

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Thursday, February 8, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill  
Shane Brienen  
Leroy Dekens  
Martin Elphee  
Judy Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Shirley Moon  
Kevin Moutray  
Chris Newell  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Stoney Stoltenberg  
Sarrah Storey

Directors Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle  
Absent Henry Wiebe, Village of Burns Lake

Alternate Directors Marilyn Berglund, Village of Granisle  
Charlie Rensby, Village of Burns Lake

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
Megan D'Arcy, Agriculture Coordinator – via Zoom – left at 12:04 p.m.  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – via Zoom  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Penni Adams, Program Manager, Northwest Invasive Plant Council – via Zoom– left at 12:04 p.m.  
Mike Pangman, Field Coordinator, Northwest Invasive Plant Council – via Zoom– left at 12:04 p.m.

Media Saddman Zaman, LD News – left at 12:04 p.m., returned at 1:07 p.m., left at 2:12 p.m., returned at 2:16 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

**FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2024-2-1

“That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 8, 2024 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Curtis Helgesen, CAO provided the Oath of Office to Marilyn Berglund, Alternate Director, Village of Granisle.

**MINUTES**

Committee of the Whole  
Minutes – January 11, 2024

Moved by Director Dekens  
Seconded by Director Storey

C.W.2024-2-2

“That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2024 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**DELEGATION**

**NORTHWEST INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL (NWIPC) – Penni Adams, Program Manager and Mike Pangman, Field Coordinator Re: Update**

Chair Parker welcomed Penni Adams, Program Manager and Mike Pangman, Field Coordinator, Northwest Invasive Plant Council.

Ms. Adams and Mr. Pangman provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC)

- Historical Overview
- Partnerships – funding, strategic, collaborative
- Regional Invasive Species Organizations – Provincial Overview
- Invasive Plant Management Areas (IPMA)
  - o 3 within the RDBN
- What is an “invasive plant”?
- How NWIPC manages invasive plants?
- Cost of invasive plant management – impacts of inflation
- High level work planning for 2024
- Priorities for surveys and treatments
- Sample of priority species in the RDBN.

## **DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

### **NORTHWEST INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL (NWIPC) – Penni Adams, Program Manager and Mike Pangman, Field Coordinator Re: Update (Cont'd)**

The following was discussed:

- Field scabious
  - o Less treatment than past years
  - o Management through intensive grazing a viable option
    - Control by not allowing it to go to seed
    - Requires continuous management
    - Need support and buy in by property owners
      - Promote through RDBN sources
    - Encouraging intensive grazing
  - o Electoral Area G (Houston/Rural) Buck Flats area identified as one of the largest polygons for field scabious
    - Funding infrastructure such as fences to manage field scabious
    - NWIPC does not have a funding mechanism for infrastructure
- Canada Thistle
  - o Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)
    - Significant growth
    - Cost to the agriculture sector
    - Highway right of ways a concern
  - o Best time to treat Canada Thistle is the fall
  - o Low priority species
  - o Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure gives direction and provides funding to NWIPC to manage highway right of ways where high priority treatments are identified
    - Coordination with other right of way clearing and operations challenging
- NWIPC funding in comparison to other Invasive Plant Organizations throughout the Province
  - o Some organizations do not have funding to treat invasive plants and only provide education and outreach
  - o Funding increase to NWIPC in the past 8-10 years has been minimal
  - o Ministry of Forests provides 33% of total revenue
  - o Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure provides 35% of revenue
  - o RDBN funding provided to NWIPC focuses on rural properties
- Some areas of invasive plant mitigation are seeing improvements and some areas are more challenging
- Mechanical and chemical invasive plant management
- Promotion of invasive plant management programs
- Invasive plant management on pipeline right of ways
  - o NWIPC involved in the baseline surveys prior to construction
  - o Each section of pipeline is maintained by the Contractors assigned to that section
  - o Federally regulated
  - o Pipeline company issued a Request for Proposals for vegetation control including noxious weeds.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Adams and Mr. Pangman for attending the meeting.

**Break for lunch at 12:00 p.m.**

**Reconvened at 1:00 p.m.**

**REPORTS**

North Central Local  
Government Association  
Resolutions

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2024-2-3

“That the Committee receive the Director of Corporate Services’ North Central Local Government Association Resolutions memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following resolution topics were discussed:

- *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*
  - Director Lambert and Greenaway will bring forward information to staff
- *Land Act*
  - Potential impacts to forests, mines, industry, hunting, tourism, etc.
  - Review entire scope and determine direction moving forward
- Old Growth Deferral areas on the Crown Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) landbase
  - Purposes of Crown ALR land for farming/future farming
  - Reallocating Old Growth Deferral areas to locations outside of ALR designations
  - Additional research required
- Search and Rescue Capabilities
- Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Workers
  - One of the only jurisdictions with restrictions in place
  - Impacts to number of healthcare works
- Housing needs for smaller communities
- Healthcare for long term and complex care in small communities
- Housing for seniors
- Northwest Invasive Plant Council funding to align with the Consumer Price Index
  - Coordination with Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Emergency Support Services (ESS) Trained Managers need to be funded by the Province to ensure retention of people in those positions

## **REPORTS (CONT'D)**

- Streamline and shorten the length of time required to educate medical professionals
- Water Hazard Buoys in freshwater to identify obstacles
- Forest industry shutdowns – tenure reverts back to the province and not remain with the company.

### Review of Remuneration and Procedure Bylaws/Policy Considerations

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Electronic Participation section of the Procedure Bylaw
  - Number of meetings allowed to attend virtually is limiting
  - Hybrid meeting options
    - Challenges to Chair hybrid meetings
  - Importance of having cameras on
    - Connectivity challenges may not allow for cameras to be on
  - Allowing electronic participation at the discretion of the Chair
  - Per diem rates for electronic participation
    - Cost effectiveness of attending meetings virtually
  - Ability to attend virtually allows for consideration of weather events, sickness, etc.
- Interaction during in-person meetings
- Challenges of attending meetings in person due to work and other commitments
- awareness of time commitments for elected officials when running for the position
- District of Vanderhoof Electronic Meeting Policy
- Ensuring quorum is maintained
  - Alternate Director attendance
- Flexibility needed regarding leaving the meeting for longer than 5 minutes when attending virtually
- In-Camera virtual attendance
  - Ensuring privacy
- Communication and good governance
- Financial analysis of cost of in-person meetings and virtual meetings
  - Staff will provide information at a future meeting
- Travel per diem to compensate Directors travelling long distances
- CRA Requirements for travel claims.

### Minor Service Budgets

Moved by Director Storey  
Seconded by Director Dekens

### C.W.2024-2-4

“That the Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer’s Minor Service Budgets memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Bulkley Valley Regional Pool Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
-Lobby Upgrade Project Seconded by Director Atrill

C.W.2024-2-5 "That the Committee defer the Bulkley Valley Valley Regional Pool Lobby Upgrade Project to the February 22, 2024 Board Meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

District of Houston – Letter of Moved by Director Newell  
Support Request Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

C.W.2024-2-6 "That the Committee recommend that the Board provide a Letter of Support to the District of Houston for their funding application to the Northern Healthy Communities Fund - Capacity Building Program."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE**

Canfor – Forest Stewardship Moved by Director Storey  
Plan Amendment Requiring Seconded by Director Dekens  
Approval (FSP 2 ARA-015)  
- License Addition FL A 98546

C.W.2024-2-7 "That the Committee receive the correspondence regarding Canfor-Forest Stewardship Plan Amendment Requiring Approval (FSP 2 ARA-015) – License Addition FL A 98546."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Letter from Brad and Nadine Moved by Director Lambert  
Hoy, Fort St. James Seconded by Director Brienens  
-Emergency and Disaster  
Management Act

C.W.2024-2-8 "That the Committee receive the correspondence regarding a Letter from Brad and Nadine Hoy, Fort St. James – *Emergency and Disaster Management Act.*"

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)**

Letter from Margo Maley,  
Fort St. James-Emergency and  
Disaster Management Act      Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

C.W.2024-2-10      "That the Committee receive the correspondence regarding a  
Letter from Marog Maley, Fort St. James – *Emergency and  
Disaster Management Act.*"

(All/Directors/Majority)      CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board indicated they will provide a follow-up letter to  
Brad and Nadine Hoy and Margo Maley regarding the  
*Emergency and Disaster Management Act.*

Fraser Valley Regional  
District - Emergency and  
Disaster Management Act      Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Alternate Director Rensby

C.W.2024-2-11      "That the Committee receive the correspondence from the  
Fraser Valley Regional District - *Emergency and Disaster  
Management Act.*"

(All/Directors/Majority)      CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Office of the Premier  
-Response to RDBN Letter  
Submission – Emergency  
and Disaster Management Act      Moved by Alternate Director Rensby  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

C.W.2024-2-12      "That the Committee receive the correspondence from the  
Office of the Premier in response to the RDBN Letter  
Submission - *Emergency and Disaster Management Act.*"

(All/Directors/Majority)      CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regional District of Nanaimo  
-Legislative Reform Initiative  
Update      Moved by Director Moon  
Seconded by Director Storey

C.W.2024-2-13      "That the Committee receive the correspondence from the  
Regional District of Nanaimo – Legislative Reform Initiative  
Update."

(All/Directors/Majority)      CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)**

Union of B.C. Municipalities  
-Northwest BC Resource  
Benefits Alliance Letter of  
Support

Moved by Director Elphee  
Seconded by Director Brienen

C.W.2024-2-14

"That the Committee receive the correspondence from the Union of B.C. Municipalities – Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance Letter of Support."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**NEW BUSINESS**

Invitation to Search and  
Rescue

The Board discussed inviting the five Search and Rescue Teams within the region to provide information to the Board regarding SAR capabilities.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2024-2-15

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:33 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of  
Corporate Services