

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
(Committee Of The Whole)

Thursday, June 7, 2018

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Chris Beach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Thomas Liversidge
Rob MacDougall
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Gerry Thiessen – left at 2:43 p.m.

Director Dwayne Lindstrom, Village of Fraser Lake
Absent

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 2:23 p.m.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Benedict

AG.2018-4-1 “That the Agriculture Committee Agenda of June 7, 2018 be adopted; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
-April 19, 2018 Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Newell

AG.2018-4-2 “That the Minutes of the Agriculture Committee Meeting of April 19, 2018 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Mark Parker, Chair – BV Cattlemen’s Association AGM

- Attended the 3 day BC Cattlemen’s Association AGM in Smithers
- Thank You to Smithers for hosting the event
 - o 250 people registered
 - o 328 people were in attendance at one of the dinner events
 - o Participants in attendance from all over B.C.
- Provided a presentation on behalf of the Regional District in regard to the formation of the Agriculture Committee and Agriculture Coordinator Position
 - o Received a lot of feedback
 - o Received questions regarding the Agriculture Committee and implementing the Agriculture Coordinator position along with the mandate and direction of the Regional District
 - o Very positive response
- Highlights
 - o BC Cattlemen’s Association (BCCA) is intertwined with agencies and organizations throughout B.C. such as FLNRORD and Water Stewardship
 - o BCCA’s 90th AGM program provides a resource of information – very worthwhile read
- Major Announcement
 - o \$14 million/3 years for wildlife management, species at risk and predator control as it interfaces with agriculture
 - Cariboo was also discussed
 - o The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture was in attendance
 - Announced \$450,000 commitment to conduct a study for the proposed processing plant in Prince George
 - o Significant process still remains in order for the proposed processing plant to be built
 - The province’s contribution is encouraging
 - Will potentially employ 450 people with external jobs of approximately 650
 - Discussed the positive benefits of the proposed processing plant to farming in the northwest and region
 - the current practice involves beef processing being completed in Alberta
- Good networking and discussion opportunities
- Great to have an event of that size in the region
- Very good opportunity to showcase Smithers and the Regional District and promote the region.

**Mark Parker, Chair – BV
Cattlemen’s Association AGM**

Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Brien

AG.2018-4-3

“That the Agriculture Committee receive Chair Mark Parker’s verbal report regarding the BV Cattlemen’s Association AGM.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS (CONT'D)

RDBN Agriculture Plan and
Regional Agriculture Forum
Update – Northwest Food
Security Forum – Livestock
Processing Meeting – Regional
Agrologist AGM

Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Bachrach

AG.2018-4-4

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator’s May 29, 2018 memo titled “RDBN Agriculture Plan and Regional Agriculture Forum Update; and further, the following information be received: Update – Northwest Food Security Forum, Livestock Processing Meeting and Regional Agrologist AGM.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to food security in the RDBN Agriculture Plan and food security in the region.

Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator provided a verbal summary of the following:

- Northwest Food Security Forum
- Livestock Processing Meetings
 - Chair Parker expressed frustration in regard to the limited public notification in regard to the meeting dates and the meetings to address the Standing Committee being cancelled in northern locations with minimal notification
- Ministry of Agriculture Discussion prepared for the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food
- BC Institute of Agrologists AGM
 - Ms. Evans was presented with her Professional Agrologist certificate
- Connecting Consumers and Producers.

CORRESPONDENCE

BC News – Farming in B.C.
Goes High Tech with \$14-
million Innovation Program

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director MacDougall

AG.2018-4-5

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence titled “BC News – Farming in B.C. Goes High Tech with \$14-million Innovation Program.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

REPORT

2018 UBCM Session Proposal
Support to Agriculture in the
RDBN Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Greenaway

AG.2018-4-6 "That the Agriculture Committee receive the 2018 UBCM
Session Proposal titled "Support to Agriculture in the RDBN."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Brienen

AG.2018-4-7 "That the Agriculture Committee recommend to the Regional
District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the 2018
UBCM Session Proposal titled "Support to Agriculture in the
RDBN" be ratified as amended to include additional presenters
to participate in the session along with the RDBN."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to broadening the scope of the
session to include what local governments can do to support
Agriculture in their regions. Inviting a representative from
Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) and/or Rural
Development and/or School Districts to present along with the
Regional District was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Invitation to a Veterinarian
RE: Prescription Regulations
Regarding Antibiotics Director Benedict brought forward concerning the
regulations relating to prescription antibiotics for farm
animals and the potential issues and costs. She suggested
inviting a veterinarian to attend a future Agriculture Committee
Meeting to discuss the regulations. Chair Parker will provide
staff with information regarding potential delegations.

Invitation to WorkSafe BC
and AgSafe BC Director Thiessen commented that WorkSafe BC enforcement
may have a significant impact on farming operations in the near
future. He suggested extending an invitation to WorkSafe BC to
attend a future Agriculture Committee Meeting. Chair Parker
also suggested including AgSafe BC.

Agriculture Land Commission
Zones 1 and 2 Chair Parker commented that the Agriculture Land Commission
is moving towards the Zone 1 and 2 designations within BC and
combining them to be one Zone. Concerns were brought
forward regarding the potential impacts of the removal of Zone 1
and 2 and the potential removal of the three member panel
committees. Discussion took place regarding the current system
working well in northwest BC. Director Miller spoke of promoting
agriculture in the region and the importance to regional economic
development. He expressed the importance of voicing concerns
to the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

Invitation to the Honourable
Lana Popham, Minister of
Agriculture

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Greenaway

AG.2018-4-8

“That the Agriculture Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors invite the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture to the RDBN to discuss the proposed changes to the Agriculture Land Commission; and further, that if Minister Popham is unable to attend a Meeting in the RDBN that the Chair of the Agriculture Committee and one Director meet with Minister Popham in Victoria, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Agriculture/Farm Plastics

Director Benedict mentioned that while attending the BC Cattlemen’s AGM discussion took place regarding an ‘end market’ for agriculture/farm plastics. She indicated that she had provided RDBN Environmental Services’ staff contact information. Director Fisher commented that he had also had discussion and received contact information from individuals while attending the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2018 Convention in Halifax, B.C.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Brien

AG.2018-4-9

“That the meeting be adjourned at 3:16 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant