public Affairs Coordinator – RE: Update (Cont'd)

Mr. Giddens stated that for the first time within TC Energy, the Coastal GasLink Project has a Facebook Page.

The following was discussed:

- Public meetings for Houston, Burns Lake and Vanderhoof are being rescheduled outside the Federal Writ Period
- Fraser Lake Job Fair – October 29, 2019
- Community Investments Fund
 - Contributions to:
 - Fraser Lake
 - Baker Airport in Burns Lake
 - No end date for the Community Investment Fund
 - Aim to fairly allocate funds across northern B.C.
 - Focus funding on safety initiatives and community investments related to environment
- Anticipated Property tax dollars of approximately \$21 million a year across the project area (approx. \$8.3 M Property tax within the RDBN) was included in the Environmental Assessment process and is in 2014 dollars
- Indigenous relationships and work with the Indigenous communities and people
- Process for misunderstandings e.g. roads, cultural sites
 - OGC regulates and holds TC Energy accountable for the Coastal GasLink Projects
 - OGC and partners have Compliance Officers conduct regular site inspections
 - Self-report
 - Contingency Plans are in place and strict requirements have to be followed in regard to the Environmental Management Plans
 - Concerns in regard to notification letters distributed to residents along the Nechako River in regard to permits for water use rights
 - District of Vanderhoof provided a letter to the OGC outlining concerns
 - Mr. Giddens recognized the concerns and that in areas that are new to the Oil and Gas process there is a need for further conversations
 - Mr. Giddens noted that it is CGL's responsibility to respond and appreciates the District of Vanderhoof raising the issue and CGL will follow-up.
- Staff brought forward Director Newell's e-mail dated October 10, 2019
 - OGC's acknowledgement, investigation and addressing the issues or concerns brought forward by the Board
 - Mr. Giddens positive response to road upgrades, emergency response planning, cellular coverage, timber salvage, invasive plant management and waste management at UBCM
 - Concerns of residents living in the direct area of pipeline construction and the added activity in noted wildfire zones with sparse or non-existent cellular coverage intensifying the wildfire risk to local residents.

Chair Thiessen thanked Messrs. Giddens, Deol, Moulton, Jonasson and Frederiksen for attending the meeting.

Break for lunch at 12:19 p.m.

Reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Director Brienien suggested having Michelle Carr, Assistant Deputy Minister LNG Canada Implementation, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Petroleum Resources attend a future RDBN meeting. He also spoke of having a flow chart that provides contact information for the regulatory authorities and agencies responsible for the CGL Project for local government officials and staff to utilize.

Director Layton spoke of the need to have a conflict resolution process outlined and available to local governments and residents to address concerns brought forward. Chair Thiessen noted that with the oil and gas industry being a relatively new industry in the region regular communication is important. He noted that residents contact their local government officials for support and assistance. The OGC has indicated they will be in contact with the RDBN CAO on a weekly basis and/or as required. Director Fisher spoke of the importance of having written processes and plans in place for accountability. Director Riis-Christianson reiterated the need to have a quick point of contact with the OGC and CGL Project to bring forward concerns and issues from residents and local government officials.

Curtis Helgesen, CAO noted that ADM Carr has reached out to the RDBN to meet with the Board, staff will follow-up to schedule a meeting.

VERBAL UPDATES RE: UBCM

1. Minister Meetings Updates by Lead Speakers

Chair Thiessen thanked the the Lead Speakers for taking responsibility for their topic and showcasing a strong Board stance and for being very engaged in the process. Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services mentioned that staff will be providing follow-up letters to the Ministers that the Board met with at UBCM.

Chair Thiessen suggested a follow-up information page that includes a brief from each Minister meeting at UBCM.

Director Lambert spoke of the RDBN resolutions that were passed at UBCM and the need to follow-up with UBCM and Ministers to continue to move the issues forward.

Director Parker noted that the Board was very cohesive and had a good response to its Minister meetings. He mentioned providing follow-up letters to the Opposition Leaders the Board met with at UBCM and suggested meetings with Opposition Leaders at future UBCM's. Director Parker thanked Chair Thiessen for his leadership while at UBCM. Staff will also draft letters to the Opposition Leaders.

Director Fisher mentioned that all the meetings, including the meeting with UBCM staff in regard to Federal Gas Tax and the joint meetings with local governments and the Minister of Environment received a good response. He spoke of bringing local governments together as a collaborative approach to an issue in the future. He suggested staff also include brief information regarding the additional meetings RDBN Board members attended on the after UBCM briefing update.

- The Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health – Lead Speaker: Directors Petersen and Brienien
 - Good meeting
 - Minister's understanding of the challenges faced by the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District being one of the smallest in the province with one of the highest tax rates

Director McGuire noted that the Village of Granisle only had one Minister meeting but met with staff from seven different Ministries. She mentioned that Ministry staff were very responsive and it was very beneficial to meet with staff.

VERBAL UPDATES RE: UBCM (CONT'D)

- The Honourable John Horgan, Premier – Lead Speakers: Chair Thiessen, Directors Brienen and Funk
 - Director Brienen indicated that the RBA Steering Committee is planning a meeting in the near future
 - Kris Boland, Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) Project Manager is currently developing a key messaging brief for members
 - The meeting with Premier Horgan was positive
 - Premier Horgan announced at UBCM his commitment to negotiate with the RBA
 - Director Funk and Chair Thiessen expressed their appreciation for Director Brienen's lead in discussions with Premier Horgan.
 - Staff brought forward Director Newell's comments from his e-mail dated October 10, 2019

Director Funk noted that the Village of Burns Lake meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education was very challenging. Director Funk expressed concerns for post-secondary education in Burns Lake. Director Watt-Senner noted similar challenges. Chair Thiessen noted the need to find a solution moving forward and he spoke of the potential option of having a Government Affairs representative to assist.

Director Brienen mentioned that the District of Houston also met with the Minister of Advance Education in regard to Driver Training Programs in High schools to ensure that students completing high school have their Drivers Licence.

UBCM Follow-Up

- The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has scheduled a teleconference meeting on November 26, 2019 with the Regional Board from 3:15 – 3:45 p.m. Staff will forward a calendar invitation to the Board.

2. Other Meeting Updates

B.C. Rural Centre – Keeping It Rural 2019 Conference

- Director Lambert attended the conference along with Chair Thiessen and Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator
- Very good conference with good speakers
- Excellent networking opportunity
- Most rural issues are shared
- Chair Thiessen encouraged Board members to consider attending future Keeping it Rural Conferences
- Key take aways from the conference:
 - An analysis presented at the conference identifying what will bring people to a rural community - #1 – Culture, #2 – Highspeed internet and jobs was #13
 - No community succeeds unless they do it on a regional basis – he spoke of the importance of building regional alliances
 - The Winners of the BC Rural Centre's 2018 Escape the City moved to the small rural community of Kaslo, BC from Calgary, AB because the community could provide high speed internet
 - Presenter, Rankin MacSween (Nova Scotia), New Dawn Enterprises on Cape Breton Island spoke of the negative impacts from government subsidies for Cape Breton Island in 1970 to address the coal and steel mine challenges
- All speeches from the conference will be on-line

NEW BUSINESS

2018 Wildfire Event Timber Salvage

Director Lambert brought forward concerns in regard to the slow process for salvage contracts in regard to timber burnt in the 2018 Wildfire Event. Director Layton mentioned that he attended a meeting on October 8, 2019 at the Nadina Forest District Office in Burns Lake and noted that brief discussions took place regarding the issue. Discussion took place in regard to the importance of meeting with FLNRORD District staff in the Nadina and Stuart Nechako Forest District Offices and BCTS regarding the salvaging of burnt timber.

Chair Thiessen voiced frustration and concerns that the issue was addressed in the 2017 Wildfires in the Cariboo and a model should be in place to address burnt salvage. He noted the importance of scheduling a meeting with Eamon O'Donoghue, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) as soon as possible. Discussion took place in regard to the importance of finding a solution.

Staff will schedule a meeting with Eamon O'Donoghue, Assistant Deputy Minister, Timber Sales Managers and Woodlands Managers for the Nadina and Stuart Nechako Forest Districts and Chair Thiessen, Director Layton, Chair, RDBN Forestry Committee, Directors Funk, Lambert and Brienens regarding timber salvage of burnt timber.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2019-7-3

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:40 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant