

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
(Committee of the Whole)

Thursday, January 26, 2017

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Eileen Benedict
Shane Brienens
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
John Illes
Dwayne Lindstrom
Rob MacDougall
Bill Miller
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Absent Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers
Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle
Rob Newell, Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order a 2:47 p.m.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Fisher

AG.2017-1-1

"That the Agriculture Committee Meeting Agenda of January 26, 2017 be adopted; and further, that the Supplementary agenda be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -November 24, 2016 & Agriculture Forum –November 9, 2016 – Minutes/Report

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Petersen

AG.2017-1-2

"That the minutes of the Agriculture Committee meeting of November 24, 2016 and Agriculture Forum – November 9, 2016 Minutes/report be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will bring forward the November 9, 2016 Agriculture Forum Minutes/Report to a future Agriculture Committee Meeting for further discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Director Fisher

AG.2017-1-3

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence titled “British Columbia Building Code 2012 – Building Inspection Regulations for Farm Buildings.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning provided an overview of the “British Columbia building Code 2012 – Building Inspection Regulations for Farm Buildings”. He noted that in BC all building including farm buildings are subject to the *BC Building Code* and the *B.C. Building Code* requires that farm buildings must comply with the requirements of the National *Farm Building Code of Canada 1995*. “Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Building Bylaw 1634, 2012” does not apply to a farm building located on property which is classified as a farm by the B.C. Assessment Authority at the time of construction. There is still a requirement to meet the *BC Building Code*, however the RDBN plays no role in regulating that compliance.

Director Thiessen brought forward concerns regarding issues occurring in the Vanderhoof area wherein commercial and industrial buildings are being placed on agricultural lands without building permits even though they are not farm buildings. He mentioned that the District of Vanderhoof is now requiring building permits for farm buildings within the District boundaries.

Director Miller voiced concerns in regard to restrictions and regulations on farm buildings on agricultural lands. He spoke of the challenges associated with farming and the narrow margins for success.

Discussion took place in regard to the distinction between industrial use and farm use. The RDBN’s Building Bylaw is similar to the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and Peace River Regional District. The Cariboo, Thompson-Nicola, Squamish-Lillooet and Fraser Valley Regional District’s Building Bylaws have limitations on buildings exempted from the request for a building permit.

INVITATION

Invitation

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

AG.2017-1-4

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the invitation titled “Carrots to Cattle 2017 – February 17-18, 2017 – Smithers, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

INVITATION

Water Sustainability Act Information Session

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Petersen

AG.2017-1-5

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the invitation titled
“*Water Sustainability Act* Information Session.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Miller attended a workshop in Vanderhoof hosted by the Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen’s Association in regard to the Water License Application process. He noted that it was a valuable workshop to attend. Director Miller mentioned his concerns in regard to lack of training at Front Counter BC/Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations when submitting a Water License Application. Director Greenaway indicated that he made an appointment at Front Counter BC in Fort St. James. Director Parker commented that the registration free has been waived until December 31, 2017.

SPECIAL IN-CAMERA MEETING

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Greenaway

AG.2017-1-6

“In accordance with Section 90 (1)(c) of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that matters pertaining to labour relations or other employee relations be held in confidence, and therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director MacDougall

A.G.2017-1-7

“That the meeting be adjourned at 3:11 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant