

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 10, 2022

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert – arrived at 9:42 a.m., left at 10:00 a.m., returned at 10:12 a.m.
Chris Newell – via Zoom
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Gerry Thiessen – left at 9:55 a.m.

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Megan D'Arcy, Agriculture Coordinator (West) – via Zoom
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – via Zoom – arrived at 9:55 a.m.
Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner – arrived at 9:40 a.m.
Michelle Roberge, Agriculture Coordinator (East) – via Zoom
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Penni Adams, Program Manager, Northwest Invasive Plant Council – via Zoom – left at 10:10 a.m.
Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers – via Zoom – arrived at 9:55 a.m.
Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake – arrived at 10:23 a.m.
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James – via Zoom
Mike Pangman, Field Coordinator, Northwest Invasive Plant Council – via Zoom – left at 10:10 a.m.

Media Eddie Huband, LD News

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2022-2-1

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for February 10, 2022 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -January 13, 2022

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2022-2-2

“That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of January 13, 2022 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

NORTHWEST INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL– Penni Adams, Program Manager RE: Update

Chair Parker welcomed Penni Adams, Program Manager, Northwest Invasive Plant Council.

Ms. Adam provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

- Overview of the Northwest Invasive Plant Council
- Partnerships – funding, strategic, collaborative
- Provincial overview
- NWIPC Invasive Plant Management Areas (IPMA)
- What is an ‘invasive plant’?
- How does NWIPC manage invasive plants?
- Priorities for operational invasive plant management
- Regional containment – Field Scabious
- Priorities for education & outreach
- Recommendations for 2022
- Bulkley IPMA
- Lakes District IPMA
- Nechako IPMA
- Resources for Invasive plant questions and identifications.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure right of ways
 - o Minimal treatment
 - o Funding
 - o Providing treatment to strategically identified areas
- Challenging to find a solution to address areas that the Province no longer identifies as a priority invasive plant species
- Landowner rebate
- Yellow and orange hawkweed are no longer a priority
- Field Scabious issues
 - o Options to treat
 - Soil enhancements
 - Intensive grazing
 - Early riser – need to be treated prior to seeding
 - o Disturbed areas of ground – uptake of field scabious
 - NWIPC does not have a mandate or funding to provide/develop seed mixtures.

Ms. Adams will be meeting with RDBN Agriculture Coordinators to review the budget for 2022.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Adams for attending the meeting.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Crown Land Application
Referral No. DL398

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2022-2-3

“That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral No. DL398 be provided to the Province.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

Verbal Report – Chair Parker – Veterinary Shortages

- Making progress
- Awareness of the topic
- Expanding through B.C.
- Meeting last week with Lara Beckett, Director, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, University of Northern BC, College of Veterinarians of BC, College of New Caledonia
- Securing the 20 seats available released by Alberta released for the four-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan
- Meeting next week with local vets in the region – from Valemount to Smithers
- Veterinary Technicians are also needed
- Washington State University reached out to the RDBN and discussed with staff their interest in the work being done at the Regional District and investigating potential bridging education programs.

Veterinary Shortage Recommendations

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2022-2-4

1. “That the Committee recommend that the Board support the following resolution being submitted to NCLGA and UBCM:

WHEREAS there is a CRITICAL shortage of Veterinarians, particularly for large animals, in BC; and

WHEREAS the Province of BC sponsors 20 IPA (Inter-Provincial Agreement) students (out of the 140+ who apply) per year for the four-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, and has the option to sponsor an additional 20 students under the IPA;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM request the Minister of Advanced Education and the Government of BC commit to funding a total of 40 Veterinary students under the Inter-Provincial Agreement in each year for four years at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

2. That the Committee recommend that the Board request a meeting with Premier Horgan to discuss the veterinary shortage in BC.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meat & Greet Summary

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2022-2-5

“That the Committee receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator (East) Meat & Greet Summary memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RURAL REPORTS

Fort Fraser Local Community Budgets

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2022-2-6

“That the Fort Fraser local budgets be included in the Regional District overall budget.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COVID-19 Relief Fund Applications

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2022-2-7

“That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the following applications for COVID-19 Relief Funds:

-Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural)

-Round Lake Community Hall – Insurance - \$3,263.00

-Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural)

-Lakes District Festival Association- Insurance and Fees - \$1,443.73

-Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural)

- Vanderhoof Curling Club – Utilities, Insurance, Ice Supplies - \$17,474.33

-Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural)

-Topley Community Club – Insurance and Hydro - \$3,520.34.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

RDBN Housing Needs Report Release and Information Session

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2022-2-8

“That the Committee receive the Correspondence RDBN Housing Needs Report Release and Information Session.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2022-2-9

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:23 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services