

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 12, 2015

PRESENT: Chair Eileen Benedict

Directors Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator
Janine Dougall, Director of Environmental Services – left at 4:53 p.m.
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Protective Services Manager – left at 4:53 p.m.
Maria Sandberg, Planner – arrived at 3:30 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others John Illes, Village of Burns Lake
Steven Derksen, Area Manager, Burns Lake, ABC Communications – left at 4:00 p.m.
Falko Kadenbach, Vice President, ABC Communications – left at 4:00 p.m.
Nicholas Monkman, Burns Lake – arrived at 4:45 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Benedict called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m.

**SUPPLEMENTARY
AGENDA & AGENDA**

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2015-3-1

“That the Supplementary Agenda be received and dealt with at this meeting; and further, that the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for March 12, 2015 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Directors Committee
Meeting Minutes
-February 12, 2015

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2015-3-2

“That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of February 12, 2015 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

ABC COMMUNICATIONS – Falko Kadenbach, Vice President, and Steven Derksen, Area Manager, Burns Lake RE: Rural Connectivity

Chair Benedict welcomed Falko Kadenbach, Vice President and Steven Derksen, Area Manager, Burns Lake, ABC Communications.

Mr. Kadenbach provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Corporate Overview

Who ABC is:

- Founded originally as a supplier of office telephone systems in 1989 in Quesnel, B.C.;
- ABC Communications was one of the first companies to offer Internet services in British Columbia in 1994;
- ABC's business has grown Province wide into BC's largest privately held telecommunications solution provider;
- ABC's private network includes over 200 broadband broadcast sites across the Province stretching from the US border through to Northern B.C.;
- ABC's fibre backbone links 32 cities to network centres in Prince George and Vancouver.

Strategic Partners

- **TELUS**
 - o Long-standing partnership;
 - o ADSL, M2M, Fibre;
- **Province of B.C.**
 - o Corporate connectivity services;
- **Network BC**
 - o Bridging the digital divide;
- All Nations Trust Company;
- Regional Districts and First Nations Communities across B.C.;

Partnerships are a vital component to realizing common goals.

ABC Communications

VOICE LINK - TELECOM Services

- VOIP Voice Over Internet Protocol;
- Mobile Unified Messaging;
- Private Instant Messaging;
- Find-Me Follow-Me;
- Hotel / Motel Solutions.

MOBILE Link – Business Cellular Services

- Cell phones;
- Telus Optik TV;
- Machine 2 Machine.

NET Link – Internet, Anywhere!

- Dial Up & ADSL;
- Fixed Wireless & LTE;
- Bonded Internet;
- Fibre Optic Access;
- Network Support & Repair;
- Routing and Firewalls;
- Wide Area Network Infrastructure.

WEB Link – All Inclusive Web Sites!

- Web Design;
- Website Hosting;
- E-Commerce;
- Domain Name Registration.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

ABC COMMUNICATIONS – Falko Kadenbach, Vice President, and Steven Derksen, Area Manager, Burns Lake RE: Rural Connectivity (CONT'D)

ABC Offices

- Burns Lake;
- Prince George;
- Quesnel;
- 100 Mile House;
- Kelowna;
- Penticton;
- Vancouver.

New Broadband Standards

The CRTC recognizes that a well-developed broadband infrastructure is essential to help Canadians participate in the digital economy. As a result, the CRTC has set a target speed for broadband Internet access across Canada (Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2011-291). By the end of 2015, the CRTC expects all Canadians to have access to broadband speeds of at least

- **5 Mbps for downloads** (*data that consumers are receiving from the Internet, including files, web sites, pictures, music, and movies*)
- **1 Mbps for uploads** (*data that consumers are sending to the Internet*).

Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2011-291

In Telecom Regulatory Policy 2011-291 the Commission recognized that Internet access service is an increasingly important means of communication. The Commission was of the view that it would be in the public interest to establish universal target speeds for broadband Internet access in order to ensure that all Canadians, particularly those in rural and remote areas, could benefit from a greater level of broadband connectivity. In that decision, the Commission established target speeds of 5 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream. These speeds should be available to all Canadians, through a variety of technologies, by the end of 2015. Further, the Commission noted that it would gather information from Internet service providers (ISPs) in order to monitor progress towards reaching these target speeds.*

* <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/publications/reports/broadband/bbreport1111.htm#a1>

Digital Canada 150 Connecting Canadians

ABC Communications Digital Canada 150 Connecting Canadians

ABC Communications submitted an application towards Industry Canada's Digital Canada 150 Connecting Canadians program on January 9th 2015.

More information about the program can be found at:

http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/028.nsf/eng/h_00587.html

In ABC Communications' submission to the Digital Canada 150 Connecting Canadians Program, ABC included multiple eligible projects that fall within the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

- Complete network upgrades throughout the RDBN;
- Sinkut & Fraser Mountain LTE upgrades;
- Cluculz Lake, Tache & Yekooche upgrades;

Digital Canada 150 – Funding Eligibility

Under the Digital Canada 150 Connecting Canadians Program, Industry Canada will provide 50% funding for all eligible project costs and up to 75% funding for 100% Aboriginal coverage.

ABC is eligible for a total of 55% funding provincially based on the Aboriginal Coverage provided within the project scope.

The current funding contribution in percentages:

- Industry Canada Funding 55%;
- ABC Communications Funding 45%.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

ABC COMMUNICATIONS – Falko Kadenbach, Vice President, and Steven Derksen, Area Manager, Burns Lake RE: Rural Connectivity (CONT'D)

Mr. Kadenbach spoke of forming a BC Broadband Association sub-committee with other ISP's in order to collaborate in submitting conflict free applications to Industry Canada. Discussion took place regarding coverage in areas where an ISP is already in existence but does not fully cover the area.

Discussion took place regarding the options that ABC Communications can provide in comparison to TELUS. The upgrades that ABC Communications is planning to complete will provide 10 Mbps down. The average download speeds and the capabilities of those speeds were discussed. Charging for the usage of internet service similar to a utility such as BC Hydro was brought forward for discussion.

Project Details

Fraser Mountain LTE

- Estimated population coverage – 1098;
- Estimated underserved households – 479;
- Projected build year – 2015/16;
- Project Budget - \$154,229.

Sinkut Mountain LTE

- Estimated population coverage – 11,290;
- Estimated underserved households – 2131;
- Projected build year – 2016/17;
- Project Budget - \$93,996.

Cluculz Lake LTE

- Estimated population coverage – 551;
- Estimated underserved households – 324;
- Projected build year – 2015-2017;
- Project Budget - \$205,015.

Burns Lake and Surrounding Area

- Estimated population coverage – 5281;
- Estimated underserved households – 1175;
- Projected build year – 2015-2018;
- Project Budget - \$592,478.

Fort St James, Tache & Yekooche

- Estimated population coverage – 499;
- Estimated underserved households – 138;
- Projected build year – 2016-2018;
- Project Budget - \$414,697.

4G & LTE Technology

4G WiMAX (Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access)

- Operates in ABC's licensed 3.5 GHz band;
- Exceptional coverage;
- Increased capacity;
- Improved indoor signal penetration;
- Interference immunity.

LTE (Long Term Evolution)

LTE is a wireless broadband technology that provides significantly increased peak data rates, with the potential for download speeds of up to 100 Mbps and upload speeds of up to 30 Mbps, reduced latency, which provides significantly faster data rates for both downloading and uploading with exceptional coverage.

Chair Benedict thanked Mr. Kadenbach for attending the meeting.

REPORTS

Discussion Regarding Cost of
Implementing the “British
Columbia Fire Service Minimum
Training Standards – Structure
Firefighters Competency and
Training Playbook” Regulations

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2015-3-3

“That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Protective Services Manager’s March 2, 2015 memo titled “Discussion regarding Cost of Implementing the “British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards – Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook” Regulations.”

Opposed: Director Miller CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator provided an overview of the Rural Fire Protection Services Taxation Capacity. Discussion took place regarding public sentiment for rural fire departments, fire protection and the costs associated. Director Petersen referenced the unsuccessful referendum that was held at Cluculz Lake regarding the increase to taxation for rural fire protection.

The RDBN in the past has strongly lobbied the province in regard to the direction in which the province was moving regarding rural fire departments. The province has developed the “British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook” but costs associated with implementation of the Playbook needs to be applied to the service areas wherein there is a rural fire department. Implementing the Playbook is to commence immediately with the expected timeline for full implementation being potentially one to two years. A resolution from the RDBN Board of Directors has been forwarded to the North Central Local Government Association Convention for May 6-8, 2015 in Prince George, B.C. regarding funding to implement the Playbook. The Playbook has been forwarded to the fire departments within the RDBN.

Discussion took place regarding the definition for Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and the roles and responsibilities outlined in the Playbook in regard to the AHJ. Downloading from the provincial government to local government in regard to fire departments was discussed.

At the November 20, 2014 RDBN Board Meeting the RDBN Board of Directors approved the Exterior Operations service level for the rural fire departments within the RDBN jurisdictional boundaries. Discussion took place regarding the scope of the Playbook and reasons for implementation. The Playbook provides a minimum training standard that will assist fire fighters in providing an effective and safe level of service.

Concerns were brought forward regarding the lack of volunteers for volunteer fire departments and the qualifications and requirements for volunteers.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

The need to have further discussion with rural fire departments in the RDBN was discussed.

Mr. Berndorff, noted that the *Local Government Act* outlines that a service can only be funded through taxation by residents of that service area and not those residents living outside a service area. Discussion took place regarding the *Local Government Act* allowing for a 25% tax increase every five years if required to adjust for changing economies.

Discussion took place regarding the ability for fire departments to withdraw service and the process that may be involved.

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2015-3-4

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to meet with rural fire departments to discuss options in regard to operations of rural fire departments within the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Requests for Grant in Aid

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2015-3-5

“That the Rural Directors Committee receive the following grant in aid applications:

- Yellowhead West 4-H Regional Council from Electoral Areas “A” (Smithers Rural), “B” (Burns Lake Rural), “D” (Fraser Lake Rural), “E”, “F” (Vanderhoof Rural);
- Access Smithers from Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural) for costs associated with the “Get Benched in a Restful Place” project;
- LDSS Senior Girls Basketball Team from each of Electoral Areas “B” (Burns Lake Rural) and “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) for costs associated with representing the Lakes District at the Single A Provincial High School Girls Basketball Championship in Lumby, B.C.;
- Luck Bay Community Association from Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural) to host an open house;
- Fort St. James 4-H Club from Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural) to purchase a shade tent for 4-H events;
- Fort St. James Secondary School Ski and Board Team from Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural) for costs associated with Provincial Championships in Revelstoke, B.C.;
- Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary from Electoral Area “D” (Fraser Lake Rural) for the Boys Highschool Curling Provincials and the Boys and Girls Tim Hortons Juvenile Provincials;
- Fraser Lake Minor Hockey Association from Electoral Area “D” (Fraser Lake Rural) for the 2015 Bantam Tier 4 Championship;
- Dry Grad Committee 2015 from Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural) for costs associated with Dry Grad Night June 13, 2015;
- Vanderhoof Children’s Theatre from Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural) for costs associated with traveling to Prince George, B.C. for performances;

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Request for Grant in Aid (CONT'D)

-Nechako Lake Speedskating Club from Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) for costs associated with hosting the BC Short Track Speedskating Provincials and Regionals."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Request for Grant in Aid -Yellowhead West 4-H Regional Council

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2015-3-6

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve the following grant in aid application:

-Yellowhead West 4-H Regional Council be given \$720 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural), \$730 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "B" (Burns Lake Rural), \$730 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural), \$500 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "E" (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural), \$720 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural), \$200 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural) for costs associated with the 2015 Yellowhead West Junior Camp."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Requests for Grant in Aid

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2015-3-7

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve the following grant in aid applications:

-Access Smithers be given \$2,500 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) for costs associated with the "Get Benched in a Restful Place" project;
-LDSS Senior Girls Basketball Team be given \$500 grant in aid monies from each of Electoral Areas "B" (Burns Lake Rural) and "E" (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) for costs associated with representing the Lakes District at the Single A Provincial High School Girls Basketball Championship in Lumby, B.C.;
-Luck Bay Community Association be given \$300 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) to host an open house;
-Fort St. James 4-H Club be given \$1,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) to purchase a shade tent for 4-H events;
-Fort St. James Secondary School Ski and Board Team be given \$2000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) for costs associated with Provincial Championships in Revelstoke, B.C.;
-Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary School be given \$2,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural) for the Boys Highschool Curling Provincials and the Boys and Girls Tim Hortons Juvenile Provincials;

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Request for Grant in Aid (CONT'D)

- Fraser Lake Minor Hockey Association be given \$2,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural) for the 2015 Bantam Tier 4 Championship;
- Dry Grad Committee 2015 be given \$1,500 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) for costs associated with Dry Grad Night June 13, 2015;
- Vanderhoof Children's Theatre be given \$4,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) for costs associated with traveling to Prince George, B.C. for performances;
- Nechako Lake Speedskating Club be given \$500 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) for costs associated with hosting the BC Short Track Speedskating Provincials and Regionals."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Revised Bylaw No.1729 RDBN
Bylaw to Establish Rules for
the Provision of Fire Protection
in the RDBN Established
Rural Fire Protection Areas

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2015-3-8

1. "That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Protective Services Manger's February 26, 2015 memo regarding the amended "Bylaw No. 1729 Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Bylaw to Establish Rules for the Provision of Fire Protection in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Established Rural Fire Protection Areas."

2. That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors give three readings and adoption to Bylaw No. 1729 Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Bylaw to Establish Rules for the Provision of Fire Protection in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Established Rural Fire Protection Areas."

Opposed: Director Petersen CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

BC Fire Training Officers
Association Training
and Evaluation Program

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2015-3-9

1. "That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Protective Services Manager's March 2, 2015 memo titled "BC Fire Training Officers Association Training and Evaluation Program."

2. That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize staff to use the BC Fire Training Officers Association Training and Evaluation Program as the training material for all rural fire departments."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS (CONT'D)

NWIPC Funding for 2015

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2015-3-10

1. "That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Director of Environmental Services' March 2, 2015 memo titled "NWIPC Funding for 2015" and
2. Further, that the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the 2015 funding contribution to the Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC) be continued at a value of \$43,000, that the funding be divided equally between each Invasive Plant Management Area (IPMA) and that the distribution of funds be 85% for on-the-ground work and a maximum of 15% for administration."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Access to Affordable High Speed Internet and Cell Coverage (Regional Connectivity)

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2015-3-11

"That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Chief Administrative Officers March 3, 2015 memo titled "Access to Affordable High Speed Internet and Cell Coverage (Regional Connectivity)"; and further, that the memo be brought forward to a future Rural Directors Committee Meeting for further discussion."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

REFERRALS (All Directors)

Land Referral File No. 6408793 Smithers Snowmobile Club Electoral Area "A"

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2015-3-12

"That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral. 6408793" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 6408793."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

BC Broadband Conference 2015 – April 28-29, 2015 -Richmond, B.C.

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2015-3-13

"That the Rural Directors Committee receive the correspondence titled "BC Broadband Conference 2015 on April 28-29, 2015 in Richmond, B.C.; and further, that the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize the attendance of Director Newell at said conference."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

REFERRALS (All Directors)

Land Referral File No. 6408800 & 6408801 Corporation of the Village of Telkwa Electoral Area "A" Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2015-3-14

"That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral. 6408800 & 6408801" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 6408800 & 6408801."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

ABC Communications - Burns Lake Broadband - Project Summary Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2015-3-15

"That the Rural Directors Committee receive the correspondence titled "ABC Communications – Burns Lake Broadband – Project Summary."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2015-3-16

"That the meeting be adjourned 4:59 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Eileen Benedict, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant