

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, April 14, 2016

PRESENT: Chairperson Bill Miller

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Dwayne Lindstrom
Rob MacDougall
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Luke Strimbold – left at 11:59 a.m., returned at 12:15 p.m.
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural)
Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle
Rob Newell, Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural)

Alternate Directors Bob Hughes, Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural)
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle

Staff Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services – left at 11:22 a.m., returned at 11:40 a.m.
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator
Janine Dougall, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 11:19 a.m.
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Carl Lutz, District Manager, Bulkley-Stikine, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – left at 11:53 a.m.
Ron Marshall, District Manager, Fort George, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – left at 11:53 a.m.
Lianne Olson, Stakeholder and Community Relations Liaison, Rio Tinto Alcan – left at 12:18 a.m.

Media Flavio Nienow, LD News – left at 11:53 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 10:57 a.m.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Alternate Director McGuire

C.W.2016-4-1

“That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole meeting of April 14, 2016 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be received and dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – March 10, 2016

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Parker

C.W.2016-4-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of March 10, 2016 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Carl Lutz, District Manager, Bulkley-Stikine and Ron Marshall, District Manager, Fort George

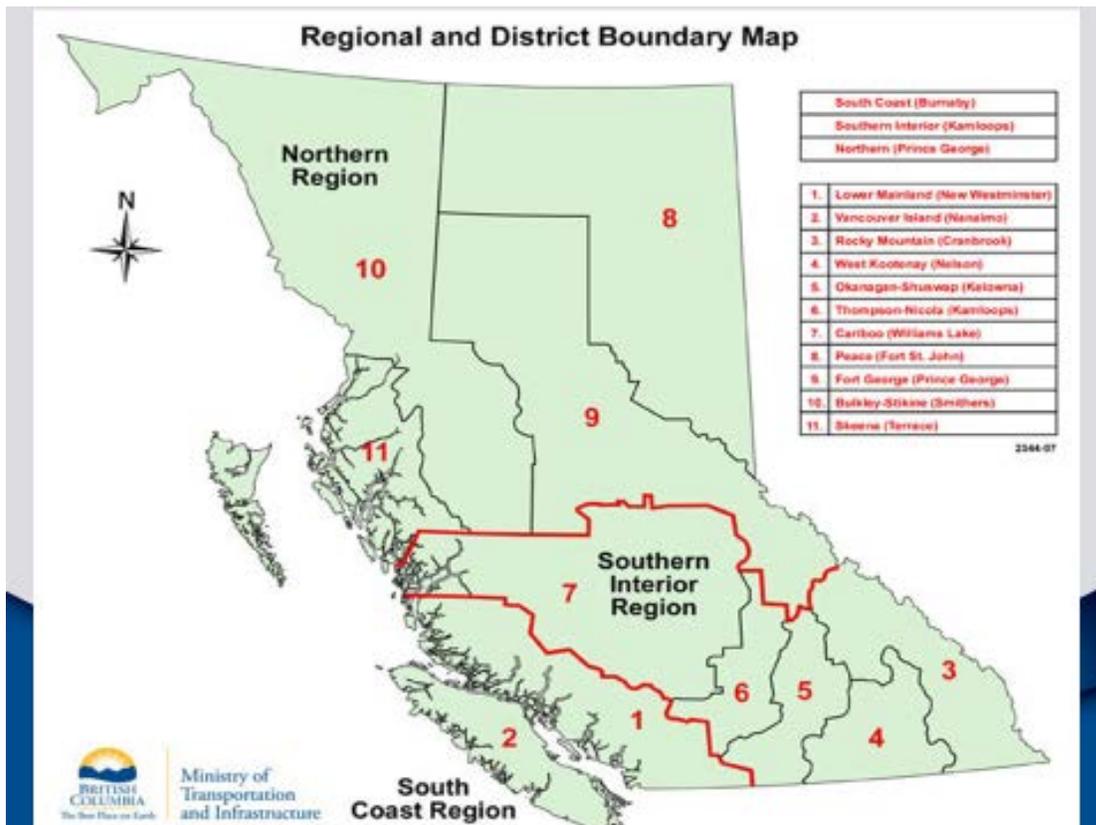
Chair Miller welcomed Carl Lutz, District Manager, Bulkley-Stikine and Ron Marshall, District Manager, Fort George, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Messrs Lutz and Marshall provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI)

- District Overview;
- District Work Groups;
- District Functions and Responsibilities;
- Current Program;
- Highway Maintenance;
- Ministry Signs & Provincial R/W;
- Recent Projects.

Regional and District Boundary



DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Carl Lutz, District Manager, Bulkley-Stikine and Ron Marshall, District Manager, Fort George (Cont'd)

Inventory

- Lane Kilometres:
 - o Fort George District Total Roads: **7896 Km**;
 - o Bulkley-Stikine District Total Roads: **6378 Km**;
- Total number of structures including bridges, multiplate culverts and retaining walls:
 - o Fort George District: **230**;
 - o Bulkley-Stikine District: **165**.

District Business Groups

- Operations (Maintenance, avalanche control, rehab);
- Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement (CVSE);
- Development Approvals;
- Finance and Administration.

Administrative Functions

- Front line link to community;
- Customer service;
- Co-ordinates emergency responses;
- Monitor maintenance contracts;
- Maintain road inventory;
- Manage road construction;
- Local equipment hire;
- Infrastructure preservation (seasonal load restrictions);
- Activities within the right-of-way;
- Process road closures;
- Approvals in unorganized areas of:
 - o Subdivisions;
 - o Accesses; and
 - o Rezoning;
- Service and Attraction signs.

Road Classification System

- Service levels determined by:
 - o 7 summer classes;
 - o 5 winter classes;
- Based on:
 - o Traffic volumes & Types;
 - o Routes and use:
 - School buses;
 - Hospitals;
 - Fire/Police;
- Highest classification – highest service level.

Ministry Maintenance

- Highway maintenance is contracted through a bid process within the Province. Current contracts come for renewal in 2018 & 2019:
 - o 3 Contract service areas in Fort George District;
 - o 3 Contract service areas in Bulkley-Stikine District;
 - o 28 Contract service areas in the province.
- Contracted to meet the maintenance specifications;
- District Staff monitor on the roads and conduct audits;
- Customer service is a key part of the M/C (Maintenance Contractor) responsibilities.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Carl Lutz, District Manager, Bulkley-Stikine and Ron Marshall, District Manager, Fort George (Cont'd)

MoTI Authorities

- A person must not use or occupy a provincial highway unless he or she is authorized to do so under the following regulations:
 - o Sections 48, 49, 52, or 62 (1) of the *Transportation Act*;
 - o Under another act;
 - o By a lease entered into under Section 13 (2) of the *Transportation Act*;
 - o According to law;
- Ministry staff have various authorities over provincial public undertakings, including the following actions on provincial highways:
 - o **"Plan, design, acquire, hold, construct in any manner or place, use, operate, upgrade, alter, expand, extend, maintain, repair, rehabilitate, protect, remove, discontinue, close and dispose" (from the *Transportation Act*).**
- **Roads:**
 - o MoTI is not responsible nor does it maintain roads outside of the provincial inventory:
 - Forest Service Roads;
 - Private Roads;
 - Non-Status Roads;
 - Driveways;
 - Undeveloped Rights-of-way;
 - Federal roads;
 - o Important to consider for clients buy/selling off FSR's (Forest Service Roads) or non-status roads;
 - o Access to public roads:
 - Commercial access;
 - Residential access;
 - Access to a controlled access highway;
 - o Access responsibilities:
 - Construction;
 - Maintenance;
 - o Access to lands beyond:
 - May be result of a subdivision;
 - Could be labelled as a road on plan but actually be undeveloped at the site.
- **Highway Access Permits:**
 - o Required for all commercial and industrial access, and some residential;
 - o Only exception is single residential driveway on sideroads;
 - o Contact Development Approval Staff in District office with questions.
- **Rural Subdivision Approval:**
 - o Ministry of Transportation involvement in subdivision approvals includes:
 - Establishing construction standards for any new roads;
 - Approval of safe access location;
 - Identification of natural hazards;
 - Ensuring services (water and sewer).

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Carl Lutz, District Manager, Bulkley-Stikine and Ron Marshall, District Manager, Fort George (Cont'd)

- Subdivision Approval

- o Role of the Approving Officer:
 - Approving Officers are appointed under the *Land Title Act*;
 - Ministry of Transportation Provincial Approving Officers, whom Cabinet appoints to rule on subdivision proposals outside municipal boundaries and within those regional districts and the Island Trust boundaries that have not assumed the rural subdivision approving authority (Section 77.2).

Seasonal Strength Loss

- Designed to protect infrastructure during spring thaw;
- Roads are monitored with:
 - o Frost probes;
 - o Mobile strength testing;
 - o Visual observations in the field;
- For importance for industries with heavy equipment:
 - o Forest Industry;
 - o Mining/Oil & Gas;
 - o Farmers/Ranchers;
 - o Other industrial needs (construction);
- Advance notice is provided for impending road restrictions.

Land Hazard Studies

- Land Hazards:
 - o Flooding;
 - o Land slides;
 - o Debris flow;
- Recommendations can effect property development.

Signs on MoTI R/W

- Ministry infrastructure is utilized to:
 - o Inform and direct the travelling public of road hazards;
 - o Regulatory requirements;
 - o Informational purposes;
- Signs require permits on MoTI R/W;
- Only specific approved permitted signs are considered.

Winter Road Maintenance

- Winter maintenance is perceived by the Ministry's clients as the overall most important service provided, confirmed by Client Satisfaction Survey results;
- Emphasis on pro-active approach and local stakeholder needs;

Winter Maintenance

- Emphasis on new technology;
 - o Weather and road condition forecasts:
 - New materials;
 - Liquid de-icers;
 - Pre-wetted abrasives;
 - o Electronic/Internet based Highway Condition Reporting:
 - www.DriveBC.ca;
 - WebCam network.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Carl Lutz, District Manager, Bulkley-Stikine and Ron Marshall, District Manager, Fort George (Cont'd)

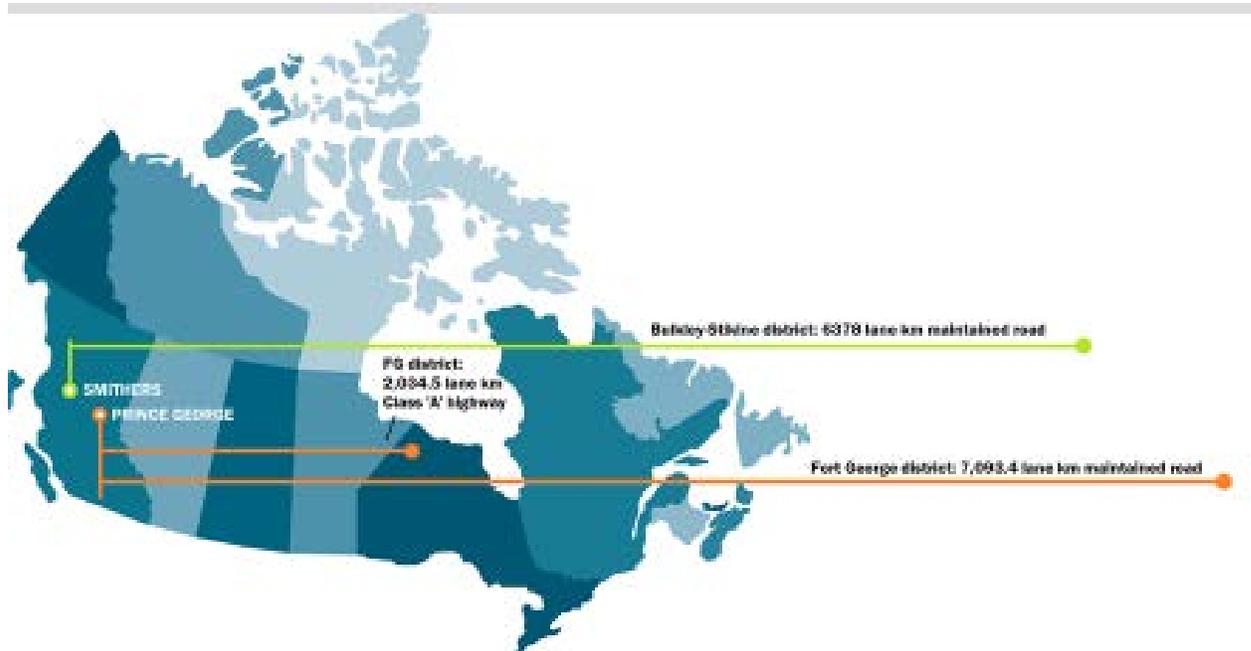
Performance Specifications

- Do not provide for:
 - o Bare and wet conditions;
 - o Immediate plowing in all locations;
 - o Immediate sanding of slippery sections;
 - o Unlimited resources.

Winter Reclassification of Highway

- Highway 16, Highway 97 & Highway 5 are key corridors for industrial development in the North;
- The winter maintenance classification has been upgraded to a Class A level;
 - o **What this means:**
 - A higher level of maintenance;
 - More frequent patrols; and,
 - Quicker response times where outlined in the maintenance specifications.

I haven't seen a Plowtruck!



M/C Responsible for Equipment Resources:

- **Fort George Fleet:**
 - o Tridems Plow trucks – 6 units;
 - o Tandem Plow trucks – 45 units;
 - o Single Plow trucks – 12 units;
 - o Graders – 20 units;
- **Bulkley-Stikine Fleet:**
 - o Plow trucks – 41 units;
 - o Graders – 13 units;
 - o Loaders – 21 units;
 - o Snowblowers – 2 units.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Carl Lutz, District Manager, Bulkeley-Stikine and Ron Marshall, District Manager, Fort George (Cont'd)

Highway Snow Removal

- Specifications require the contractor to be proactive in all aspects of maintenance;
- Requirements include:
 - o Monitor and observe weather and forecasts;
 - o Adjust patrols;
 - o Deploy in advance of forecast events;
 - o Provide proactive service to all stakeholders.

Excluded

- Centreline painting (contracted);
- Electrical Maintenance (contracted);
- Rock scaling;
- Engineering;
- Rehabilitation;
- Corridor management.

Information

- www.th.gov.bc.ca/bchighways/contracts/maintenance/hwy_maintenace_contracts.htm;
 - o Existing maintenace contracts;
 - o Maintenance Specifications;
 - o Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ);
- DriveBC
 - o Timely road condition and delay reporting;
 - o Ministry priority to provide accurate and current informaiton;
 - o Web access & Free Telephone access:
 - www.DriveBC.ca
 - *4997 on cell;
 - 1-800-550-4997;
 - Voice interactive.

Importance of Driving to Conditions

- The change in the winter road classification is a positive move. It does not remove individual responsibility for driving to conditions:
 - o Slow down, and increase distance;
 - o Choose the best tires possible and ensure they are in good condition;
 - o Check:
 - DriveBC.ca;
 - ShiftintoWinter.ca;
 - “Know before you go.”

Project Planning & Development

- Three primary funding mechanisms:
 - o Capital;
 - o Roadside Improvement Program;
 - o Rehab;
- Funding priorities are based on multiple factors and inputs:
 - o Engineering requirements including safety;
 - o Life cycle management;
 - o Cost benefit analysis;
 - o Needs analysis;
 - o Local residents and stakeholders;
 - o Consultation with industry;
- BC on the Move.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Carl Lutz, District Manager,
Bulkley-Stikine and Ron Marshall, District Manager, Fort George (Cont'd)**

Local Highway Districts

- Ministry conducts ongoing monitoring of highway and sideroad infrastructure to establish and confirm the proposed strategy;
- Ongoing improvements and safety initiatives continue on the Highways in Northern BC.

Highway 16 West – Passing/Climbing Lanes

- Completion of several Passing/Climbing Lanes:
 - o Hwy 16:
 - Degal Pit passing lane construction;
 - Telechick Lane construction;
 - Mapes Road passing lane construction;
 - Braaten Road passing lane construction;
 - Playhouse accel/decel lane construction;
 - Upper Fraser passing/climbing lane construction;
 - o Hwy 27:
 - Dog Creek climbing lane construction;
- Completion of Intersection Improvements:
 - o Hwy 16:
 - Burns Lake intersection improvement;
 - Victoria Street intersection signalization;
 - Endako intersection lighting improvements;
 - Six Mile break-check deceleration lane;
- Completed Resurfacing Projects:
 - o Hwy 16:
 - Graded aggregate seal Fraser Lake to Endako;
 - Burns Lake arterial resurfacing;
 - Graded aggregate sealcoat Burns Lake to Tintagel;
 - HIPR (Hot in Place Resurfacing):
 - Bye Road to Broman Lake;
 - Houston to Bye Road;
 - Blackman Road to Red Pass;
 - Driscoll Creek to Slim Creek;
 - Wakefield Road to Houston;
- Highway 16 West Bridges & Safety Improvements:
 - o Hwy 16 Houston pedestrian safety improvements;
 - o Hwy 27 Safety improvements;
 - o Speed reader boards;
 - o Guardrail installation annually by warrant;
 - o Community Projects: Ministry staff and M/C:
 - Fraser Lake trails;
 - Fort Fraser community area;
 - Clucuz Lake Firehall;
 - Hudson Bay Mountain Road ski underpass;
 - o Hwy 16/97 In-laid durable paint markings;
 - o Colleymount Road improvements;
 - o Rest area improvements;
 - o Coalmine Road CN crossing upgrades;
- Highway 16 West Bridges
 - o Hwy 97:
 - Salmon River Bridge Replacement;
 - CN Overhead replacement Stone Creek to Williams Road;

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Carl Lutz, District Manager, Bulkley-Stikine and Ron Marshall, District Manager, Fort George (Cont'd)

- Hwy 16:
 - West Twin bridge rehabilitation;
 - Dore River deck resurfacing;
 - Mile 28 bridge overpass construction;
 - Corya Creek bridge replacment;
- Side Road Programs:
 - Extensive upgrades to many of the local sideroads has continued with annual investment to improve road conditions;
 - Improvements to strength, drainage, surface conditions and sight distance have formed the basis of a majority of the works;
 - Significant numbers of sideroads have been gravelled with crush material or hardsurfaced with graded aggregate sealcoat or pavement;
 - Extensive brushing programs have been undertaken on both main highways and local sideroads;
 - Ministry continues to monitor sideroad infrastructure and consider additional works based on various factors such as traffic numbers, technically identified safety risks, road use and available funding.

Current Season

- Works commenced and/or completed this season include:
 - Hwy 16:
 - Resurfacing (various locations);
 - Continued work on passing lane projects (various locations);
 - Additional investments on bridge inventory;
 - Ongoing efforts for safety including:
 - Right of way brusing on both highway and sideroads;
 - Line painting.

Director Petersen mentioned that in the past there was a three cent per litre fuel tax for side road improvements and he questioned whether that program still exists and if those funds were utilized for side road improvements as intended at the creation of the program. Mr. Marshall commented that the program was originally named the Heartland or Mountain Pine Beetle Program and has been renamed recently to the Side Road Infrastructure Program. He mentioned that approximately \$18 million in the past 7-10 years has been spent on side roads in the Fort George District and he is very confident the three cents per litre on fuel is being utilized for side road improvements throughout the north. Mr. Lutz noted that the Bulkley-Stikine will spend approximately \$2.5 to \$3 million in 2016 for side road improvements. The funding allocation has been restructured between rehabilitation work and side road work.

Director Repen brought forward the possibility of the MoTI sharing contractors to complete works within municipalities to create economies of scale for small communities. Mr. Lutz indicated that MoTI contacts municipalities when they are conducting works in the region to attempt economies of scale.

Discussion took place regarding the BC On the Move three year plan developed under past Premier Gordon Campbell.

Chair Miller thanked Messrs Lutz and Marshall for attending the meeting.

DELEGATIONS

RIO TINTO ALCAN – Lianne Olson, Stakeholder and Community Relations Liaison RE: Communications Plans, Smelter, Reservoir

Chair Miller welcomed Lianne Olson, Stakeholder and Community Relations Liaison.

Ms. Olson provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Rio Tinto – BC Operations Update

Overview

1. Kitimat Modernization Update;
2. Reservoir Operations Update;
3. SO₂ Update;
4. Investing in our Communities;
5. Communications and Engagement.

Kitimat Modernization Project (KMP)

- \$4.8 B investment to totally rebuild the smelter;
- Completely new technology with an increase in energy efficiency, product optimization and reduction in environmental footprint;
- March 29, 2016 hit full production;
- Kitimat is now one of the lowest-cost and most efficient aluminum production facilities in the world;
- Pot 4096 – Last Pot to be energized;

Prior to KMP		After KMP
240,000T	Metal production (tonnes)	420,000T++
86 - 88%	Efficiency	93%
18.0 – 19.0	Power consumption (Kwhrs/kg)	13.5
121KA	Operating amperage (KA)	405KA
780	Number of cells	384
565MW	Total Power required	~710MW
1500	Employees	~1000

Operational Conditions (2015 vs 2016)

The reservoir is currently 2 feet lower than last year:

- April 14, 2015 elevation = 2795.16 ft.;
- April 13, 2016 elevation = 2793.87 ft.;

The Spillway flow is lower than last year:

- April 14, 2015 = 165 m³/s;
- April 13, 2016 flows = 49.0 m³/s.

Reservoir Inflows

- March 1, 2015 = 171 m³/s;
 - o (Feb. average inflows);
- April, 2015 = ~520 m³/s;
- March 1, 2016 = 78 m³/s;
 - o (Feb. average inflows);
- April 8, 2016 = ~300m³/s.

Reservoir Snowpack

- March 1, 2015 snowpack = 109.8%;
- March 1, 2016 snowpack = 78%.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

RIO TINTO ALCAN – Lianne Olson, Stakeholder and Community Relations Liaison RE: Communications Plans, Smelter, Reservoir (Cont'd)

Overall Flood Risk

- Anticipated flows expressed as LTA for the most likely condition:
 - o March 1, 2015 = Medium;
 - o March 1, 2016 = Low.

Location of the Kitimat Air Monitoring Stations

- White Sail (Residential);
- River Lodge (Residential);
- Kitamaat Village (Residential);
- Haul Road (Industrial Fence Line).

Station Statistics March 27 – April 3, 2016

Station	Weekly SO₂ Average	Maximum 1 Hr SO₂ Average
Kitamaat Village	0.79 ppb	11.4 ppb
White Sail	0.48 ppb	10.9 ppb
River Lodge	0.43 ppb	4.8 ppb
Haul Road (Industrial Fence Line)	3.2 ppb	50.2 ppb

<http://www.bcairquality.ca/>

BC Community Investments

- 2015 Rio Tinto donated nearly \$900,000 in BC;
- To request support go to:
 - o www.riotintobcooperation.com/our-commitment/community-investment/

Investing in our Communities

- Key pillars
 - o Youth;
 - o Education;
 - o First Nations;
- Education is a long term goal;
- Investment to develop leaders of tomorrow and the workforce of the future;
- Inspire **FIVE** year **ONE MILLION** dollar commitment for *Indigenous* scholarships;
- Other programs:
 - o Breakfast Clubs of Canada;
 - o Community Investment program;
 - o Pathways to Education.

Launching More Focused Engagement

- Define engagement process over the next years;
- Will involve public and communities on designing engagement process;
 - o Engagement:
 - Water Management;
 - Fish and Wildlife;
 - Flood Risk and Preparedness.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

RIO TINTO ALCAN – Lianne Olson, Stakeholder and Community Relations Liaison RE: Communications Plans, Smelter, Reservoir (Cont'd)

- Developing an interactive website:
 - Graphs/data collection:
 - Year in the Life;
 - Flow facts;
 - Public information process to promote interactive website and receive feedback.

Director Reppen questioned the status of the Kemano Back-up tunnel project. Ms. Olson noted that Tunnel 1 is in good condition, Tunnel 2 is still a possibility but at this time Rio Tinto is not moving forward with Tunnel 2. Rio Tinto will complete further research on the development of Tunnel 2 as it is not a profitable project at this time.

Ms. Olson noted that further field work and studies in the reservoir are being completed in regard to flood reduction and impact reduction to the Cheslatta Graveyard site and downstream. There are projects also being researched in regard to flood reduction.

Chair Miller thanked Ms. Olson for attending the meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Economic Development
– Grant Funding Contracts

Moved by Director Strimbold
Seconded by Alternate Director McGuire

C.W.2016-4-3

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize entering into agreements for funding of Regional Economic Development projects with Northern Development Initiative Trust, Nechako Kitimaat Development Fund Society, Destination BC and the Province of BC.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INVITATION

NKDF's 15th Anniversary
– May 12, 2016
- Vanderhoof, B.C.

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Strimbold

C.W.2016-4-4

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the invitation from Nechako Kitimaat Development Fund Society regarding its 15th Anniversary on May 12, 2016 in Vanderhoof, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Unconditional Community Grants

Alternate Director McGuire reported that in the past six years the Village of Granisle has received its Unconditional Community Grant in two installments, one at the end of March and the second installment in June. This year they did not receive the installment in the spring. The Village of Granisle contacted the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and the entire grant will be allocated in June this year.

Director McGuire expressed concerns that the Village of Granisle was not made aware of the change to only one payment for the year and budgets were approved based on receiving an installment at the end of March.

Moved by Director Repen
Seconded by Alternate Director McGuire

C.W.2016-4-5

“That the Committee of the Whole direct staff to draft a resolution in regard to Unconditional Community Grants needing to be distributed to small communities in two installments to the North Central Local Government Association for late submission at its Annual General Meeting in Dawson Creek, B.C. on May 4-6, 2016; and further, that the said resolution include the RDBN member municipalities; and further, that the resolution be brought forward to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors for ratification at its April 28, 2016 Regional Board Meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Strimbold

C.W.2016-4-6

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:27 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bill Miller, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant