

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, May 7, 2020**

**Via Video/Teleconference**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher  
Clint Lambert – arrived at 10:27 a.m.  
Chris Newell – left at 10:54 a.m.  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Gerry Thiessen – arrived at 10:44 a.m.

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

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief  
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Shane Brienen, District of Houston  
Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake – arrived at 10:48 a.m.  
Don Jolly, Consultant, Response Specialties Consulting – arrived at 10:38 a.m.  
Brad Layton, Village of Telkwa – arrived at 11:03 a.m.  
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle – arrived at 11:00 a.m.  
Sarraah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake – arrived at 10:59 a.m.  
Taylor Turkington, Manager, Assurance, Beswick Hildebrandt Lund

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2020-4-1

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee approve the May 7, 2020 Agenda.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes -March 5, 2020

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2020-4-2

“That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of March 5, 2020 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **AGRICULTURE REPORT**

### **RDBN Food and Agriculture Plan – Marketing and Promotional Strategy**

Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2020-4-3

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator’s May 7, 2020 memo titled RDBN Food and Agriculture Plan – Marketing and Promotional Strategy.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENCE**

### **RDBN Letter to Ministry of Agriculture – COVID-19 Crisis and Class D and E Licenses**

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2020-4-4

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the RDBN Letter to Ministry of Agriculture – COVID-19 Crisis and Class D and E Licenses.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to:

- Follow up to ensure that Class D and E licenses are established within the RDBN and potential for a Class A license in the region
- Class D license
  - o 25 animal units
    - 1 animal unit - 1,000 lbs
    - Smaller animal units – poultry/swine
- Class E license
  - o 1-10 animal units
- COVID-19/COVID-19 recovery
  - o Class A and B abattoirs are experiencing high demand
  - o Having a Class A abattoir in region may assist in relieving the demand and allow for a viable business
  - o Market for animals
    - Having to keep animals at home
    - Food shortage
    - Producers and consumers seeking local processing to alleviate the strain.

## **VERBAL REPORT – Chair Parker re: Agriculture Update**

### **UNBC Agriculture Working Group**

Director Parker participated in a working group with the University of Northern B.C. regarding UNBC becoming more involved in the Agriculture sector. Concerns were raised in regard to capacity at the University level and potential directions moving forward. Chair Parker requested Director Lara Beckett, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George also be included in the working group. He will provide the minutes when they are available.

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Programs – Agriculture**

Chair Parker commented that there are a number of Agriculture COVID-19 Pandemic Programs available and staff has them listed on the RDBN Agriculture website page.

## **VERBAL REPORT – Chair Parker re: Agriculture Update (Cont’d)**

### Federal Government’s \$252 million in COVID-19 relief funding for agri-food industry

Chair Parker mentioned the recent announcement from the Federal Government regarding \$252 million in COVID-19 relief funding for agri-food industry. Approximately \$125 million is to be provided to producers to assist with costs associated with keeping animals at home due to the COVID-19 Pandemic impacts. He noted that allocation of the funding has yet to be clearly defined. Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator spoke of the funding being allocated for agri-stability, recovery and risk management programs.

### Local Producers assisting Food Banks

Chair Parker expressed appreciation for local producers supplying product to food banks to assist during the Pandemic.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Finishing meat for processing and sale purposes
- 4H Programs provide instruction to members in regard to finishing cattle
- Ms. Evans indicated there is potential for her to provide a workshop on the finishing process.

### Federal Government’s COVID-19 Agri-Food Industry and Producer Funding

Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-4-5

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee recommend that the Board write a letter to Taylor Bachrach, MP Skeena-Bulkley Valley and Todd Doherty, MP Cariboo-Prince George requesting that a portion of the recently announced Federal Government COVID-19 relief funding for the agri-food industry and producers be provided to small producers within the RDBN.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

### **Crown Land Application Referrals**

#### Crown Land Application Referral No. 7409684 (Thon) – Electoral Area “D”

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2020-4-6

“That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral No. 7409684 be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land Application 7409684.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### Crown Land Application Referral No. 6409187 (Lower Dean River Lodge) – Electoral Areas “E” and “G”

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2020-4-7

“That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral No. 6409187 be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land Application 6409187.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Crown Land Application Moved by Director Lambert  
Referral No. 0264318 (Tchentalo Seconded by Director Petersen  
Lake Lodge) – Electoral Area “C”

RDC.2020-4-8 “That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral No. 0264318 be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land Application 0264318.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **REPORT**

Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Moved by Director Petersen  
Department Study Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2020-4-9 “That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Regional Fire Chief’s May 7, 2020 memo titled Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department Study.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **DELEGATION**

#### **Don Jolly, Consultant, Response Specialties Consulting RE: Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department Study**

Chair Parker welcomed Don Jolly, Consultant, Response Specialties Consulting.

Mr. Jolly provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

#### **Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department Study**

- Legislative Context
- Organizational Challenges
- General Findings
- Playbook
- WorkSafe BC
- Motor Vehicle Act & Freedom of Information and Protection and Privacy Act
- Major Asset Program
- Primary Recommendations.

Discussion took place in regard to:

- Liability considerations
- Volunteer Fire Department respond is with available resources and within its allowable parameters
- A number of outstanding items to be addressed
- Outlined recommendations to bring CLVFD on par with RDBN Rural Volunteer Fire Departments is attainable
- Studies completed for all RDBN rural Volunteer Fire Departments
  - Information will be brought forward, including the role and responsibility of the Regional Fire Chief, rural volunteer fire departments and municipal fire departments in June/July 2020.

Mr. Jolly noted that the Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department members have indicated their satisfaction with the level of service currently being provided. Potential concern is for the replacement of long term capital assets.

Chair Parker thanked Mr. Jolly for attending the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-4-9

“That the meeting be adjourned 11:19 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant