

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 20, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Rob Newell

Directors Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson

Staff Cheryl Anderson, Acting Chief Administrative Officer/Manager of
Administrative Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 10:38 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Gerry Thiessen, Director, District of Vanderhoof

CALL TO ORDER Chair Newell called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

AGENDA Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2019-6-1 “That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for June 20, 2019 be approved.”

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

MINUTES

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes -June 6, 2019 Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2019-6-2 “That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of June 6, 2019 be received.”

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

REPORTS

Burns Lake Paintball Association– Request for Grant in Aid – Electoral Areas “B” (Burns Lake Rural) and “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2019-6-3 “That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Burns Lake Paintball Association be given \$925 grant in aid monies from each of Electoral Areas “B” (Burns Lake Rural) and “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) for costs associated with insurance.”

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

DISCUSSION ITEM

Northern Capital Planning Grant (NCPG)

Chair Newell spoke of how well the Regional District model in B.C. operates. He noted the importance of determining an equitable distribution of the Northern Capital Planning Grant (NCPG).

Discussion took place regarding the limitations imposed by the Province in regard to Regional Districts and the Northern Capital and Planning Grant (NCPG).

Rescind Motion
RDC 2019-5-12 Northern
Capital Planning Grant

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC- 2019-6-4

“That the Rural Directors Committee rescind Motion RDC.2019-5-12 – Northern Capital Planning Grant.”

Opposed: Director Fisher CARRIED
 Director Greenaway
 Director Petersen

(All/Directors/Majority)

Discussion took place regarding:

- Approaching Regional Districts of Fraser-Fort George and Kitimat-Stikine to determine any challenges in allocating NCPG funding
- Bringing forward the issue at the Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention September, 2019.
 - Present a rationale to the Province that would be beneficial for both the Province and Regional Districts
 - Request that the parameters be changed to enable the funds to be used as leverage funding
 - More flexibility is needed to allocate the funds
- Challenges in regard to criteria – e.g. Need an established service to allocate funds and monies can't be allocated to an Electoral Area
- Potential Funding Allocation Options
 - Rural Directors having the option to provide funding to support member municipalities and assist with projects that benefit rural and municipal residents
 - Economic Development Services - an option for allocating funds
 - Establishing a Parks and Recreation Service
 - Allocating funding to planning in Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural)
 - Economic Development projects
 - Water service planning
 - Emergency Management planning
- Determining an equitable method to allocate the funding
- Two potential opportunities
 - utilize funding for new opportunities
 - utilize funding for capital expenses such as Fort Fraser Sewer
- Rural Directors to bring forward a list of potential opportunities to the Regional Board
- Staff outlined potential funding allocation ideas
 - Rural Government
 - Environmental Services
 - Reduce taxation
 - Increase Special Projects budget
- Accountability.

DISCUSSION ITEM (CONT'D)

Northern Capital Planning Grant (NCPG) (Cont'd)

Northern Capital Planning Grant Criteria

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC- 2019-6-5

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to contact the Regional Districts of Kitimat-Stikine and Fraser-Fort George in regard to the Provincial Government’s Northern Capital Planning Grant criteria and parameters; and further, that a written report be prepared to bring forward to the Provincial Government to identify the inequities of the criteria and parameters of the Northern Capital Planning Grant to Regional Districts.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Northern Capital Planning Grant

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC- 2019-6-6

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors allocate the majority of the Northern Capital and Planning Grant funding for projects that benefit Electoral Areas; and further, that Electoral Area Directors have the discretion to provide funding to municipal projects that support municipal and electoral area residents.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Newell and the Rural Directors committee gave permission for Director Thiessen to speak.

Director Thiessen spoke of a number of projects that he, on behalf of the District of Vanderhoof, and Director Petersen, Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural) have worked on together to benefit both municipal and rural area residents.

Northern Capital Planning Grant – July 4, 2019 RDBN Meeting

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC- 2019-6-7

“That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors at its July 4, 2019 Special Board Meeting regarding Northern Capital Planning Grant develop a funding allocation that meets the current criteria, and further, that the RDBN Board of Directors request a meeting with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in regard to changing the criteria and parameters of the Northern Capital Planning Grant for Regional Districts.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Acting CAO commented that potential ideas for the allocation of NCPG funding can be provided to staff for the July 4, 2019 Board Agenda. Staff can assist with cost analysis if required. Ms. Anderson spoke of the time line required to develop a new service.

NEW BUSINESS

Role of Regional District's
Re: Wildfires

Director Lambert brought forward Regional Districts and their position in regard to wildfire stay and defend decisions. Discussion took place in regard to the *Emergency Program Act* and the mandate of the Regional District. Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning indicated that staff are following up in regard to the position of the Regional District and will provide a report to the Regional Board. He also spoke of the RDBN resolutions submitted to UBCM in regard to Permitting Entry into an Evacuation Order Area and Stay and Defend Policy.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2019-6-8

"That the meeting be adjourned 10:46 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rob Newell, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant