

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 9, 2020

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Andrea Newell
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Gerry Thiessen – left at 2:01 p.m.

Director Absent Mark Fisher, Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural)

Alternate Director Megan D’arcy, Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services – left at 1:51 p.m.
Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief – left at 2:29 p.m.
Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator – left at 1:06 p.m.
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator – left at 1:06 p.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 1:55 p.m., left at 2:02 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers
Shane Brienen - left at 1:37 p.m.
Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake
Brad Layton, Village of Telkwa – left at 12:59 p.m., returned at 1:06 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2020-1-1

“That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for January 9, 2020 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes -November 7, 2019

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2020-1-2

“That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of November 7, 2019 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

Agricultural Community Meeting on Water Sustainability Act – February 5, 2020 -Vanderhoof, B.C. Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-1-3 “That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Board authorize Chair Parker to attend the Agricultural Community Meeting on the *Water Sustainability Act* in Vanderhoof, B.C. on February 5, 2020.”

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-1-4 “That Motion RDC.2020-1-3 be amended to include: authorize any Directors wanting to attend.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

“That the question be called on Motion RDC.2020-1-3 as amended.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regional Agriculture Forum Oct 23-24, 2020 “Soil to Table -Celebrating Local Agriculture” Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-1-5 “That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Board approve the ‘draft’ agenda for Soil to Table – Celebrating Local Agriculture October 23rd and 24th, 2020 in Burns Lake.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Alternate Director D’arcy provided an overview of the Smithers Farmers Institute Forum that has taken place in the past in the Smithers area. Discussion took place in regard to the RDBN hosting a Regional Agriculture Forum every two years and reviewing future scheduling of a Regional Forum.

RDBN Food Hub and Food Economy Assessment Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-1-6 “That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Board approve:
1. The RDBN Food Hub and Food Economy Assessment.
2. Staff to proceed with a Request for Proposal on BC Bid.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RURAL REPORTS

Rural/Agriculture Committee Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2020-1-7 “That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Board that the Rural Directors Committee be renamed the Rural/Agriculture Committee to reflect the work of the Committee.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RURAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

Electoral Area Directors' Forum Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
-February 4-5, 2020 Seconded by Director Lambert
-Richmond, B.C

RDC.2020-1-8

"That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Manager of Administrative Services' December 20, 2019 memo titled "Electoral Area Forum – February 4-5, 2020 – Richmond, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Deadline for registration is January 17, 2020. Any Directors wanting to attend will provide information to staff. Discussion took place in regard to requesting the Federal Gas Tax Program – 3rd Party Agreements Panel be held at another opportunity due to the Electoral Area Directors inability to attend the Forum.

RDBN Grant Services
Facilitation

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2020-1-9

"That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Regional Economic Development Coordinator's December 17, 2019 memo titled "RDBN Grant Services Facilitation."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Fire Department Emergency Services PowerPoint

Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief and Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Fire Department Emergency Services

- Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC)
- RDBN Bylaws
- Additional Services
- Road Rescue Equipment Costs
- Apparatus & Equipment
- Certifications & Maintenance
- Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS)
- Fire Departments in the RDBN
- Fire & Road Rescue Maximum Taxation & 2019 Taxation
- Taxation vs. Funds to Distribution
- Alternate Funding Model
- Conclusion.

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Number of road rescues and fire calls for 2018 (latest accumulated data)
- Area F Emergency Extrication Contribution Local Service Area Establishment Bylaw No. 1113, 1999 – repealed by Bylaw 1823 on June 21, 2018
- Two potential options moving forward
 - o Emergency Preparedness Planning Service
 - All residents pay same tax rate
 - Service levels maintained across the region
 - \$7,500 proposed for each municipal and rural Fire Department in the RDBN
 - o Developing separate services for each electoral area
 - Each Electoral Area Director determining funding contribution

RURAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

Fire Department Emergency Services PowerPoint (Cont'd)

- Taxpayer contribution
- Importance of road rescue
- Ensuring Fire Departments are adequately funded moving forward
- Consistent service levels across the region in regard to Fire Department Emergency Services
- All travelers along the Highway 16 corridor within the RDBN boundaries receive road rescue service from rural and/or municipal fire departments.

Fire Department Emergency Services

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2020-1-10

1. "That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Board repeal the following:
a. "Topley Rural Road Rescue and Medical First Responders Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1745, 2015"
b. "RDBN Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) Road Rescue Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1651, 2012" and "RDBN Electoral Area D Emergency Extrication Service Area Establishment Bylaw No. 1516, 2009"; and
c. "Electoral Area 'A' Emergency Response Contribution Local Service Amendment Bylaw No. 853, 1995."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Fire Department Emergency Services

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2020-1-11

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Board direct staff to establish a budget of \$7,500 for each municipal and rural Fire Department in the region through the Emergency Preparedness Planning Service for Fire Departments."

Opposed: Director Petersen **CARRIED**

(All/Directors/Majority)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Federal Gas Tax Program – 3rd Party Agreements

See Motion RDC.2020-1-8.

NCLGA Resolutions

Provincial funding of Major Hospital Projects.

- SNRHD lead

New Drivers L/N Graduated Licensing Program

Director Lambert spoke of drafting a resolution in regard to the New Drivers L (Learner's Licence)/N (Novice Licence) Graduated Licensing Program in regard to providing a mechanism to address labour shortages. He spoke of the need to have driver's education introduced into the high school education curriculum. He referenced the City of Fort St. John 2007 UBCM resolution titled "Reduce Driving Age Restrictions" which was not endorsed.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2020-1-11

“That the meeting be adjourned 2:36 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant