

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 6

Thursday, May 21, 2020
Via Video/Teleconference

PRESENT: Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Dolores Funk
Judy Greenaway
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Brad Layton
Linda McGuire
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Sarrah Storey

Director Absent Chris Newell, Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)

Alternate Director Andrea Newell, Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator
Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

STAFF INTRODUCTION

The following staff was introduced to the Board:

- Brooklyn Schroeder, Protective Services Summer Student
- Lindsay King, FireSmart Coordinator
- Ashley Evanoff, Planning Summer Student
- Shawna Williams, Economic Development/Agriculture Summer Student
- Tiarri Rushton, Environmental Services Summer Student.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Layton

2020-6-1

"That the Board Meeting Agenda of May 21, 2020 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary agenda be received and dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
-April 23, 2020 & Special
Board Meeting Minutes
-May 7, 2020

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Layton

2020-6-2

“That the Board Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2020 and Special Board Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2020 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee Meeting
Minutes

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Storey

2020-6-3

“That the Board receive the following Committee Meeting Minutes:

- Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes
-May 7, 2020 (Unapproved)
- Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
-May 7, 2020 (Unapproved)
- Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
- May 7, 2020 (Unapproved)
- Waste Management Committee Meeting Minutes
-May 7, 2020 (Unapproved).”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING (All Directors)

Development Variance Permit Applications

Development Variance Permit
Application G-01-20 (Milne)
Electoral Area “G”

Moved by Director A. Newell
Seconded by Director Layton

2020-6-4

“That the Board approve Development Variance Permit G-01-20 for the property located at 48190 Axe Road to allow the following parcel line setback variances for pole shed building developed in compliance with Schedule A of the permit:

- Vary Section 8.07 (1) (a) to reduce the front parcel setback from 7.5 metres (24.61 ft.) to 2 metres (6.5 ft)
- Vary Section 8.07 (1) (b) to reduce the side parcel line setback from 2 metres (6.56 ft.) to 0.97 metres (3.18 ft.)
- Vary Section 8.07 (1) (c) to reduce the parcel line which abuts a highway setback from 4.5 metres (14.76 ft.) to 2 metres (6.5 ft).”

(Participants/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Crown Land Application Referrals

Crown Land Application
Referral No. 7410131
(Environment and Climate
Change Canada)
Electoral Area "D"

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Layton

2020-6-5

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410131 be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410131."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Committee Meeting
Recommendations
-May 7, 2020

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Lambert

2020-6-6

"That the Board approve the May 7, 2020 Committee Meeting Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 as written:

Broadband Committee Meeting– May 7, 2020

Recommendation 1:

Re: Report to RDBN Board Meeting

"That Staff bring forward a comprehensive lobbying and strategy report to the May 21, 2020 Board Meeting including requests for letters of support from local governments and First Nations Governments in the region."

Committee of the Whole Meeting – May 7, 2020

Recommendation 3:

Re: Elected Officials Emergency Management Handbook

"That the Board approve the Elected Officials Emergency Management Handbook and Quick Reference Guide."

Recommendation 4:

**Re: Draft Letter to Prime Minister Trudeau RE:
Opposition to the Process re: Implementation of
Federal Government's Firearm Ban**

"That the Board write a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau in opposition to the process regarding the implementation of the Federal Government's Firearms Ban, and further, that the draft letter be brought forward to the May 21, 2020 Board meeting for consideration."

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Waste Management Committee Meeting – May 7, 2020

Recommendation 6:

Re: Reinstatement Cardboard Ban at Knockholt Landfill

1. "That the Board direct staff to reinstate the ban on cardboard at Knockholt Landfill on August 1, 2020.
2. That the Board approve staff research a temporary ICI cardboard solution while negotiations with Recycle BC's Post-Collection Company (or other 3rd party) to establish and operate a new baling facility are underway; and further,
3. That staff report back to the Board with a recommendation on a temporary solution for ICI cardboard after consultation with the commercial sector and stakeholders."

Recommendation 7:

Re: Cardboard Processing Working Group

"That the Board authorize the establishment of a Cardboard Processing Working Group, including stakeholders exploring cardboard processing solutions, RDBN staff and elected officials; and further, that a Pilot Project be developed with a goal of recycling 50% of residential and ICI (Industrial Commercial Institutional) cardboard in three years."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee Meeting
Recommendation 2
-May 7, 2020

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director T. Greenaway

2020-6-7

That the Board approve the May 7, 2020 Committee Meeting Recommendation 2 as written:

Recommendation 2:

Re: Provincial Ownership of Digital Infrastructure

"That the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Citizens' Services suggesting that the Provincial Government consider that internet service be an essential service; and further, that the Provincial Government consider owning digital infrastructure similar to transportation infrastructure."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Concerns were brought forward in regard to a potential monopoly ownership of digital infrastructure.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Committee Meeting
Recommendation 5
-May 7, 2020

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Layton

2020-6-8

That the Board approve the May 7, 2020 Committee Meeting Recommendation 5 as amended:

Recommendation 5:

Re: Federal Government's COVID-19 Agri-Food Industry and Producer Funding

"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."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Northern Capital and Planning Grant

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2020-6-9

"That the Board receive the \$1,565,000 Northern Capital and Planning Grant and include this amount as revenue in the next 2020 budget amendment and that the funds be allocated similar to the 2019 allocation; and further, that \$469,500 of said amount be allocated to Environmental Services capital projects in 2020 and included as a capital expense in the next 2020 budget amendment."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to bringing forward the Northern Capital and Planning Grant to a future Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting for discussion.

Letter to Prime Minister
Trudeau re: Firearms Ban

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Lambert

2020-6-10

"That the Board approve the letter to Prime Minister Trudeau regarding the Firearms Ban."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Lakes Economic Development
Service Establishment Repeal
Bylaw No. 1910, 2020

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

2020-6-11

"That Lakes Economic Development Service Establishment Repeal Bylaw No. 1910, 2020" be given first, second and third reading this 21st day of May, 2020."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Electoral Area "A" Pedestrian
Crosswalk Local Service
Establishment Repeal Bylaw
No. 1911, 2020

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Storey

2020-6-12

"That Electoral Area "A" Pedestrian Crosswalk Local Service Establishment Repeal Bylaw No. 1911, 2020" be given first, second and third reading this 21st day of May, 2020."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RDBN Essential Services
Mutual Aid Agreement

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Atrill

2020-6-13

"That the Board approve the Essential Services Mutual Aid Agreement between the RDBN and each of the member municipalities."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Federal Gas Tax Funds
-Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake
Rural) -Fraser Lake Legion
Branch 274

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director T. Greenaway

2020-6-14

1) "That the Board contribute up to \$21,000 of Electoral Area 'D' Federal Gas Tax allocation monies to the Fraser Lake Legion Branch 274 for an Entrance Accessibility Renovation project, and further,

(All/Directors/Majority)

2) That the Board withdraw up to \$21,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(Participants/Weighted/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Storey declared a conflict of interest as Mayor of the Village of Fraser Lake in regard to the Federal Gas Tax Funds – Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural) – Village of Fraser Lake at 11:38 a.m.

Federal Gas Tax Funds
-Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake
Rural) – Village of Fraser Lake

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director T. Greenaway

2020-6-15

1) "That the Board contribute up to \$125,000 of Electoral Area 'D' Federal Gas Tax allocation monies to the Village of Fraser Lake for an energy improvement project at the planned Fraser Lake Innovation Drop-In Centre, and for an Ammonia Safety Upgrade at the Fraser Lake Arena, and further,

(All/Directors/Majority)

2) That the Board withdraw up to \$125,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(Participants/Weighted/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Storey returned at 11:39 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Smithers Ski Club– Northern Development Application -Community Halls and Recreation Facilities Moved by Director Atrill
Seconded by Director Layton

2020-6-16 “That the Board support the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from the Smithers Ski Club for a grant of up to \$15,000 for the Smithers Ski and Snowboard Club Cabin Upgrade (Phase Two-Interior) Project from the Northwest Regional Account.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Connectivity Support Letters Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Lambert

2020-6-17 “That the Board request Letters of Support for upcoming connectivity grant opportunities.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Emergency Management Handbook and Quick Reference Guide for Elected Officials Moved by Director J. Greenaway
Seconded by Director Layton

2020-6-18 “That the Board approve the “Emergency Management Handbook for Elected Officials and Quick Reference Guide as amended.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Southside Volunteer Fire Department Apparatus Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Layton

2020-6-19 “That the Board withdraw \$117,000 from the “Southside Rural Fire Protection Service Capital Reserve” to purchase a 2019 Stock Liberator Side Control Fire Engine from Fort Garry Fire Trucks.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Northern Development Initiative Trust – Regional Business Liaison Program Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Lambert

2020-6-20 “That the Board receive the Regional Economic Development Coordinator’s May 21, 2020 memo titled Northern Development Initiative Trust Regional Business Liaison Program.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Reinstate Cardboard Ban at Knockholt Landfill

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Layton

2020-6-21

“That the Board re-establish the ban on cardboard at the Knockholt Landfill on August 1, 2020.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Messaging
 - o Staff to bring forward information at the June, 2020 Waste Management Committee
- Seeking direction from the business community in determining a solution
- Scheduling meetings with stakeholders
- Continue communication with Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
 - o Provide update moving forward
- Concerns regarding potential challenges to the business community
- Impacts and repercussions due to the increased cardboard being brought to Knockholt Landfill
- Environmental Services responsibility to protect the 100-year infrastructure of the landfill
- Follow up discussion with Town of Smithers and Village of Telkwa staff
- Equality of services across the region
- Environmental Services determining costing of solutions and cost to haul currently
 - o Solutions within the community have yet to be determined
- Utilizing Northern Capital Planning Grant funding to further develop the landfill
- Temporary options and solutions
 - o Timelines to move forward options
- Fort St. James ICI recycling
 - o Local not for profit organization developing a co-op solution to ICI recycling
 - o Fort St. James has a small baler
- No baler in the west (Smithers area) of the RDBN.

Design Costs for the Houston Transfer Station and Depot

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Brien

2020-6-22

“That the Board approve a budget amendment to allocate funds for the design costs for the Houston Transfer Station and Recycling Depot for 2020.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS

Recycling Meetings

Director Fisher noted he has been participating in provincial and national meetings in regard to recycling. He continues to advocate for solutions regarding agriculture plastics, ICI and organics recycling. Director Fisher mentioned the increased number of people participating in the calls compared to last year.

Internet Connectivity

Director Riis-Christianson commented that he has received a number of calls in regard to connectivity issues throughout Electoral Areas B and E and the Village of Burns Lake. Director Funk spoke of the challenges of the lack of internet connectivity in the Village of Burns Lake.

Chair Thiessen noted the issues in the entire region and rural Canada. He brought forward concerns in regard to students receiving their education via the internet and the challenges they are encountering.

Director Atrill spoke of the connectivity issues in the Town of Smithers and area. She thanked Chair Thiessen for bringing the issue forward at the meeting today with Minister Robinson, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Flooding in Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Director T. Greenaway reported that the flooding in Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) at Sowchea Bay Road and Pinche Creek Road was addressed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and YRB, the road maintenance contractor, by installing temporary bridges. The water has currently receded.

Germansen Landing Post Office

Director T. Greenaway commented that the Postmaster has retired at the Germansen Landing Post Office and the position has yet to be filled. He brought forward concerns in regard to the possibility of the position not being filled. He will reassess the situation once impacts of COVID-19 have lessened. Chair Thiessen spoke of bringing forward Post Office services for discussion at a future date.

RDBN Food Hub Working Group

Director Parker mentioned he participated in the first teleconference meeting in regard to the RDBN Food Hub Working Group.

Southside Volunteer Fire Department Fire Truck

Director Lambert noted that the new Fire Truck being purchased for the Southside Volunteer Fire Department will be a great addition to the Southside.

Northern Health COVID-19 Update

Director Petersen indicated he will be participating in Northern Health's COVID-19 update this afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

Town of Smithers Businesses Opening

Director Atrill reported that businesses that had closed due to COVID-19 in the Town of Smithers are opening. She credited Town of Smithers staff for identifying areas where potential amendments could be made to allow businesses to utilize public spaces' allowing the CAO to approve permits in a timely manner. She indicated that there may be a need to revisit plans moving forward to create opportunities for businesses to function.

VERBAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

Director Atrill also noted that the Smithers District Chamber of Commerce is working to assist businesses to reopen. The Town of Smithers is reviewing the impacts to the Smithers Regional Airport.

Village of Granisle COVID-19 Update

Director McGuire mentioned that the gas station and grocery store in the Village of Granisle provided essential services and have remained open. The restaurant in the community is providing take out only and the Post Office has reduced hours and capacity.

Director McGuire noted that the volume of visitors to Granisle and area over the Victoria Day long weekend was lower than in past years and everyone was respectful of the current circumstances.

Village of Granisle Wildfire Mitigation

Director McGuire spoke of the Village of Granisle wildfire mitigation works taking place. The cut has been completed and next steps will be raking and burning, with reforestation to take place in 2021.

Village of Burns Lake -COVID-19 -Update Businesses Opening

Director Funk mentioned that the Village of Burns Lake has experienced a slow restart regarding some businesses opening as part of the Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 Restart Plan. The Village of Burns Lake is attempting to help the businesses manage moving forward.

Meeting with the Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Director Storey participated in a meeting with Lara Beckitt, Director Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and President of the North Central Local Government Association and Minister Doug Donaldson, Ministry of Forests, Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. They discussed the following: potential concerns regarding fires during the Victoria Day long weekend, tree planting concerns, stumpage deferral as well as hunting and mushroom picking activities.

Director Storey recently received correspondence from the Nadina District Manager, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development providing notification that tree planters are utilizing accommodations within the community of Fraser Lake. She brought forward concerns in regard to the matter.

Missing Man in Fraser Lake

Director Storey reported that a Fraser Lake man is missing after a boating incident on the Stellako River. Nechako Search and Rescue is providing support along with SARS volunteers from around the region.

Isle Pierre – Canfor Sawmill Closure

Director Storey mentioned the recent announcement by Canfor closing its Isle Pierre sawmill between Vanderhoof and Prince George. Chair Thiessen noted the potential employment impacts to residents in the Vanderhoof area.

Fraser Lake Return to School Plan

Director Storey noted that schools in Fraser Lake are planning to move forward with a modified return to classroom schedule in relation to the Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 Restart Plan.

VERBAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

District of Fort St. James
COVID-19 Update

Director J. Greenaway reported that the District of Fort St. James office remains closed at this time along with Nak'azdli Whuet'en. The District of Fort St. James' Cottonwood Marina is now open.

Chair Thiessen – Update

Chair Thiessen requested information from the Board in regard to the approach communities are taking concerning Grad Ceremonies and Farmers' Market openings. He mentioned that the District of Vanderhoof skateboard park, playgrounds and parks have remained open and the District will be opening its campground soon.

Receipt of Verbal
Reports

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director McGuire

2020-6-23

"That the verbal reports of the various Board of Directors be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Metro Vancouver - Director
Support for Local Governments

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director T. Greenaway

2020-6-24

"That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from Metro Vancouver – Director Support for Local Governments."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action List

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Lambert

2020-6-25

"That the Board receive the Action List for April 2020."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT

Solid Waste Inventory
and Feasibility Plan

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Atrill

2020-6-26

"That the Board re-allocate funds from the Northern Capital Planning Grant (NCPG) towards a region-wide Solid Waste Inventory and Feasibility Plan."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director T. Greenaway

2020-6-27

“In accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, it is the opinion of the Board of Directors that matters pertaining to Section 90(1)(c) – labour relations or other employee relations and 90(2)(b) – 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 (Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance), must/may 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 Fisher
Seconded by Director T. Greenaway

2020-6-28

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:34 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant