

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 10, 2024

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| PRESENT: | Chair | Clint Lambert |
| | Directors | Judy Greenaway Chris Newell Mark Parker Stoney Stoltenberg Michael Riis-Christianson |
| | Director Absent | Shirley Moon, Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) |
| | Alternate Director | Alex Kulchar, Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) |
| | Staff | Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – left at 3:05 p.m. John Illes, Chief Financial Officer – arrived at 2:20 p.m. Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning |
| | Others | Kevin Moutray, District of Vanderhoof – left at 2:48 p.m. Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle – left at 3:10 p.m., returned at 3:15 p.m. Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James |

CALL TO ORDER Chair Lambert called the meeting to order at 2:15 a.m.

AGENDA Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2024-6-1 “That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for October 10, 2024 be approved.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -June 6, 2024 Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2024-6-2 "That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of June 6, 2024 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

Community Works Funds and Regional Grant in Aid Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

RDC.2024-6-3 1) "That the Committee recommend that the Board approve in principle allocating up to a maximum \$724,000 annually from the RDBN's Community Works Fund allocation to the Environmental Services Capital Budget in the 2025-2029 draft financial plans.

2) That the Committee direct staff to develop an amended Grant in Aid Policy and new Community Works Fund Allocation Policy that reflects the changes to the program and recommends alternative actions if the full Grant in Aid balance is not spent annually."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Flexibility for rural directors to utilize funding with fewer criteria limitations
- Creating greater flexibility to support more areas and projects
- Revisit funding allocation yearly through the budget process
- Staff will bring forward Environmental Services Capital Budget, Community Works Funds and RBA Funding for discussion in November
- Providing consistent tax rates for taxpayers
 - Providing information to the taxpayer and not for profits regarding various grant funding policies and allocations
 - Proactive approach to utilizing funds
- Funding allocation
 - Year over year
 - Administrative reserves
 - Board decision on use of administrative reserves
 - Budget process to allow funding to be allocated to not for profit societies
- Staffing considerations

REPORT (CONT'D)

- Proposed amended Grant in Aid Policy
 - o Increasing CAO approval spending authorization
- Intention that all funding sources will be fully allocated and/or spent with no net decrease in taxation in five years
- Prioritizing support for societies
- Previous Community Works Fund agreement will have to be spent on eligible projects by 2029
 - o Staff will provide a list of committed projects
- Inter government transfer of funds where eligible
- Transferring funds to administrative reserves
 - o Will have the ability to transfer to grant in aid between electoral areas
- Regional District Grant in Aid will replace electoral area grant in aid
- Alcan grant in lieu will not be available under the proposed model for Electoral Areas D and E
- Staff will bring forward information through the 2025 budget process.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Transit Service – Rural Contribution Options: 2025 Budget

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- 2025 Budget contribution options
 - o \$90,000 requisition including all municipalities
 - o \$115,000 maximum requisition including all municipalities except Telkwa
 - o \$115,000 maximum requisition including all municipalities except Telkwa and all electoral areas according to population
 - o \$115,000 maximum requisition including all municipalities except Telkwa and all electoral areas in the amount of \$2,500
- Municipalities, as participants determine the maximum requisition
- Transportation for vulnerable populations
- Telkwa's withdrawal from the service
- Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Electoral Area C is willing to provide funding of \$2,500
- Electoral Area Directors can consider other options to support the service as they are currently not participants in the service such as grant in aid and RBA funding
- Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) transit service and contributions
- Transit Agreement with the Province expires spring 2025
- Utilizing capital reserves for 2025/2026 to fund transit
- Municipalities are considering the Regional Transit Bylaw at upcoming Council meetings

