



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019

PAGE NO.

ACTION

AGENDA – October 10, 2019

Approve

Supplementary Agenda

Receive

MINUTES

2-4

Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
- September 5, 2019

Receive

DELEGATION

YOUNG AGRARIANS

Jolene Swain, Land Matcher, Central & Northern BC
RE: BC Land Matching Program (via teleconference)

REPORTS

5-6

Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
- Funding of Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser
-Fort George Regional Adaptation
Strategy Projects (2020-2023)

Recommendation
(Page 6)

VERBAL REPORTS

Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Land
Commission Meeting October 3, 2019 - Prince George

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

IN-CAMERA MOTION

In accordance with Section 90(1)(i) of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Committee Members that the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose must be closed to the public and therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.

ADJOURN

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKOAGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
(Committee Of The Whole)Thursday, September 5, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brien
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Brad Layton
Linda McGuire
Jerry Petersen
Bev Playfair
Michael Riis-Christianson
Kim Watt-Senner
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Absent Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake
Rob Newell, Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Media Blair McBride, Lakes District News

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

AGENDAMoved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director LaytonAG.2019-5-1

"That the Agriculture Committee Agenda of September 5, 2019 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLYMINUTESAgriculture Committee
Meeting Minutes
-May 2, 2019Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director BrienAG.2019-5-2

"That the Minutes of the Agriculture Committee Meeting of May 2, 2019 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

RDBN 2012 Agriculture Plan Update Report

Moved by Director Layton
 Seconded by Director Lambert

AG.2019-5-3

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator's September 5, 2019 memo titled "RDBN 2012 Agriculture Plan Update report."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NDIT – Agriculture Coordinator -Pilot Project Extension and Disbursement Schedule -Northern Development Project Number 5112 20

Moved by Director Playfair
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

AG.2019-5-4

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence from Northern Development Initiative Trust – Agriculture Coordinator - Pilot Project Extension and Disbursement Schedule – Northern Development Project Number 5112 20."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BC Meat Inspection Program RE: Feedback on Class D Licences – Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Petersen

AG.2019-5-5

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence from the BC Meat Inspection Program RE: Feedback on Class D Licences – Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORT

Agriculture Land Commission (ALC) – Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning provided an overview of the challenges regarding the Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture Land Commission's (ALC) regulation prohibiting the deposit of soils from another parcel of land onto land within the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) being limited to 1,000 m² and the ALC expecting local governments to enforce their regulations through the local government building permit process. Staff are currently researching the RDBN's role and flexibility in addressing the ALC requirements. Mr. Llewellyn outlined the ALC application process for a property owner needing to conduct groundwork on their property that requires more than 1,000 m² of soils. The ALC has 60 days once a property owner submits a Notice of Intent to provide approval or request further information, if more information is required the timeline is extended a further 60 days. Concerns were brought forward in regard to the potentially lengthy process and impacts to a property owner in a short northern building season. The ALC also provides a second option that potentially lessens the wait time but a separate application is required for a \$1,500 permit fee.

The Board expressed its concerns in regard to the ALC's expectation of local government. Frustrations were brought forward in regard to the ALC eliminating the two zones and only having one zone for the Province and no northern input. Discussion took place in regard to the Board advocating for a two zone system.

VERBAL REPORT (CONT'D)

Staff will bring forward a report at the September 19, 2019 Board Meeting regarding the RDBN's roles concerning the ALC's expectation of local government. Director Fisher requested staff bring forward a press release in regard to the information including the Board's stance on the issue at the September 19, 2019 meeting for Board review.

Discussion took place regarding the potential intent of the ALC regulations and questions were raised in regard to the Ministry of Agriculture educating the public in regard to the regulation changes.

Chair Parker noted the importance of meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and the Liberal Opposition Critic at the 2019 UBCM Convention.

Verbal Report

Moved by Director Layton
 Seconded by Director Lambert

AG.2019-5-6

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the Director of Planning's verbal report re: Agriculture Land Commission."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Watt-Senner
 Seconded by Director Layton

AG.2019-5-7

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:05 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

TO: Chair Parker and Agriculture Committee
FROM: Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
DATE: October 10, 2019
SUBJECT: Funding of Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser-Fort George Regional Adaptation Strategy Projects (2019-2023)

Background Information:

BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative in partnership with the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN), and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG), has developed the Regional Agriculture Strategy document. This strategies document encompasses both RDBN and RDFFG lands. The focus of the plan is to identify projects and opportunities for agricultural producers to adapt to climate change. The document was previously presented to the Board and is on the RDBN website under the agriculture page for climate change, and the priority impact areas, strategies and actions are on pages 16 – 41.

Proposal

Now that the strategies plan has been completed, a four-year (2020-2023) work plan is being developed that will prioritize key actions to undertake. To leverage the initial \$300,000 Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) funding, and to oversee implementation of the plan, BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative is looking for additional support from other partners, including both the RDBN and RDFFG. The initial request was \$5,000 annually. The RDFFG on September 19, 2019 committed to provide \$5,000 annually for 2019 – 2022.

On September 27, 2019, the RDBN and RDFFG were approached by staff of BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative to increase the annual funding to \$7,500. The funds for 2019 were approved by the RDBN CAO from the existing 2019 Agriculture budget with no amendments required. Funding for the Agriculture function currently falls under the RDBN's general administration budget with full participation from the RDBN's member municipalities and electoral areas.

The RDBN will continue to partner with BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative and the RDFFG to forward the objectives of the Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser-Fort George Regional Agriculture Adaptation Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION:**(All/Directors/Majority)**

THAT the Agriculture Committee approve the support of annual funding in principal in the amount of \$7,500 for the years 2020 to 2023 for the Bulkley-Nechako & Fraser-Fort George, BC Agriculture & Climate Change, Regional Adaptation Strategies Projects subject to final budget approval by the Board;

AND THAT Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator continue to serve as the RDBN representative on the Advisory Committee;

AND THAT the Administration Department will determine level of in-kind participation based on expertise and available resources, where the RDBN has been identified as a potential partner for an identified action.