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**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RDBN FORESTRY COMMITTEE  
(Committee of the Whole)  
Agenda**

Thursday, November 5, 2015

<b><u>PAGE NO.</u></b>		<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
	<b><u>Agenda – November 5, 2015</u></b>	<b>Adopt</b>
	<b><u>Supplementary Agenda</u></b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>MINUTES</u></b>	
2-5	<b>Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes - October 8, 2015</b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>REPORT</u></b>	
6-7	<b>Summary Report – Wildfire Workshop – RDBN and OBAC – October 13, 2015</b>	<b>Receive</b>
8-11	<b>Wildfire Workshop Follow-up Plan Draft for Discussion – October, 2015</b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></b>	
12	<b>Babine Lake Community Forest Society - October 13, 2015 Wildfire Workshop</b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u></b>	
	<b><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></b>	
	<b><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></b>	

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**(Committee of the Whole)****Thursday, October 8, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Chair Rob MacDougall

Directors Eileen Benedict  
Shane Brienen  
Mark Fisher  
Tom Greenaway  
Dwayne Lindstrom  
Thomas Liversidge  
Bill Miller  
Rob Newell  
Mark Parker  
Jerry Petersen

Directors Absent Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers  
Darcy Repen, Village of Telkwa  
Luke Strimbold, Village of Burns Lake  
Gerry Thiessen, District of Vanderhoof

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair MacDougall called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**AGENDA**Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Greenaway**F.C.2015-7-1**

"That the Forestry Committee Meeting Agenda of October 8, 2015 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****MINUTES****Forestry Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes –August 20, 2015**Moved by Director Miller  
Seconded by Director Brienen**F.C.2015-7-2**

"That the Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2015 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chair MacDougall asked that Director Lindstrom, in meeting with the Community Forest Association, speak to them regarding the burning of waste wood.

RDBN Forestry Forum  
(Wildfire Workshop)  
October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Moved by Director Miller  
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

F.C.2015-7-3

"That the Forestry Committee receive the Chief Administrative Officer's September 30, 2015 memo titled "RDBN Forestry Forum (Wildfire Workshop) October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Miller spoke of the positive feedback he has received from Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations regarding the RDBN facilitating the Wildfire Workshop. Doug Routledge, Vice President, Council of Forest Industries (COFI) also noted that opportunities such as the Wildfire Workshop provide communities the ability to communicate with stakeholders.

Gail Chapman, CAO, noted that the invitation has been forwarded to First Nations communities, the Regional District of Fraser Fort-George, New Gold, and a representative from COFI is also planning to attend.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence

Moved by Director Brienon  
 Seconded by Director Benedict

F.C.2015-7-4

"That the Forestry Committee receive the following correspondence:

-B.C. News – Wildfire Prevention Funding Increased, New Approaches to Forest Enhancement;  
 -Forest Practices Board – 2014/15 Annual Report."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Miller mentioned the positive impacts of the wildfire management conversations at the RDBN Regional Board table and other local governments across B.C.

Chair MacDougall spoke of the possibility of determining the needs for the region in regard to wildfire mitigation and the potential to collaborate sub-regionally in an application for wildfire mitigation funding. Chair MacDougall mentioned that BC Timber Sales will auction the harvest opportunities and this may provide jobs and opportunities for small scale salvagers.

Director Miller spoke with the temporary District Manager for Nadina regarding the funding proposed by the province and the possible strategies that could be developed.

## **CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)**

Director Miller commented that he spoke with the Chair of the Forest Practices Board and he offered to speak to the Regional Board in the future if that is the wish of the Board.

Chair MacDougall noted the challenges in regard to the reporting program for reporting to the Forest Practices Board and the audit process.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Slash Piles**

Director Newell asked what the process for burning slash piles in the VanJam Forest District was and if there was a policy in place that if the slash was within a certain distance of a pellet plant it had to be sent to that location to be utilized. Chair MacDougall noted that it is an option to have the material chipped and brought to a facility.

Director Newell noted that slash piles are being burned in close proximity to the pellet plant in Houston and he felt the slash could be better utilized at the pellet plant.

Director Miller mentioned that he is aware of changes within legislature and the Forest Tenures Branch that will make fibre such as slash piles much more accessible for alternate fibre usages.

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning commented that TransCanada had referred its timber salvage strategy document to the RDBN and has requested the RDBN to review the document and provide comment in regard to its timber salvage strategy if it desires to do so. Director Newell brought forward concerns regarding TransCanada's current timber salvaging strategy and that it does not appear to align with the Regional Board's direction regarding the utilization of fibre.

The Forestry Committee will review the document and provide comments to staff to bring forward at a future Regional Board Meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the larger amount of wood waste wood produced by short logging. Changes have been made in Fraser Lake to move to short log hauling.

Director Miller noted the opportunity to bring forward the utilization of fibre on pipeline corridors in legacy discussions.

Director Newell reported that Pacific Trails Pipelines has cleared approximately 40 kms of right of way but he is unaware of information from them as to the utilization of the fibre being removed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Newell

F.C.2015-7-5

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:27 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Rob MacDougall, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



## SUMMARY REPORT

# WILDFIRE WORKSHOP

### REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO AND THE OMINECA BEETLE ACTION COALITION

October 13, 2015

In response to community concerns about wildfire trends and the potential consequences for community safety and forest resources, the Regional District hosted an information and discussion workshop.

Approximately 55 people attended. Participants included a cross section of perspectives, including local government, industry, and staff from the wildfire management and resource management departments of the provincial government.

The workshop had two primary objectives:

- Take a positive step toward greater mutual understanding and collaboration between local communities, the provincial government and the forest industry in regard to wildland fire management.
- Identify and agree on a few concrete actions where the parties can work together.

Three presenters provided information and answered questions:

Brian Simpson, former provincial Executive Director of Wildfire Management described the wildfire trends and challenges of the past few years. He spoke about the increasing costs and damage due to wildfire, and the need for the province to set priorities when there are multiple fires. He also identified possible solutions at various scales – from individual homeowners to landscape level planning.

Tim Ryan, Chair of the Forest Practices Board described the trends the Board has observed over the past few years regarding fuel management in urban-wildland interface areas. He noted that good work is being done and a lot of the effort has gone into planning. However the Board has also noted that despite financial support from the province, implementation of plans is limited and fuel treatments are very expensive.

Brad Martin, Senior Protection Officer – Fire Management from Smithers described the current status of fire management planning in the region and spoke about how priorities are set and tactical decisions are made when fires occur.

The presentation and question period was followed by group discussions focused on identifying practical actions that could be taken by the participating organizations to improve wildfire management in the region. Some of the suggestions were:

1. FIRE SMART
  - Investigate and promote insurance premium incentives for homeowners.

## 2. PLANNING

- Develop approaches that ensure fire is considered during all planning activities.
- Improve processes to ensure more effective community input to fire management plans, including more understanding and dialogue about values at risk.
- Provide for legal fire management objectives in forest practices legislation.
- Integrate or coordinate plans done by various agencies and at various scales – start with better communication.
- Reevaluate some land-use objectives with a fire management lens.
- Examine and address risk distribution through permitting processes.

## 3. FUEL MANAGEMENT

- Assess the economics and mechanisms for incentives to utilize biomass in conjunction with fuel management projects.
- Ensure logging waste (in particular piles) is dealt with in a timely manner.
- Identify and address the barriers to broadcast burning, including liability and smoke management issues.
- Coordinate the priorities of the Land Based Investment Program and fuel management activities.

## 4. LEADERSHIP, PUBLIC CONFIDENCE AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Identify champions at the local level and work together on planning and mitigation that is appropriate to the particular community.
- Encourage a community dialogue on fire management, smoke and related interests.
- Generate a “bottom up” voice, including taking the conversation to provincial forums.
- Involve community leaders in discussions and analysis following significant fires.
- Increase communication pre and post fire to minimize rumors and incorrect information.

The Regional District and Omineca Beetle Action Coalition will follow up on these suggestions during the next few months.

# DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION - OCTOBER 30, 2015

## WILDFIRE WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP PLAN

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO AND THE OMINECA BEETLE ACTION COALITION

October 2015

WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION BY RDBN OR OBAC	COMMENTS
<b>FIRESMART</b>		
Increase awareness of FIRESMART standards and practices in communities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take an active leadership role in the OBAC proposed project "Becoming a FireSmart Region"</li> <li>2. As an alternative to #1 – RDBN to approach the province to undertake a regional FireSmart initiative within the regional district.</li> <li>3. Whether or not #1 and #2 are successfully implemented, include FireSmart brochures and best practices in tax assessment and other communications with homeowners.</li> <li>4. Ensure all local fire departments and bylaw officers have training in FireSmart and are able to assess properties and advise homeowners and residents.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action # 1 as described is subject to the ability of OBAC to continue undertaking projects beyond 2016.</li> <li>• Second option will require some staff/consulting work to develop a rough proposal and work with RD members and provincial agencies to refine it.</li> </ul>
Investigate and promote insurance premium incentives for homeowners.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Follow-up with FireSmart program for more information.</li> <li>2. Make residents aware of any incentives already existing through web site and mail-outs.</li> <li>3. Join appropriate initiatives to encourage insurance companies to provide incentives.</li> </ol>	
<b>PLANNING</b>		
Develop approaches that ensure fire is considered during all planning activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Examine RD planning practices and bylaws to determine whether they adequately address wildfire.</li> <li>2. Encourage all members to examine</li> </ol>	Land referrals from the province are one method for flagging concerns.

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	<p>official community plans with a wildfire lens.</p> <p>3. Incorporate wildfire considerations into all RD involvement in / input to: land use plans; forest stewardship plans; and other development plans.</p>	
<p>Improve processes to ensure more effective community input to fire management plans, including more dialogue about values at risk.</p>	<p>1. Work with wildfire management branch across the RD to establish effective mechanisms for community input.</p> <p>2. Establish a venue and invite residents to identify values-at-risk on an on-going basis so that information can be made readily available to fire managers during strategic and tactical planning.</p>	<p>Venue might utilize web site or social media – allowing residents to register information that can be accessed by planners as-and-when needed.</p>
<p>Provide for legal fire management objectives in forest practices legislation.</p>	<p>1. Work with wildfire management branch and forest industry to review the current requirements to more accurately identify gaps.</p> <p>2. Directly and through other regional and provincial organizations, encourage the provincial government to address the gaps.</p>	
<p>Integrate or coordinate plans done by various agencies at various scales – start with better communication.</p>	<p>1. Work with member communities, First Nations and wildfire management branch to establish a regional forum on fire management planning.</p> <p>2. Adopt and support practices that improve interagency information sharing about the planning and operational aspects of wildfire management.</p>	<p>See also “Leadership” below</p>
<p>Reevaluate some land-use objectives with a fire management lens.</p>	<p>1. Work with wildfire management branch to identify the highest risk areas of the region.</p> <p>2. Evaluate land use objectives / guidelines</p>	

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	<p>in identified high risk areas for their impact on fire management.</p> <p>3. Recommend changes where indicated.</p>	
Examine and address risk distribution through permitting processes.	<p>1. Encourage the province to ensure that all industries operating on the landscape are required to make an equitable contribution to fire management planning and prevention.</p>	
<b>FUEL MANAGEMENT</b>		
Assess the economics and mechanisms for incentives to utilize biomass in conjunction with fuel management projects.	<p>1. Contact MFLNRO to determine what mechanisms are now in place or being worked on.</p> <p>2. Identify gaps and possible solutions.</p> <p>3. Determine how community forest licences can play a role.</p>	There may be avenues through BCTS or the forest investment account.
Ensure logging waste (particularly piles) is dealt with in a timely manner.	<p>1. Discuss with MFLNRO and industry - possible slash disposal guidelines linked to key high risk zones identified in fuel management plans.</p>	Coordinate with bioenergy opportunities – possible conflicts or synergies.
Identify and address the barriers to broadcast burning, including liability and smoke management issues.	<p>1. Communicate with existing MFLNRO and forest industry to understand existing issues and potential solutions.</p> <p>2. Support the parties to implement solutions.</p>	Some work appears to be underway on this matter. One of the issues is distribution of liability. Another is public response to smoke from prescribed burns.
Coordinate the priorities of the Land Based Investment Program and fuel management activities.	<p>1. Work with wildfire management branch and program staff to determine where and how this could be accomplished.</p> <p>2. Support any necessary policy changes.</p>	
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>		
Identify champions at the local level and work together on planning and mitigation that is appropriate to the particular community.	<p>1. Invite key stakeholders to participate in a “Regional Forum on Wildfire” which would meet periodically to deal with matters such as those identified at the October 13, 2015 workshop in Burns</p>	Local and First Nations governments, provincial ministries, industries. Participants would likely be technical staff. RDBN could “host” and provide the secretariat services to the forum.

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	<b>Lake.</b>	
Generate a "bottom up" voice, including taking the conversation to provincial forums.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As potential issues and solutions are better identified, take forward resolutions to provincial and federal organizations (e.g. NCLGA/UBCM/FCM).</li> <li>2. Participate more actively in provincial activities (e.g., conferences) dealing with community interests in wildfire.</li> </ol>	
Involve community leaders in discussion and analysis following significant fires.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make a request to MFLNRO that local government be invited to participate in post-fire debriefings/analysis as a matter of standard practice.</li> <li>2. Request that a review and analysis be conducted of any significant wildfire in the region.</li> <li>3. For fires that are particularly complex and/or involve a variety of competing interests, request that an independent third party participate in or conduct the review.</li> </ol>	
Increase communication pre and post fire to minimize rumors and incorrect information.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with wildfire management branch to establish communications protocols with local government. Review and update the protocols annually based on a joint review of effectiveness.</li> </ol>	
<b>CAPACITY</b>		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Internally at RDBN or in partnership with OBAC, establish capacity to support and sustain the increased activity required to implement proposed activities.</li> </ol>	This may include additional in-house staff, training, contractor, etc.

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**RECEIVED**  
**OCT 19 2015**  
**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF**  
**BULKLEY NECHAKO**

**BABINE LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY**  
 PO Box 272 Granisle BC V0J 1W0 Tel 250 697 6271 Fax 250 697 2480  
[sfclarke@xplornet.ca](mailto:sfclarke@xplornet.ca)

October 16<sup>th</sup> 2015

Chair Bill Miller & Directors,  
 Regional District of Bulkley Nechako,  
 37 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. PO Box 820,  
 Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0

Dear Chair Miller & Directors:

The meeting of the October 13<sup>th</sup> held in Burns Lake was a valuable service to the people of the District. Many interesting aspects of wildfire mitigation were discussed but most of the related experience was in southern BC. The matter of Northern BC and the communities being contiguous with crown forest lands did not seem to be directly addressed. I will relate to you the experience that the Babine Lake Community Forest Society has had so far.

Because the community of Granisle is surrounded by and contiguous to the Babine Lake Community Forest the Society offered to play a role in the mitigation process. The society suggested that we would remove all of the conifer growth in the two kilometer perimeter so long as we could break even on the process. The response from BC Forest service was that they wanted to treat the activity as any other logging operation with all of the legal constraints intact. It appears that BC Forest Service has not made any moves in terms of the law to accommodate wildfire mitigation around communities. Forestry Law is all about the terms and conditions of growing, harvesting and selling of logs. It is very difficult to see how wildfire mitigation can be managed under the present law. With our terrain removal of the undergrowth and lower limbs would not be effective.

We need to keep in mind that in dry weather or in the spring deciduous vegetation burns readily. You may note on TV that many of the huge fires shown are not coniferous but deciduous. The best solution is to remove the two km zone around communities from woodland inventory, retain them as public lands and find economic opportunities on those lands that will benefit the communities instead of being an ongoing liability. This is a case that calls for leadership and imagination and the Regional District of Bulkley- Nechako is well positioned to fill this role.

Hopefully the next meeting the focus of the agenda will be to remove the two kilometer zone from forestry focus to community benefit instead of community liability.

Thanks again for the meeting,

Gail Warren  
 Co Chair,

