

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 8, 2016

PRESENT: Chair Eileen Benedict

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

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 1:50 p.m., left at 1:52 p.m.
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development – arrived at 1:52 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers – left at 1:52 p.m.
Darcy Repen, Village of Telkwa – left at 1:47 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Benedict called the meeting to order at 1:46 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2016-8-1

“That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for September 8, 2016 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2016-8-2

“That the Rural Directors Committee Supplementary Agenda be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes
-August 18, 2016

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2016-8-3

“That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of August 18, 2016 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Smithers District Chamber of Commerce – Request for Grant in Aid – Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural) Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2016-8-4

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Smithers District Chamber of Commerce be given \$170.62 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural) for the “Environmental Business of the Year Award” at the 2016 Community and Business Awards.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grassy Plains Community Hall – Request for Grant in Aid – Electoral Area “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2016-8-5

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Grassy Plains Community Hall be given \$6,532 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) to assist with the purchase of a riding lawn mower.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

REFERRALS

Land Referral File No. 6408913 Town of Smithers Electoral Area “A” Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC. 2016-8-6

“That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 6408913 be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land application 6408913.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral File No. 7409861 Blue Jay Farms Ltd. Electoral Area “C” Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC. 2016-8-7

“That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 7409861 be provided to the Province as amended to include in “Other Comments: “The Province should ensure that all licence holders (the fort St. James Community Forest, the Murray Ridge Ski Area and the Fort St. James Gun Club) are consulted due to any conflicts of interest.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REFERRALS (CONT'D)

Land Referral File No.
7409863 Darrell & Rosanne
Ophus Electoral Area "F"

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC. 2016-8-8

"That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 7409863 be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land application 7409863."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral File No.
0258220 Henderson
Electoral Area "F"

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC. 2016-8-9

"That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 0258220 be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land application 0258220."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

REPORTS

Fraser Lake Cops for Cancer
– Request for Grant in Aid
– Electoral Area "D"
(Fraser Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2016-8-10

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Fraser Lake Cops for Cancer be given \$600 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural) to assist with accommodation costs for the Cops for Cancer Riders."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural Connectivity - Funding
Research

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2016-8-11

"That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's September 7, 2016 memo titled "Rural Connectivity – Funding Research."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development provided an overview of the Rural Connectivity – Funding Research.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of using Grant in Aid funding for a feasibility study for Rural Connectivity. The potential cost to complete a feasibility study for the entire region was discussed.

REPORTS

Director Parker spoke to the service that is currently being provided by ABC Communications in Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural). He noted that the LTE service is line of site and they have not indicated that they will be using relays to assist in expanding the LTE line of site ability. He mentioned that the coverage may not be sufficient.

Director Greenaway mentioned that Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) utilizes satellite for internet coverage.

Discussion took place in regard to the need for on the ground information that will provide answers to what services are available, not available and what download and upload speeds are in the region.

Discussion took place regarding the ability to have staff utilize RDBN civic address mapping and mapping from Internet Service Providers (ISP) to determine the coverage that is available.

The potential and unknown costs of hiring a consultant along with the lack of funds available for a feasibility study were discussed.

Rural Connectivity - Funding Research

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2016-8-12

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to further investigate the cost to hire a consultant; and further, that staff research the ability to utilize RDBN civic address mapping and Internet Service Provider mapping to determine areas that have a lack of internet coverage."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Illegal Dumping within the RDBN

Director Fisher spoke of the illegal dumping issues within Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural). Discussion took place regarding the Conservation Officer Service needing to consult with Rural Directors not just the mayors in regard to commenting on what issues are occurring in rural areas that are under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Officer Service, Ministry of Environment.

Director Miller mentioned that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Compliance and Enforcement division also assists with illegal dump sites.

Staff will bring forward Illegal Dumping at a future Rural Directors Committee meeting for further discussion.

Meeting with Reckitt Benckiser September 12, 2016 – Prince George, B.C.

Director Petersen mentioned that along with himself, Directors Greenaway and Parker and Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning will be attending in person the meeting with Reckitt Benckiser in Prince George on September 12, 2016. Chair Benedict, Director Miller and Melany de Weerd, CAO will be attending via teleconference.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2016-8-13

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:25 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Eileen Benedict, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant