



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017

PAGE NO.

ACTION

AGENDA – October 26, 2017

Approve

Supplementary Agenda

Receive

MINUTES

2-4

Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
- September 7, 2017

Receive

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- UBCM Update
- Agriculture Coordinator Update
- RD Role in Agriculture Stewardship

CORRESPONDENCE

5-6

Andrew Weaver introduces Bill to Ban
Foreign Ownership on Agricultural Land
Reserve Land Over Five Acres

Receive

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
(Committee Of The Whole)

Thursday, September 7, 2017

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Taylor Bachrach
 Eileen Benedict
 Shane Brien
 Mark Fisher
 Tom Greenaway
 Dwayne Lindstrom
 Rob MacDougall
 Bill Miller
 Rob Newell
 Jerry Petersen
 Darcy Repen
 Gerry Thiessen

Directors Absent John Illes, Village of Burns Lake
 Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle

Alternate Directors Susan Schienbein, Village of Burns Lake

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
 Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
 Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
 Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
 Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development
 Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Theresa Fresco, Assistant Regional Manager, Fraser Basin Council

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director MacDougall
 Seconded by Director Miller

AG.2017-5-1

"That the Agriculture Committee Agenda of September 7, 2017 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -June 8, 2017

Moved by Director Brien
 Seconded by Director Repen

AG.2017-5-2

"That the Minutes of the Agriculture Committee Meeting of June 8, 2017 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

Connecting Consumers and Producers

Moved by Director Brien
 Seconded by Director Newell

AG.2017-5-3

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's August 29, 2017 memo titled "Connecting Consumers and Producers."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development noted that available funding remains for further Connecting Consumers and Producers Events

CORRESPONDENCE

Northern Development Initiative Trust

Moved by Director Fisher
 Seconded by Director Miller

AG.2017-5-4

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the following: correspondence:

-Northern Development Initiative Trust – Agriculture Coordinator Pilot;

-Northern Development Initiative Trust/Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako-Media Release – Bulkley-Nechako Farmers Get a Helping Hand."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the positive response from the Agriculture Sector in the region in regard to the Agriculture Coordinator Pilot Project and the agriculture initiatives being taken by the RDBN and Northern Development Initiative Trust. Chair Parker spoke of the positive responses he's received in regard to the support for the agriculture sector during the Sutherland Wildfire that occurred in the region.

Director Thiessen mentioned that Northern Development Initiative Trust spent a day in Vanderhoof to obtain an overview of agriculture in the area. There was a very positive response from participants.

Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer commented that the Agriculture Coordinator Position posting closes September 15, 2017.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has also been in contact with Ms. de Weerd in regard to the pilot project and is interested in continuing to follow up as the project moves forward.

Discussion took place in regard to the Agriculture Committee reviewing its strategic priorities and ideas with the successful Agriculture Coordinator candidate at a future Agriculture Committee Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Co-existence Discussion Moved by Director Fisher
-May 18, 2017 – Glenwood Hall Seconded by Director Thiessen
-Smithers

AG.2017-5-5

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence titled "Co-existence Discussion – May 18, 2017 – Glenwood Hall Smithers."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Fisher mentioned that the event provided a good opportunity for attendees to discuss Genetically Modified Organisms and the different farming practices in the Smithers area. Chair Parker noted that the event also provided an opportunity to dispel false perceptions and speak to the facts.

Correspondence

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director MacDougall

AG.2017-5-6

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the following correspondence:

-Laurie Gallant – Bulkley Valley Food Security Forum

-Update #1 – June 30, 2017

-Update #2 – July 25, 2017;

-Laurie Gallant – Final Farm School Program – August 8, 9, 10, 2017;

-Plant and Animal health Strategy of Canada – FPT Ministers of Agriculture Endorse the Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Miller noted that the Bulkley Valley Food Security Forum reiterates the importance of food security in the region in the event of a natural or manmade disaster event that could potentially impact the regions access to food.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director MacDougall

AG.2017-5-7

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:34 pm."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



greens

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ANDREW WEAVER INTRODUCES BILL TO BAN FOREIGN OWNERSHIP ON AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE LAND OVER FIVE ACRES

October 05, 2017

VICTORIA, B.C. - Andrew Weaver, leader of the B.C. Green Party, reintroduced a bill that would ban foreign ownership on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land over five acres. Weaver first introduced the bill in February 2016.

“B.C.’s Agricultural Land Reserve is vital for promoting our province’s food security and growing our agricultural sector,” said Weaver.

“Today I am reintroducing a bill that would prohibit foreign entities from purchasing ALR land over five acres.

“B.C. currently imports 70% of its vegetables from the United States, with half of that coming from California. With these

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regions increasingly experiencing extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, it is more important than ever that B.C. take the future of our food security seriously. Moreover, agriculture presents a significant economic opportunity for B.C. Our thriving wine industry alone has a \$2.8 billion economic impact, generating 12,000 jobs throughout the province.

“One of the key reasons why young people are unable to pursue farming is due to the cost of land. By allowing ALR land to be subject to international real estate speculation, we are limiting their opportunities to get into this vital, sustainable industry.

“Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Quebec and PEI have all passed similar legislation to protect their agricultural land. This leaves B.C. as the only western province without such a law. It's time we took action on this important issue so that we can ensure that ALR land is used as it is intended - to offer opportunities to local communities across the province and to promote the overall food security of our province.”

-30-

Media contact

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Media release

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