

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 4, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Rob Newell

Directors Mark Fisher
Clint Lambert
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson

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

Alternate Director Bob Hughes, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Cheryl Anderson, Acting Chief Administrative Officer/Manager of Administrative Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Protective Services
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Newell called the meeting to order at 12:49 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2019-4-1

"That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for April 4, 2019 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2019-4-2

"That the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes
-March 7, 2019

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Alternate Director Hughes

RDC.2019-4-3

"That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of March 7, 2019 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Lakes Animal Friendship Society– Request for Grant in Aid – Electoral Areas “B” (Burns Lake Rural) and “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2019-4-4

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Lakes Animal Friendship Society be given \$1,500 grant in aid monies from each of Electoral Areas “B” (Burns Lake Rural) and “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) for costs associated with the construction of a dog park.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Burns Lake & District Seniors Society– Request for Grant in Aid – Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2019-4-5

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Burns Lake & District Seniors Society be given \$1,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural) for an electronic information kiosk.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Moved by Alternate Director Hughes
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2019-4-6

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Fort St. James Bargain Basement be given \$5,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural) for costs associated with relocation and renovations.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Memo

Land Referral File No. 7410065 (McLeod), Electoral Area F

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Alternate Director Hughes

RDC.2019-4-7

“That the “Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 7410065” be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land Referral 7410065.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (CONT'D)

Memo (Cont'd)

Land Referral File No. 7410043 Moved by Director Parker
(Regnier), Electoral Area D Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2019-4-8 "That the Rural Directors Committee defer Crown Land Referral 7410043."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral File No. 7410032 Moved by Director Parker
(Williamson), Electoral Area D Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2019-4-9 "That the "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 7410032" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 7410032."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral File No. 7409756 Moved by Director Petersen
(Crystal Lake Resort)
Electoral Areas D & F Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2019-4-10 "That the "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 7409756" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 7409756."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Connectivity

Chair Newell mentioned he will be attending the BC Broadband Conference April 30 to May 1, 2019 in Richmond, B.C. Directors can provide any information, questions and/or concerns to Chair Newell that they wish to be brought forward at the conference.

Chair Newell spoke of the importance for each Rural Director to be fully aware of the connectivity in each of their electoral areas and determine the feasibility of wireless and fibre options along with backbone infrastructure. He also noted the importance of determining what residents require for adequate connectivity service levels.

Discussion took place in regard to the detailed connectivity report that will be forthcoming from the consultants. John Illes, Chief Financial Officer spoke of the costs to install approximately 4 kms of fibre. Frustrations were brought forward in regard to accessing available funding from the Federal and Provincial Government for connectivity. Mr. Illes mentioned that Northern Development Initiative Trust Connecting British Columbia funding can be applied for by private companies to help pay for infrastructure to provide high-speed internet to rural and remote areas of the province.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (CONT'D)

2. Rural Public Engagement

Chair Newell spoke of the value of public engagement and the challenges associated with connecting with all residents within large geographic electoral areas.

Discussion took place in regard to providing an opportunity for residents to provide feedback and to start dialogue with area residents in regard to a variety of topics.

In the past the Regional District has provided a mail out of a Regional Board Executive Summary and the RDBN newsletter. The RDBN Newsletter is currently distributed digitally to those individuals that have provided their permission to receive the newsletter via e-mail. The RDBN also currently provides an update in the RDBN tax notices distributed by the province on behalf of the Regional District and to its member municipalities to provide with their tax notices. Director Fisher suggested that the information be reviewed by Rural Directors at the beginning of each year.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Conducting polls and sending mail outs
 - Time and cost is a consideration
 - Developing a standard document that could be utilized
- Engaging residents
 - In some areas residents prefer to come forward only when there is an issue
- Importance of Directors initiating/participating in opportunities to engage residents
- Attending Annual General Meetings (AGMs) of organizations and service clubs
 - Helpful to have the date of all AGMs
 - Organizations often do not have confirmed dates for their AGM
 - Potentially request the information on the RDBN Grant in Aid application
- Setting up a meeting (pop-up) location where needed
- Determining a strategy
 - Potentially hire a contractor to develop a strategy
 - Challenges associated in hiring a contractor
- Providing incentives for example an Emergency Kit and a contest where residents answer questions regarding the RDBN to be entered into a draw
- Electronic signage
 - Continuous maintenance and changes are required
- The Regional Economic Development Coordinator attendance at the Foundations in Public Participation course in May, 2019
 - A report will be provided at the completion of the course
 - Include three possible options for the Rural Directors to consider and potentially implement and move forward in 2019.

Grant in Aid Application Amendment

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2019-4-11

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to amend the RDBN Grant in Aid Application to include the date of an organization’s annual general meeting (AGM) and if a date is unknown provide notification to the Electoral Area Director when the date for the organization’s AGM is determined.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

REPORT

Granisle Public Library
– Request for Grant
in Aid – Electoral Area “G”
(Houston Rural)

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2019-4-12

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Granisle Public Library be given \$2,500 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural) for costs associated with technology and database instruction.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2019-4-13

“That the meeting be adjourned 1:38 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rob Newell, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant