

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
AGENDA****Thursday, September 3, 2020**

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>AGENDA- September 3, 2020</u>	Approve
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
3-7	Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes - June 4, 2020	Adopt
	<u>DELEGATION</u>	
	<u>WAYNE WHITTEMORE</u> (via Zoom) RE: Whistle Cessation, Electoral Area "A"	
	<u>PLANNING DEPARTMENT (All Directors)</u>	
	<u>DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</u>	
	<u>Crown Land Referrals</u>	
8-10	Deneve Vanderwolf, Planner 1 Crown Land Referral No. 7410025 (J Penner) (Area F)	Recommendation
11-12	Ashley Evanoff, Planning Student Crown Land Referral No. 6409207 (BV Amateur Radio Society) (Area B)	Recommendation
	<u>RURAL REPORTS</u>	
13-15	Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services – CN Whistle Cessation	Receive
	<u>DISCUSSION ITEMS</u>	
	1. Spot Zoning 2. Federal Gas Tax Review 3. UBCM Convention Update (if available)	

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING****Thursday, June 4, 2020**

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Chris Newell
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Gerry Thiessen

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator – left at 3:14 p.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services – left at 3:19 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 3:08 p.m.
Deneve Vanderwolf, Regional Transit Coordinator/Planner Technician – left at 4:13 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

AGENDAMoved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson**RDC.2020-5-1**

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for June 4, 2020 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****MINUTES****Rural Directors Committee
Meeting Minutes
-May 7, 2020**Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Petersen**RDC.2020-5-2**

“That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of May 7, 2020 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

PLANNING DEPARTMENT (Rural Directors)

Mine Referral

Mine Referral
No. 1300260-202001
(BamBam Trucking)
Electoral Area C

Moved by Director T. Greenaway
 Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-5-3

“That the Comment Sheet for Mine Referral No. 1300260-202001 be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Mine Referral No. 1300260-202001.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Crown Land Referral

Crown Land Application
Referral No. 119419857-006
(Brian Pollard)
– Electoral Area F

Moved by Director Petersen
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2020-5-4

“That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral No. 119419857-006 be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land Application 119419857-006.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator provided an overview of the RDBN Connecting Consumers and Producers Programs website.

2020 Connecting Consumers
and Producers Programs

Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2020-5-5

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Regional Economic Development Coordinator’s June 4, 2020 memo titled 2020 Connecting Consumers and Producers Programs.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Promotion of the 2020 Connecting Consumers and Producers Programs and website page
- Staff are developing marketing material and a promotion strategy
- Local Line
- Marketing material in regard to supporting local producers/buying local products.

Livestock Evacuation Plan

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
 Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2020-5-6

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee recommend that the Board approve the amended Livestock Evacuation Plan.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORTS (CONT'D)

Discussion took place regarding the ability and information for livestock farmers to shelter in place.

RURAL REPORTS

Impact of Electoral Areas Joining the Transit Service

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
 Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-5-7

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee recommend to the Board that Bylaw No. 1790 be amended to include the entire Regional District as the Service Area and increase the maximum requisition amount in the bylaw to \$150,000.”

Discussion took place in regard to:

- Percentage of rural/municipal ridership being equal
- Referendum Process
 - Proposed one referendum for region
- Alternative Approval Process (AAP)
 - Further discussion needed to determine participation of off corridor areas
- Cost of referendum vs. AAP
- Requisition maximum of \$150,000 for both operational and capital costs
- Potential capital costs
- Federal Gas Tax funding for potential capital purchase of buses
- Developing financial certainty in perpetuity
- First Nations
 - Ridership numbers
 - Federal Government Grant funding
 - Partnerships
- Provincial and BC Transit funding formula
- Province creating the Highway 16 Transit Service in acknowledgement of the Highway of Tears
- Fort St. James
 - Lack of service
 - Seniors Helping Seniors transportation service
- Other busing systems operating in the north
 - BC Bus North
 - Northern Health Bus
 - Community
 - First Nations
- Potential to work with other busing operators to develop an efficient model for northern BC
- Transit fees collected vs. ridership numbers
 - Staff will provide information
- Local government determine fee amount
- Fee adjustments
- Cumulative tax percentage increase and impact to 2021 Budget
- Grant in Aid has yet to be requested for 2020
- Potential taxation less than ridership fee
- Funding models
 - Municipal/rural funding equality
 - Additional funding model options.

RURAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
 Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2020-5-8

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee defer Motion RDC.2020-5-7 to a future meeting in order to provide additional funding model options.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Northern Capital and Planning Grant

- Receipt of the second Provincial allocation of the Northern Capital and Planning Grant
- Province adjusted the formula
 - Formula unknown
 - Potential reasons for formula adjustments
 - Reduced amount of funding to Regional Districts (as compared to municipalities)
- Strict criteria for Regional Districts to utilize the funding
- Directors to provide ideas to CAO Helgesen and CFO Illes
- Northern Capital and Planning Grant allocation in relation to potential Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) funding
- Staff workplans and NCPG funded projects
- Determining best approach
- Ensuring recognition of NCPG project funding for projects
- Shovel ready projects vs. shovel worthy projects
- Allocating NCPG funding to a single RDBN project per year
 - Funding is not guaranteed moving forward
- Funding needed to improve connectivity in the region
- Further discussion at a future Rural/Agriculture meeting in regard to Electoral Area and region-wide project options.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Response to Inquiry re: Hunting Licenses

Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2020-5-9

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Response to Inquiry re: Hunting Licenses.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Telus re: Broadband Committee

CFO Illes indicated that Telus has agreed to meet with the RDBN Broadband Committee at its next meeting.

RDBN Letter to Ministry of Agriculture RE: COVID-19 Class D and E Licences

Chair Parker mentioned that the RDBN has yet to receive a response to its April 29, 2020 letter sent to the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture in regard to COVID-19 Crisis and Class D and E Licenses.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

B.C. Forest Enhancement
Society Grant Funding to
Pinnacle Pellet Renewable
Energy and Sale of other
fibre

Chair Parker spoke of the B.C. Forest Enhancement Society providing grant funding to Pinnacle Pellet Renewable Energy to subsidize travel expenses to utilize residual fibre and the impacts to the sale of aspen/poplar by the agriculture community. He asked that the topic be discussed when rescheduling a meeting with Eamon O'Donoghue, Assistant Deputy Minister, Regional Operations North Area, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2020-5-10

"That the meeting be adjourned at 4:39 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
STAFF REPORT**

TO: Chair Parker and Rural/Agriculture Committee
FROM: Deneve Vanderwolf, Planner 1
DATE: September 3, 2020
SUBJECT: Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410025 (JPenner)

RECOMMENDATION

That the attached comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown land application 7410025.

VOTING

All Directors / Majority

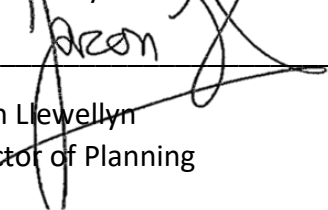
DISCUSSION

This application is regarding a Crown Grant to obtain additional land for extensive agriculture purposes.

The 20.38 ha. is located near Degal Pit Road approximately 18 kilometres East of the District of Vanderhoof. The application area is zoned Rural Resource (RR1), and is not located within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). The subject property is located in the Agriculture Development Area (ADA) under the Vanderhoof Area Crown Land Plan. ADAs are Crown lands that are designated as agriculture development and settlement reserve areas.


The applicants own and farm 65.15 ha located approximately 5 kilometres from the application area. The intent of this application is to provide additional arable land to their existing farm operation. This Crown Grant will allow the applicant to establish fencing, harvest merchantable timber, and clear land for forage production.

Reviewed by:

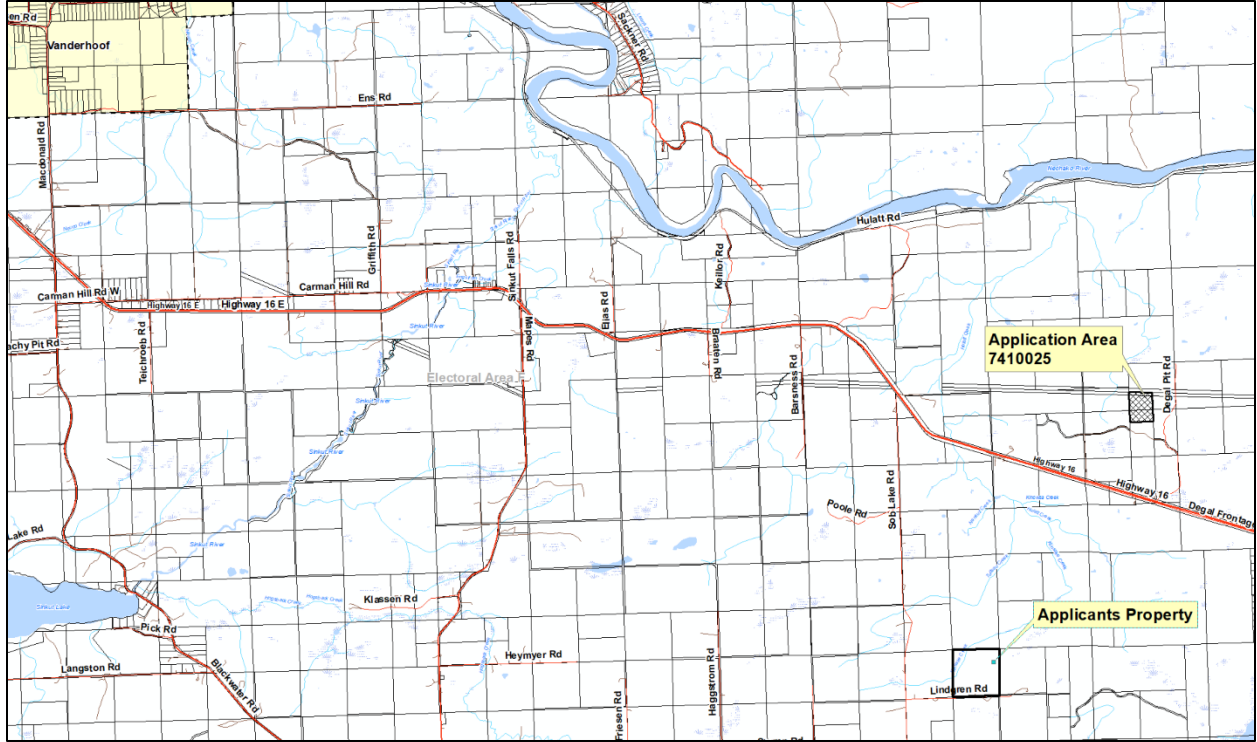


 Jason Llewellyn
 Director of Planning

Written by:



 Deneve Vanderwolf
 Planning Technician





**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
COMMENT SHEET ON CROWN LAND REFERRAL 7410025**

Electoral Area:	F
Applicant:	Jeffrey Penner
Subject Property:	Part of the SE1/4, District Lot 1086 and Part of NE1/4, District Lot 1086, Cariboo District
Existing Land Use:	Vacant, Forested
Zoning:	Zoned Rural Resource (RR1) under Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020.
Plan Designation	Designated Resource under Vanderhoof Rural Official Community Plan, Bylaw No. 1517, 2009
Proposed Use Comply with Zoning:	Yes
If not, why?	
Agricultural Land Reserve:	No
Access Highway:	Highway 16
Archaeological Site:	None according to provincial mapping
Building Inspection:	Inside the Building Inspection Area
Fire Protection:	Outside the Rural Fire Protection Area
Other comments:	None.



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
STAFF REPORT**

TO: Chair Parker and Rural/Agriculture Committee
FROM: Ashley Evanoff, Summer Planning Student
DATE: September 3, 2020
SUBJECT: Crown Land Application Referral No. 6409207 (BV Amateur Radio Society)

RECOMMENDATION

That the attached comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application 6409207.

VOTING

All Directors / Majority

DISCUSSION

This application is regarding a Licence of Occupation to use a 250 square metre piece of land as a communication site.

The BV Amateur Radio Society plans to install a communications repeater to cover Babine Lake area. The site is currently used as a communications site for the RCMP and Telus.

The application area is located approximately 60 km northwest of the Village of Burns Lake. The site is accessed off Highway 118.

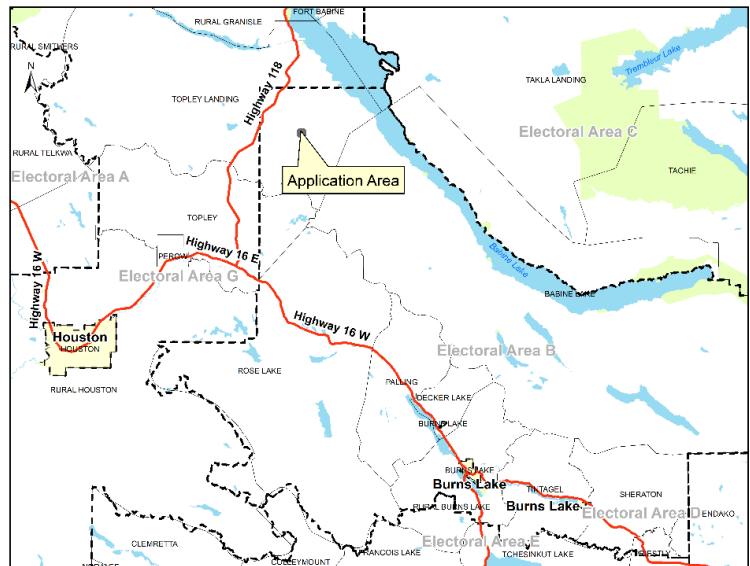
The application area is not zoned and is not located within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

Reviewed by:

 Jason Llewellyn
 Director of Planning

Written by:

 Ashley Evanoff
 Summer Planning Student





**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
COMMENT SHEET ON CROWN LAND REFERRAL 6409207**

Electoral Area:	B
Applicant:	BV Amateur Radio Society
Existing Land Use:	RCMP/Telus Communications Site
Zoning:	Not zoned under Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020.
Plan Designation	No designation under Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (Northshore) Official Community Plan, Bylaw No. 1785, 2017.
Proposed Use Comply with Zoning:	N/A
If not, why?	N/A
Agricultural Land Reserve:	No
Access Highway:	Highway 118
Archaeological Site:	None according to provincial mapping
Building Inspection:	Outside the Building Inspection Area
Fire Protection:	Outside the Rural Fire Protection Area
Other comments:	None.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Memo

TO: Chair Parker and Rural Agriculture/Committee

FROM: Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services

DATE: September 3, 2020

SUBJECT: CN – Whistle Cessation and Controlled Crossings

RECOMMENDATION

Receive.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, the RDBN received a request from residents in Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural) for whistle cessation at three crossings located at Lake Kathlyn East, Lake Kathlyn West, and Slack Road. The request included a petition signed by 334 residents titled “This petition directs the Bulkley-Nechako Regional District to pursue gated railway crossing construction with whistle cessation. Construction locations include two Lake Kathlyn Road Crossings and the Slack Road Crossing.” A report will be brought forward on the September 17th Board agenda for consideration of commencing formalizing the process.

In 2016, the RDBN received a petition from residents living near Rowland Road (Electoral Area “B”, Burns Lake Rural) for train whistle cessation, followed by a delegation to the Board. The process halted at the point where discussion took place regarding the requirement to establish a service by way of elector assent for the costs associated with ongoing maintenance.

CN has provided the following steps for applying for anti-whistling at rail crossings.

Apply to Road Authority /Transport Canada for Anti-whistling

1. Citizen or community group expresses interest

The municipality receives a request to stop train whistling at a specific area (one crossing or multiple crossings) along a railway corridor.

2. Municipality consults with railway company

To find out if the request is feasible, the municipality checks with the company that operates the railway line.

3. Municipality notifies the public

The municipality:

- notifies [all relevant associations or organizations](#)
- issues a public notice, which says it intends to pass a resolution to stop train whistling at a railway crossing (or at multiple crossings in one area)

4. Municipality and railway company assess the crossing(s)

This assessment determines whether or not the area meets whistling cessation requirements in section 104 of the *Grade Crossings Regulations* and Appendix D of the *Grade Crossings Standards*. The municipality and railway company may hire an engineer to help complete the assessment.

5. Municipality and railway company agree the crossing(s) meet requirements

If the municipality and the railway company do not agree that the crossing(s) meet(s) these requirements, they should try to resolve the conflict.

- **5a. (optional): Municipality and railway request a final decision from Transport Canada**

If the disagreement continues, they may send supporting documentation to railsafety@tc.gc.ca for assessment. Transport Canada's decision on the issue is final.

6. Municipality passes a resolution

If it's decided that the crossing(s) meet(s) requirements, the municipality:

- must pass a resolution saying it agrees train whistling should not be used at the crossing(s)
- sends a copy of the resolution to the railway company and [all relevant associations or organizations](#), including Transport Canada's Rail Safety Directorate headquarters (railsafety@tc.gc.ca)

7. Railway company confirms whistling has stopped at the crossing(s) (within 30 days)

When they receive the resolution, the railway company must:

- issue special instructions to stop train whistling at the crossing(s)
- notify Transport Canada's Rail Safety Directorate (railsafety@tc.gc.ca) of the effective date of whistling cessation, with a copy of its special instructions
- notify the municipality and/or road authorities in writing of the whistling cessation, not later than 30 days after the day the whistling stops

8. **Municipality and railway company both ensure the right safety conditions are met**
If the municipality and company do not maintain the crossing(s) according to requirements in the *Railway Safety Act* and *Grade Crossings Regulations*, a Transport Canada Rail Safety Inspector may order that train whistling start again.