

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING
(Committee of the Whole)

Thursday, June 11, 2015

PRESENT: Chair Rob MacDougall

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brien
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Thomas Liversidge
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Luke Strimbold
Gerry Thiessen – left at 2:34 p.m.

Director Absent Dwayne Lindstrom, Village of Burns Lake

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Protective Services Manager
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Kerry Martin, Burns Lake Community Forest
Daniella Oakes, Hampton Affiliates

CALL TO ORDER Chair MacDougall called the meeting to order at 1:57 p.m.

AGENDA Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Bachrach

F.C.2015-4-1 “That the Forestry Committee Meeting Agenda of June 11, 2015 be adopted as amended.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MINUTES

Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2015 Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Petersen

F.C.2015-4-2 “That the Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2015 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Greenaway

F.C.2015-4-3

“That the Forestry Committee receive the following correspondence:

-Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations regarding the Morice Apportionment 2015;
-Forest Practices Board regarding Fuel Management in the Wildland Urban Interface – Update;
-FireSmart Canada – Local FireSmart Representative Training Workshop.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair MacDougall mentioned the importance of communities taking ownership of working to FireSmart their communities. Staff will invite Wildfire Management Branch representatives to a future meeting to discuss the FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program.

Director Miller brought forward the Forest Practices Board correspondence regarding Fuel Management in Wildland Urban Interface – Update. Director Miller brought forward the possibility of facilitating a gathering with industry, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Wildfire Management Branch and licensees to facilitate a conversation in regard to roles and responsibilities regarding Wildland Urban Interface.

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Greenaway

F.C.2015-4-4

“That the Forestry Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to organize a gathering with industry, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Wildfire Management Branch and licensees to facilitate a conversation in regard to roles and responsibilities regarding Wildland Urban Interface.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Miller mentioned that he would bring forward the information to the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition on June 12, 2015 for consideration of assistance in organizing the meeting.

Al Gorley, Triangle Resources Inc. was discussed as a potential facilitator.

Discussion took place regarding a timeline to host the gathering. Staff will determine response from participants as to attending the gathering in the summer months of 2015.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Federal Endangered Species **a. Possible impact upon forestry in B.C.**

Director Miller explained that the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Environment is proposing Federal Endangered Species regulations to address migratory bird populations that will make it impossible for the forest industry to log between spring (break up) to mid-summer (August). Industry is aware of the possible changes and is very concerned with the shortened timeframe to log. Industry is meeting to develop recommendations to forward to the Federal Government. Director Miller is in contact with representatives from Babine Forest Products and will continue to update the Forestry Committee regarding the issue.

2. Replanting of Burned Areas/ Enforcement

Director Thiessen spoke to the trend of increasingly larger wildfires. Discussion took place regarding having representative(s) from Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to speak to the replanting of burned areas and the enforcement of that replanting.

Director Miller mentioned that he spoke to the northern representative at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Convention on June 4-8, 2015 in Edmonton, AB. regarding federal pine beetle funding that was promised in 2007 for pine beetle impacted regions. Chair MacDougall explained that the bioenergy plants can utilize some of the burned fibre, so utilization of that fibre as soon as possible would enable the ability to replant the trees.

Chair Miller stated as local government leaders it is important to lobby the Federal Government regarding the funding that was promised and to bring the issue forward with Members of Parliament in the region. Chair Miller will bring forward the information to the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition meeting on June 12, 2015.

Discussion took place in regard to having the representatives nominated for Member of Parliament to be invited to attend a future Regional District meeting to discuss issues brought forward. Staff will invite Federal Government Members of Parliament to discuss Mountain Pine Beetle funding, CN Rail Safety issues. Further questions can be forwarded to staff.

3. Slash Burning Of Logged Areas

Director Thiessen spoke to the burning of the slash in logged areas. He spoke to the hazards associated with the piles being fuel sources during wildfire events. Chair Miller noted the importance for the Forestry Committee to have open discussions with stakeholders as to the importance of fire mitigation. Chair MacDougall spoke to the rules in place for forest licenses and licensees agreements to address hazard abatement.

Discussion took place regarding the debris being part of the fertilization cycle for the trees. Director Miller explained that there is a coarse woody debris management regime that prescribed burns leaves logs/trees that add fertilizer to the ground. Currently the light fibre debris that causes flash fires, the fibre that doesn't get burned when a prescribed burn is conducted, provides a light quick fuel that is a ladder fuel and will burn into new growth and destroy a plantation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (CONT'D)

Slash Burning Of Logged Areas (Cont'd)

Chair MacDougall mentioned that the provincial government now charges for the utilization of waste wood in the forest through bioenergy licenses.

Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project Timber Salvage Strategy

Chair MacDougall indicated that the Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project Timber Salvage Strategy will be brought forward for future discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Fraser Basin Council

Director Greenaway mentioned that he attended a Fraser Basin Council meeting and toured areas west of Quesnel. He brought forward concerns regarding the amount of wood being removed and already has been removed from the area at an incredible rate of speed. He spoke to the impacts to the area for the next two to three years.

Chair Miller spoke to the removal of the dead pine prior to it no longer being marketable.

Closure of Tl'oh Forest Products in Fort St. James

Chair MacDougall mentioned that the Tl'oh Forest Products finger joint value added plant in Fort St. James has ceased operations due to a lack of supply.

Chair MacDougall spoke to fibre leaving communities and noted the importance of utilizing fibre locally.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Fisher

F.C.2015-4-5

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:48 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rob MacDougall, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant