

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Thursday, November 9, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Bill Miller

Directors Taylor Bachrach  
Chris Beach  
Eileen Benedict  
Shane Brienen – left at 2:17 p.m.  
Mark Fisher  
Dwayne Lindstrom  
Thomas Liversidge  
Rob MacDougall  
Rob Newell  
Mark Parker  
Jerry Petersen  
Darcy Repen  
Gerry Thiessen

Director Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 1:13 p.m., left at 1:53 p.m.  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator – arrived at 2:18 p.m.  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Anne Marie Sam, Nak’azdli First Nation  
Michael Riis-Christianson, Burns Lake – arrived at 12:00 p.m., left at 12:26 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 11:43 a.m.

**AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA** Moved by Director Beach  
Seconded by Director Liversidge

C.W.2017-9-1 “That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole meeting of November 9, 2017 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

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

**MINUTES**

Committee of the Whole Minutes – October 12, 2017 Moved by Director MacDougall  
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2017-9-2 “That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of October 12, 2017 be received.”

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

## **DELEGATION**

### **Anne Marie Sam, Nak'azdli First Nation RE: Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps Report**

Chair Miller welcomed Anne Marie Sam, Nak'azdli First Nation.

Ms. Sam recognized the traditional territory of the Ts'il Kaz Koh (Burns Lake Band).

The Nak'azdli First Nation recognized in 2010 when the camp was being built for Mount Milligan Mine the impacts and potential future impacts to the Nak'azdli First Nations community and surrounding communities. Nak'azdli First Nation partnered with the District of Fort St. James, Lake Babine Nation and Tl'azt'en Nation to track impacts to the communities in regard to requirements under the Environmental Assessment approval process in comparison to identifying what is important to the community.

Ms. Sam provided a brief overview of her past visit to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako as the BC New Democratic Party Candidate for the Nechako Lakes during the May, 2017 election. She is also a student at the University of British Columbia in the Mining Engineer program. She began the program to assist in understanding the development of Mount Milligan Mine. The mine site is also located in her grandfather's hunting and trapping territory. She spoke to the need for economic development and to build opportunities for economic development together and inclusive of communities. She spoke of having very little involvement in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process in regard to Mt. Milligan and shortly after that process moved forward there were three EA processes undertaken for proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and five 500-1000 man camps in the area. Ms. Sam brought forward concerns to the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council Chiefs in regard to monitoring the impacts to the communities from industrial development in the area. Ms. Sam presented the social community impacts to the past Minister of Energy Mines and Natural Gas, the Honourable Rich Coleman in regard to community concerns not reviewed under the EA process, service levels at the hospital, liquid and solid waste disposal, traffic impacts, etc. She noted that Nak'azdli First Nations experienced impacts within their community in regard to an increase in prostitution and illegal drug dealing.

### **Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps Promoting Healthy Communities in Settings of Industrial Change**

- Bringing First Nations, Industry and Government working together to develop solutions
- Benefits of economic development
  - o Communities attract members to return home
  - o If members do come home there needs to be services available
- Investment in local infrastructure
  - o How do we plan for retention in the north?
- Impacts:
  - o to health services
    - Northern Health indicated they did not have information in regard to the impacts of work camps to communities
  - o Availability for low income rentals diminishes
- Industry indicated that they were not responsible for employees once they were off site of the work camp
- Can have economic benefits to the business community but there is a lack of capacity to plan for the impacts to communities

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

### **Anne Marie Sam, Nak'azdli First Nation RE: Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps Report**

Ms. Sam provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

#### **Preventing Violence & Promoting Wellbeing**

*"We want to be 10 steps ahead, not recovering from it." - Nak'azdli First Nations Member*

Two key report findings (available online):

1. Social and cultural effects of industrial camps not effectively considered in planning for economic development
2. Model of temporary industrial camps relies on mobile workforce disconnected from the region, reinforcing and recreating historical patterns of capacity strains and violence

#### **Prevent Violence & Promoting Wellbeing in Remote Communities**

- BC Government Cross-Ministry Working Group working on the issues
- Formation of Joint Taskforce to implement preparedness strategies in remote & vulnerable communities
- Community coordinators whose job is to prepare the communities for industrial camps (especially crisis response plans)
- Received funding March 31, 2017 to continue implementing the Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps report
- Lake Babine Nation hired two positions to continue works
- Nak'azdli First Nation conducted ending violence and community workshops

#### **Strategies for communities – community, industry and agency**

- Sexual assault, trafficking and drugs and alcohol
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Health
  - o 22% higher rate of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's) in northern B.C.
- Cultural continuity
- Infrastructure

Ms. Sam noted the need to update the EA process to include community consultation and for communities to have the ability to have controlled assessments and develop a process to address community concerns. She spoke of the importance of the work in northern BC, she has presented to the District of Fort St. James Council, Washington D.C. US, Ottawa, ON, Saskatoon, SK, UN Human Rights Conference in Williams Lake in May, 2017. Ms. Sam noted the impacts to women in regard to industrial development and promoting healthy safe guards for women as being a key focus of the discussions. She mentioned encouraging women to work in a camp setting but providing safe guards for them in regard to harassment in an environment where men greatly outnumber women in the workforce.

Ms. Sam commented that in discussions with Chair Miller in regard to the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) there is a need to bring forward the impacts to communities to the provincial government and for more resources to be provided to the communities to mitigate the impacts of industrial development.

Director Repen spoke of his experience working for industry and mine development in his role as a camp paramedic in northeast B.C. and the impacts he identified in regard to health services. He mentioned the number of days employees work consecutively during the construction of an industrial development can often be substantial in comparison to the operation of a mine with a two week on and two week off schedule. He commented that the workforce being pushed to work beyond a logical limit has a large impact to the health and welfare of employees and their

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

### **Anne Marie Sam, Nak'azdli First Nation RE: Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps Report**

families. Director Repen identified the need to change legislation in regard to the number of days a person can work consecutively. Ms. Sam noted that in conducting research for the report they found that the stress level, health and mental health of the men working in a camp setting often impacts family health once they return home.

Discussion took place in regard to Mt. Milligan providing a legacy to the area communities. Ms. Sam mentioned that Nak'azdli First Nation signed an Impact Benefit Agreement in April, 2016 after the project was completed. The focus was to develop capacity for Nak'azdli First Nation members to be guardians of the area and be on the land. Mt. Milligan clearly identified that they did not wish to build infrastructure. A Community Sustainability Committee has been formed to identify ideas in which the company can invest in the community. Ms. Sam noted that the company had initially agreed to build houses in the community but the parent company of the mine was sold and the direction changed and a camp was built at the facility. Ms. Sam also noted that they are working to increase its community employee numbers at the mine. Centerra Gold purchased Thompson Creek Minerals (owner of Mt. Milligan) in 2016 and Nak'azdli First Nation is developing a relationship with the new company.

Chair Miller spoke of the lack of follow up after the EA process is completed to ensure that there is monitoring of the requirements being fulfilled. Ms. Sam commented that in building the camp at the Mt. Milligan Mine site they formed a company mandated socioeconomic committee to review and monitor the impacts but it only studied the employees while they were at the camp. She mentioned that the Auditor General has reported that there is a need for follow-up in the EA process. Ms. Sam noted that the Guardian program is assisting in identifying issues and follow-up reporting. Nak'azdli First Nation is also ensuring that they are on the ground with government regulators when they are on the mine site to conduct their own monitoring and follow-up.

Discussion took place in regard to the number of local hires at the mine site during construction and operations.

Ms. Sam mentioned that during their research it was identified that there was an increased number of sexual assaults during the life of the camp located on reserve near Fraser Lake and the medical facilities in the area were not equipped with the appropriate testing kits. The information was brought forward to Northern Health that the services need to be provided in the communities. Director Brienen commented that as a representative of the Northwest Regional Hospital District Board he would bring the issue forward.

Nak'azdli First Nation held a community meeting for its members living off reserve in Vancouver. The women identified at the meeting that they needed to remove themselves from the lifestyle of addictions that they were experiencing while living in the Fort St. James area. Ms. Sam noted that Nak'azdli First Nation has identified the need to provide services in their community to support people with addictions and other lifestyle concerns. Moving to a larger community/city such as Vancouver does not lessen the vulnerability that people experience.

Chair Miller thanked Ms. Sam for attending the meeting and commented that the report aligns with issues within other communities throughout the region and the initiatives being undertaken by the RBA.

**Break for lunch 12:26 p.m.**

**Reconvened at 1:02 p.m.**

## **REPORTS**

Northwest BC Resource  
Benefits Alliance  
– Authorization for Directors  
to Attend November 24, 2017  
Meeting in Terrace, B.C.

Moved by Director Benedict  
Seconded by Director Repen

C.W.2017-9-3

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize attendance of the CAO and any Directors wishing to attend the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance meeting in Terrace, B.C. on November 24, 2017.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Solid Waste Management Plan  
-Authorization for Directors to  
Attend Site Visits

Moved by Director Bachrach  
Seconded by Director Liversidge

C.W.2017-9-4

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize Directors to attend site visits along with the consultants during the review of the Solid Waste Management Plan.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **PRE-BUDGET PLANNING SESSION**

### **Chair Bill Miller, Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural)**

Chair Miller commented that the Regional Board may identify and provide recommendations and priorities for staff during the Pre-Budget Planning Session.

### **Regional Board Recommendations and Priorities**

#### **Administration**

- Pre-election Orientation Package
  - o Information package for individuals that have been declared candidates for an election
    - Including information in regard to various committees, societies and specifics for each electoral area
- Information Technology (IT) - Finance Department
  - o Communications
    - No further initiatives at this time
  - o Review digital agenda process
    - Finance Department will bring forward a report for consideration including potential costs and staff impacts
- Service Sharing
  - o Equipment sharing
  - o Building/Bylaw Service/Inspection
- Intercommunity Transit
  - o Ongoing responsibility Regional Transit Committee and staff
- With improvement of communication potential opportunities for decentralization of Administration
  - o Under Regional District and located within other communities

## **PRE-BUDGET PLANNING SESSION (CONT'D)**

### **Finance**

- Information Technology – High Priority
  - o Options for Digital Agenda's Report
  - o Internet Security/High Speed Internet Report
- Carbon Emission Reporting
  - o Discussion to determine potential projects for carbon reserve funds
  - o Staff will bring forward a report
  - o Community Energy Association Delegation coming to a future Regional District meeting to discuss electric vehicle super charger stations.

### **Regional Economic Development**

- Tourism - #4 RDBN Strategic Workforce Opportunities Team Priorities
  - o Destination BC Cooperative Marketing Partner Program
    - 360° Virtual Reality Technology
    - Very good advertising
  - o Staff to contact Destination BC to determine cost and investigate 360° virtual reality technology initiative and how to potentially move forward in RDBN
  - o Potential summer student program
- Promote housing prices/family lifestyle/availability/ease of development and cost of development
  - o Promote opportunities for residents/business/small manufacturing/retirees
- Chamber of Commerce Initiative – good initiative
- Coordinate Workshops Entrepreneurship – ensure not repeating service
  - o Support to candidates preparing a business plan for the RDBN Startup Business Contest
- Work with small, medium and large business to start up in the region
  - o Green manufacturing of waste material to create employment and products
    - Environmental Services Department and Solid Waste Management Plan Review
    - Forestry initiatives – eg. Wooden spoons made from aspen trees
    - Collaborate and work together across RDBN Departments

### **Planning and Land Use Management**

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning provided a brief overview of the following:

- **Planning and Land Use Management**
  - o Similar service allocation as 2017
  - o Work plan may be adjusted depending on the uncertainty in regard to pipeline development and pipeline construction in the region
- **GIS and House Number**
  - o Similar service allocation as 2017
  - o IT review of GIS system
- **Building Inspection and Bylaw Enforcement Function**
  - o Half time Building Inspector/Bylaw Enforcement Officer added
  - o In discussions with member municipalities in regard to Building Inspection services
  - o Focus on illegal building enforcement
- **Emergency Preparedness and Response Function**
  - o Similar service allocation as 2017
  - o Regional ESS (Emergency Support Services) strategy with member municipalities
    - Maybe requirements for additional resources for ESS
    - Further discussions required and on going
  - o Flood risk assessment and mitigation plan for Ebenezer Flats – grant funding applied for currently
  - o Hold an emergency response exercise for staff and stakeholders
    - 2019 hold an emergency response exercise for elected officials

## **PRE-BUDGET PLANNING SESSION (CONT'D)**

Director Repen spoke of meeting with the Salvation Army in regard to the provision of ESS. He suggested staff contacting the Salvation Army Regional representative to discuss options.

- **Fire Protection Services Function**
  - o In depth analysis of Fire Departments in the region and reviewing their long term sustainability
  - o Staff will bring forward recommendations in 2018
    - potential budget implications in 2019

Staff will continue to follow up with Equity Mine issues and Emergency Response Planning. Staff has provided an open invitation and will follow up with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources to attend a future RDBN Board meeting to discuss Equity Mine and gravel pits in the Smithers area.

Discussion took place in regard to the upcoming legalization of cannabis in Canada. Mr. Llewellyn indicated that staff are awaiting the province's decision in regard to provincial regulations for the legalization of cannabis in order to determine any changes required to RDBN zoning bylaws. For the production of medical marijuana the RDBN has amended its zoning bylaws accordingly to address the production and growing of medical marijuana where it is allowed under provincial regulation.

### **Environmental Services**

Chair Miller noted that the Solid Waste Management Plan will be a focus for the Environmental Services Department in 2018.

Director Lindstrom complimented staff on the condition of the Electoral Area "D" Transfer Station.

Request for Quotes will be completed in regard to the purchase of new equipment for the Environmental Services Department.

Staff will bring forward reports in regard to the budget items discussed at a future RDBN meeting.

Pre-Budget Planning Session Moved by Director Benedict  
Seconded by Director Beach

C.W.2017-9-5 "That the Committee of the Whole receive the Pre-Budget Planning Session Report."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **CORRESPONDENCE & INVITATION**

Correspondence and Invitation Moved by Director MacDougall  
Seconded by Director Brienen

C.W.2017-9-6 "That the Committee of the Whole receive the following:

- o correspondence from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – Expert Hired to Consult with Taxi Industry and Help Develop Made-in-B.C. Solution; and,
- o invitation titled "The BC Chamber Cabinet Ministers Breakfast Series: The Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology – November 17, 2017 – Surrey, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **CORRESPONDENCE & INVITATION**

Director Repen spoke of issues in regard to taxi services in Telkwa. He mentioned that he had recently spoken with a resident from Telkwa in regard to the province, through the transit framework, developing a solution that would also address future modes of transportation such as self-driving vehicles and a micro transit system.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Mount Milligan's Environmental Assessment Amendment and Application for Review under Sec. 31 – Temporary Water Withdrawal**

Mr. Llewellyn provided an overview of the District of Vanderhoof and Mount Milligan's request for support for its Environmental Assessment Amendment and Application for Review under Sec. 31. Mount Milligan is addressing an issue in regard to its water supply for the mine. They are requesting that the BC Environmental Assessment Office consider, from January 1 to April 30, 2018 the use of water from Esker and Philip Lakes located in close proximity to the mine under Section 31. This request is to avoid shutdown of the Mount Milligan mine in order to pursue a longer term amendment to its Environmental Assessment Certificate. The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has indicated that a formal process would begin at the earliest, February, 2018, which Mount Milligan has indicated that if they have not found an alternate water supply by the beginning of 2018 they will need to suspend operations.

Director Thiessen voiced concerns in regard to the serious impacts to the region should Centerra Gold owners of Mount Milligan have to suspend operations. Approximately 25% of Mount Milligan's over 500 employees live in the RDBN. The loss of income and revenue for residents and businesses in the region would be substantial. He commented that due to the lack of snow pack in the past few years there has been a significant impact to the available water for mine operations. Director Thiessen mentioned that in communications at a public meeting held by Centerra Gold the proposed water usage from the lakes will draw down the lake levels by approximately 4 cm during the January 1 to April 31, 2018 timeframe. He spoke of the importance of Mount Milligan to the region and the need to support its Environmental Assessment Amendment and Application for review under Section 31 of the *BC Environmental Assessment Act*. Director MacDougall commented that the issue has recently been brought to his attention as well and he reiterated the importance of Mount Milligan to the region.

Director Repen requested that the information be forwarded to the Village of Telkwa Council to consider providing a letter of support.

Discussion took place in regard to Section 31 of the *BC Environmental Assessment Act* legislation and a formal Environmental Assessment Process and the potential length of time required for the EA process.



## **CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)**

District of Vanderhoof  
-Letter to BC Environmental  
Office re: Mount Milligan's  
Environmental Assessment  
Amendment and Application for  
Review Under Sec. 31

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Brienen

C.W.2017-9-7

"That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors write a letter of support in regard to the District of Vanderhoof's letter to the BC Environmental Office in support of Mount Milligan's Environmental Assessment Amendment and Application for Review Under Section 31 of the BC *Environmental Assessment Act*."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Municipal Insurance Authority  
& RDBN Celebrating 30 Years

Director Benedict commented that while in attendance at the Municipal Insurance Authority's AGM at the UBCM 2017 Convention the Regional District was presented a wooden plaque celebrating 30 years as a Chartered Member of the MIA.

Softwood Lumber Agreement  
Update

Chair Miller provided an update in regard to a recent conference call with Susan Yurkovich, President, BC Lumber Trade Council in regard to the Softwood Lumber Agreement.

- Final decision came forward
- American industry has implemented an average 20.83% duty
  - includes anti-dumping and tariff
  - most of the industry is a reduced percentage
- Industry will start the appeal process immediately
- Next step - appeal to the International trade commission
  - American body
  - Will not find in Canada's favour
  - The Commission will try to find injury or threat of injury to American industry if tariff removed
- The American Industry is making more money than they have made in 35 years
- Spot Index currently \$549 Canadian for random length S-P-F (Spruce-Pine-Fir)
- Break even \$180 per 1000 board feet of lumber
- At this point there are still Canadian industry profits
  - Offset is the price of lumber
- Long term impacts
  - Potentially does make Canadian lumber more expensive in the US by 20.83%
  - Gives other countries the ability to build market share in the US
- Next move – COFI (Council of Forest Industries) and the province is planning a trip to Asia to increase market share

**NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)**

- Questioned: where does the money go?
  - Into a Customs Protections Association
    - The funds will be held until final litigation is complete
- Last time the Softwood Lumber Agreement was negotiated 80% of the funds were returned to the Canadian Industry 20% to the American Industry
  - The 80% of the funds returned to Canadian Industry – a number of those industries invested the money back into the US
  - The funds originally came from stumpage revenue, public ownership and directly from communities
  - Contractors and suppliers took a 5-10% reduction

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Repen  
Seconded by Director Beach

C.W.2017-9-8

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:24 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Bill Miller, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant