

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 4, 2020

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Chris Newell
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Gerry Thiessen

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator – left at 3:14 p.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services – left at 3:19 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 3:08 p.m.
Deneve Vanderwolf, Regional Transit Coordinator/Planner Technician – left at 4:13 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2020-5-1

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for June 4, 2020 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MINUTES

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes -May 7, 2020

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2020-5-2

“That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of May 7, 2020 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

PLANNING DEPARTMENT (Rural Directors)

Mine Referral

Mine Referral
No. 1300260-202001
(BamBam Trucking)
Electoral Area C

Moved by Director T. Greenaway
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-5-3

“That the Comment Sheet for Mine Referral No. 1300260-202001 be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Mine Referral No. 1300260-202001.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Crown Land Referral

Crown Land Application
Referral No. 119419857-006
(Brian Pollard)
– Electoral Area F

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2020-5-4

“That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral No. 119419857-006 be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land Application 119419857-006.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator provided an overview of the RDBN Connecting Consumers and Producers Programs website.

2020 Connecting Consumers
and Producers Programs

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2020-5-5

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Regional Economic Development Coordinator’s June 4, 2020 memo titled 2020 Connecting Consumers and Producers Programs.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Promotion of the 2020 Connecting Consumers and Producers Programs and website page
- Staff are developing marketing material and a promotion strategy
- Local Line
- Marketing material in regard to supporting local producers/buying local products.

Livestock Evacuation Plan

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2020-5-6

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee recommend that the Board approve the amended Livestock Evacuation Plan.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORTS (CONT'D)

Discussion took place regarding the ability and information for livestock farmers to shelter in place.

RURAL REPORTS

Impact of Electoral Areas Joining the Transit Service

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-5-7

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee recommend to the Board that Bylaw No. 1790 be amended to include the entire Regional District as the Service Area and increase the maximum requisition amount in the bylaw to \$150,000.”

Discussion took place in regard to:

- Percentage of rural/municipal ridership being equal
- Referendum Process
 - Proposed one referendum for region
- Alternative Approval Process (AAP)
 - Further discussion needed to determine participation of off corridor areas
- Cost of referendum vs. AAP
- Requisition maximum of \$150,000 for both operational and capital costs
- Potential capital costs
- Federal Gas Tax funding for potential capital purchase of buses
- Developing financial certainty in perpetuity
- First Nations
 - Ridership numbers
 - Federal Government Grant funding
 - Partnerships
- Provincial and BC Transit funding formula
- Province creating the Highway 16 Transit Service in acknowledgement of the Highway of Tears
- Fort St. James
 - Lack of service
 - Seniors Helping Seniors transportation service
- Other busing systems operating in the north
 - BC Bus North
 - Northern Health Bus
 - Community
 - First Nations
- Potential to work with other busing operators to develop an efficient model for northern BC
- Transit fees collected vs. ridership numbers
 - Staff will provide information
- Local government determine fee amount
- Fee adjustments
- Cumulative tax percentage increase and impact to 2021 Budget
- Grant in Aid has yet to be requested for 2020
- Potential taxation less than ridership fee
- Funding models
 - Municipal/rural funding equality
 - Additional funding model options.

RURAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-5-8

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee defer Motion RDC.2020-5-7 to a future meeting in order to provide additional funding model options.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Northern Capital and Planning Grant

- Receipt of the second Provincial allocation of the Northern Capital and Planning Grant
- Province adjusted the formula
 - Formula unknown
 - Potential reasons for formula adjustments
 - Reduced amount of funding to Regional Districts (as compared to municipalities)
- Strict criteria for Regional Districts to utilize the funding
- Directors to provide ideas to CAO Helgesen and CFO Illes
- Northern Capital and Planning Grant allocation in relation to potential Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) funding
- Staff workplans and NCPG funded projects
- Determining best approach
- Ensuring recognition of NCPG project funding for projects
- Shovel ready projects vs. shovel worthy projects
- Allocating NCPG funding to a single RDBN project per year
 - Funding is not guaranteed moving forward
- Funding needed to improve connectivity in the region
- Further discussion at a future Rural/Agriculture meeting in regard to Electoral Area and region-wide project options.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Response to Inquiry re: Hunting Licenses

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2020-5-9

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Response to Inquiry re: Hunting Licenses.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Telus re: Broadband Committee

CFO Illes indicated that Telus has agreed to meet with the RDBN Broadband Committee at its next meeting.

RDBN Letter to Ministry of Agriculture RE: COVID-19 Class D and E Licences

Chair Parker mentioned that the RDBN has yet to receive a response to its April 29, 2020 letter sent to the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture in regard to COVID-19 Crisis and Class D and E Licenses.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

B.C. Forest Enhancement
Society Grant Funding to
Pinnacle Pellet Renewable
Energy and Sale of other
fibre

Chair Parker spoke of the B.C. Forest Enhancement Society providing grant funding to Pinnacle Pellet Renewable Energy to subsidize travel expenses to utilize residual fibre and the impacts to the sale of aspen/poplar by the agriculture community. He asked that the topic be discussed when rescheduling a meeting with Eamon O'Donoghue, Assistant Deputy Minister, Regional Operations North Area, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2020-5-10

"That the meeting be adjourned at 4:39 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant