

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, June 7, 2018

PRESENT: Chair Bill Miller

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Chris Beach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brien
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Thomas Liversidge
Rob MacDougall
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Gerry Thiessen

Director Absent Dwayne Lindstrom, Village of Fraser Lake

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Debbie Evans, Regional Agriculture Coordinator
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 11:48 a.m.,
returned at 12:50 p.m., left at 1:44 p.m., returned at 2:17 p.m.
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development
- left at 1:33 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Alistair Schroff, Lakes Animal Friendship Society – left at 12:03
p.m.
Gord Lester, Burns Lake Community Forest – left at 11:57 a.m.
Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager, Burns Lake Community
Forest – left at 11:57 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m.

**AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY**

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2018-5-1

“That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Committee of the Whole meeting of June 7, 2018 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 –May 3, 2018

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Bachrach

C.W.2018-5-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of May 3, 2018 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST – Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager RE: Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Project

Chair Miller welcomed Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager, Burns Lake Community Forest.

Mr. Varga provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

2018: Burns Lake Community Forest

Mission Statement

ComFor Management Services Ltd and subsidiary Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. manage and operate the Community Forest Agreement K1A in a safe, profitable, and innovative manner that enhances the forest resources while respective to the principles of intergraded use, environmental stewardship, and public consultation.

Topics

- History
- Community Benefit
- MPBM (Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation) Project
- Future of Rural Communities

History

- BLCF was established in July, 2000 as a Pilot Community Forest Licence, consisting of 23.325 ha
- In the first 15 years:
 - o From 23.325 ha to 92.062 ha
 - o From an AAC of 23.677 m³ to an uplift of 500,000 m³
 - o 2016 – AAC is 225,000 with Green Partition
- Re-structuring and re-focusing the Community Forest vision and mission became the primary objective
- MPB Outbreak produced new challenges
- In April of 2005, BLCF was awarded 25 year Community Forest Agreement (K1A)
- MPB management has managed BLCF
 - o Race to salvage dead pine became the norm

Harvest Performance

MP #3 and resultant AAC determination (2016)

- 225,000 m³ AAC, a maximum volume of 900,000 m³ from 2016 to 2020
- May 2017 Adjustment
 - o Maximum volume that can be live trees or 210,000 up from 180,000 m³
- From 2016 to 2020, accommodate definition “high risk” stand (.50% Pli)
- Very restrictive determination

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST – Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager RE: Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Project (CONT'D)

Community Benefit

For Fiscal 2016/2017

- A total \$283,251.96 was donated to 50 different organizations in the community, as well as \$13,100 in-kind contributions
- 119,960 hours of direct employment (about 53 FTE hrs)
- Purchased over \$3 million worth of goods and services (more than 85% local)
- Over 1 million trees planted 50/50 spruce/pine mix
- \$204,013 was paid in stumpage to B.C. government
- Village of Burns Lake - \$412,054.92 – 23%
- Wet'suwet'en First Nation \$412,054.92 – 23%
- Ts'il Kaz Koh (Burns Lake Band) - \$412,054.92 – 23%
- Retained by COMFOR \$538,698.24 – 30%

Moving into 2018 & Beyond

- Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Project
- Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC)
- Implementation (MPBMP, KPMG-OFA)
- Area Base Tenure Management

Transition to the Future 'Beyond the Beetle'

- MPB has driven management of BLCF since inception in 2000
- Reactive, not proactive

Current Situation

- MPB attacked the majority of the Community Forest (avg 67%)
- Harvested MPB killed timber (logging 11.463+ ha since January, 2007)
- Salvage era end around 2020
- Impact to Timber Supply = Impact to Economy = Socioeconomic Conditions

Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation

- Faced with MPB crisis, what would an owner do?
- BLCOMFOR Board Vision for MPB Mitigation Plan: "Think like an owner, take action like an owner"
- Board Objectives for MPB Mitigation Plan:
 - o Maximize salvage
 - o Improve timber supply
 - o Diversify products, markets
 - o Improve resource information
- MPB Mitigation Plan Purpose:
 - o MPB Mitigation Plan
 - Improved resource inventories
 - Improved silviculture regimes
 - BLCF economic model
 - Environmental program
 - Forest Stewardship Council
 - New Timber Supply Analysis (TSA)

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST – Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager RE: Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Project (CONT'D)

Challenging Status Quo

- Improved information
 - o Resource data used:
 - Predictive Ecosystem Mapping (PEM)
 - New VRI (Vegetation Resources Inventory)
 - Landbase classification
 - Timber value
 - LIDAR and drones
 - Analysis model set to improve or optimize the management of environmental values
- Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC)
- Public support , communication and engagement
 - o FSC Certified December 2017
 - First Nation Engagement – United Nations Declaration – FPIC
 - Highest environmental stewardship recognition
 - Market diversification

First Nations Engagement and Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC)

- Strengthen FN Involvement
- Develop communication and engagement strategy
- Data Sharing Agreement
- Technical Working Agreement

Future

Where to go next?

- Unlocking the power of area based management
 - o The key to unlocking the power of area-based management rests in taking advantage of the unique rights, obligations and statutory discretions arising from the Community Forest Association (CFA) management plan:
 - o Statutory Discretions
 - Approve Management Plan (MP)
 - Set AAC in accord with Community Forest Association (CFA) (MP)
 - o Rights
 - Tailor MP uniquely suited to CFA
 - Manage land in accord with MP
 - o Obligations
 - Propose an AAC in MP
 - Implement commitments
 - o There is no parallel for this for volume based licenses

Challenging Status Quo – Enabling Implementation

- Minister Donaldson Address – ABCFP (Association of BC Forest Professionals), TLA (Truck Loggers Association) (2018)
- Public Review Fire & Flood (May, 2018)
- Special Committee on Timber Supply Report (2012)
- Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – Fiber Action Plan
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2017) Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako & Village of Burns Lake
- Legacy of Legal orders Covering Lakes TSA and BLCF
 - o Landscape Connectivity
 - o Wildlife Habitat
 - o Biodiversity Conservation
 - o Scenic Areas Management
- Implementation of Mitigation Plan requires revisiting these “Statutory Decisions”

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST – Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager RE: Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Project (CONT'D)

Interface Fires

Top 20 Communities at Risk – Based on the % Area of Hazardous Fuels

*B.A. Blackwell & Associates – BCCFA AGM Presentation 2018

1. Wells
2. Tumbler Ridge
3. Granisle
4. Houston
5. Burns Lake
6. Sparwood
7. Mackenzie
8. Elkford
9. Clearwater
10. Valemount
11. Sun Peaks Mountain Resort
12. Chetwynd
13. Golden
14. Logan Lake
15. Fernie
16. Nelson
17. Fraser Lake
18. Telkwa
19. Slocan
20. Fort St. James

Reduced Resilience to Climate Change

*Lory Daniels, UBC Faculty of Forestry – BCCFA AGM Presentation 2018

- Surface fires + fire exclusion = fuels build-up + climate change = more frequent severe fires

Challenges

*B.A. Blackwell & Associates – BCCFA AGM Presentation 2018

- There are large areas of hazardous fuel types that are within OGMA's and or Mule Deer Winter Range – without treatment many of these areas pose a risk to communities and are not resilient to fire

Discussion took place in regard to the partition cut for BLCF and the impact of the FSC Certification and the ability to have local decision making in regard to issues such as caribou. Director Thiessen commented that while attending the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2018 Convention in Halifax, NS caribou was a big issue and discussed at length. Mr. Varga commented that BLCF chose to move forward with FSC Certification for environmental stewardship and a land manager on the land base. It also provides an opportunity to recognize long-term sustainable harvest levels for the community forest and the community in the long term.

Director Beach congratulated and thanked BLCF for hosting the BC Community Forest AGM in Burns Lake. He also noted that as a local government stakeholder in BLCF the Village of Burns Lake has provided a letter of support to Burns Lake Community Forest for its FSC certification.

Discussion took place regarding broadcast burning in regard to BCLF Mitigation plan. Mr. Varga noted to date that BLCF has not completed any broadcast burning to date and would be completed as a collaborative approach with BC Wildfire Management. He mentioned that BCLF is investigating the ability to utilize and recover more fibre from the land base. Growing of deciduous stands for bio fuels was also discussed.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST – Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager RE: Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Project (CONT'D)

Chair Miller spoke of the importance of discussing visual quality objectives and wildfire mitigation. He also noted that the FSC certification provides a tool for communities to address needs.

Discussion took place regarding Bruce Blackwell, B.A. Blackwell & Associates presenting to the Regional Board. Mr. Varga indicated that he has invited him to BLCF to provide a presentation he will provide information when available.

Chair Miller thanked Mr. Varga for attending the meeting.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

LAKES ANIMAL FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY – Alistair Schroff – RE: Update

Chair Miller welcomed Alistair Schroff, Lakes Animal Friendship Society.

Mr. Schroff mentioned that when the Lakes Animal Friendship Society began in 2011 there were very few initiatives addressing companion animal over population in northwest BC. The Village of Burns Lake, since 2011, has become a success story in its animal population initiatives. Mr. Schroff reported that Vet to Pet Mobile Service from Smithers is also becoming active in communities in the northwest that do not currently have veterinarian services. There is also an organization called Spirits Mission located at Saik'uz First Nation that has similar programs. Programs and services are continuing in Burns Lake using local veterinarians for outreach programs to support outlying communities. Mr. Schroff mentioned the excellent support from Mayor Beach and the Village of Burns Lake and the saving from the reduction in animal population and using it for prevention initiatives. It is a local model that is having success.

Mr. Schroff spoke of the provincial organization Paws for Hope that has created the Animal Welfare Advisory Network of B.C. It is bringing the BC SPCA and regional groups together to address common issues. The advisory group is working on identifying deficiencies in communities in order to identify issues. It is an encouraging initiative.

The Lakes Animal Friendship Society has new resources it is distributing:

- New activity book
- Picture book in regard to animal care
 - o First Nations, northern and rural element in the material
 - o Local children provided the artwork
 - o Continue to build on momentum

Mr. Schroff thanked the Regional Board for its support and encouragement in moving forward its initiatives. He expressed appreciation for Electoral Areas "B" (Burns Lake Rural) and "E" (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) for grant in aid support and letters of support in the past. He noted that the Lakes Animal Friendship Society is being recognized across Canada in regard to animal care initiatives.

Director Beach thanked Mr. Schroff for the continued leadership and the difference that has been made in Burns Lake and surrounding community. Mr. Schroff noted that an animal wellness day was held at Lake Babine Nation on May 22, 2018.

Chair Miller thanked Mr. Schroff for attending the meeting.

Break for lunch at 12:03 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

REPORTS

Appreciation for Term in Office for Elected Officials

Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2018-5-3

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize staff to plan and organize an end of term BBQ at Chair Miller’s residence after an RDBN Meeting for late afternoon/evening.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will contact the Regional Board to determine a date.

Appreciation for Term in Office for Elected Officials

Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2018-5-4

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve ordering one coat for each elected official wanting a coat in 2018 (outgoing and incoming); and further, that the Height 3 & 1 coat in the Chief Administrative Officer’s May 30, 2018 report be the coat for consideration.”

Opposed: Director Fisher CARRIED
Director Parker

(All/Directors/Majority)

Road Rescue Bylaws

Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2018-5-5

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Administrative Services’ May 30, 2018 memo titled “Road Rescue Bylaws.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Electoral Area “D” (Fraser Lake Rural)
 - Option 3 – Place the bylaw on hold and lobby the provincial government to issue task numbers regardless of any bylaw in support of road rescue.
- Electoral Area “F” Emergency Extrication Contribution Local Service Area Establishment Repeal Bylaw No. 1823, 2018
 - Option 1 – Proceed with adoption of the bylaws – contributions to the municipalities would discontinue.
- Lakes District (Electoral Areas “B” and “E”) Emergency Response Contribution Local Service Establishment Repeal Bylaw No. 1824, 2018
 - Option 1 – Proceed with adoption of the bylaws – contributions to the municipalities would discontinue.

Staff will bring forward Bylaws at the June 21, 2018 Regional Board meeting.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Chair Miller noted that lobbying efforts move forward from the Regional Board in regard to EMBC's position that task numbers would not be issued to reimburse fire departments for road rescue services in areas covered by any type of road rescue service support by local government bylaws.

2018 UBCM Resolution
Deadline

Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Benedict

C.W.2018-5-6

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Administrative Service's May 30, 2018 memo titled "2018 UBCM Resolution Deadline."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Bachrach brought forward the importance of focusing on one or two issues of high priority and only forwarding those resolutions to UBCM. Discussion took place in regard to the process and UBCM resolutions being addressed by the province. The Union of B.C. Municipalities resolutions vs. the Federation of Canadian Municipalities resolutions were discussed along with the action by provincial and federal government in addressing resolutions.

Director Newell questioned the number of resolutions that are brought forward through the UBCM resolution process that are actioned by the province.

Discussion took place in regard to meeting with Ministers advocating a topic and/or issue and providing resolutions to UBCM in regard to the same topics/issues. UBCM resolutions at times will take several years but will initiate a cumulative result in regard to an issue.

Director Thiessen noted the importance of building alliances with other municipalities and regions when bringing forward issues to UBCM and/or the province. Director MacDougall spoke of the structure of the Omenica Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) where a report was completed in regard to a priority identified by OBAC that provided the information for the priority along with a solution.

Discussion took place in regard to advocacy for Waste Management and Road Rescue.

BC Rural Dividend Program
Announcement

Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Parker

C.W.2018-5-7

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the Proposal Writer's May 29, 2018 memo titled "BC Rural Dividend Program Announcement."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS (CONT'D)

2018 Minerals North Tradeshow Report

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director MacDougall

C.W.2018-5-8

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development’s May 29, 2018 memo titled “2018 Minerals North Tradeshow Report.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Fort Fraser Water Project -Status of Work – May 25, 2018

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Fisher

C.W.2018-5-9

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the report dated May 25, 2018 in regard to the Fort Fraser Water Project – Status of Work – May 25, 2018.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Moved by Director Thiessen
Seconded by Director Beach

C.W.2018-5-10

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the following correspondence:
-Northern Health – Media Release – Northern Health Connections Expands Eligibility to Improve Access to Health Related Travel;
-Office of the Premier and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – Province Launches BC Bus North for Affordable, Safe Travel in Northern B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Rail Safety UBCM Resolution

Moved by Director Repen
Seconded by Director Beach

C.W.2018-5-11

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to replace the Rail Safety resolution approved on May 24, 2018 for consideration at the Union of B.C. Municipalities 2018 Convention with the resolution proposed in the Director of Protective Services’ June 7, 2018 memo titled “Rail Safety UBCM Resolution” as amended to include all railways and rail operators.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to the limited capacity that exists in the province to respond to a dangerous goods emergency and the AskRail App and contact number. Staff has been in discussion with CN Rail in regard to scheduling a meeting with CN and their dangerous goods experts.

NEW BUSINESS

RBA Projects and Stakeholder
Engagement

Discussion took place in regard to RBA Stakeholder engagement and Directors ability to speak and meet with key stakeholders.

Further research was discussed in regard to determining funds flowing in and out of the region. Director Brienen and Repen will follow-up and provide further information to the Regional Board.

Mathletics – Evelyn Dickson
Elementary School
-Vanderhoof

Director Thiessen announced that Mrs.Toth's grade 5 class at Evelyn Dickson Elementary School in Vanderhoof is currently # 1 in Canada and #24 in the world within the 'Mathletics' world.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2018-5-12

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:19 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bill Miller, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant