

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, September 7, 2017

PRESENT: Chairperson Bill Miller

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

Director John Illes, Village of Burns Lake
Absent

Alternate Director Susan Schienbein, Village of Burns Lake

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Steve Buhr, Building Inspector/Bylaw Enforcement Officer – left at 10:05 a.m.
Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 11:24 a.m., left at 12:34 p.m.
Lindsey Larsen, Regional Economic Development Coordinator – left at 10:05 a.m., returned at 11:24 a.m., left at 12:32 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 10:04 a.m., returned at 10:43 a.m., left at 11:00 a.m.
Rory McKenzie, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 11:24 a.m., left at 12:34 p.m.
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development – left at 10:43 a.m., returned at 10:45 a.m. left at 12:32 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers – left at 12:15 p.m.
Pauline Derksen, Economic Development Officer, Lake Babine Nation – left at 11:23 a.m.
Maxwell Harrison, BA Associate, Expedition Management Consulting – Via-teleconference – 10:14 a.m.-10:42 a.m.
Bruce Low, Regional Manager, Prince George, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation – arrived at 10:12 a.m., left at 11:23 a.m.
Lianne Olson, Stakeholder and Community Relations Liaison, Rio Tinto Alcan - left at 11:23 a.m.
Linda Robertson, Manager, Skeena Region, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation– arrived at 10:12 a.m., left at 11:23 a.m.

Others (Cont'd)

Justin Rousseau, BA, MBA Managing Director, Expedition Management Consulting – 10:14 a.m. – 10:42 a.m.
Cindy Shelford, Nechako Kitimaat Development Fund – left at 12:32 p.m.

Media

Flavio Nienow, LD News – left at 10:56 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

RDBN Management staff introduced Steve Buhr, Building Inspector/Bylaw Enforcement Officer and Lindsey Larsen, Regional Economic Development Coordinator.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2017-7-1

“That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole meeting of September 7, 2017 be approved, and that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Minutes – June 8, 2017

Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2017-7-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of June 8, 2017 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance – Video

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

C.W.2017-7-3

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance – Video.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

EXPEDITION MANAGEMENT CONSULTING – (Via Teleconference) – Maxwell Harrison, BA Associate & Justin Rousseau, BA, MBA Managing Director RE: Regional Value of Tourism Study (Via-Teleconference)

Chair Miller welcomed Maxwell Harrison, BA Associate and Justin Rousseau, BA MBA Managing Director, Expedition Management Consulting.

Mr. Rousseau thanked RDBN staff and the Value of Tourism Study Committee, along with the accommodation providers for assistance during the study.

Mr. Rousseau and Mr. Harrison provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

EXPEDITION MANAGEMENT CONSULTING – (Via Teleconference) – Maxwell Harrison, BA Associate & Justin Rousseau, BA, MBA Managing Director RE: Regional Value of Tourism Study (Via-Teleconference) (Cont'd)

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Value of Tourism Study

Presentation Overview

1. Project Overview;
2. Value of Tourism Model and Methodology;
3. Results of the Study.

Project Overview

Objective:

To identify the value of tourism in the RDBN and within each of the partner municipalities, in order to support future tourism planning, development and marketing.

Process:

- Phase 1 – Project Start-Up (July, 2016);
- Phase 2 – Operator Interviews and Survey (August – December, 2016);
- Phase 3 – Value of Tourism Research (November, 2017);
- Phase 4 – Draft Value of Tourism Reports (June, 2017);
- Phase 5 – Final Value of Tourism Reports (July, 2017).

Project Overview

- District of Fort St. James;
- District of Houston;
- District of Vanderhoof;
- Town of Smithers;
- Village of Burns Lake;
- Village of Fraser Lake;
- Village of Granisle;
- Village of Telkwa.

Tourism-Related Planning

- Significant tourism-related planning already exists in the region. The RDBN and its partner municipalities recognize the potential that tourism has to add value to their local economies and communities.
- Tourism Planning Context:
 - o RDBN:
 - Regional Economic Development Action Plan;
 - Electoral Area Plans;
 - Tourism Plan.
 - o Smithers
 - Strategic Tourism Plan;
 - Official Community Plan.
 - o Houston:
 - Economic Development Strategy;
 - Official Community Plan.
 - o Vanderhoof:
 - Economic Development Strategy;
 - Tourism Assessment.
 - o Fort St. James:
 - Economic Development Strategy;
 - Master Trails Plan;
 - Official Community Plan.
 - Tourism Plan.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

EXPEDITION MANAGEMENT CONSULTING – (Via Teleconference) – Maxwell Harrison, BA Associate & Justin Rousseau, BA, MBA Managing Director RE: Regional Value of Tourism Study (Via-Teleconference) (Cont'd)

- Burns Lake:
 - Sustainability Plan;
 - Economic Development Strategic Plan;
 - Community Tourism Plan.
- Fraser Lake:
 - Economic Development Strategy.
- Telkwa:
 - Official Community Plan.
- Granisle:
 - Official Community Plans.
 -

Economic Benefits of Tourism

“Tourism is an important industry for British Columbia and is poised to continue to grow... there is enormous potential.” – Destination British Columbia

In 2015, British Columbia’s tourism industry:

- Generated \$15.7 billion in revenue;
- Resulted in a \$7.4 billion direct contribution to British Columbia’s GDP;
- Supported 18,938 tourism-related businesses throughout the Province;
- Employed 127,700 people;
- Generated \$4.5 billion in total tourism wages and salaries (with an average compensation of \$34,000);
- Generated \$1.1 billion in provincial taxes.

Social Benefits of Tourism

Tourism can also provide compelling social benefits for communities, such as:

- A source of community pride;
- Enhanced community engagement;
- Enhancements to the quality of life for residents;
- Contributes to the preservation and revitalization of built and natural environments.

Value of Tourism Model

Purpose:

To provide a conservative and credible estimate of visitor volume and direct tourism expenditures within a community.

Goals:

1. Collect surveys from 50% of the total room/site base.
2. Collect surveys from 50% of each accommodation type (e.g. fixed roof accommodations, RV site and campgrounds, etc.).
3. Within each accommodation type, collect a representative sample.

Methodology

- Accommodation Inventory;
- Develop Survey;
- Survey Accommodations;
- Send Data to Destination BC;
- Final Value of Tourism Report.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

EXPEDITION MANAGEMENT CONSULTING – (Via Teleconference) – Maxwell Harrison, BA Associate & Justin Rousseau, BA, MBA Managing Director RE: Regional Value of Tourism Study (Via-Teleconference) (Cont'd)

Results of the Study

Visitation and Annual Direct Visitor Expenditures by Municipality (2015)

Community	Overall Visitation	Annual Direct Visitor Expenditures
RDBN	250,400	\$58,680,000
Smithers/Telkwa	124,100	\$28,730,000
Vanderroof	35,300	\$10,220,000
Burns Lake	30,000	\$6,360,000
Granisle	5,900	\$1,420,000

Source: Destination British Columbia

*Output reports for Houston, Fort St. James and Fraser Lake were not generated because they did not achieve the minimum response criteria of the Value of Tourism Model.

RDBN Estimates of Visitors (2015)

Type of Visitor	Volume of Visitors
Fixed Roof (Hotels, Motels, B&B)	
- Leisure	70,800
- Business	39,100
RV & Campground	23,000
Total Visitors in Commercial Accommodations	132,900
Visiting Friends & Relatives (VFR)	20,200
Day Visitors	97,300
Overall Visitation	250,400

Source: Destination British Columbia

RDBN Estimates of Direct Visitors Expenditures (2015)

Type of Visitor	Number of Visitors	Average Length of Stay (days)	Average Total Spend (per visitor per trip)	Totals
Leisure (commercial accommodation)	93,800	3.2	\$210	\$20,030,000
Business	39,100	5.4	\$630	\$24,550,000
Visiting Friends & Relatives (VFR)	20,200	4.5	\$210	\$4,170,000
Day Visitors	97,300		\$100	\$9,930,000
Annual Direct Visitor Expenditures				\$58,680,000

Source: Destination British Columbia

Conclusion

The RDBN and its partners now have valuable information to inform future tourism planning and investment decisions.

Director Parker questioned if the information could be reviewed on a seasonal basis. Mr. Rousseau indicated that the information is accumulated for an entire year and not by season.

Discussion took place regarding the \$210 average total spent per visitor per trip and the formulation of that dollar amount. The calculation is a formula determined by Destination British Columbia as a northern indicator of what is spent per visitor per trip.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

EXPEDITION MANAGEMENT CONSULTING – (Via Teleconference) – Maxwell Harrison, BA Associate & Justin Rousseau, BA, MBA Managing Director RE: Regional Value of Tourism Study (Via-Teleconference) (Cont'd)

Director Bachrach questioned how the Value of Tourism Report may be used in future considerations by the Regional District and its partner municipalities. Mr. Rousseau noted that the report can be used and interjected into various plans to bring tourism to the for front as an economic drive. It can also be utilized in budget deliberations when considering monies to support tourism. Director Bachrach spoke to the importance of determining trends to show if the tourism sector has shown growth and if Destination British Columbia reviewed past information. Mr. Rousseau noted that in 2008 Smithers completed a tourism report that identified 110,000 visitors to Smithers with \$21,400,000 in direct expenditures compared to 2015 with 124,000 visitors to Smithers with \$29,000,000 in direct expenditures.

Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development thanked the Tourism Working Group representatives and Expedition Management Consulting Ltd. Ms. Swenson indicated that staff would like to follow up with Destination British Columbia to determine trends in the future.

The Value of Tourism Report – Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako will be a baseline as it is the first time such a report has been completed for the region.

Discussion took place in regard to how the RDBN compares to other Regional Districts of similar size in the Province such as the Peace River Regional District and the Regional District of East Kootenay. Mr. Harrison commented that Lillooet, in its previous study, has overall visitation to the community at just below 48,000 with \$5.3 million in direct expenditures and the South Peace region had an overall visitation in 2009 of 230,000 visitors with just under \$92 million in direct expenditures.

Chair Miller spoke to monitoring the trends to assist in determining if what is being completed in terms of the promotion of tourism is effective.

Chair Miller thanked Messrs. Harrison and Rousseau for attending the meeting.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILLIATION (MIRR)– Linda Robertson, Manager, Skeena Region and Bruce Low, Regional Manager, Prince George RE: Update

Chair Miller welcomed Linda Robertson, Manager, Skeena Region and Bruce Low, Regional Manager, Prince George, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

Ms. Robertson mentioned that Reconciliation Canada's Train the Trainer Workshop that took place in Smithers in the spring of 2017 provided an opportunity to network with a number of individuals. It was identified that the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation needed to collaborate more with local government and discuss options to better connect moving forward.

Ms. Robertson's region is Burns Lake to Prince Rupert and north to the Yukon border with her office being in Smithers. Mr. Low's region is Burns Lake east to the Alberta border, northeast to the Skeena boundary and north to the Yukon border with his office being in Prince George. Geoff Recknell is the Regional Executive Director for the North and is located in Smithers. The regional offices in Smithers and Prince George consist of staff that address negotiations and liaisons with agencies on First Nations activities in the region. The regional offices also assist the Provincial negotiations teams.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION (MIRR)– Linda Robertson, Manager, Skeena Region and Bruce Low, Regional Manager, Prince George RE: Update (Cont'd)

There are some shifts occurring within the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliations that began prior to the BC Provincial Elections in May, 2017 and are now continuing with the new government. The implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, the Truth and Reconciliation Report and Calls to Action are addressing reconciliation in B.C. The 4th Annual BC Cabinet and First Nations Leaders' Gathering is taking place September 6-7, 2017 in Vancouver B.C. A joint statement was released from the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, British Columbia Assembly of First Nations and the Provincial Government to signify a unified commitment for a government to government relationship based on recognition of indigenous rights and title. Along with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and the Truth and Reconciliation Report, the Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court of Canada decision and case law is shaping the legal relationship between the Crown and First Nations. There is an acknowledgement within government that reconciliation occurs on a community by community approach.

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation is shifting from a treaty only approach to broader spectrum negotiations with First Nations. MIRR is moving from a model based on sole accountability to a model where every agency within the Provincial Government has a role. MIRR participates in a leadership and coordination role in discussion with First Nations and is moving towards an outcome based approach to change the socioeconomic conditions of First Nations investments, certainty and sustainable communities. MIRR is moving towards an area based approach to have an enhanced role in the region to advance reconciliation initiatives and recognizes that regional staff are better positioned to develop the local relationship required to move forward. There is also a renewed priority focus by MIRR to engage stakeholders more frequently than has occurred in the past. Ms. Robertson indicated that it will be the role of herself and Mr. Low to develop a rigorous stakeholder engagement program to ensure that communities are engaged in the agreement and negotiation process.

Mr. Low spoke to the importance of treaties but identified that the broader area based agreement process provides a manageable component and portion of a treaty agreement. Reconciliation agreements can provide a focus on identified First Nations concerns. With support to move forward from stakeholders there can be a focus on that aspect within a negotiation.

Cheslatta Carrier Nation

- Negotiations over the past year toward a Settlement and Reconciliation Agreement:
 - o To address the impacts of the flooding of the Nechako Reservoir in 1952 by Rio Tinto Alcan;
 - Settlement and Reconciliation Agreement:
 - Terms of the agreement were agreed upon in January, 2017;
 - The agreement is confidential to protect each party's interest;
 - MIRR staff will want to meet with stakeholders and local governments soon to discuss land transfers.

Lake Babine Nation

- Good example of the new type of agreement that is being implemented in B.C.;
- 25 year agreement with short, medium and long term objectives:
 - o Intent to have full benefits while negotiating the agreement;
- Pathways Forward Agreement
 - o Signed in March, 2017;
 - o Terms for a foundation agreement for the 25 year process;
- Forestry and sociocultural initiatives;
- Will be having further discussions with Lake Babine in regard to forestry initiatives.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION (MIRR)– Linda Robertson, Manager, Skeena Region and Bruce Low, Regional Manager, Prince George RE: Update (Cont'd)

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

- Actively negotiating for three years;
 - o Initial negotiations were in regard to LNG;
- Recognized at the early stages that there needed to be a larger discussion;
 - o Developed a Collaboration Agreement;
 - o Developed a Sociocultural Agreement;
- Take components that could be implemented while also committing to develop a longer term agreement;
- First time the province started into revenue sharing agreements with social cultural components:
 - o Language;
 - o Sociocultural values;
 - o Skills training.
- Relationship that developed from that work between the communities, industry and First Nations was exceptional;
- 2 year commitment;
 - o Looked at the development of a reconciliation agreement;
- In March, 2017 signed a Pathways Forward Agreement:
 - o one year bridging agreement to allow for the development of a reconciliation table and outline of major components that the Province and First Nations want;
 - o Major agreement – 7 First Nations at the table;
- At the end of the year move forward into a larger reconciliation agreement;
- Land components;
- Funding substantial for First Nations to move forward with agreement;
- Other First Nations are looking at the process favourably;
- These agreements are very labour intensive;
 - o Stewardship working group;
 - o Sociocultural working group;
 - o Collaboration working group;
 - o Reconciliation table;
 - o Forestry table.

Kaska Dena Council

- In Treaty negotiations for a long time;
 - o Tried to advance large Forestry initiatives;
 - o Do have an Interim Treaty Agreement (ITA) on some lands;
- Have had success with a Strategic Engagement Agreement signed a number of years ago;
- March, 2018 agreement expires;
- In discussion in regard to moving forward and possibly expanding negotiations.

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation

- Slow process in regard to Treaty negotiations;
- Some Challenges;
- Indicated there is no desire to be a part of a provincial forestry agreement;
- Positive discussion in regard to reconciliation agreements across the north moving forward.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION (MIRR)– Linda Robertson, Manager, Skeena Region and Bruce Low, Regional Manager, Prince George RE: Update (Cont'd)

Gitxsan

- Pilot project – creating readiness for a broader reconciliation and to engage effectively with the Hereditary Chiefs;
- Investigating creating structures within the Gitxsan which operate a hereditary system;
- Look at a different model where Chiefs aggregate on watershed level and work on a watershed model;
- Positive and making local relationships;
- It's a type of reconciliation agreement recognizing the wants of the community.

Wet'suwet'en

- Working with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en to find a way to better engage on a government to government level;
- Separate agreements with First Nations within the Office of the Wet'suwet'en:
 - o Skin Tyee Nation;
 - o Nee Tahi Buhn;
 - o Wet'suwet'en;
- Working overtime to create an opportunity for all of the Wet'suwet'en to come together overtime.

Yekooche First Nation

- Treaty negotiations.

Ms. Robertson requested input in moving forward as to how MIRR negotiators can best engage with local government.

Director Thiessen mentioned the importance of recognizing each community is different just as each First Nation is different. The relationship between communities and its First Nations neighbors are important and discussions need to be on a community to community basis.

Discussion took place in regard to negotiations and agreements that have been finalized. Revenue share agreements, mining, forestry and economic development have also been finalized and negotiated within larger negotiations. Reconciliation and Treaty agreements are large broad scale agreements but are beginning to have bridging and framework agreements within them.

Environmental Stewardship Initiative

- Came forward when Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) was discussed;
- Funding commitment for the initiative;
- First Nations and agencies are coming to the table that have not been at the table in the past;
- Environmental sustainable protocols to measure and monitor environmental quality over time;
 - o scientific information that government and First Nations can share and that decisions can be based on;
- Gitxsan, Wet'suwet'en, Lake Babine Nation, Moricetown Band, Skin Tyee Band, Nee Tahi Buhn Band, Gitanow and local government agencies have been working together to collect information and best collate that information;
- Look at regional approach – some will be First Nation by First Nation;
- Bring everyone together to talk about common issue on the landscape;
- Good initiative and looking at how to do more with innovative models moving forward;
- Move toward a model where everyone can work together.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION (MIRR)– Linda Robertson, Manager, Skeena Region and Bruce Low, Regional Manager, Prince George RE: Update (Cont'd)

Director Thiessen spoke of wanting to see significant successes in the North and within the region. Mr. Low spoke of the advantages of the regional offices and working on a more local basis.

Director Newell commented that long term reconciliations work where it is mutually beneficial for all parties. The agreements discussed have been between the Provincial Government and First Nations and questioned the role of local government. Ms. Robertson stated that the opportunity is now to determine where local government has a role and how they fit in the process. She noted that with the new provincial government there is a hope that those discussions will take place. Chair Miller noted that the Provincial Government hasn't been consulting with stakeholders and information has been provided by First Nations through community relationships. He spoke of legislative issues that create barriers to local government and impedes open discussion with everyone at the table. Eliminating those barriers will build strong and lasting agreements with all levels of government. Land management planning lacks clear engagement as to where responsibilities lie and discussions at the negotiations tables impact local governments' decision making process. Emergency preparedness is also an example of a local responsibility but has a large scope when it comes to such events as wildfire. He noted the need to have an open negotiations process moving forward.

Discussion took place in regard to short term agreements that are being built bridging the gap towards medium and long term agreements and goals that will move toward the Treaty process. Ms. Robertson noted that the Lake Babine negotiations are determining short, medium and long term goals developing the 25 year approach and at the same time treaty negotiations are moving forward. There are still questions to be answered and how to stay connected to local government is an integral part of the process. Mr. Low spoke of developing tools to be able to apply in each area where they may be needed and to achieving reconciliation.

Mr. Low commented that the key focus is stakeholder engagement with industry, local governments and all stakeholders to ensure understanding moving forward.

Chair Miller thanked Ms. Robertson and Mr. Low for attending the meeting.

REPORTS

Federal Gas Tax Funding Process Document

Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Director Parker

C.W.2017-7-4

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve the September 7, 2017 Federal Gas Tax Process Document and that staff be directed to follow the process with all applicants, including non-profit organizations and municipalities.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Repen expressed frustrations in regard to the lack of flexibility regarding the Federal Gas Tax criteria and staff having to implement the criteria. He voiced frustrations in regard to the amount of staff time and cost required to administer the program that takes place for each application.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Director Repen mentioned that the Village of Telkwa is bringing forward a resolution to the Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention in Vancouver, B.C. September 25-29, 2017 in regard to the Federal Gas Tax criteria. He spoke also to the inability for communities to use Federal Gas Tax Funds to leverage further government funding.

Discussion took place in regard to Directors knowing what will benefit their community and the pressures on staff to determine if a project can be eligible for Federal Gas Tax funding. Melany de Weerd, CAO noted that the Federal Gas Tax Funding Process document outlines the steps that are needed in order to determine eligibility for a project. Staff recognizes that Directors are the knowledgeable source as to what their community needs are and can best determine whether there is a public benefit. Once the value of a project is determined there are a number of other steps that are also required by the Federal Gas Tax Program to allow a project to move forward.

Discussion took place in regard to the definition of a direct or indirect benefit of a project.

Chair Miller spoke of the history of lobbying the Federal Government in regard to expanding the criteria for the Federal Gas Tax Fund Program and the expansion of the criteria when they renewed the program. There are still restrictions and roadblocks that may need further lobbying to address concerns. Director Greenaway commented that when the criteria expanded to include sports and recreation his community was able to recognize a number of benefits.

Ms. de Weerd noted that the Federal Gas Tax Funding Process Document does not change or slow down the process. It identifies the information that is required to determine whether potential projects meet all of the eligibility criteria and can be considered for approval.

Director Fisher questioned the new criteria for signage and mentioned the need to simplify the process and have the onus be on the applicant to install and oversee signage. Staff will bring forward the concern for further discussions during budget deliberations and to the Rural Directors Committee.

Administration Reports

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2017-7-5

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the following Administration Reports:

- Chief Financial Officer
 - August 28, 2017 memo titled "Financials to June 30, 2017;"
 - August 28, 2017 memo titled "Bylaw 1809 – Laidlaw Street Lighting Map Update;"
- Deputy Director of Environmental Services
 - August 24, 2017 memo titled "Region Wide Cardboard Ban Review;"

REPORTS (CONT'D)

CORRESPONDENCE

-Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – BC Wildfire Service – Information Bulletin:
-Campfires to be Allowed Again in Parts of the Northwest Fire Centre;

-Campfires to be Allowed Again in Parts of the Prince George Fire Centre;

-Northern Health re: Wildfire Memo – Update – Stakeholders – August 17, 2017;

-Liquor Control and Licensing Branch re: Invitation for Input – Special Event Permit Policy;

-Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association Re: Postal Service for Germansen Landing.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the cost to transfer, haul and landfill cardboard. Staff will provide a cost analysis of the cost per truck load to landfill cardboard at a future RDBN Meeting. Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services noted that the volumes of cardboard being diverted from the landfill provided to the RDBN from the recycling centres may include mixed paper.

INVITATION

BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI) – 2017 COFI Community Dinner – Thursday, September 21, 2017 – Prince George, B.C.

Moved by Director Thiessen
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2017-7-6

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize Chair Miller’s attendance at the BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI) 2017 COFI Community Dinner – Thursday, September 21, 2017, Prince George, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION – UBCM Convention – Meeting Attendees

Director Bachrach noted that a number of the topics for discussion being brought forward at the UBCM Convention are both municipal and regional issues. Director Bachrach spoke of the Child Development Centre in Smithers, which is a regional facility and services communities from Vanderhoof to Atlin. They are completing a renovation to a building in Smithers and do not have sufficient funding and it has been identified that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has provided funds to other child development centres in the Province as a one time gift to assist in funding needs. Director Thiessen voiced concerns that the Child Development Centre does not have regional representation on its Board of Directors. Director Benedict requested further information in regard to the issues facing the Child Development Centre and the services it provides to the entire region. Discussion took place in regard to the services provided by the Child Development Centre being provided by the College of New Caledonia in the past. Director Bachrach will provide further information to the Regional Board of Directors.

2017 UBCM Minister Meeting Requests

Attendance at Minister Meetings is at the discretion of the Regional Board of Directors.

- **Minister of Health** (Jerry Petersen – introductions)
 - Fort St. James Hospital Replacement (Rob MacDougall and Tom Greenaway)
 - That the provincial government keep the Fort St. James Hospital Replacement as a high priority
 - Seniors Health Care and gap in assisted living (Darcy Repen & Gerry Thiessen)
 - That the provincial government be requested to provide new assisted living accommodations to address increased seniors healthcare and the deficit in assisted living.
 - Resource Benefits Alliance
- **Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure** (Bill Miller – introductions)
 - Colleymount Road (Eileen Benedict)
 - There are considerable safety hazards associated with the condition of Colleymount Road. Improvements are necessary in reducing the danger for residents and other road users travelling on this road.
 - Need for more passing lanes on Hwy 16 (Bill Miller)
 - The RDBN would like to thank MOTI for improvements that have taken place to date in relation to twinning on Highway 16 and requests continued improvements inclusive of local consultation
 - Northroad (Fort St. James to Mackenzie Connector) (Tom Greenaway and Rob MacDougall)
 - The RDBN opposes this change and requests that the MOTI oppose the change as well
 - Resource Benefits Alliance
- **Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing** (Bill Miller – introductions)
 - Housing – prohibitive creating housing due to regulations and owner/builder restrictions (Gerry Thiessen & Darcy Repen)
 - The Minister to support in a timely fashion the promised second round of changes to the regulations that relate to the requirements for level 3 building inspectors and exemptions for new building inspectors who are in the process of becoming qualified.
 - Resource Benefits Alliance
- **Minister of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources (Also Jennifer Rice if Possible)** (Bill Miller and Rob Newell)
 - Tailings Ponds (Equity Mine Dam Safety)
 - That Equity Mine be requested to have an Emergency Response Plan and follow through process in place regarding tailings ponds.
 - Oil and Gas Commission Process
 - That the Oil and Gas Commission communicate to local residents and stakeholders early in the process and that Local Government be able to provide input on referrals that is meaningfully considered by the OGC early in the process.
 - Resource Benefits Alliance
- **Network BC (Rob Newell and Eileen Benedict)**
 - Internet and cell phone connectivity
 - 1. What is the status of CityWest? 2. The RDBN requests that continuity of funding for internet and cell phone connectivity remains in place. 3. The RDBN is concerned with the increased number of lost calls on the Highway 16 Corridor. Cell phone connectivity is both an economic driver and important for safety when travelling. The RDBN requests that the issue of dropped calls be addressed. 4. The RDBN requests support for access to funding for increased cell coverage.
 - Resource Benefits Alliance

DISCUSSION – UBCM Convention – Meeting Attendees (Cont'd)

- **Minister of Agriculture** (Mark Parker – lead and Mark Fisher – support and Gerry Thiessen)
 - Secure Fibre supply for bedding
 - That the provincial government recognizes that fibre supply decisions impact the region and develop policy that addresses the need for a secure supply for bedding livestock and good animal husbandry.
 - Foreign ownership of agricultural land
 - Request that the provincial government develop and implement restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural land.
 - Agricultural Land Commission (support)
 - 1. Request that the provincial government keep zones 1 and 2 as per current policy. 2. Request that a northern panel remain in place to reflect the differing agricultural requirements. 3. Request for continued funding at the same level from the Province.
 - Resource Benefits Alliance
- **Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development** (Gerry Thiessen & Bill Miller)
 - **Request for a meeting with the Minister subsequent to the UBCM Convention**
 - Wildfires (inability to protect resources)
 - That the Provincial Government form a Commission on Wildfire Management and Response in BC independent of the provincial government to fulfil the mandate
 - Community Wildfire Protection Plans
 - That the Province develop a Wildfire Protection Plan and strategy at a provincial level where the local government role is to provide input into the plan and strategy
 - Spruce Beetle
 - 1. That the provincial government have a pro-active response to the spruce beetle infestation. 2. That the provincial government conduct an audit of industry licensees for compliance to a) determine if they are doing what's in their plan b) Is it effective?
 - Harvesting practices (landscape objectives)
 - That the Provincial Government develop a policy that requires full utilization of fibre.
 - Grizzly Bear Population (impacts on ranchers and communities) (Shane Brien)
 - That the population numbers need to be managed and culled in consultation with local input including the farming community.
 - Jobs & Rural Development (Fibre Supply,
 - That tariff negotiations be conducted to protect the interest of BC's interior mills and that local government be involved in the discussions.
 - That policies be implanted that ensure a secure fibre supply for regional agricultural producers.
 - Resource Benefits Alliance

DISCUSSION – UBCM Convention – Meeting Attendees (Cont'd)

- **Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy** (Mark Fisher)
 - Zero Waste
 - That the Province creates a zero waste strategy and review landfill guidelines in collaboration with local government so that diversion initiatives and concerns of more rural and northern communities are addressed. These include, but are not limited to, province wide material bans, requirements for industry (including agriculture) to work with local governments during the project planning process and ongoing activities, lack of Recycle BC services (because of provincial vs. regional targets) and residents who are thereby double paying for diversion initiatives (through EPR and RD fees).
 - Resource Benefits Alliance
 - Water Licensing
 - That provincial staff be available to support the licensing process, and that the province release clear and regular updates regarding the transition.
- **Minister of Finance** (Darcy Reppen)
 - Clean Water and Waste Water Fund (release of funds, allocation formulas and timelines)
 - That the provincial government request that the federal government increase the funding allocation and release the funding as soon as possible.
 - Infrastructure Funding
 - As per the mandate letter, that the provincial government evaluate the fairness of revenue and taxation to level the playing field.
 - Resource Benefits Alliance
- **Minister of Mental Health and Addictions** (Eileen Benedict and Gerry Thiessen)
 - Youth and Adult Mental Health Services
 - What services are available in our region. Request that additional services be provided.
 - Opioid Crisis
 - That additional services be provided.
 - Resource Benefits Alliance
- **Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General (Also Jennifer Rice if Possible)**
 - Provincial Download of Emergency Preparedness (Bill Miller)
 - That Emergency Preparedness responsibilities previously downloaded from the province to local government be taken back by the province and, as per Section 2 of the *Community Charter*, that the provincial government not assign responsibilities to local government unless there is provision for resources required to fulfill the responsibilities.
 - Tailings Ponds (Equity Mine Dam Safety)
 - That Equity Mine be requested to have an Emergency Response Plan and follow through process in place regarding tailings ponds.
 - Flood Mitigation/Dikes (Mark Fisher)
 - That there be increased funding and increased flexibility with flood mitigation funding for property owners in flood prone areas.
 - Resource Benefits Alliance.

Break for Lunch at 12:32 p.m.

Reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE

Regional Transit Committee Meeting

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Bachrach

C.W.2017-7-7

“That the Committee of the Whole recess at 1:00 p.m. to convene the Regional Transit Committee Meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RECONVENED at 1:46 p.m.

UBCM Information

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director MacDougall

C.W.2017-7-8

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the following UBCM information:
-UBCM 2017 Minister Meeting Requests;
-UBCM 2016 Convention Meetings and Attendees.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

UBCM ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

UBCM Convention – MIABC 30th Annual General Meeting

Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2017-7-9

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the UBCM correspondence: UBCM Convention –MIABC 30th Annual General Meeting – Tuesday, September 26, 2017 – Fairmount Waterfront Hotel.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Benedict will attend the MIABC 30th Annual General Meeting Tuesday, September 26, 2017.

UBCM 2017 Convention -Meeting with Northern Health

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Brienen

C.W.2017-7-10

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the UBCM correspondence: UBCM 2017 Convention – Meeting with Northern Health.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

UBCM 2017 Convention -Roots to Results Convention Bulletins

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director MacDougall

C.W.2017-7-11

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the UBCM correspondence: UBCM 2017 Convention –Roots to Results Convention Bulletin:
-Bulletin #2
-Bulletin #3.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

UBCM ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

UBCM 2017 Staff Attendance Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2017-7-12 “That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize the attendance of Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services at the 2017 UBCM Convention September 25-29, 2017 in Vancouver, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE

Terry Fox Committee
-Request for Donation Moved by Director Thiessen
Seconded by Director Bachrach

C.W.2017-7-13 “That the Committee of the Whole receive the correspondence from the Terry Fox Committee re: Request for Donation.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to the RDBN providing a composter in the past. The Committee of the Whole directed staff to include in the RDBN's written response to the Terry Fox Committee's request for donation the option to potentially speak with the Electoral Area Directors in the future and outline the requirements of the RDBN's Grant in Aid Policy.

John Rustad, MLA, Nechako
Lakes – Attendance at UBCM
Minister Meetings Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2017-7-14 “That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako write a letter to John Rustad, MLA, Nechako Lakes providing a list of Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako UBCM Minister Meetings and topics of discussion; and further that if he wishes to attend the meetings he is welcome to do so as an observer.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

North Central Local
Government Association
-NCLGA/Greyhound Bus
Response Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Parker

C.W.2017-7-15 “That the Committee of the Whole receive the correspondence from the North Central Local Government Association – NCLGA/Greyhound Bus Response.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Canada Post – Closure of
Germansen Landing Post
Office

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Schienbein

C.W.2017-7-16

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the correspondence from Canada Post – Closure of Germansen Landing Post Office.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Greenaway indicated he has been addressing the Canada Post Office closure in Germansen Landing. Mail will be continued to be delivered in General Mail Boxes once a week. Other postal services and parcel services will be available in Manson Creek. Director Greenaway will follow up to determine where out-going mail can be dropped off.

Ministry of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations
And Rural Development/BC
Wildfire Service – Campfires to
be allowed again in all of Northern B.C.

Moved by Director Thiessen
Seconded by Director Brienen

C.W.2017-7-17

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development/BC Wildfire Service – Campfires to be allowed again in all of Northern B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INVITATIONS

Invitations

Moved by Director Thiessen
Seconded by Director Bachrach

C.W.2017-7-18

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the following invitations:
-Topley Volunteer Fire Department – Grand Opening – September 9, 2017;
-Terus Construction Ltd. – Invitation to Reception at UBCM Convention;
-LNG Canada – Invitation to Reception at UBCM Convention;
-TransCanada – Invitation to Reception at UBCM Convention;

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2017-7-19

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:09 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY