

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, October 8, 2015

PRESENT: Chairperson Bill Miller

Directors Eileen Benedict
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Thomas Liversidge
Rob MacDougall
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
Janine Dougall, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 11:12 a.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 11:12 a.m., left at 11:33 a.m., returned at 12:01 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other David Belford, Office of the Wet’suwet’en – left at 11:50 a.m.
John Calogheros, Prince George – left at 11:02 a.m.
Tracy Calogheros, Liberal Party Candidate, Cariboo-Prince George – left at 11:02 a.m.
Richard Jaques, Green Party Candidate, Cariboo-Prince George, via teleconference at 11:02 a.m., to 11:08 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 10:29 a.m.

**AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director Lindstrom
Seconded by Director Benedict

C.W.2015-7-1

“That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole meeting of October 8, 2015 be approved; and further that the Supplementary Agenda be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – September 3, 2015

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2015-7-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of
September 3, 2015 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

TRACY CALOGEROS, Liberal Party Candidate, Cariboo-Prince George

Chair Miller welcomed Tracy Calogheros, Liberal Party Candidate, Cariboo-Prince George.

Mrs. Calogheros provided an overview of her background. She has worked at the Exploration Place Museum and Science Centre in Prince George for 22 years and has been Chief Executive Officer for 13 years. Mrs. Calogheros mentioned that when she became CEO 13 years ago the Exploration Place had a deficit of \$1.3 million dollars for a recently completed expansion along with \$100,000 operating deficit. Today, the Exploration Place in partnership with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG), has developed five year funding envelopes that will establish 45% of the operating budget. They have created a Cultural Service Advisory Council with representation from all funding agencies that provide advice to the RDFFG in regard to heritage and culture.

Mrs. Calogheros has also worked with First Nations communities, the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and Nak'azdli Band to preserve oral history and traditions along with housing collections at risk. They are in the process of developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lheidli T'enneh Nation for repatriation of artifacts with other partners throughout Canada.

Mrs. Calogheros noted through her work she has had a lot of experience working with local governments and a variety of governments.

She has served on the following Associations:

- British Columbia Museum Association – Past President;
- Northern British Columbia Tourism Association – Past President:
 - Mrs. Calogheros was in the role of President when the Queen of the North sank and took a prominent role in trying to protect long haul and circle tourism during that difficult time.
- Canadian Association of Science Centre Board of Directors – Current:
 - Has been lobbying Ottawa for approximately 10 years to find funding for Science Education.
- Emily Carr Association Board of Governors
 - Worked very hard to have university arts programs in the north and is very pleased that next year the University of Northern B.C. (UNBC) will be offering adjunct degree programs for northern students.

Mrs. Calogheros has been involved in the Liberal Party for approximately 20 years and became involved when she initially started trying to get grants approved for the Exploration Place. She had a very good experience working with the Liberal party at the time and felt their interest in Northern B.C. and their on the ground in approach to best allocate and target the funds being provided for needed projects was great. She took a break for a time and has since returned as a candidate and advocate for the Liberal party platform. She feels that the Liberal party platform is new and is built from the ground up and that the Liberal Party is better connected to its constituents than it was when they were last leading Canada.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

TRACY CALOghEROS, Liberal Party Candidate, Cariboo-Prince George

The Liberal Party infrastructure promises will benefit local government and all residents. They are planning to implement \$120 billion infrastructure expenditures in three different areas of infrastructure development. This is \$60 billion more than what is currently allocated for infrastructure. The funds will be provided to local governments and municipalities to be able to determine where the need is and allocate funds accordingly. Mrs. Calogheros noted that a Liberal government wants to be a partner and not impede the ability to build infrastructure.

Mrs. Calogheros stated that she has experience working with all levels of government to bring funds into the community and area to strengthen what can be offered to area citizens. She spoke to the need to stop competing amongst communities and to start talking about northern B.C. as a larger picture. There is now a triple bottom line, not just a fiscal bottom line, but also a social and ecological bottom line.

Director MacDougall brought forward concerns regarding CN Rail and the lack of service to communities to get products to market and the requirement for notice regarding the commodities that are being hauled by CN Rail. Mrs. Calogheros spoke of Canada being a resource driven economy and the need to get the resources to market. One of the ways that is accomplished is through rail. Accidents do happen and there needs to be scientific information regarding the impacts to all potential spills. She mentioned that the Liberal Party intends to reinstate funding for scientists to research in order to have the necessary information to be able to mitigate a spill and/or accident. She noted the importance of CN having mitigation teams to be first to an incident and not the Public Relations Team. Mrs. Calogheros commented that CN Rail wants a social license to continue to operate. Communities need to be able to grow economies within small communities and she would work to facilitate discussions with CN regarding the concerns of small communities.

Director Petersen mentioned that the Nechako River is a controlled river and the sturgeon have been declared an endangered species by the Federal Government. Once this has occurred there does not appear to be any follow-up by the Federal Government. What can be done about this issue? Mrs. Calogheros commented that she has worked with the sturgeon recovery project and there needs to be support for the entire life support system. Once a species is put on the endangered list there needs to be more investment in determining whether the species will move to extinction or can be rejuvenated, it requires further science and further work. Once the Federal Government places a species on the endangered list it then also falls under provincial jurisdiction for the monitoring and mitigation works. Thus it needs to be done in partnership with further follow up and funding by the Federal Government.

Director Brienens asked what a Liberal Government would do vs a Conservative Government for small communities and what they would do to address infrastructure needs. Mrs. Calogheros noted the Liberal approach to information sharing is very different than the Conservative Government. They believe in opening access to government information and that any information that needs to remain confidential will be the responsibility of the government to prove. The level and delivery of funding is also different. There is an infrastructure deficit Canada wide and jobs are required in the short term until a Liberal Government has the time to decide what is needed in the long term. Mrs. Calogheros has already been gathering information from the local governments within her riding to determine what is needed in regard to infrastructure. The Infrastructure Bank which the Liberal Government is intending to implement will change the ability to match funding requirements. The Infrastructure Bank will give a better interest rate than the Municipal Finance Authority and will allow small communities to borrow the matching funds. At the end of each fiscal year the Liberal Government plans to allocate the unused funds allowed for infrastructure to local governments through the Federal Gas Tax Program for the local governments to be able to utilize.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

TRACY CALOgheros, Liberal Party Candidate, Cariboo-Prince George

Director Lindstrom asked what Mrs. Calogheros' views were in regard to the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project. Mrs. Calogheros mentioned that pipelines are statistically the safest way to move oil and that we are capable of building a safe pipeline, but "safe" is a relative term. There is always a possibility for accidents and that has to be built into the risk factor. She spoke to recent discussions that she had in regard to the oil in Canada being land locked and that Canada receives a lower price for its oil because it can't get it off shore. If Canada is going to use and sell its resource it needs to get top dollar but it needs to move it in the safest way possible. She noted that it is a huge discussion. The Liberal Party has currently said "no" to Enbridge because it has followed the Environmental Assessment Process that the Conservative Government implemented and the Liberal Party does not feel that this is adequate. Mrs. Calogheros commented that there is a need to start from scratch in reviewing all the information in regard to Enbridge and pipelines.

Mrs. Calogheros does not believe that Enbridge has the social license to continue and that citizens and the government need more information in regard to tanker traffic on the coast. The Liberal Party promises serious innovation to clean energy and clean technology. She also mentioned the need to continue to invest in youth and education.

Mrs. Calogheros noted the need to find a way to get Canadian resources to market and she doesn't feel that the current government has the social license to do so. She mentioned the Tsilhqot'in decision in regard to giving First Nations true title to their land. First Nations need to be consulted and a consensus found to access their land and mineral rights. The Liberal Party will start with common goals. Everyone wants the economy to grow and everyone wants to protect the environment for this generation and generations to come.

Chair Miller spoke of the resolution brought forward and endorsed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in regard to the missing \$800 million for mountain pine beetle infected areas that was promised by the Conservative government. Mrs. Calogheros noted that the missing funds appear to be a promise made by the Conservative government that was not followed through on. She commented that it is important for all levels of government to work together to voice concerns about the funds that were not allocated to mountain pine beetle infected areas.

Chair Miller spoke to the importance for all political parties to work together in Ottawa and to build consensus to reach common goals and collaborate for the betterment of all Canadians.

DELEGATIONS

RICHARD JAQUES, Green Party Candidate, Cariboo-Prince George

Chair Miller welcomed Richard Jaques, Green Party Candidate, Cariboo-Prince George.

Mr. Jaques mentioned that he had lived in the region while posted in Fort St. James, Tachet and Tackla Landing as an RCMP officer. He is currently an educator in Prince George.

He spoke of the annual allowable cut reduction and voiced concerns regarding the funding that was promised by the Conservative government to mountain pine beetle infected areas and was never delivered. If elected he is committed to delivering that funding to the area.

Mr. Jacques commented that it is important to retool sawmills in order to not have repetition and allow for mills to stay in production. He spoke to the safety concerns regarding the dust created from the milling of mountain pine beetle timber and is committed to ensuring proper safety measures are followed.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

RICHARD JAQUES, Green Party Candidate, Cariboo-Prince George

He mentioned his concerns in regard to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and its impacts to the dairy and forest sectors.

Mr. Jacques will be in Vanderhoof on October 9, 2015 for a political debate.

Chair Miller thanked Mr. Jaques for attending the meeting.

REPORTS

2016 RDBN Business Forum

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Benedict

C.W.2015-7-3

"That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize the RDBN Sponsorship of the 2017 Business Forum; and, further that the opportunity to host a future Business Forum be provided to the municipalities of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the challenges of finding a host municipality for the RDBN Business Forum for 2016. Director Lindstrom noted that Fraser Lake has limited accommodation capacity.

Regional Economic Development Status Report

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2015-7-4

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's September 30, 2015 memo titled "Regional Economic Development Status Report."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development provided an overview of the Regional Economic Development Status Report. Discussion took place regarding the measurable for tourism reporting. Ms. Swenson noted that the number of visitors to the regional tourism information centres is recorded, along with visitor's length and type of stay. Website traffic is recorded as a measurable along with the ability to request information from hotels. Ms. Swenson mentioned that there are future plans to participate in a performance measurement training program to learn new methods of being able to record and track measurable factors.

Discussion took place regarding Northern Development Initiative Trust and its Grant Writer program for municipalities and First Nation communities.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

The proposal writing status for September, 2015 and year to date applications was brought forward for discussion. Comments were made in regard to the percentage of grant funds received in comparison to the funds applied for and the length of time it takes to receive a response.

The Strategic Workforce Opportunities Team (SWOT) is moving forward and implementing the Regional Skills Gap Analysis. Staff are currently working to secure funding for a Coordinator for the SWOT.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Fisher

C.W.2015-7-5

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the following correspondence:

- Re-Use Shed Public Meeting Details;
- Salvaging and Re-Use Shed Background Document;
- Promoting Re-Use in the RDBN – Ideas/Suggestions/Solutions Questionnaire;
- Lyn Nugent – Request for Additional Garbage Disposal Option;
- Earnie Harding – One-Stop Recycling Facilities;

INVITATION

-Nechako Watershed Roundtable Launch October 21-22, 2015, Prince George, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Parker requested an update on the Re-Use Shed Public Meetings for Smithers/Telkwa and Houston. Janine Dougall, Director of Environmental Services mentioned that there were 49 people in attendance at the Smithers/Telkwa Public Meeting including Directors and staff. Staff provided the "Salvaging and Re-Use Shed Background" and the "Promoting Re-Use in the RDBN – Ideas/Suggestions/Solutions Questionnaire" documents. Individuals can also submit the questionnaire at a later date. The format of the meeting was an interactive process rather than a town hall meeting format. There were 13 people at the Houston Public meeting. Some of the suggestions at the meetings were:

- o Additional staffing:
 - Volunteer or RDBN;
- o Reduce Hours of the Re-Use sheds – not necessarily the same hours as the transfer stations;
- o Move to another location and perhaps be run by a society;
- o Cameras to try to control bad behavior;
- o Children not allowed out of vehicles;

A Smithers/Telkwa area resident conducted research as to what other municipalities and Regional Districts are doing in terms of a Re-Use shed and will provide the information to staff.

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Ms. Dougall mentioned that most of the telephone calls staff have received are from the Vanderhoof area.

Director Newell requested that the information regarding the meetings and the process continue to be provided to the public.

Discussion took place regarding the public response wherein some residents are very passionate and are wanting to find a solution to re-open the re-use sheds. Some residents are quiet in their response. Some residents are also discussing the potential for a business opportunity in regard to re-use options.

Nechako Watershed Round Table Launch

Discussion took place regarding the importance of having a representative from the RDBN Board of Directors attend the Nechako Watershed Round Table Launch in Prince George on October 21-22, 2015.

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Benedict

C.W.2015-7-6

"That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize Director Greenaway's attendance at the Nechako Watershed Roundtable Launch October 21 & 22, 2015 in Prince George, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Lyn Nugent – Request for Additional Garbage Disposal Option; -Earnie Harding – One-Stop Recycling Facilities

Director Fisher spoke to exploring options to determine additional garbage disposal options and whether the Recycling Depot in Smithers would be interested in the possibility. Also consideration for capacity and whether a fee for service would be required were noted. He also mentioned that perhaps the Town of Smithers would consider a partnership to provide further service. Director Fisher will research the potential options for additional garbage disposal and provide the information to the Regional Board.

Discussion took place regarding the ability for the public to conveniently access recycling options. The public has indicated that the hours of operation of the recycling facilities are not always convenient thus they are still taking products to the transfer stations.

The existing funding contract provided for recycling in the RDBN was brought forward for discussion. Ms. Dougall commented that the original intent of the funds provided in the recycling budget was to pay for programs not covered under the Extended Producer Responsibility program or industry paid products.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

INVITATION

Yellowhead Road & Bridge Moved by Director Petersen
(Vanderhoof) Ltd. 2015/2016 Seconded by Director Greenaway
Pre-winter Stakeholders Meeting
-Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at
10:00 a.m. – Vanderhoof Fire Hall

C.W.2015-7-7

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the invitation from Yellowhead Road & Bridge (Vanderhoof) Ltd. regarding its 2015/2016 Pre-winter Stakeholders Meeting, Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Vanderhoof Fire Hall.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Thank You from Chair Miller
RE: UBCM

Chair Miller thanked the Regional Board and Jason Llewellyn, Interim Deputy Administrator/Director of Planning for their support during the Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention in Vancouver, B.C. on September 21-25, 2015.

Discussion took place regarding the full schedule this year during the UBCM Convention and the need to review the most beneficial strategic plan for the RDBN Directors in attending UBCM. Concerns were brought forward that many Directors, due to the amount of meetings scheduled, were unable to attend much of the convention.

Chair Miller commented that there has been positive feedback on the meetings that he attended on behalf of the Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance. The NWRBA meeting with the LNG Alliance was well received and meetings with other sectors such as mining and forestry would be beneficial. He noted that having industry support would greatly benefit the NWRBA.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lindstrom
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2015-7-8

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:20 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bill Miller, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant