

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 7, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Rob Newell

Directors Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen

Director Absent Michael Riis-Christianson, Electoral Area "B" (Burns Lake Rural)

Alternate Director Doug Bysouth, Electoral Area "B" (Burns Lake Rural)

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Protective Services – arrived at 4:07 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Newell called the meeting to order at 3:41 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Alternate Director Bysouth

RDC.2019-3-1

"That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for March 7, 2019 be approved."

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

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2019-3-2

"That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for March 7, 2019 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting."

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

MINUTES

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes -January 17, 2019

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2019-3-3

"That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of January 17, 2019 be received as amended."

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

REPORTS

Fort St. James Secondary School– Request for Grant in Aid – Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural)

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2019-3-4

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Fort St. James Secondary School be given \$1,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural) for a Grade 12 Scholarship.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Electoral Area Allocations of Federal Gas Tax Funds -Fourth Quarter 2018

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2019-3-5

“That the Rural Directors receive the Accounting Clerk’s February 21, 2019 memo titled “Electoral Area Allocations of Federal Gas Tax Funds – Fourth Quarter 2018.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural Director’s Travel and Conference Remuneration

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Alternate Director Bysouth

RDC.2019-3-6

“That the Rural Directors receive the Chief Financial Officer’s February 26, 2019 memo titled “Rural Director’s Travel and Conference Remuneration Budget.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to the importance for Rural Directors to be in attendance at a number of meetings and to ensure as an elected official Directors are interacting with their electorate. Chair Newell commented that it is beneficial to provide meeting reports to the Regional Board and/or Rural Directors Committee.

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer clarified the need for Regional Board ratification for Directors’ attendance at meetings in regard to taxable benefits.

Discussion took place regarding staff including costs for attending events. Staff will provide the information in the future.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Land Referral File No. 7404781 Ministry of Transportation And Infrastructure

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2019-3-7

“That the “Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 7404781” be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land Referral 7404781.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

REPORT

Friends of the Smithers Public Library– Request for Grant in Aid – Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural) Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2019-3-8

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Friends of the Smithers Public Library be given \$2,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural) for costs associated with the Community Repair Café Program.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Grant Distribution

Discussion took place in regard to the recently announced Provincial Northern Capital Infrastructure Grant. Staff will provide the allocation and distribution model information to the Regional Board once the Provincial Government has released the information.

2. Protective Services

Addressed at the March 7, 2019 Special Board Meeting.

3. Wildfire Management

Addressed at the March 7, 2019 Special Board Meeting.

4. FCM Attendance

Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference
-May 30-June 2, 2019
-Quebec City, Quebec

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2019-3-9

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize Director Newell’s attendance at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference May 30 to June 2, 2019 in Quebec City, Quebec.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Cell Coverage locations (for discussion with Trans Canada Pipelines)

Chair Newell and Director Lambert recently attended an ABC Communications Webinar. Chair Newell mentioned that the information provided in regard to past happenings and direction taken in regard to wireless cell coverage was interesting.

Chair Newell spoke of having a similar meeting with CityWest in the future.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (CONT'D)

Discussion took place in regard to the works being conducted by Rio Tinto Alcan and Telus to construct towers and infrastructure on the Southside and Northside of Francois Lake. Rio Tinto has provided mapping information of proposed infrastructure locations to Director Lambert. Director Lambert noted that discussions are also taking place in regard to the towers having wifi capabilities and an additional tower to increase coverage.

Discussion took place in regard to potential funding sources for additional infrastructure. Chair Newell spoke of having discussions with TransCanada Pipelines similar to discussions taking place with Rio Tinto regarding connectivity infrastructure.

NEW BUSINESS

Water Sustainability Act -Licensing Groundwater Use

Director Lambert brought forward concerns in regard to the *Water Sustainability Act* – Licensing Groundwater Use and the potential impact to residential water users. Discussion took place in regard to a clause in the *Act* that pertains to the ability to meter ground water/well water for residential use. Staff will review the *Act* and bring forward information at a future RDBN meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2019-3-10

“That the meeting be adjourned 4:24 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rob Newell, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant