

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, June 6, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Taylor Bachrach – arrived at 1:14 p.m.
Shane Brien
Mark Fisher– arrived at 1:14 p.m.
Dolores Funk
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Brad Layton– arrived at 1:14 p.m.
Linda McGuire
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Bev Playfair
Michael Riis-Christianson
Kim Watt-Senner

Staff Cheryl Anderson, Acting Chief Administrative Officer/Manager of Administrative Services
Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator – arrived at 2:13 p.m., left at 2:36 p.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 2:30 p.m.
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Jennifer MacIntyre, Planner 1 – arrived 1:27 p.m., left at 2:16 p.m.
Rory McKenzie, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 2:26 p.m.
Maria Sandberg, Planner – left at 2:16 p.m.
Sam West, Planning Summer Student – left at 2:16 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Chuck Braun, Loop Resources – arrived at 1:40 p.m.
Sean Staplin, Senior Water Stewardship Officer, Land and Water Section – Smithers, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – left at 2:16 p.m.
Johanna Wick, Regional Hydrogeologist, Land and Water Section – Smithers, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – left at 2:16 p.m.

Media Blair McBride, Lakes District News – arrived at 1:18 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

**AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY**

Moved by Director Watt-Senner
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2019-5-1

“That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole meeting of June 6, 2019 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – May 2, 2019

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Funk

C.W.2019-5-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of May 2, 2019 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Sean Staplin, Senior Water Stewardship Officer, and Johanna Wick, Regional Hydrogeologist, Land and Water Section – Smithers RE: *Water Sustainability Act –Overview*

Chair Thiessen welcomed Sean Staplin, Senior Water Stewardship Officer, and Johanna Wick, Regional Hydrogeologist, Land and Water Section, Smithers, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Mr. Staplin and Ms. Wick provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Water Sustainability Act – Overview

- Overview
 - o *Water Sustainability Act (WSA)*
 - o WSA regulate in three areas
 - Use
 - Management
 - Protection
- Authorizations
 - o Section 5 – Water Vested in the Crown
 - Stream
 - Groundwater
 - o No diversion/use without authorization (or permission)
 - o Authorizations
 - Section 9 – Licences
 - Section 10 – Use Approvals
 - Section 11 – Changes in and about a stream
 - o Water Licenses: Water Use Purposes
 - o Application Process – Established in Regulations
 - On-line only
 - FrontCounterBC can assist
- Application Fees/Rental Rates
 - o Rate Comparisons

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Sean Staplin, Senior Water Stewardship Officer, and Johanna Wick, Regional Hydrogeologist, Land and Water Section – Smithers RE: *Water Sustainability Act* –Overview (Cont'd)

- Flood Response
 - o The British Columbia Flood Response Plan
 - o Flood Response – Roles/Responsibilities
 - o Post event funding potential
- Drought Response
 - o Info source
 - o BC Drought Response Plan
 - o Drought Indicator Summary
 - o Drought Levels – Fall 2018
 - o Snow Map – May 1, 2019
 - o Current Streamflow – Upper Bulkley
 - o Key Early Messaging

Discussion took place regarding:

- Domestic well use for livestock
- Effective date of changes– February 29, 2016
 - o Waived until March 1, 2022
- Establishing the date of first in time/first in right framework
- Fees and rates in regard to municipalities
 - o Not charged total licenced volume only the amount of water used
- The development of the rate structure being utilized
- *Water Act* first came into effect in 1909 – came from the *Gold Fields Act* – vested in the Crown
- British Columbia is one of the last Provinces to change its *Water Act* to include domestic water use
- Province rates for bottled water facilities and the rationale in regard to rates
 - o Mr. Staplin will provide further information to RDBN staff in regard to the rates and agreements associated with bottled water facilities
- Enforcement of authorized volumes re: farmers
 - o The Land and Water Section (FLNRORD) has an understanding of volumes taken and the water being licenced is the water being used
 - o Licenced volumes over a certain threshold will have a metering system to be implemented in the future
 - Eg. heavier industrial level uses – bottling plants/pulp operations
 - o Rio Tinto
- Applicants not receiving follow up or any communication from Land and Water Section, FLNRORD
 - o recognized there is short comings and the need for improvements
 - o Extension on implementation timeline will assist in improving the process
- Increased awareness
 - o highlighting benefits of compliance under the regulations
 - o understanding the regulations
 - o advantageous
- International and large corporation interest in water
 - o Currently in legislation:
 - prohibition of bulk exports (doesn't include bottled water)
 - prohibition on moving water from one significant drainage to another
 - o Sustainability paramount in the updated legislation
 - o Tools within the *Water Sustainability Act* for stakeholders and local governments to meet water objectives, water sustainability plans, land use implications
 - o Legislation and protective measures in regard to sustainability

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Sean Staplin, Senior Water Stewardship Officer, Land and Water Section – Smithers and Johanna Wick, Regional Hydrogeologist, Land and Water Section – Smithers RE: *Water Sustainability Act* –Overview (Cont'd)

- Corporations
 - o Can't put a reserve on water
 - o Must show beneficial use
 - o Regulations in place in regard to usage
- First in time/first in right in current *Water Sustainability Act* – prior to First in time/first in right legislation is:
 - o Critical household use – curtailment of regular quantity of domestic water
 - o Critical environmental flow
- Flood mitigation funding re: Village of Telkwa dyke
- Equity Mine impact to water resources
 - o Under purview of Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- Drought Conditions – regulating water conservation re: municipalities
 - o Often municipalities implement restrictions
 - o Mr. Staplin spoke to the 2018 drought levels and the areas of interest being small to medium sized water bodies – tributaries to the Bulkley River that have significant agriculture irrigation demands – very little of the irrigation demand allocated was used
 - o Land and Water Section wanting to improve efforts in contacting local governments earlier
- Green lawn = wildfire prevention
 - o Water preservation can be in conflict
 - o There is consideration and sensitivity to fighting fires.

Chair Thiessen thanked Mr. Staplin and Ms. Wick for attending the meeting.

REPORTS

Provincial Nominee Program -Regional Pilot

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

C.W.2019-5-3

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to proceed and participate in the Provincial Nominee Program – Regional Pilot within the Regional District.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to possible benefits and economic development opportunities of the Provincial Nominee Program. Director Funk explained, as identified in the staff report, that the Nominee has identified a rural property more appropriate than a property within the Village of Burns Lake boundaries and for this reason the Village will provide initial host duties. Concerns were brought forward in regard to the potential staff time required to participate in the program. Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator noted that the program is new and staff will provide an update to the Regional Board in regard to staff time used for the program.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

RDBN Resolutions to North
Central Local Government
Association (NCLGA)

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Brienen

C.W.2019-5-4

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Administrative Services/Acting CAO’s May 27, 2019 memo titled “RDBN Resolutions to North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA).”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Proposed Six Month Budget
Update

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Playfair

C.W.2019-5-5

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Chief Financial Officer’s May 14, 2019 memo titled “Proposed Six Month Budget Update.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Futurpreneur/ThriveNorth
Letter of Support

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Playfair

C.W.2019-5-6

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Regional Economic Development Coordinator’s May 29, 2019 memo titled “Futurpreneur/ThriveNorth Letter of Support.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

UBCM – ALC No Longer
Reviewing Cannabis Production

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Playfair

C.W.2019-5-7

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the correspondence from UBCM titled “ALC No Longer Reviewing Cannabis Production.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INVITATION

Rio Tinto RE: Water Engagement – Rio Tinto Water Engagement Initiative Update -FLNRORD – Letter to Rio Tinto Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2019-5-8

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors participate in Rio Tinto’s Water Engagement Initiative with Rio Tinto’s agreement to the commitments outlined in the March 25, 2019 Letter from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) to Rio Tinto as follows:

- Fulsome engagement with First Nations in the process;
- Potential water licence changes as a result of the outcomes of the process;
- Provision of an independent consultant to lead this engagement; and,
- Provision of technical resources regarding the availability and understanding of hydrological information to the community, interested parties, and Indigenous nations. This technical support is critical to increasing the understanding of the local communities and to better enable them to meaningfully contribute to this initiative.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rio Tinto RE: Water Engagement – Rio Tinto Water Engagement Initiative Update -FLNRORD – Letter to Rio Tinto Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2019-5-9

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize attendance of Directors and one staff member in Rio Tinto’s Water Engagement Initiative.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

University of Northern British Columbia – Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium – Public Presentation: New Tools for Assessing the Cumulative Impacts of Resource Development Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2019-5-10

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the invitation from the University of Northern British Columbia Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium titled “Public Presentation: New Tools for Assessing the Cumulative Impacts of Resource Development.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INVITATION (CONT'D)

University of Northern British Columbia – Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium – Public Presentation: New Tools for Assessing the Cumulative Impacts of Resource Development Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2019-5-11

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors write a letter to the University of Northern British Columbia Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium thanking them for providing the Public Presentations regarding New Tools for Assessing the Cumulative Impacts of Resource Development and request that the presentations be held throughout northern B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Brienen will forward the information to the RBA. Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning indicated staff is attending the presentation in Vanderhoof, B.C. June 11, 2019.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

REPORT

RDBN Resolution to Union of BC Municipalities -Disaster Relief and Recovery Funding

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2019-5-12

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve the Disaster Relief and Recovery Funding resolution for submission to the Union of B.C. Municipalities for consideration at its 2019 Convention.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Playfair

C.W.2019-5-13

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:58 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant