



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>AGENDA – APRIL 20, 2017</u>	Approve
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
2-6	Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes - March 2, 2017	Receive
	<u>DISCUSSION ITEM</u>	
	Funding Opportunities	
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
7-8	ALC Application Portal Update - New Public Search Functionality	Receive
9	Country Life in BC – February 2017 Edition - RDBN Ag Committee Turns One	Receive
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

REPORT

Agriculture Forum -November 9, 2016

Director Miller thanked Chair Parker, Director Fisher and RDBN staff for the work completed in regard to the Agriculture Forum on November 9, 2016 in Burns Lake.

Discussion took place regarding the work being completed from the Agriculture Forum:

- Northwest Invasive Plant Council is scheduled to be a delegation at the March 9, 2017 RDBN Committee of the Whole meeting;
- Chair Parker has been invited by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry of the Senate of Canada to attend a meeting via video conference on March 7, 2017 to provide a presentation in regard to foreign ownership of agriculture lands;
- Workshops have been conducted in the region in regard to the new *Water Sustainability Act*.
 - o Some uncertainty remains in regard to the new regulations;
 - o Workshops are required in the Burns Lake area;
 - o Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) has indicated they are willing to have workshops where needed;
 - o Beyond the Market has also assisted in facilitating workshops;
 - o Without completed water licensing for farm lands there could potentially be impacts to the property values;

Chair Parker noted the dialogue that took place at the Agriculture Forum and the connections that were made with individuals has assisted in addressing agriculture issues in the region.

Director Repen spoke to the future of agriculture in the region and the potential for growth and the ability to move forward in building agriculture in North West BC.

VERBAL REPORTS

Presentation for Senate on the Acquisition of Farmland – March 7, 2017

Chair Parker noted that the video conference presentation for the Senate on the Acquisition of Farmland scheduled for March 7, 2017 will take place in Prince George.

Three key areas the presentation will focus on:

1. National Policy to protect Agriculture Land;
2. Need a solution to make it competitive for local and young farmers to acquire farmland on the same level as big industry;
 - a. assist farmers to get into the market and be sustainable;
3. Needs to be long term:
 - a. food production in and for Canada and food export by Canada for Canada;

Chair Parker noted that the Ministry of Agriculture has indicated that 2% of agriculture land in BC is owned by foreign entities. In Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof), 4% of agriculture land is owned by foreign companies.

Chair Parker has had discussions with the RDBN Planning department and Gary Blattner, Facilitator, Agriculture Forum in regard to the presentation. The presentation time allowance is 5-7 minutes with an opportunity for the Senate to question Chair Parker afterward.

VERBAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

Presentation for Senate on the Acquisition of Farmland – March 7, 2017 (Cont'd)

Director Thiessen identified the need for Farm Credit Canada (FCC) to be more progressive and more available to young farmers. Director Repen noted that FCC is available to support the growing of products but not for processing and there is a need to upgrade and update the use of FCC. Discussion took place regarding the long length of time it takes to complete an application process through FCC being a deterrent and not user friendly. FCC is an option already in place that has great potential but requires some updating to address the needs of current farming

Carrots to Cattle Conference-March 17-18, 2017 -Smithers, B.C.

Chair Parker expressed the value in attending the Carrots to Cattle Conference March 17-18, 2017 in Smithers and the positive feedback he has received in regard to the RDBN including agriculture as a priority. He spoke to building trust and the role of the RDBN in the agriculture sector. Chair Parker has been contacted by other Regional Districts and communities requesting information and providing support in regard to the RDBN's Agriculture Committee and initiatives. He thanked the RDBN Board for its support and recognition of value in regard to agriculture in the region.

Carrots to Cattle Tradeshow Booth - Deneve Vanderwolf, Regional Economic Development Assistant

Ms. Vanderwolf noted the importance of having a tradeshow booth at the Carrots to Cattle Conference. She spoke of the RDBN's initiative in regard to the agriculture sector and having a booth at the conference provided an opportunity for education, relationship building and an opportunity for attendees to ask questions.

- Tradeshow component consisted of 6 booths:
 - Beyond the Market;
 - Ministry of Agriculture;
 - Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako;
 - Kubota Tractor;
 - Copper T Ranch;
 - Smithers Feed Store.

Friday, February 17, 2017

- Set up and booth was open from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.;
- Attendance during the 2 hours the booth was open prior to dinner was minimal;
- Staff networked with a number of individuals during dinner and during the Tradeshow the following day.
 - Local producers;
 - Community leaders;
 - Government employees;
 - Other attendees.

Saturday, February 18, 2017

- Booth was open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - Was available to attendees during coffee breaks and lunch;
 - Attendees at event - 70;
 - Total conversations with booth attendees – 35;
 - Many took handouts that passed by the booth that did not speak directly with staff;
 - Conversations held in regard to:
 - RDBN Agriculture webpage;
 - Ease of use of website;
 - Connecting Consumers to Producers;
 - Possible funding fit for some agriculture training for producers in the Smithers area;

VERBAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

Carrots to Cattle Tradeshow Booth - Deneve Vanderwolf, Regional Economic Development Assistant (Cont'd)

- Two producers would like to be promoted in the Connecting Consumers to Producers but are just outside the RDBN Boundaries;
- RDBN Agriculture Plan and Land Use Inventories
 - What is it?
 - Why do it?
 - Where can they find it?
- SWOT (Skills Workforce Opportunities Team)
 - Promoted SWOT;
 - Explored potential agriculture representatives for the SWOT.

Chair Parker congratulated Director Fisher for his initiative to utilize grant in aid funds to assist the Carrots to Cattle Conference in sponsoring youth registrations. He also thanked staff and noted that it was well worth having staff in attendance.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Petersen

AG.2017-2-3

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the verbal reports as presented."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INVITATIONS

**New Exporter Mission 2017
-March 6-7, 2017 – Seattle, WA**

Moved by Director Illes
Seconded by Director Benedict

AG.2017-2-4

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the invitation titled "New Exporter Mission 2017 – March 6-7, 2017 – Seattle, WA."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Miller spoke of visiting the Pacific Northwest recently and noted the potential growth for BC Agriculture to export to the area. He noted the growth of urban areas into agriculture lands has put restrictions on growing areas and will open opportunities for BC to export food.

**Expanding Your Presence in
in China – February 22, 2017
-Richmond, B.C.**

Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Director Petersen

AG.2017-2-5

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the invitation titled "Expanding Your Presence in China – February 22, 2017 – Richmond, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6

INVITATIONS (CONT'D)

Chair Parker noted that the "Expanding Your Presence in China" is a Growing Forward 2 initiative. He commented that Growing Forward 3 is being developed and is currently interested in comments and recommendations. He mentioned that while extending BC's agriculture presence in China is good he also would like reassurance that local growing and production is a priority. Director Repen spoke to the benefits of export markets and utilizing both export and local markets.

NEW BUSINESS

**Logging Truck Irresponsible
Driving Behavior**

Discussion took place regarding erratic logging truck driver behavior and the contractors being accountable for their drivers.

**SPECIAL IN-CAMERA
MEETING**

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Thiessen

AG.2017-2-6

"In accordance with Section 90 (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 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 Brien
Seconded by Director Miller

A.G.2017-2-7

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:20 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

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APR 06 2017

From: McCoubrey, Lindsay ALC:EX <Lindsay.McCoubrey@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 6, 2017 4:08 PM
Subject: ALC Application Portal Update - New Public Search Functionality

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF
BULKLEY NECHASCO



ALC Application Portal Update

Thursday, April 6, 2017 – Please circulate to relevant local government staff.

New Public Application Search Function

As of March 31, 2017, the ALC Application Portal now includes application search functionality for the public. Applications electronically submitted to the ALC starting July 15, 2015 are available on Application Search.

Applications submitted to the ALC become visible in Application Search when the ALC acknowledges the submission as complete. Once the local government forwards the application and the associated fee to the ALC, staff check that required documents are present and assign the ALC Acknowledged - Complete status accordingly.

Application Search is located in the Popular Topics section on the [ALC website](#) homepage.

Did You Know?

- 1. Protecting Private Information** - Applicant submissions and public correspondence included in local government staff reports and other attachments should have personal contact information redacted (specifically, email addresses and phone numbers).
- 2. Reviewing Applications – Applicant → Local Government → ALC** - Applications submitted through the Portal move from applicant to local government and then to the ALC. The ALC does not vet or see application material until the local government chooses to electronically forward an application to the ALC.

Note: Transportation, Utility, Recreation Trail Use applications and Notice of Intent submissions come directly to the ALC with a read-only copy sent to the local government.

3. Forwarding Resolutions - A local government resolution authorizing applications to be forwarded to the ALC is required for all applications unless:

- There is no Zoning/OCP designation where the parcel is located, or
- The application is for inclusion into the ALR

"An application...may not proceed unless authorized by a resolution of the local government if...the application...applies to land that is zoned by bylaw to permit agricultural or farm use, or requires, in order to proceed, an amendment to an official settlement plan, an official community plan, an official development plan or a zoning bylaw."

Non-Farm Use and Subdivision - S. 25(3) of the ALC Act

Exclusion - S. 30(4) of the ALC Act

Contact Information: ALC Application Portal Team

For any questions please contact:

ALC Application Portal phone: (604) 868-2979

Sincerely,

The ALC Application Portal Team

RDBN ag committee turns one

BURNS LAKE - The Regional District of Bulkley Nechako agriculture committee celebrates its first birthday on February 11. Committee chair Mark Parker says the committee was created in response to the downturn in the commodities market.

"We've lost a couple of mines and sawmills in the area. As a board, we realized that we really need to promote agriculture and make sure that we get it to the forefront because it is one sector that's going to continue to be strong in this downturn."

The main objective of the committee is to promote, advance and lobby for agriculture.

"It has taken a little while to see where we want to go and get some direction. The main difficulty that we had was defining our role as a committee and as individual directors. We had to ask ourselves where we fit in and what are our roles and our responsibilities."

To this end, the committee hosted an

agricultural forum in November and invited representatives from the BC Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Land Commission, the University of Northern BC, the farmers market associations and other local groups, including beekeepers and dairymen. The agencies each gave a presentation on their mandates and talked about how they might work together.

"There were 44 participants and it was, by far, the most beneficial thing we have done yet."

Participating in the federal Senate review of the acquisition of farmland is one of their goals for 2017.

"We've submitted our issues and stated our case to be invited to Ottawa to present our issues and explain what we're facing here in the north region."

The group will also be looking at climate change issues, exploring how to get updated climate mapping and what could be grown in the region in the future.

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