

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**(Committee Of The Whole)**

**Thursday, March 8, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Chris Beach  
Eileen Benedict  
Shane Brienen  
Mark Fisher  
Tom Greenaway  
Dwayne Lindstrom  
Rob MacDougall  
Bill Miller  
Rob Newell  
Jerry Petersen  
Darcy Repen  
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Absent Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers  
Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle

Alternate Director Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 11:51 a.m.

**AGENDA** Moved by Director Brienen  
Seconded by Director Repen

**AG.2018-2-1** "That the Agriculture Committee Agenda of March 8, 2018 be adopted."

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

**MINUTES**

**Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -January 11, 2018** Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director McGuire

**AG.2018-2-2** "That the Minutes of the Agriculture Committee Meeting of January 11, 2018 be received."

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

## **REPORT**

### **ALR/ALC Revitalization Stakeholder Consultation**

Moved by Director Miller  
Seconded by Alternate Director McGuire

### **AG.2018-2-3**

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the preliminary comments to be provided to the Ministry of Agriculture’s Advisory Committee outlined in the Planning Department staff report dated February 28, 2018.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discussion took place regarding the Planning Department’s staff report dated February 28, 2018. The Agriculture Committee indicated support for the comments to be provided to the Ministry of Agriculture’s Advisory Committee and recommended that staff discuss the importance of Food Security to the region, the need to accommodate small-scale farmers, and the Regional Board’s concerns regarding Foreign Ownership.

## **Beef Workshop Update**

Chair Parker commented that the Beef Workshop held in Burns Lake on March 2, 2018 went well with 30 people in attendance including staff. He noted that the quality of the speakers in attendance was exceptional. Kevin Boon, General Manager, BC Cattlemen’s Association spoke about the processing plant proposed for Prince George and potential spinoffs from the plant. Andrew Petersen, P.Ag, CID. Regional Resource Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture spoke of small and large-scale irrigation and the *Water Sustainability Act*.

Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator will provide a report to the Regional Board in regard to the Beef Workshop at a future RDBN meeting.

Director Thiessen recognized Chair Parker and Ms. Evans and expressed appreciation for being ambassadors for agriculture in the region.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **College of New Caledonia -Agriculture**

Director Thiessen spoke of the need to engage the College of New Caledonia in developing agricultural educational programs.

Director Thiessen attended the Agricultural Skills Training Needs Stakeholder Engagement session in Vanderhoof February 26, 2018 co-partnered by the College of New Caledonia. He mentioned the importance of having input from residents throughout the region. Ms. Evans reported that she attended the session in Burns Lake on February 19, 2018 and had a discussion with the facilitator. She will continue to follow-up.

Director Miller reported that in recent months he has received comments in regard to agriculture being a focus in the region. He mentioned the importance of developing educational programs to assist with the increased agricultural focus that is creating more enthusiasm for young farmers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director Brien

AG.2018-2-4

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:18 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant