

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**(Committee of the Whole)**

**Thursday, February 25, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Eileen Benedict  
Shane Brienens  
Tom Greenaway  
Dwayne Lindstrom  
Thomas Liversidge  
Rob MacDougall  
Bill Miller  
Rob Newell  
Jerry Petersen  
Luke Strimbold

Directors Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers  
Absent Mark Fisher, Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural)  
Darcy Repen, Village of Telkwa  
Gerry Thiessen, District of Vanderhoof

Alternate Director Steve Little, District of Vanderhoof

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator  
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Protective Services Manager – left at 3:01 p.m.  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.

**AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director MacDougall  
Seconded by Director Newell

**AG.2016-2-1**

"That the Agriculture Committee Meeting Agenda of February 25, 2016 be adopted; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MINUTES**

Agriculture Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
-February 11, 2016

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

AG.2016-2-2

“That the minutes of the Agriculture Committee meeting of  
February 11, 2016 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**RDBN AGRICULTURAL PLAN**

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the RDBN Agriculture Plan.

**Plan Development Process**

- Preliminary Referrals;
- Working Group (4 directors; cattlemen, dairyman, poultry associations; farmers market associations; food producers associations);
- Regional Workshops;
- Referrals on the Draft Plan;
- Formal Board Review and Acceptance.

**Agriculture Plan Organization**

- Background;
- Discussion of Issues;
- The Action Plan.

**Background**

- Section is intended to be a resource for users;
- Introduction:
  - Overview of process and associated studies and reports;
- Farming Info and Statistics;
- Governance Structure:
  - Zoning Bylaw Regulations changed or in draft bylaw;
  - Notable regulations.

**Section 2: Land Issues**

- Leasing Agricultural Land;
- Range Land Access and Management;
- Water Issues;
- Invasive Species (pipelines);
- Environmental Protection;
- Sterilization of Land for Carbon Offsets;
- Lot Size and Non Farming Land Use;
- Subdivision and Non-Farm Use Approvals;
- Agricultural Land Use Inventory;
- Sterilization of Land for Carbon Offsets:
  - Issue arose again in 2015 - process put on hold by RB (Reckitt Benckiser);
  - no ALC or Provincial Govt. action taken;
- Lot Size and Subdivision in the ALR:
  - What is in the best interest of agriculture long term?
  - Issue associated with ALR Reconsiderations;
  - Options for innovative solutions but require ALR buy in;

### **RDBN AGRICULTURAL PLAN (CONT'D)**

- Agricultural Land Use Inventory:
  - Completed in 2014 for Area A and F - Most value is in the next inventory;
- Hay Processing / Export Not an Issue in 2012.

### **Regulation Based Issues**

- Farm Classification and Taxes;
- Animal slaughter and Processing Regulations;
- Employee Housing;
- Disease and Waste Management;
- ICBC Farm Vehicle Use Restrictions;

### **Development and Resource Issues:**

- Succession and Recruitment;
- 4H Clubs;
- Research and Training:
  - District Agrologist added in Smithers (not Vanderhoof);
  - UNBC Prof. Researching Planning for Agriculture in Northern BC;
- Beef Production;
- Poultry and Rabbit Production;
- Other Meat Production;
- Dairy Farming;
- Fruit and Vegetable Farming;
- Bedding Plant Production;
- Agritourism and Agroforestry;
- Infrastructure and Utility Issues;
- Alternative Energy;
- Funding and Grant Opportunities.

### **Farming Economics and Creating a Market**

- Expanding Local Markets;
- Marketing and distribution;
- Local Food Initiatives.

Discussion took place in regard to the implementation of the *Water Use Act* and the regulations that have yet to be completed. Chair Parker noted that a workshop is being held in Smithers in March, 2016. Directors Fisher and Repen are planning to attend.

### **REPORT**

Agricultural Land Commission Moved by Director Miller  
-Executive Committee Seconded by Director Lindstrom  
Reconsideration Decision  
Summary-Peace River Regional  
District

AG.2016-2-3

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the February, 2016 report titled “Agricultural Land Commission Executive Committee Reconsideration Summary.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Concerns were brought forward in regard to the ALC Executive Committee overturning decisions made by the North Panel.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

ALC Chair Visit to Your Region

Moved by Director Miller  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

AG.2016-2-4

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence from Frank Leonard, Chair, Agricultural Land Commission titled “ALC Chair Visit to Your Region.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Parker has contacted Frank Leonard, Chair, ALC, to arrange a meeting date. Discussion took place regarding the challenges of meeting during the summer months and the potential for meeting in May.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Strategic Emergency Management Framework for Agriculture

Moved by Director MacDougall  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

AG.2016-2-5

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the Protective Services Manager’s February 25, 2016 memo titled “Strategic Emergency Management Framework for Agriculture.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Fraser Basin Council – Wood Ash Utilization Roundtable Discussion in Prince George

Director Greenaway mentioned that he had received information from the Fraser Basin Council that they would be facilitating a roundtable meeting in Prince George in regard to the utilization of wood ash. Chair Parker and Director Lindstrom will be participating via teleconference.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Benedict  
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

AG.2016-2-6

“That the meeting be adjourned at 3:03 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant