

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, May 12, 2016

(Location: Vanderhoof Integris Credit Union Board Room)

PRESENT: Chairperson Bill Miller

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brienens
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Thomas Liversidge
Rob MacDougall
Rob Newell – arrived at 10:36 a.m.
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Luke Strimbold
Gerry Thiessen

Staff Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Media Vivian Chui, Omineca Express

CALL TO ORDER Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2016-5-1 “That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole meeting of May 12, 2016 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be received and dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WELCOME Director Thiessen welcomed the Regional Board to Vanderhoof. He spoke of the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative and the juvenile sturgeon release scheduled for tomorrow, May 13, 2016. He mentioned that a three metre sturgeon over 100 years old was captured recently. Due to weather trends spawning is three weeks early this year.

Director Thiessen spoke of the 15th Anniversary Northern Kitamaat Development Fund (NKDF) Celebration taking place tonight, May 12, 2016.

Also taking place is the 2016 Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce Annual Trade Show on May 13-14, 2016.

WELCOME (CONT'D)

Director Thiessen mentioned that for those Directors spending the night in Vanderhoof that there is an excellent trail system along the Nechako River.

He noted that the District of Vanderhoof met with the Water Controller on May 11, 2016 in regard to the water levels in the Nechako Reservoir and River. The District of Vanderhoof is to determine the values on the Nechako River and will meet again with the Water Controller. Director Thiessen noted that future meetings will include representatives from all areas along the river from Ootsa Lake to Prince George.

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – April 14, 2016

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2016-5-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of April 14, 2016 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Community to Community
Forum

Discussion took place regarding the timeline for approval of the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) Community to Community Forum funding. Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development explained that the application will be submitted May 13, 2016 and UBCM staff have indicated that the approval process takes approximately two weeks. UBCM staff also conveyed that Community to Community Forum funding has been made available for a Fall intake in the past and that may occur in the Fall of 2016.

Director Strimbald mentioned that there is a First Nations Northern Caucus Meeting taking place in the beginning of June that will need to be considered.

Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services provided an update in regard to the dates that the facilitator and presenter are available. The venue location for the forum was discussed. Staff have researched the availability of the Vineyard Church in Burns Lake which has a capacity of approximately 50 people and is available and the Island Gospel Fellowship Church.

Director Bachrach brought forward concerns in regard to the absence of complete cross regional engagement. He spoke of the Town of Smithers working directly with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en and Morice Town Band which is outside the RDBN and within the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine boundary. The Office of the Wet'suwet'en utilizes a hereditary and political governance structure and the need to ensure that all representatives are invited to a Community to Community Forum was discussed.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of having sub-regional forums, one in the east and one of the west of the RDBN. Chair Miller spoke of the need for wide spread engagement throughout the entire RDBN. He noted that Highway 16 Transit and Spill Response are regional issues and thus the need for a regional forum.

Director Bacharch commented that the Town of Smithers can assist the RDBN in hosting the forum in their community.

Discussion took place regarding travel reimbursement as an eligible expense.

The need to bridge gaps and build relationships was discussed. Open dialogue provides an opportunity to create further discussion amongst stakeholders in the region.

Community to Community Forum

Moved by Director Strimbold
Seconded by Director Brienen

C.W.2016-5-3

"That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve the RDBN hosting a Community to Community Forum in Smithers; and further, that a date be scheduled June 7-10, 2016 or alternatively June 13-24, 2016."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Community to Community Forum Agenda

Highway 16 Transit

- Staff contact Deborah Bowman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Transportation Policy and Programs Division, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to determine Ministry Staff attendance;
- Ministry staff have indicated willingness to attend;
- Speak to the Five Point Action Plan brought forward by the province.

Spill Response

- Staff will contact Jason Bosscher, Environmental Emergency Response Officer, Smithers.

Town of Smithers and Office of the Wet'suwet'en Collaboration Project

- Director Bachrach will provide a presentation in regard to the project that the Town of Smithers and Office of the Wet'suwet'en are currently moving forward.

Facilitator

- Dan George, Four Directions Management Services Ltd.
- Staff will contact to confirm date.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Deliverables

- Discussion took place regarding the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Regional District and First Nations in regard to transit;
- BC Transit engagement in the discussion of a MOU.

Director Bachrach commented that the Town of Smithers will assist with the venue and catering.

Community to Community Forum Budget

Discussion took place regarding the 2012 Regional Opportunities Gathering budget and the mileage coverage.

Moved by Director Repen
Seconded by Director Bachrach

C.W.2016-5-4

"That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize funds for mileage for one vehicle per First Nations Community; and further, that an honorarium be provided to the First Nations communities in attendance wherein budget funds remain."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Social Media Targeted Marketing Campaign

Moved by Director Repen
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2016-5-5

"That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve accessing \$1,500 of the 2016 Regional Economic Development Marketing Budget for a Facebook Marketing campaign."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Repen spoke to the information he provided to the Manager of Regional Economic Development in regard to the memo titled "Social Media Targeted Marketing Campaign" and the benefits of completing a Facebook Social Media Targeted Marketing Campaign.

Director Newell noted he attended the BC Broadband Conference recently and he voiced concerns regarding the lack of adequate broadband internet download and upload speeds in the region in comparison to the rest of the province. It is extremely important to increase broadband width in the region to assist potential growth and development. Director Bachrach commented that Smithers and Telkwa recently received fibre optic to the home upgrades.

Concerns were brought forward in regard to the impact to quarter section farm land with growth and development. The expectation of services that individuals moving to the region often have when moving from larger centres was also discussed. In the future it may be possible to target other areas such as farm land and farming in regard to a marketing campaign.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Discussion took place regarding the use of Facebook as a trial social media site and the possibility of using other resources in the future. Director Thiessen mentioned that the District of Vanderhoof is identifying a different markets. Conversation took place in regard to the future real estate market throughout the province and what draws individuals to an area or region.

Director Bachrach spoke of needing to have a compelling marketing ad to be accessed through the Facebook campaign.

He brought forward the challenges in regard to the communities within the region being very unique therefore branding the region can be difficult.

Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development noted that the Investment Readiness Action Plan will be moving forward in early summer and will also assist in looking at who the target market is and complete research on the initiative.

2016 UBCM Premier/Cabinet Minister Meetings and Resolution Deadline

Moved by Director Thiessen
Seconded by Director MacDougall

C.W.2016-5-6

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Administrative Services’ May 4, 2016 memo titled “2016 UBCM Premier/Cabinet Minister Meetings and Resolution Deadline.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Miller spoke to the need to provide staff with clear direction in regard to Minister Meeting topic requests, topic information and who will be attending.

Discussion took place regarding the need to be more effective during the fifteen minutes provided in meeting with Ministers at UBCM. The Regional Board noted the importance of appointing a lead Board Member to speak to a topic and have speaking notes clearly outlined. It is also very important to speak to the topic regionally as time is limited. Director Benedict commented that issues specific to an Electoral Area should have that Director speak to the issue.

Director Newell noted the importance of taking notes during the meetings and following up in regard to the issues brought forward.

Concerns were brought forward in regard to past experiences wherein more than one ministry was in attendance during the 15 minute scheduled meeting time and it did not allow for the topics to be brought forward effectively. The Regional Board discussed being concise and directing the meetings to be as effective as possible.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Director Thiessen noted that two discussion topics that were discussed during the Mayors Caucus in Fort St. John recently were agricultural land development near communities and the impacts when services are requested or being implemented without proper zoning. The second topic was the recent changes to the BC Building Code and the cost impacts to construction.

The Regional Board will provide staff with topics and topic information for Minister Meeting requests for the UBCM Convention in September, 2016.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Parker

C.W.2016-5-7

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the following correspondence:

-Union of B.C. Municipalities in regard to Conflicts of Interest Exception Regulations;

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA CORRESPONDENCE

-Fulton & Company in regard to Conflicts of Interest Exception Regulations."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to Conflicts of Interest Exception Regulations and interpretation of the regulations. Director MacDougall noted that it would be beneficial to have a workshop. Director Strimbold mentioned that the Village of Burns Lake is having its Lawyer attend a meeting to discuss the regulations.

Staff will investigate the possibility of having RDBN Solicitors attend a meeting or have a workshop in regard to the Conflicts of Interest Exception Regulations.

NEW BUSINESS

Future RDBN Meetings in Member Municipalities

Director Thiessen noted that he very much appreciated the Regional Board travelling to and having its meeting in Vanderhoof. He spoke of the host municipality working with RDBN staff to have delegations from the host municipality attend future meetings located outside the RDBN Office Building. Discussion took place in regard to having future meetings potentially every six months in member municipalities. Chair Miller noted that having meetings outside the RDBN Office allows the RDBN Board of Directors to cross regionally engage the member municipalities and regions. Director Bachrach thanked Director Thiessen for hosting the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director MacDougall

C.W.2016-5-8

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:04 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bill Miller, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant