

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Thursday, October 12, 2023**

|                 |                       |  |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>PRESENT:</b> | Chair                 | Mark Parker  |
|                 | Directors             | Gladys Atrill – left at 12:52 p.m.<br>Shane Brienen – arrived at 11:21 a.m.<br>Martin Elphee<br>Judy Greenaway<br>Clint Lambert<br>Linda McGuire<br>Shirley Moon<br>Kevin Moutray<br>Chris Newell<br>Michael Riis-Christianson<br>Stoney Stoltenberg<br>Sarrah Storey<br>Henry Wiebe   |
|                 | Director<br>Absent    | Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa  |
|                 | Alternate<br>Director | Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa – via Zoom   |
|                 | Staff                 | Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer<br>Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services<br>Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development<br>– arrived at 12:42 p.m., left at 1:00 p.m.<br>John Illes, Chief Financial Officer<br>Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services<br>– arrived at 12:03 p.m., left at 12:42 p.m.<br>Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning<br>Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services |
|                 | Others                | David deWit, Natural Resources Manager, Office of the<br>Wet’sutwet’en – via Zoom 12:00 pm<br>Ryan Holmes, Director, Resource Stewardship Operations,<br>Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship – via Zoom<br>12:00 p.m.<br>Justin Schroff, P.Geo., Regional Director, NW Region, Ministry<br>of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation – via Zoom<br>11:00 a.m., left at 11:33 a.m.  |
|                 | Media                 | Saddman Zaman, LD News   |

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

## **FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA** Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2023-7-1 "That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 12, 2023 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **MINUTES**

Committee of the Whole Minutes – September 7, 2023 Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2023-7-2 "That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2023 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DELEGATIONS**

### **MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND LOW CARBON INNOVATION – Justin Schroff, P.Geo., Regional Director, NW Region RE: Gravel Extraction and Processing – via Zoom**

Chair Parker welcomed Justin Schroff, P.Geo., Regional Director, NW Region, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (MoEMLCI).

Mr. Schroff provided a PowerPoint presentation.

### **Notice of Work Applications**

- Is it a Mine?
- Generalized NOW process flow
- Intake – don't worry too much about this!
- Review, referral and consultation
- Referrals to Regional Districts
- Permit decisions
- Reclamation Security
- Other Agency decisions.

## **DELEGATIONS**

### **MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND LOW CARBON INNOVATION – Justin Schroff, P.Geo., Regional Director, NW Region RE: Gravel Extraction and Processing – via Zoom (Cont'd)**

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Values
  - o Official Community Plans (OCP) are in response to existing interests and goals for community
  - o MoEMLCI recognizes the OCP but the *Mines Act* doesn't recognize the *Local Government Act* or local authorities
  - o MoEMLCI allows the ability to develop framework to review community and OCP values e.g. tourism
  - o Referral process can be lengthy managing all interests
  - o Dialogue is the best possible way to manage interests
  - o Limited volume of advocating for interests in northern communities vs. lower mainland communities
  - o Referral Process
    - Ideally engaging directly with stakeholders in the area to discuss values
    - Assistance from local governments and municipalities
    - Working to refine a community process
    - Inspector of Mines can provide notification using newspapers or the BC Gazette
    - Working on a community engagement portal to allow for more engagement
    - Beneficial to have follow-up discussion
  - o Compliance
    - Relies heavily on the referral process
    - Compliance framework only as long as permits
    - Permits need to be robust to manage because the Inspector of Mines also relies on them when going to a site
    - Attempt to inspect gravel pits every 1 to 2 years.

Chair Parker thanked Mr. Schroff for attending the meeting.

**Break for lunch at 11:33 a.m.**

**Reconvened at 12:03 p.m.**

## **DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)**

### **MINISTRY OF WATER, LAND AND RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AND OFFICE OF THE WET'SUWET'EN - David deWit, Natural Resources Manager, Office of the Wet'sutwet'en and Ryan Holmes, Director, Resource Stewardship Operations, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship – RE: Widzin Kwah Water Sustainability Project – via Zoom**

Chair Parker welcomed David deWit, Natural Resources Manager, Office of the Wet'sutwet'en and Ryan Holmes, Director, Resource Stewardship Operations, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

Messrs. Holmes and deWit provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

#### **Widzin Kwah Water Sustainability Project**

- Agenda
- Purpose
- Background
- WWSP Governance Structure
- Project Area
- Project Phases
- Water Working Group Purpose
- What watershed values and uses have been identified by the project team?
- Watershed Objectives
- Engagement.

The following was discussed:

- Water Working Group
  - o RDBN representation
    - Elected representatives and staff
      - Importance of reporting to the Board
      - Primary representative and alternate
  - o Time commitment
    - Virtual, in-person and hybrid meetings
- Ecosystems - relationships between water and other plant systems –water that will reach the river and other systems reliant on the river
  - o Healthy ecosystems in the watershed that interlinks values
  - o Connection to the land and wildfire resiliency
    - Conceptual framework – triggers, usages, objective values
  - o Future realities of climate – create and design ecosystems more resilient to climate
- Information sharing
- Will bring forward at a future Board meeting to determine RDBN participation and representation.

Chair Parker thanked Messrs. deWit and Holmes for attending the meeting.

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **Referral**

Mines Referral No.  
161384335 – Electoral  
Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Storey

C.W.2023-7-3

1. "That the Committee receive the additional information on the Supplementary Agenda.

2. That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Mines Referral No. 161384335."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Follow-up and RDBN request to receive and time to consider additional information regarding the application
- Staff followed up with the Province and there is no decision pending prior to the October 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting
- Staff will forward information to the Town of Smithers.

### **REPORTS**

Gravel Extraction and  
Processing

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2023-7-4

"That the Committee receive the Director of Planning's Gravel Extraction and Processing memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bursary Policy Revision

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

C.W.2023-7-5

"That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the RDBN Bursary Policy."

(All/Directors/Majority)

DEFEATED

## **REPORTS (CONT'D)**

### Letter of Support Request -District of Houston

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

C.W.2023-7-6

"That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the District of Houston's request for a Letter of Support for a Rural Economic Development Infrastructure Program application for the Bymac Park and Campground Revitalization project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### Letter of Support Request -Town of Smithers

Moved by Director Brienens  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2023-7-7

"That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the Town of Smithers request for a Letter of Support for a BC Active Transportation Grant application for the Smithers Cycle 16 Connector Trail project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Bulkley Nechako Regional Transit - Follow-up - Meeting with the Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure**

The following was discussed:

- Follow-up with MoTI staff
- Minister Fleming indicated he will provide a letter confirming MoTI's commitment to Bulkley Nechako Regional Transit
- Allocation amount for buses
  - o Funding gaps to provide sufficient service levels to accommodate ridership
- Increasing bus capacity to accommodate ridership
  - o Advocating for larger buses
  - o Using a number of smaller buses and adjusting timelines to provide different schedules
- Parking for those travelling to bus stops
- Northern Development Initiative Trust reviewing booking system.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2023-7-8

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:10 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of  
Corporate Services