

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 3, 2015

PRESENT: Chair Eileen Benedict

Directors Mark Fisher
Bill Miller – arrived at 1:49 p.m.
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen

Director Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural)

Alternate Director Bob Hughes, Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Kristi Rensby, Finance/Administration Coordinator – left at 2:11 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers – arrived at 1:49 p.m., left at 1:56 p.m.
Darcy Repen, Village of Telkwa – left at 1:45 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Benedict called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2015-7-1

“That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for September 3, 2015 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes -August 20, 2015

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2015-7-2

“That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of August 20, 2015 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

Federal Gas Tax Community Works Fund Repayment Potential

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2015-7-3

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors write a letter to non-profit societies that have been granted Federal Gas Tax Community Works funds and request that an annual report be sent once a year to the RDBN that includes a copy of the society’s annual report; and further, that they be provided an opportunity to provide a written update.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding societies being in default and the implications to the Regional District in regard to Federal Gas Tax Community Works Funds. Societies must file annual reports and if they are not filed for two years the province will dissolve the society.

Discussion took place regarding what happens to the assets if a society is dissolved. Director Fisher asked if the equipment installed utilizing gas tax funds would be able to be auctioned to return grant funds to the Regional District. Staff will follow-up.

The liability of society board members was brought forward for discussion. If a society is in good standing they may have insurance in place but when societies dissolve they will not have insurances and past members may not be accessible.

Staff is drafting a letter to provide to societies that have received Federal Gas Tax Funds to remind them of their obligations and responsibilities in receiving the funds.

The Regional District has in the past in conjunction with its Business Forum provided to non-profit groups a workshop to provide information on how to establish a society and the requirements to fulfill obligations to the province and grant funding sources.

Director Miller spoke of the importance of remaining in contact with organizations that have received funds through the Regional District and clearly outline the responsibility of the organization. The Regional District facilitates grant funding and can assist with grant training for non-profit organizations but the responsibility is the organization’s, not the Regional District.

Discussion took place regarding the existing contracts and staff will provide them to the Rural Directors Committee.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (All Directors)

Referrals

Land Referral File No.
6408789, 6408794, 6408795
BC Hydro Electoral Area 'A'

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2015-7-4

"That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 6408789, 6408794 and 6408795" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 6408789, 6408794 and 6408795."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral File No.
6402518 McConnell
Electoral Area 'G'

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2015-7-5

"That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 6402518" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 6402518."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral File No.
6407626 Warren Alan Labrie
& Kelly Marie Labrie
Electoral Area 'G'

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2015-7-6

"That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 6407626" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 6407626."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

TransCanada – Prince Rupert
Gas Transmission Project
Referral Notification for Drilling
Waste

Director Newell mentioned that he received a referral notification from TransCanada – Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project for two sump burial sites in Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural) for drilling waste disposal. Director Newell expressed concern as to the content of the waste being buried and the large site of the area in which the waste is to be buried. The sites are also close to water ways connected to Babine Lake. Director Newell asked staff to request further information from TransCanada in regard to the actual content of the waste being disposed. The response from TransCanada indicated that the waste was mostly mud. Director Newell noted that the Oil and Gas Hand Book indicates that drilling waste has the potential to contain hazardous materials and require special handling methods. Director Newell asked that TransCanada contact the Regional District with further information in regard to its Coastal GasLink project also.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning noted that the Regional District receives numerous referrals and the Regional Board provided direction to staff to forward the referrals to the Electoral Area Directors in which the referral affects. At direction from the Director a report may be drafted and brought forward to the Regional Board.

Director Miller commented that it would be beneficial for the Regional Board to be provided the information in regard to the content of the waste being disposed of and the manner in which the material is handled.

Director Petersen mentioned that the Ministry of Environment would need to issue a permit for the disposal and that they would oversee the process.

As part of the Environmental Assessment Process and Socio-Economic Effects Management Plan the RDBN asked that pipelines identify the materials that may be potentially landfilled. The RDBN has been contacted by consulting companies working for the pipeline companies inquiring as to whether the RDBN would receive the drilling mud for disposal. It is considered industrial waste and is potentially contaminated and RDBN policy is to not receive the material.

Staff will continue to research the issue and will provide a report to the Rural Directors Committee.

Northern Development Initiative Trust – Funding Opportunity

Director Fisher noted that the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) is implementing a new program/funding opportunity regarding a new pine beetle objective. Director Miller provided an outline of the new pine beetle objective. Directors Fisher and Miller will provide further information to staff and the Rural Directors Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2015-7-7

“That the meeting be adjourned 2:24 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Eileen Benedict, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant