

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, February 6, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher  
Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Andrea Newell  
Jerry Petersen  
Gerry Thiessen

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

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief – arrived at 9:34 a.m.  
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator – left at 9:27 a.m.  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Rory McKenzie, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 9:12 a.m.  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Penny Anquish, Chief Operating Officer, Northern Interior Health Service Delivery Area, Northern Health - arrived at 9:43 a.m.  
Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake - left at 9:15 a.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Fisher

**RDC.2020-2-1**

"That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for February 6, 2020 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

**Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes -January 9, 2019**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Newell

**RDC.2020-2-2**

"That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of January 9, 2020 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Ministry of Agriculture Policy Intentions Paper Residential Flexibility in the ALR**

- Staff provided a brief overview
- No change as of yet concerning regulations regarding gravel
- Providing a thank you letter to the Ministry of Agriculture
  - o Including the positive impact to succession and long-term planning for farms
  - o Staff will bring forward a letter at a future Board Meeting
- Opportunity to provide feedback through the Ministry of Agriculture's website
- RDBN Zoning Bylaw
  - o Housing under H1 zoning
  - o Bare land strata.

### **More Help for B.C. Farmers when they Need it Most**

- Staff provided an overview of the Ministry of Agriculture's January 30, 2020 News Release in regard to "More Help for B.C. Farmers when they Need it Most"
  - o Ministry staff indicated that the program will not jeopardize Agri-Recovery Programs that are reviewed on a case by case basis during emergency events
- More education is required in regard to Ministry Programs
- Concerns in regard to the amount of paperwork required for Ministry Programs
- Advocating for streamlining information/application processes and providing educational webinars.

### **Agriculture Correspondence**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

### **RDC.2020-2-3**

"That the following Agriculture Correspondence be received:  
-Ministry of Agriculture Policy Intentions Paper Residential Flexibility in the ALR  
-Ministry of Agriculture – Supporting B.C. Farmers Public Engagement – "What we Heard" Report."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **AGRICULTURE DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **Agriculture Update – Verbal Report – Chair Parker**

- Agriculture Save the Date Events provided by staff
- Agriculture Community Meeting – *Water Sustainability Act* in Vanderhoof on February 5<sup>th</sup> was cancelled
  - o The meeting will be rescheduled
  - o Chair Parker will provide an update when the meeting is rescheduled.

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT (Rural Directors)**

### **Crown Land Application Referrals**

#### **Crown Land Application Referral 7410116 (Blue Jay Farm) – Electoral Area "C"**

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Fisher

### **RDC.2020-2-4**

"That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral 7410116 be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land application 7410116; as amended to include asking the province to consider the agriculture capacity of the land in their decision making process."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Crown Land Application Referrals (Cont'd)**

Crown Land Application Referral 7410117 (TBT Enterprises) – Electoral Area “C” Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-2-5 “That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral 7410117 be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land application 7410117.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Crown Land Application Referral 7409873 (BC Hydro Takla Lake) – Electoral Area “C” Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2020-2-6 “That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral 7409873 be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land application 7409873.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Crown Land Application Referral 6409180 (BC Hydro – Electoral Area “A” Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2020-2-7 “That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral 6409180 be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land application 6409180.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mines Application Referral 1640462-202001 (Kwanika Copper Corp) Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-2-8 “That the Comment Sheet for Mines Application Referral 1640462-202001 be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Mines application 1640462-202001.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **RURAL REPORTS**

#### **Protective Services – Rescind and/or New Bylaws**

“RDBN Electoral Area “D” Emergency Extrication Service Area Establishment Bylaw No. 1516, 2009

- Remain in place until Budget 2020 is complete
- Rescind By-law No. 1516 and establish an Electoral Area Service Bylaw to be undertaken in 2020 and approved prior to the 2021 budget

“RDBN Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural) Road Rescue Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1651, 2012

- Remain in place until Budget 2020 is complete
- Rescind By-law No. 1651 and establish an Electoral Area Service Bylaw to be undertaken in 2020 and approved prior to the 2021 budget
- Further discussion required

## **RURAL REPORTS (CONT'D)**

“Topley Rural Road Rescue and Medical First Responders Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1745, 2015”

- Remain in place until Budget 2020 is complete
- Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural) in coming Director to review
- Potentially rescind and review other options to be undertaken in 2020 and approved prior to the 2021 budget
- Further discussion required

“Electoral Area “A” Emergency Response Contribution Local Service Amendment Bylaw No. 853, 1995

- Remain in place
- Continue to review options
- Further discussion required

Staff will follow-up with Electoral Area Directors.

### Electoral Area Allocation of Federal Gas Tax Funds Fourth Quarter 2019

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

### RDC.2020-2-9

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Accounting Clerk 2’s January 24, 2020 memo titled “Electoral Area Allocation of Federal Gas Tax Funds Fourth Quarter 2019.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **RURAL DISCUSSION ITEM**

### 2020 Rural Budget

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer mentioned that he is currently awaiting some municipal budgets.

Topics considered and discussed:

- Rural Directors unscheduled Travel – Rural Legislative
- Building Numbering
- Unsightly Premises
  - o Included 2020 Draft Budget sharing of a Bylaw Enforcement position with the District of Houston
  - o \$30,000 added to staff costs in each of the Electoral Area (Rural) planning budget and the Unsightly Premises budget
  - o Budget includes all anticipated costs
  - o Electoral Area “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) will not participate
- Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC) – is interested in starting a new program and is requesting an additional \$12,000 above 2019 Budgeted amount
- Potential Electoral Area increase of 8.2%
- Potential Municipal increase of 7.1%
- Determining a tax increase threshold
- Cost of living increase
- First Responders Café
  - o Working with RDBN Economic Development department to determine potential grant funding
  - o Encouraged to discuss with municipalities if wanting to provide a First Responder Café within municipalities
  - o Potential for further discussion during budget discussions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Newell  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-2-10

“That the meeting be adjourned 9:56 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant