

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
(VIRTUAL)

Thursday, May 13, 2021

PRESENT: Chair Shane Brien

 Directors Gladys Atrill
 Mark Fisher
 Dolores Funk
 Tom Greenaway
 Clint Lambert
 Brad Layton
 Linda McGuire
 Bob Motion
 Chris Newell
 Mark Parker
 Jerry Petersen
 Michael Riis-Christianson
 Sarrah Storey
 Gerry Thiessen

 Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
 Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
 Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 11:06 a.m.
 John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
 Sashka Macievich, Financial Controller
 Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

 Others Samuel Dodd, Resource Manager, Regional Operations – Stuart
 Nechako District, Fort St. James, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural
 Resource Operations and Rural Development – left at 11:00 a.m.
 Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District, Ministry
 of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
 – left at 11:00 a.m.
 Jevan Hanchard, District Manager, Skeena Stikine Natural Resource
 District, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and
 Rural Development – left at 11:00 a.m.
 Neil Hughes, Forest Establishment Leader, Harvesting and Silviculture
 Practices, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and
 Rural Development – left at 11:00 a.m.
 Jill Park, Resource Manager – Vanderhoof, Regional Operations – Stuart
 Nechako District, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
 Operations and Rural Development – left at 11:00 a.m.
 Garth O'Meara, Licensed Science Officer, Aboriginal Affairs, Burns Lake,
 Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural
 Development – left at 11:00 a.m.
 John Huybers, District Manager, Resource Management – Prince
 George, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and
 Rural Development – left at 11:00 a.m.
 Taylor Turkington, Beswick Hildebrandt Lund – arrived at 10:36 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Brien called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Funk
Seconded by Director Storey

NRC.2021-2-1

“That the Natural Resources Committee Agenda for May 13, 2021 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Atrill

NRC.2021-2-2

“That the Natural Resources Committee Minutes for April 8, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT - Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District Jevan Hanchard, District Manager, Skeena Stikine Natural Resource District, Neil Hughes, Forest Establishment Leader, Harvesting and Silviculture Practices, Samuel Dodd, Resource Manager, Regional Operations – Stuart Nechako District and John Huybers, District Manager, Resource Management – Prince George RE: Tree Planting

Chair Brienens welcomed Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District Jevan Hanchard, District Manager, Skeena Stikine Natural Resource District, Neil Hughes, Forest Establishment Leader, Harvesting and Silviculture Practices, Samuel Dodd, Resource Manager, Regional Operations – Stuart Nechako District and John Huybers, District Manager, Resource Management, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Mr. Dodd provided an update in regard to the 2021 Planting Program for the Burns Lake, Stuart Nechako, Smithers and Prince George Forest Districts.

- Stuart Nechako
 - o 32 million trees
 - o 10-15 camps
 - o 6-8 contractors
 - o May – early July
- Nadina
 - o 39 million trees
 - o 10-14 camps
 - o 10-14 contractors
 - o May to early July
- Stikine
 - o 5 million trees
 - o 5-7 camps
 - o 5-7 contractors
 - o May-June.
 - o

Mr. Hughes provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Spring 2021 Planting and COVID-19 Response

- 2021 Spring Planting Forecast by Natural Resource District
- 2021 Planting Program – Prince George to Smithers

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (CONT'D)

- Provincial Requirements
 - o Provincial Health Order and Guidelines
- Highlights of the Order
- Attestations and Inspections.

The following was discussed:

- Silviculture camps
 - o Have long term relationships in communities
 - Concerns with COVID-19 Provincial Health Orders and Guideline impacts
 - Due to the restrictions silviculture camps and tree planters are not purchasing as many supplies in communities
 - Recognize the impacts to local businesses and economies
 - Two models for silviculture camps to utilize to purchase locally
 - In 2020 some silviculture camps ordered takeout when possible to participate in local economies
- Village of Granisle
 - o Communication with silviculture camp
 - o Accommodations at local resort
 - o Ensure safety protocols
- BCTS staff carry out inspections to monitor compliance
- Enforcement by Ministry of Health inspectors
- COVID-19 rapid testing for most companies
- Communications between FLNRORD and communities regarding silviculture activities
- In 2020 tree planters participated in a one day event to raise money for local food banks across the province
- Tree planters coming to work in communities sometimes decide to stay and live in the region
 - o Challenging to showcase communities currently
 - o Concerns that tree planters won't be leaving camps to visit communities due to COVID-19 orders and guidelines
- Benefits of tree planters to the region and communities
- Appreciation to FLNRORD working to be able to continue silviculture activity during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Tree planting over the next 10, 15 and 20 years
 - o Planting 270 million to 300 million trees
 - Depending on need
 - Wildfire areas will have regeneration
 - Wildfires, MPB (Mountain Pine Beetle) and Spruce Beetle may impact planting
 - o Provincial Government funded programs to address wildfires and MPB
 - o Federal Government recognizes the environmental benefit of tree planting
 - Pledged funding over the next 10 years
- Contacting local District Managers to advocate for piling of wildfire burnt wood
- Recovery planning
- Forests for Tomorrow and Forest Enhancement Fund.

Chair Brienen thanked Messrs. Hanchard, Hughes, Dodd and Huybers and Ms. Eagles for attending the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Logging Truck Driving Safety Practices

Director Lambert has been in discussion with West Fraser Sawmill – Fraser Lake in regard to the letter sent by the RDBN concerning logging truck driving safety practices. They are planning to meet with the truck drivers for their spring safety discussions. West Fraser indicated it takes the concerns very seriously. They have indicated support for the Regional District’s request to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding Highway 16 safety concerns and request for more passing lanes.

Director Atrill noted that she had discussions with West Fraser in Smithers as well. Director Thiessen has contacted the RCMP – Traffic Division. Chair Brienen will follow-up with Directors Lambert and Thiessen.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Lambert

NRC.2021-2-3

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:07 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Shane Brienen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant