

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 5, 2020

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher
Clint Lambert
Jerry Petersen

Directors Present Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)
Absent Chris Newell, Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)
Michael Riis-Christianson, Electoral Area "B" (Burns Lake Rural)
Gerry Thiessen, District of Vanderhoof

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Alternate Director Hughes

RDC.2020-3-1

"That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for March 5, 2020 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be received and dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes
-February 6, 2020

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2020-3-2

"That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of February 6, 2020 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORT

Update on the RDBN Food Hub and Food Economy Assessment

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Alternate Director Hughes

RDC.2020-3-3

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator’s March 5, 2020 memo titled “Update on the RDBN Food Hub and Food Economy Assessment.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENCE

Agriculture Correspondence

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-3-4

“That the following Agriculture Correspondence be received:
-The Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management
-A New Approach to Agricultural Environmental Management.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to:

- Potential for GlenDale Agra Services Ltd., Vanderhoof to provide a workshop in regard to Agricultural Environmental Management
- Lack of Provincial Government communication with the Agriculture community in regard to new regulations
- Challenges understanding new regulations without proper education and communication
- Workshops to increase education.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT (Rural Directors)

Crown Land Application Referrals

Crown Land Application Referral 6409185 (BC Hydro) – Electoral Area “A”

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2020-3-5

“That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral 6409185 be amended to include:

“The Board requests that prior to moving forward with plans to develop a capacitor at either location the Province engage with area residents to identify any concerns.”

And further, that the amended Comment Sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land Application 6409185.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to the lack of public consultation built into the Province’s Crown Land Application process.

VERBAL REPORT

Changes to the Agricultural Land Commission Act – Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning

Mr. Llewellyn provided an update regarding:

- Ministry of Agriculture Policy Intensions Paper: Residential Flexibility in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)
 - Work regarding the proposed policy direction to increase residential flexibility within the ALR
 - Ministry of Agriculture has reached out to the RDBN for further consultation regarding implementation
 - Proposed to take place in March/April 2020
 - Staff will provide updates to the Rural/Agriculture Committee Chair and RDBN Board

Chair Parker spoke of the positive steps the Ministry of Agriculture has taken in regard to residential flexibility in the ALR.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

REPORT

Rural Directors Travel Budget

Discussion took place regarding:

- 2020 draft total budget amount for Electoral Area Director Expenses
 - Tracking per Director in 2020 within the total Electoral Area Director Expenses Budget
 - Travel and food allocation to the \$2,000 discretionary budget allocated to each Electoral Area Director
 - Reallocating conference funding if Directors choose not to attend
 - Long travel distance for some Directors to attend local Electoral Area community events
 - Consideration in preparation of budget
 - If requested by local community groups Directors expressed the importance of attending community meetings
 - Staff including an outline of Directors travel in the staff report brought forward at the time of the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) report
 - Staff provide reporting quarterly to the Electoral Area Directors
 - Five-year history of the Rural Directors Travel budget
 - Have not exceeded the Travel Budget in the past five years
 - Budget to remain the same
 - Pooled budget approach
 - Important to not limit day to day work or learning, networking and advocacy events
 - Municipal Directors attendance on behalf of the Regional District and funding allocation for attendance
 - RDBN Committee Chair attendance and costing at events
 - RDBN Board Members Attendance at Events Policy
 - Potential changes to the Board Policy
 - Staff will bring forward potential amendments to the policy
 - Further discussion when all Rural Directors are in attendance.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2020-3-6

“In accordance with Section 90(2)(b) of the Community Charter, it is the opinion of the Committee that matters pertaining to the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party (Crown Grant Application), must be closed to the public, therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2020-3-7

“That the meeting be adjourned 1:20 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant