

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 14
VIRTUAL

Thursday, November 18, 2021

PRESENT: Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Dolores Funk
Tom Greenaway – left at 2:00 p.m.
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Annette Morgan
Bob Motion
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson

Director Absent Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake

Alternate Director Kim Watt-Senner, Village of Fraser Lake

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Steve Davis, Building Inspector/Bylaw Enforcement Officer – left 1:00 p.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer – left at 2:25 p.m.
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Taddea Kunkel, First Nations Liaison – left at 2:10 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Others Cam Bentley, A/District Manager, Regional Operations – Skeena Stikine, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – left at 11:00 a.m.
Lori Borth, Regional Executive Director, Omineca, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – arrived at 10:06 a.m., left at 11:43 a.m.
Justin Calof, Director Strategic Initiatives, Omineca, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development - left at 11:43 a.m.
Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development - left at 11:43 a.m.
Neal Marincak, Resource Manager, Burns Lake, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – left at 11:43 a.m.
Ken Nielsen, Chinook Community Forest – arrived at 10:10 a.m., left at 11:43 a.m.
Cindy Shelford, Lakes TSA Coalition – arrived at 11:27 a.m., left at 1:00 p.m.

Media Eddie Huband, LD News left at 2:15 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson

CAO Helgesen called for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for the year 2021/2022.

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-14-1

“That Director Thiessen be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for 2021/2022.”

CAO Helgesen called for nominations for Chairperson a second time.

CAO Helgesen called for nominations for Chairperson a third time.

There being no further nominations CAO Helgesen declared Director Thiessen Chairperson for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for the year 2021/2022 by acclamation.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Vice – Chairperson

CAO Helgesen called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for the year 2021/2022.

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Brien

2020-14-2

“That Director Parker be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for 2021/2022.”

CAO Helgesen called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson a second time.

CAO Helgesen called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson a third time.

There being no further nominations CAO Helgesen declared Director Parker Vice-Chairperson for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for the year 2021/2022 by acclamation.

Chairperson Thiessen assumed the Chair.

Chair Thiessen and Vice-Chairperson Parker thanked the Board.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AGENDA

Moved by Director Morgan
Seconded by Director Newell

2021-14-3

“That the Board Meeting Agenda of November 18, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2021

Moved by Director Morgan
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-14-4

“That the Board Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2021 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee Meeting
Minutes - October 21 and
November 4, 2021

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Morgan

2021-14-5

“That the following Committee Meeting Minutes be received:

- Committee of the Whole Minutes
-November 4, 2021
- Committee of the Whole Minutes
-October 21, 2021
- Natural Resources Committee Minutes
-November 4, 2021
- Rural/Agriculture Committee Minutes
-November 4, 2021
- Waste Management Committee Minutes
-November 4, 2021
- Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes
-November 4, 2021.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District RE: Old Growth Deferrals

Chair Thiessen welcomed Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. Ms. Eagles introduced Cam Bentley, A/District Manager, Regional Operations, Skeena Stikine, Lori Borth, Regional Executive Director, Omineca, Justin Calof, Director Strategic Initiatives, Omineca, Neal Marincak, Resource Manager, Aboriginal Affairs, Burns Lake, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District RE: Old Growth Deferrals (Cont'd)

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) staff provided an overview of the Province of B.C.'s Old Growth Deferrals

- In 2019 the Province appointed an Independent two person panel
 - o One of the largest engagement uptakes
 - o 14 recommendations regarding old growth
- Technical panel appointed to select old growth deferral areas
 - Province is working on additional mapping to what is available on the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development website
 - o Panel identified 2.6 million hectares where old growth could be deferred
 - o Meaning of “deferral”: further discussion
- Province presently working with First Nations
 - o 30 days for engagement and initial input
 - o Will continue more conversations - may take more time
 - o FLNRORD has received some input
- FLNRORD staff working through the process with Deputy Minister Rick Manwaring and Associate Deputy Minister Eamon O'Donoghue
- FLNRORD working with First Nations over the past several years
 - o Cumulative impacts
 - o Understand how to improve sustainability for the forests and communities
 - o Component of existing and ongoing work
- Lessons learned from Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB)
- Significant decision by the provincial government
 - o FLNRORD highly aware of the potential impacts
- Two components of Old Growth Deferral
 - o Provincial intent
 - Government's current vision for forests different than previous governments
 - Vision driven by reconciliation, climate adaptability and sustainability
 - Preserving old growth
 - Pursuing reconciliation and partnerships with First Nations proactively
 - Inheriting a history and context of MPB salvage
 - The Province and FLNRORD's role - chart the future
 - o Begun process with a technical product and now turning to partners on reconciliation
 - Seeking input
 - Government set a direction manifested from relationships with indigenous communities
 - Diversity of solutions that will chart the course going forward
 - Be prepared, flexible and adaptive to different solutions.
- Mapping of the old growth deferral within the RDBN

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- First Nations process
 - o Diversity of perspectives
 - o Work towards a collaborative partnership
- Definition of Old Growth Forest
 - o Big Tree Old Growth
 - o Ancient Forest
 - o Remnant

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District RE: Old Growth Deferrals (Cont'd)

- Request for further information regarding:
 - o Percentage of old growth on the Coast and in the Interior
 - o Percentage of each category of old growth within the RDBN
 - o Percentage in highly productive areas
 - o Compensation
 - If companies have proposed/laid out blocks – is there compensation?
- *Forest Act*
 - o Part 12 - Division 3 – Regulations
 - Section 157 – Requirements for replaceable contracts and subcontracts
 - o Part 13 – Designated Areas
 - Section 168 Definition
 - Section 175.1 No compensation during first 4 years of designation
- FLNRORD staff still need to complete a full analysis of the potential impacts of the Old Growth Deferral
 - o The number of deferrals to be recommended to the Provincial Cabinet is unknown at this time
 - o Deferral of harvest areas where indigenous support is granted
 - o Further discussion of areas will take place where indigenous support is not yet granted
 - o Protection order through legislation
 - o Short term deferral – 2 years
- Timeline and participation in technical panel
 - o Initiative by previous Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Doug Donaldson
 - o Strategic review and 14 recommendations regarding old growth
 - o Province defined the process – temporary measure to manage immediate process in order to define long term outcome for old growth
- Discussions with First Nations regarding cumulative effects and old growth
 - o Begun in 2013/2014
 - o Old Growth Deferral - First Nations received letter October 21, 2021
- Concerns regarding:
 - o Lack of local government consultation and opportunity for meaningful input
 - o Impacts to the forest sector significantly impacts municipal/local government budgets, planning and investment attraction
 - o Communities are heavily dependent on the forest sector
 - o Lack of understanding on the inner working of smaller communities and the devastation that is being caused
 - o Unrest and unease of residents and communities throughout the RDBN
 - Impact to social fabric of communities
 - o Uncertainty and vagueness are extremely challenging severely impacting families and those directly and indirectly employed by the forest sector
 - o Ranchers' ability to utilize Old Growth Deferral Areas for grazing
 - FLNRORD staff will follow up

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District RE: Old Growth Deferrals (Cont'd)

- FLNRORD staff
 - o Provide concerns to the Provincial Executive Committee
 - o Commitment for continued communication
 - o Balancing overall forestry health for future generations with a viable forest economy
 - o Current old growth deferral impacts are unknown – if nothing is done there will also be impacts
 - o Encouraged by relationships being built between local governments and First Nations
- Provincial announcement of Old Growth Deferral poorly executed
 - o Some First Nations communities within the RDBN have indicated that they have not been consulted or provided the opportunity to provide input
 - o Awaiting further information and readable mapping
- Old growth a topic since the 1990's
 - o Management through Forest Stewardship Plans and Old Growth Management areas
- Require ground truthing – data verification
 - o FLNRORD consultation with First Nations
 - o Areas outlined by Technical panel have not yet been ground truthed
 - o Accurate, complete and readable data and mapping required
 - Concerns have been raised by industry, communities and First Nations regarding the lack of fulsome data and mapping
 - Data required whether deferral moves forward or not
- Forest Management requires improvements
 - o Modernizing of forest policy
 - o Long term forest future
 - o A pause to ensure inclusiveness of indigenous communities
- Impact of wildfires on Old Growth Deferral areas
 - o Information needs to be confirmed with on the ground surveying
 - o FLNRORD reviewing utilization of burnt timber from 2021 wildfires
- Potential impacts of future fires in the two-year deferral time frame
- Impacts to smaller forest companies
 - o Community transitions supports available
 - o Permit holders will continue to operate until provided direction
 - o BC Timber Sales (BCTS) deferring areas in planning stages
 - Will move forward with fiber that is sold
 - Investigating areas that may be modified to adjust for deferral areas
 - o Currently fibre continues to move
 - o Challenges in quantifying potential impacts
- Fibre
 - o Secondary manufacturing - not always feasible
- Impacts to Allowable Annual Cut
- Ensuring input from all Ministries and agencies potentially impacted e.g. Ministry of Environment
- Importance of backcountry to residents including wildlife and forests
- RDBN desire for reconciliation with First Nations
 - o Local government not being included in the process of consultation with First Nations is a lost opportunity for local government and First Nations reconciliation
 - o Concerns regarding First Nations being provided 30 days for initial comment

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District RE: Old Growth Deferrals (Cont'd)

- Northwest B.C. Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA)
 - o RBA has the information regarding resource dollars that leave the northwest
 - o Return of resource dollars to the northwest would give communities the ability to diversify and adjust to changes
- Require clarification from the Province and an opportunity to work together to find a path forward
 - o Communities have a desire to be part of the solution and a vibrant future for the north and the Province
- Follow up and continued communication from FLNRORD is imperative
- Request Associate Deputy Minister Eamon O'Donoghue attend a future meeting.

The Board granted permission for Ken Nielsen, Chinook Community Forest to share information regarding Chinook Community Forest tenure area as well as the 2018 Nadina and Verdun Wildfire areas in comparison with the Province's mapping of old growth deferral areas. He identified differences in the Provincial mapping in regard to the wildfire areas. He noted that Chinook Community Forest is undergoing an in-depth analysis utilizing high resolution equipment of its tenure area in relation to old growth deferral. Chair Thiessen thanked Mr. Nielsen for providing the information.

Chair Thiessen thanked Ms. Eagles, Borth and Mr. Marincak and Calof for attending the meeting.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING (All Directors)

Bylaw for 1st and 2nd Reading

Rezoning Application
RZ-A-07-21 – 1st and 2nd
Reading Rezoning Bylaw
No. 1966, 2021
- Electoral Area "A"

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Morgan

2021-14-6

1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1966, 2021 be given first and second reading the 18th day of November, 2021 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.

2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1966, 2021 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area A."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING (All Directors) (Cont'd)

Bylaw for 1st and 2nd Reading (Cont'd)

Rezoning Application
RZ- A-08-21 – 1st and 2nd
Reading Rezoning Bylaw
No. 1965, 2021
- Electoral Area "A"

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-14-7

1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1965, 2021 be given first and second reading this 18th day of November, 2021 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.

2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1965, 2021 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area A."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaws for 3rd Reading and Adoption

Vanderhoof Rural Official
Community Plan Bylaw
No. 1963, 2021 – Third Reading
and Adoption - Electoral Area "F"

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Parker

2021-14-8

1. "That the Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing held on November 8, 2021 for Vanderhoof Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1963, 2021.

2. That Vanderhoof Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1963, 2021 be given third reading and adoption this 18th day of November, 2021."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OTHER

Official Community Plan (OCP)
Review for Electoral Area C

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Motion

2021-14-9

1. "That the Board approve the work plan and consultation checklist for the Area C OCP review.

2. That the Board authorize staff to enter into a contract with the District of Fort St James (Appendix C) to review the District's OCP, on a cost recovery basis, at the same time as the RDBN reviews the OCP for Electoral Area C.

3. That the Board direct staff to approach Nak'azdli Whut'en with an invitation to work with RDBN and District of Fort St James to explore opportunities for cooperation in community planning efforts at the same time as the RDBN reviews the OCP for Electoral Area C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (All Directors)

ALR Applications

Subdivision in the ALR
Application No. 1239
Electoral Area "G"

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-14-10

"That Agricultural Land Reserve Subdivision Application No. 1239 be forwarded to the Agricultural Land Commission with a recommendation that the application be denied."

(All/Directors/Majority)

DEFEATED

Subdivision in the ALR
Application No. 1239
Electoral Area "G"

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-14-11

"That Agricultural Land Reserve Subdivision Application No. 1239 be forwarded to the Agricultural Land Commission with a recommendation that the application be approved."

Opposed: Director Funk
Director Parker
Director Petersen

CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Minimum parcel size for the Agriculture (AG1) Zone is 16 ha (39.5 ac)
 - Two of the four proposed parcels do not meet the minimum parcel size - Lot 1 and 2: ± 15.1 ha.
- The possibility for intensely managed agriculture land
- Housing inventory concerns in the region.

Referral

Addition to Cheslatta Carrier
Nation Reserve Referral
Electoral Area "E"

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Funk

2021-14-12

"That the RDBN send the letter attached to the Addition to Cheslatta 1 Reserve (Cheslatta Carrier Nation) Staff Report as the RDBN's response to the letter from Chief Corrina Leween of the Cheslatta Carrier Nation supporting the proposed addition to the Cheslatta Reserve."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PARKS AND TRAILS (All Directors)

Parks and Trails Inspection
and Maintenance Policy

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2021-14-13

“That the Board approve the “Parks and Trails Inspection and Maintenance Policy.”

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Petersen

2021-14-14

“That the Parks and Trails Inspection and Maintenance Policy Park and Trail Inspection form wherein it states “The RDBN shall erect a barrier, cordon off the hazard, or erect a warning sign within 5 days be amended to 3 days.”

(All/Directors/Majority) DEFEATED

“That the question be called on Motion 2021-14-13 as written.”

Opposed: Director Newell CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

The following was discussed:

- Risk management
 - Risk vs. budget and liability and professional responsibility
- No limit on who can erect a barrier, cordon off the hazard, or erect a warning sign for a high priority maintenance issue
- Developing policy to address specific scenarios that arise
- Policy to provide overarching oversight to the Parks and Trails function and move forward Parks and Trail Inspection and Maintenance
- Developing Operating Procedures in conjunction with the Electoral Area Director and Board will address any concerns associated with site specific operational policies.

BUILDING INSPECTION (All Directors)

Section 57 Notice on Title
4910 Laughlin Road
Electoral Area “A”

No input was provided to the Board by the property owner.

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Parker

2021-14-15

“That the Corporate Officer be directed to file a Notice in the Land Title Office stating that a resolution has been made under Section 57 of the *Community Charter* relating to land legally described as Lot 7, Section 11, Township 1A, Range 5, Coast District, Plan EPP15239 (4910 Laughlin Road).”

Opposed: Director Parker CARRIED
Director Riis-Christianson

(All/Directors/Majority)

Discussion took place regarding:

- Section 57 Notices in the RDBN
 - o Staff conducting public education
 - o Staff providing a listing of all Section 57 Notices within the RDBN
 - o Further enforcement actions
 - Seeking to have buildings removed
 - Safety issues – staff provide additional recommendations
 - o Property purchasers being made aware of a Section 57 Notice on Title.

Third Quarter Building Permit Summary

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2021-14-16

“That the Board receive the Planning Department’s Third Quarter Building Permit Summary.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Break for lunch at 1:00 p.m.

Reconvened at 1:50 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Bylaw No. 1967 Cluculz Lake Fire Department Capital Reserve

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-14-17

“That Cluculz Lake Fire Protection Service Capital Reserve Bylaw No. 1967, 2021 be given first, second and third reading this 18th day of November, 2021.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

First Nations 911 Emergency Telephone System Agreement Renewal

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Brienen

2021-14-18

“That the Board authorize the Board Chair and the Corporate Officer to sign the 911 Emergency Telephone System Agreements with First Nations, that expired on October 26, 2021, as well as the new agreement for Binche Whut’en Band. The term of the agreements is October 26, 2021 to October 26, 2026.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will follow-up with First Nations Communities regarding the 911 levy.

EOC Policies

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2021-14-19

“That the Board approve the new EOC Overtime and EOC on-Call Policies, and that the old policies be replaced.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

RDBN 2022 Meeting Schedule Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-14-20 "That the Board ratify the 2022 RDBN meeting schedule as presented."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regional District of Bulkley-
Nechako Procedure Bylaw
No. 1964, 2021 Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2021-14-21 "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Procedure Bylaw No. 1964, 2021 be adopted this 18th day of November, 2021."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Electoral Area Directors' Forum
-February 8-9, 2022 – Local
Government Leadership
Academy Forum
– February 9-11, 2022 Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

2021-14-22 "That Rural Directors be authorized to attend the Electoral Area Directors' Forum on February 8-9, 2022 and/or the Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) Leadership Forum on February 9-11, 2022."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regional Broadband
Infrastructure Service
Establishment – Elector
Response Form Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Alternate Director Watt-Senner

2021-14-23 "That the Elector Response Form be approved as the Elector Response Form for Bylaw No. 1951."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Final COVID Allocation Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Atrill

2021-14-24 "That the Board allocate \$62,800 of the remaining unallocated Covid-19 provincial grant to general administrative government.

And that the Board allocate \$165,019.33 of the remaining unallocated Covid-19 provincial grant to Electoral Area Covid Grant in Aid divided between all Electoral Areas distributed by population."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Federal Gas Tax – Area “A” Moved by Director Fisher
(Smithers Rural) Bulkley Valley Seconded by Director Lambert
Cross Country Ski Club
– Equipment Shed Upgrade

2021-14-25

1. “That the Board authorize contributing up to \$45,000.00 of Electoral Area ‘A’ (Smithers Rural) Federal Gas Tax allocation monies to a Recreation Infrastructure Project at the Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club, and further,

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$45,000.00 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund.”

(Participants/Weighted/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COVID-19 Relief Funds

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

2021-14-26

“That the Board approve the following COVID-19 Relief Funds Applications:

Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural)

-Treehouse Housing Association – Insurance, Utilities, Cleaning Supplies - \$11,396.11

Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural)

-Lakes District Fair Association – Facility Repair - \$356.27
-Burns Lake Paintball Association – Insurance - \$2,675.00
-Burns Lake District Seniors Society – Rent and Storage Fees 2020/2021 - \$4,000.00

Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural)

-Cluculz Lake Community Hall – Insurance and Hydro into 2022 - \$6,397.73

Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural)

-Topley Fire Department – PPE and Sanitation Supplies - \$1612.23.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Tourism Cost-Sharing
Partnership Reports

Moved by Director Funk
Seconded by Director Morgan

2021-14-27

“That the Board receive the Economic Development Assistant’s Tourism Cost-Sharing Partnership Reports memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Truth and Reconciliation Calls
to Action

Moved by Director Funk
Seconded by Director Morgan

2021-14-28

“That the Board receive the First Nations Liaison’s Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Chair Thiessen noted that he and Vice-Chair Parker attended the Saik'uz First Nations AGM and received positive feedback of the Board's review and recognition of the Truth and

Reconciliation Calls to Action. They also met with Nak'azdli Whut'en and will be meeting with all 14 First Nations communities within the region.

Discussion took place regarding First Nations culture and language being taught in schools and the richness of cultural heritage within the region.

Growing Opportunities Newsletter Update

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-14-29

"That the Board receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator's (East) Growing Opportunities Newsletter Update memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Parker provided an update regarding his meeting with Ministry of Agriculture staff. Director Lambert was also in attendance and provided information regarding barriers associated with meat packing facilities. Discussion also took place regarding the veterinarian shortage in BC and the lack of education opportunities in the Province. The meeting went extremely well. Directors Lambert and Parker expressed their gratitude for the work of the RDBN Regional Agriculture Coordinators.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Administration Correspondence Moved by Director Lambert
and Action List – October 2021 Seconded by Director Petersen

2021-14-30

"That the Board receive the following:

Administration Correspondence

-the Honourable David Eby, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing – UBCM Follow-up
-the Honourable Mike Farnworth and Jennifer Rice, Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General – UBCM Follow-up

Action List

-October 2021."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Waste Management Conferences

Director Fisher attended the North Central Local Government Association Virtual Solid Waste Management Conference and the Coast Waste Management Association Conference. He noted that the RDBN Waste Diversion Supervisor is recognized at various conferences for her work with First Nations and Recycling initiatives.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Extended Producer Responsibility and Industrial, Institutional Commercial Recycling

Director Fisher provided an update regarding Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Industrial, Institutional and Commercial (ICI) recycling. He mentioned that a meeting has been scheduled with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy on December 3, 2021 to discuss moving forward with ICI EPR in the region. He will also bring forward the following topics: circular economy and opportunities in the region, focus on EPR and all the "R's", ensuring local government feedback is heard and fair allocation of funding throughout the province.

Meetings with CityWest

Director Riis-Christianson noted that he attended meetings with CityWest this week and there will be additional meetings moving forward to develop additional strategies to improve connectivity in rural areas. He spoke of Telus having a new northern Manager and they have been in contact with Regional District of Fraser-Fort George in regard to long term connectivity plans.

Director Lambert reiterated that he had a good meeting with CityWest as well.

Meeting with Saik'uz First Nation and Nak'azdli Whut'en

Director Parker, along with Chair Thiessen and Director Petersen attended meetings with Saik'uz First Nation and Nak'azdli Whut'en. The RDBN Board bringing forward the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action at its meetings was discussed and well received. Director Parker expressed his appreciation to staff. Chair Thiessen noted that a follow up meeting with Nak'azdli Whut'en is being scheduled for February 2022.

Director Petersen noted that Nak'azdli Whut'en was an instrumental partner in advocating for a new hospital in Fort St. James.

Meeting with Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Parliamentary Secretary Fin Donnelly

Director Parker commented that he is working on land stewardship items for a meeting with Fin Donnelly Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Nechako Watershed Roundtable

Director Lambert attended the Nechako Watershed Roundtable Annual General Meeting (AGM) as well as Chair Thiessen. He noted that the highlight of the meeting was the RDBN and Nechako First Nations signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to rehabilitate the Nechako River. He mentioned that Chair Thiessen participated in the panel discussion. Chair Thiessen thanked Director Lambert for his work on the NWR.

2022 RDBN Meeting Calendar

Director Lambert expressed his appreciation for staff and noted that with the potential changes to Board members with the upcoming 2022 Local Government Election staff will maintain effective operations.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

- New Cluculz Lake Fire Hall Director Petersen and Chair Thiessen toured the new Cluculz Lake Fire Hall on November 5, 2021. The project is in its final finishing stages with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony being considered for February 2022. Director Petersen noted that the new Fire Hall has been in discussions for 30 years and he expressed his appreciation for the Northern Capital Planning Grant funding that allowed the new Fire Hall to be built.
- Remembrance Day Ceremony -Vanderhoof Director Petersen and Chair Thiessen attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony in Vanderhoof. Director Petersen laid a wreath on behalf of the Regional District. He commented that it was a good event.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Passport Director Newell spoke of the COVID-19 Vaccine Passport and the need to work together representing all his constituents. He recognized the challenges and issues when everyone is not in agreement regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Passports.
- Director Atrill mentioned that the Town of Smithers implemented a vaccine mandate policy for its federally regulated entities, the Smithers Airport and RCMP building. She spoke of needing to increase one's sensitivity to the issues and challenges individuals are experiencing currently.
- Director Morgan mentioned that incentives for the Vaccine Passport have been undertaken in the Village of Telkwa along with partnering with the Town of Smithers. She spoke of creative ideas to encourage individuals to be vaccinated.
- Chair Thiessen commented that as elected officials it is important to come from a place of reconciliation and be sensitive to individuals' challenges.
- Forestry Rally - Old Growth Deferral Director Atrill reported that a rally took place in Smithers today regarding the Province of B.C.'s Old Growth Deferral. The rally went well and created a high awareness of the topic.
- Bunkhouse Set Up for Smithers Homeless Director Atrill announced that a temporary bunkhouse has been set up at Veteran's Peace Park in Smithers for the residents of a homeless encampment.
- Movie Being Shot in Smithers Director Atrill spoke of the Vancouver based movie crew visiting the Town of Smithers to film a movie starring Jennifer Lopez. She noted there are a number of people and transport vehicles in the community and they are feeling welcome.
- RDBN Orientation Director Morgan thanked staff for providing an RDBN Orientation session.
- Supply Chain Shortages due to the Flooding in the Fraser Valley of B.C. Director Brienien noted that the District of Houston has been adjusting to the supply chain shortages taking place due to the flooding in BC's Fraser Valley. He mentioned that the grocery store provided a public statement immediately to explain that supplies would be available. Director Brienien noted the importance of ensuring that vulnerable people and seniors in the community have access to supplies.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Director McGuire mentioned the need for Provincial messaging regarding supply chains and the panic shopping that is taking place at grocery stores. She expressed her gratitude for the Houston Grocery Store and Save on More in Burns Lake for their immediate messaging.

Morice Forest Service Road

Director Brienens recognized the tensions due to issues on the Morice Forest Service Road regarding a group of protesters opposing the Coastal GasLink project.

District of Houston CAO Job Posting

Director Brienens indicated that the District of Houston is completing its hiring process for a new CAO. He expressed his support for the education programs at the University of Northern B.C. and internship program through Northern Development Initiative Trust. He spoke of the young individuals that move into the RDBN for internships and continue to stay in the region.

Recognition of Past Director Rob Newell

Director Brienens recognized the upcoming two-year anniversary of the passing of Director Rob Newell.

Village of Granisle Curling Club

Director McGuire spoke of the Village of Granisle having great member turnout at its Annual General Meeting and planning for an upcoming curling season following COVID-19 protocols.

COVID-19 Provincial Health Orders

Director McGuire noted that people are awaiting the announcement by Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer regarding the COVID-19 Provincial Health Orders due to expire November 19th. Director Thiessen reported that Dr. Henry just released that the COVID-19 health orders have been extended indefinitely in parts of Northern Health.

Director Funk spoke of the challenges in Burns Lake regarding COVID-19 and the PHOs being extended. She noted that the Village of Burns Lake has rapid testing options for staff.

Remembrance Day Ceremony -Village of Granisle

Director McGuire commented that the Remembrance Day Ceremony went well with attendance from the Houston RCMP Detachment and the additional security detail currently in Houston. She noted that it followed COVID-19 PHOs.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Director McGuire mentioned that the Village of Granisle's new Wastewater Treatment Plant is moving forward and is going well.

Old Growth Deferral

Director Funk noted that the Village of Burns Lake has been consulting with stakeholders to understand response to the Province's Old Growth Deferral and spoke to the Lakes Timber Supply Allocation. Director Brienens also spoke of the work he is doing in regard to the topic. Chair Thiessen brought forward concerns regarding the lack of clarity regarding the topic. He noted the importance for local government involvement in the process considering many local governments have Community Forests.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Village of Burns Lake
-Temporary Market Coordinator Director Funk announced that the Village of Burns Lake has hired a temporary Market Coordinator to promote tourism in the Lakes District and Village of Burns Lake.

Tragic Accident near Fraser
Lake Alternate Director Watt-Senner spoke of the tragic traffic accident near Fraser Lake and providing support to the family.

Young Lady Passes Away in
Accident near Vanderhoof Chair Thiessen expressed his condolences for a young lady that passed away in a traffic accident near Vanderhoof.

Receipt of Verbal
Reports Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Brien

2021-14-26 "That the verbal reports of the various Board of Directors be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

RCMP Media Release
-Rescue and Enforcement
Operation Underway near
Houston, BC Director Fisher brought forward concerns regarding wording in the RCMP's media release issued November 18, 2021 – Rescue and Enforcement Operation Underway near Houston, BC. He spoke of the situation being a local issue and the importance of focusing on reconciliation, honesty and safety.

Discussion took place regarding the complexity of the issue and the current situation. The Memorandum of Understanding between Canada, British Columbia and the Wet'suwet'en was brought forward, along with the need for local government to participate in the process.

Elected Officials First Nations training was discussed. Staff are researching training opportunities and programs for Board members.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Morgan
Seconded by Director Brien

2021-14-31 "In accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Board of Directors that matters pertaining to Section 90(2)(b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party (Cycle 16 Trail) must be closed to the public, therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Funk

2021-14-32

“That the meeting be adjourned at 3:33 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services