

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, October 8, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher  
Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert – Via Zoom  
Chris Newell  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Gerry Thiessen

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
Janette Derksen, Diversion Supervisor  
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator – Via Teleconference  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Deneve Vanderwolf, Planner 1/Regional Transit Coordinator – left at 10:23 a.m.  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle  
Judy Greenaway, District of Fort St. James  
Casda Thomas, Town of Smithers  
Shane Brienen, District of Houston– arrived at 10:18 a.m.

Media Priyanka Ketkar, Lakes District News.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director T. Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2020-7-1

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for October 8, 2020 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Rural/Agriculture Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
-September 3, 2020

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director T. Greenaway

RDC.2020-7-2

“That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of September 3, 2020 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **AGRICULTURE REPORT**

### **Update on the RDBN Food Hub and Food Economy Assessment**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2020-7-3

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator’s October 8, 2020 Update on the RDBN Food Hub and Food Economy Assessment memo.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator commented that staff is working with the contract team to move forward with further engagement and encourage more producers to participate in the online workshop. A survey is being developed that will be posted on the RDBN Agriculture website page mid-October to December, 2020. Chair Parker encouraged the Committee to share the information and engage producers in their area to participate in the online workshop and upcoming survey.

## **RURAL REPORT**

### **Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service – Grant in Aid**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2020-7-4

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Planner 1/Regional Transit Coordinators Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service – Grant in Aid memo.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Directors Newell, Parker, Petersen and Riis-Christianson indicated their support of utilizing grant in aid for Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service.

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT (Rural Directors)**

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

#### **Crown Land Referrals**

##### **Crown Land Application Referral No. 7405276 & 7405277 – MOTI – Electoral Area F**

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director T. Greenaway

RDC.2020-7-5

“That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral No. 7405276 & 7405277 be provided to the Province.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

##### **Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410089 (Ophus) -Electoral Area F**

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2020-7-6

“That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410089 be provided to the Province.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Crown Land Referrals (Cont'd)**

Crown Land Application Moved by Director Petersen  
Referral No. 7410119 (Linehan) Seconded by Director T. Greenaway  
-Electoral Area F

RDC.2020-7-7 "That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410119 be provided to the Province."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Crown Land Application Moved by Director Newell  
Referral No. 6408872 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson  
(Moorhead) - Electoral Area G

RDC.2020-7-8 "That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral No. 6408872 be provided to the Province."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Mine Referral**

Director Newell recused himself from the meeting at 10:23 a.m. due to a conflict of interest in regard to his employment with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Mines Application Moved by Director T. Greenaway  
Referral No. 13990-02-321 Seconded by Director Petersen  
(Goodwin) - Electoral Area C

RDC.2020-7-9 "That the Comment Sheet for Mines Application Referral No. 13990-02-321 be provided to the Province."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Newell returned to the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

### **VERBAL UPDATE (Chair Parker)**

#### UBCM Follow-up

#### The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture

- Increased level of accommodation than in the past
- Good for northern BC
- Ministry of Agriculture engagement process recognizing that agriculture in northern BC is different vs. agriculture in southern BC
- Positive meeting.

#### Ag Plastic Update

- Met with Cleanfarms and BC Cattlemen's Association in 2019 in regard to Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) Programs for ag plastics
- Recently contacted by Cleanfarms – received funding for a 3-year pilot program to recycle agriculture plastics
  - o Tentatively entering into Phase 1 – Feasibility study to investigate diverting ag plastic from the landfills
  - o 50/50 cost share program for operations
    - Once volumes are determined staff will bring forward for Board consideration - Phase 2 – collection and recycling portion of the program
  - o Pilot Program includes Peace River Regional District, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- Exciting initiative.

**VERBAL UPDATE (CONT'D)**

Discussion took place regarding:

- Baling locally, processing and washing of plastics
- Value added opportunities moving forward
- Ensuring that the recycling of ag plastics is convenient
- Feasibility Study to be completed by the end of October 2020.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Newell  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2020-7-10

"That the verbal reports be received."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director T. Greenaway

RDC.2020-7-11

"That the meeting be adjourned at 10:33 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

---

Mark Parker, Chair

---

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant