




REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

Supplementary AGENDA

Thursday, April 25, 2024

<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>Other</u>	
2	Advisory Planning Commission Minutes Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)	Receive
	<u>DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</u>	
	<u>ALR Applications</u>	
3-4	Referral Comments Non-Farm Use (Removal of Soil) ALR Application 1267 Board agenda pages 34-42	Receive
	<u>ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
5	RDBN Letter to CN Re: Vegetation Management	Ratify
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

Advisory Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Electoral Area G	Meeting Date: April 17, 2024 7:00 pm	Meeting Location: Zoom
Attendance		
<u>APC Members</u>		<u>Electoral Area Director</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Gibson		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director Chris Newell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Robinson		<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Director Elijah Newell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Euverman		<u>Other Attendees</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Dennis Tait		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cameron Kral, RDBN Staff
		<input type="checkbox"/> Ron Groot, Applicant
Chairperson: Mary Robinson		Secretary: Tom Euverman (Acting Secretary)
Call to Order: 7:03 pm		
Agenda 7:00 ALR 1269 (Groot)		
Applications (Include application number, comments, and resolution)		
ALR 1269 (Groot)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Robinson called the meeting to order. • The APC discussed the proposed operating period of 10 years. Cameron Kral explained that the proposed 10-year period was for ALC approval only but also aligned with the applicant's upcoming renewal period for their mines permit in 2025. • The APC discussed the proximity of the river and groundwater level. • The APC discussed whether there may be impacts on wildlife and water, and asked whether the application area must be fenced. Cameron Kral explained that fencing could be a requirement imposed the Ministry of Mines as part of the permitting process, but the property did not appear to be fenced except along the road. • The APC did not believe the application area was too close to the river or would impact water. • Tom Euverman made a motion that the APC recommend that the Board support the application. The motion was seconded by Carol Gibson and passed unanimously. 		
Meeting Adjourned at 7:12	Secretary Signature 	



April 23, 2024

Local government file: ALR 1267
ALC ID: 100018

Cameron Kral
Planner Technician
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
VIA EMAIL: Cameron.Kral@rdbn.bc.ca

Re: ALC Removal of Soil Application referral – Crown land - gravel operation (Part of Primary: DL 4107, Range 5, Coast District)

Dear Cameron Kral,

Thank you for providing Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Ministry) staff with the opportunity to comment on a proposed Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) application to continue operating a gravel operation within a ~7.6-hectare portion of the subject 130.96-hectare parcel, located west of Houston, north of Morice River, and within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

Ministry staff offer the following comments:

- The proposal's Reclamation Report and Land Capability Assessment (Chaplin Construction Ltd, January 2024) includes a Reclamation Plan. While the Plan package does not include elevation drawings, it states the site may result in up to a significant seven-meter depths from existing grade. And while it also states that the soils (internal highwalls) between two other adjacent properties may also be removed, Ministry staff are unclear as to where the proposed stockpiles and windrows for recontouring the area will be stored, or what happens if there is not enough soil to reach the 3:1 slope recontouring objective, or, also significantly, if water fills the cavity and doesn't disperse.
- Regional District staff may want to review, with the applicant, [ALC Policy P-13 \(Reclamation Plans for Aggregate Extraction\)](#) (adopted April 2021 and includes Appendix A 'Best Management Practices for Aggregate Extraction Activities

Occurring in the Agricultural Land Reserve'), to confirm alignment with their proposal, and identify any outstanding gaps, if not done so already.

- The Report also includes an Invasive Plant Management Plan. Weeds can greatly reduce the productivity of agricultural areas and under the provincial [Weed Control Act](#) the land occupier has a legal obligation to control noxious weeds on the site. Gravel operations are continually disturbed sites, perfect for the establishment of invasive plants. To help reduce the spread of weeds Ministry staff encourage site-specific weed prevention and control plans that place a special emphasis on clean equipment.
- In the short term, the subject operation will not directly contribute to agricultural production on the property. Based on the available information, given the proposed depth of soil extraction and limited information on water management, Ministry staff are uncertain regarding the proposal's long-term benefit to agricultural production, both on and off the site. It is worth noting however that nearby sources of gravel are important to most farm operations. Farm operations can utilize gravel in many aspects of their operations, reducing mud, improving ease of machinery movement, and improving access points for livestock, particularly at watering sites or high traffic areas. Hauling gravel long distances adds cost to delivery.

If you have any questions or concerns about our comments, please do not hesitate to contact Ministry staff.

Sincerely,

Gregory Bartle, Land Use Planner
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Phone: (778) 974-3836
Email: Gregory.Bartle@gov.bc.ca

John Stevenson
Regional Agrologist - Bulkley Skeena
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
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Email copy: Agricultural Land Commission, ALC.Referrals@gov.bc.ca



“A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR REGION”

April 22, 2024

Tyler Banick
Manager, Public Affairs, British Columbia
Stakeholder Relations, CN
Tyler.banick@cn.ca

Dear Tyler,

Re: Vegetation Management

Thank you for your recent communication regarding CN's Building Capacity 2024 Work Calendar, as well as information regarding CN's Annual Vegetation Management Program. We appreciate the work being performed and the dedication to the safety and efficiency of your operations.

Given the dry conditions we are experiencing, I want to emphasize the importance of vegetation management along the railway tracks. Recent reports of fires in the region highlight the urgency of addressing this issue and expanding the buffer zone along the tracks to enhance safety and mitigate the risk of further incidents.

Once again, thank you for your commitment to ongoing maintenance. We strongly encourage you to prioritize vegetation management to ensure continued safety.

Sincerely,

Mark Parker
Chair