



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AGENDA**

Thursday, October 8, 2020

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	Receive
	<u>AGENDA</u> – October 8, 2020	Approve
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
2-6	Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – September 3, 2020	Adopt
	<u>DELEGATIONS</u>	
	<u>MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT</u> Tara Dunphy, Section Head, Regional Initiatives Steffy Howard-Stratton, Licensed Land and Resource Specialist RE: Lakes Resilience Planning Process Project	
	<u>BC ASSESSMENT</u> Darin Johnson, Deputy Assessor, Northern BC Region Scott Sitter, Assessor, Northern BC Region RE: Overview	
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
7-9	Office of the Prime Minister – Acknowledgement of RDBN Letter re: Rural Connectivity	Receive
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING****Thursday, September 3, 2020**

PRESENT:

Chair	Gerry Thiessen
Directors	Shane Brien – left at 12:06 p.m., returned at 12:53 p.m. Mark Fisher Dolores Funk Judy Greenaway Tom Greenaway Clint Lambert Brad Layton Linda McGuire Chris Newell Mark Parker Jerry Petersen Michael Riis-Christianson Sarrah Storey Casda Thomas
Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator – left at 11:57 a.m. Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services – left at 11:52 a.m. Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator – left at 11:52 a.m. John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 11:29 a.m., returned at 12:48 p.m. Sashka Macievich, Controller – left at 11:57 a.m. Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant
Others	Penni Adams, Program Manager, Northwest Invasive Plant Council – Via Zoom – left at 11:52 a.m. Darrell Hill, Contractor, Northwest Invasive Plant Council – left at 11:52 a.m. Grahame Gielens, Environmental Roadside Manager, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – Via Zoom – left at 11:52 a.m. Denise McLean, Invasive Plant Specialist, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – Via Zoom – left at 11:50 a.m.
Media	Priyanka Ketkar, Lakes District News

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 11:13 a.m.

**AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director McGuire**C.W.2020-7-1**

“That the Agenda and Supplementary Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 3, 2020 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – June 4, 2020

Moved by Director McGuire
 Seconded by Director Storey

C.W.2020-7-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of June 4, 2020 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

NORTHWEST INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL – Via Zoom – Penni Adams, Program Manager, Darrell Hill, Contractor, Denise McLean, Invasive Plant Specialist, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Grahame Gielens, Environmental Roadside Manager, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Chair Thiessen welcomed Penni Adams, Program Manager and Darrell Hill, Contractor, Northwest Invasive Plant Council, Denise McLean, Invasive Plant Specialist, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and Grahame Gielens, Environmental Roadside Manager, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Ms. Adams provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Northwest Invasive Plant Council Program

- Vision
 - Mission
 - A brief history of the Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC)
 - What does “Invasive Plant” mean?
 - How does NWIPC manage Invasive Plants?
 - Funding sources 2020
 - IPMA’s (Invasive Plant Management Area)
 - Discussion
 - Why isn’t the NWIPC doing anything about....
 - Why isn’t orange hawkweed being managed?
 - Containment lines for Provincial Crown Land
 - In consultation with:
 - FLNRORD
 - MOTI
 - BC Parks
 - Determine where orange hawkweed can be strategically controlled
 - Difficult spread
 - Chemical treatment only option
 - Why isn’t the NWIPC spraying MOTI road right of ways adjacent to agricultural land/crop fields?
 - MOTI recognizes the impact to Agriculture lands from invasive plants
 - Current operations MOTI/FLNRORD
 - Employ a strategic response
 - Manage/treatments where most likely successful
- Report Invasive Plants
- Resources.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

Discussion took place regarding:

- Field Scabious in Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)
 - Containment lines established
 - Mr. Hill will provide a map
 - Private properties
 - Resistant to management or not accessible
 - Those properties providing opportunities for spread
- Landowner Invasive Plant Removal Rebate (Weed Removal Rebate)
- Oxeye Daisy
 - Mr. Hill will provide information on treatment
- NWIPC involvement with other agencies
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - Encourage RDBN to advocate Ministry of Agriculture to continue involvement with NWIPC
 - BC Cattlemen's Association
 - CN Rail
- Importance of education, awareness and outreach
- Bylaws specific to the control of invasive species on private lands
- Village of Burns Lake resolutions at the 2020 UBCM Convention regarding Invasive Species Funding and *Invasive Species Act*
- Highway maintenance pits and yards
 - Spread of invasive plants from contaminated material in sand/salt pits
 - New service agreements include stronger language regarding clean material and equipment
 - MOTI currently conducting a pilot project in Southern B.C.
 - Mr. Gielens will follow up in regard to specific sites
- Wildflower seed mixes.

Chair Thiessen thanked Mmes. Adams and MacLean, and Messrs. Hill and Gielens for attending the meeting.

REPORTS

Accounting of Administrative Overhead

Moved by Director Layton
 Seconded by Director Funk

C.W.2020-7-3

"That the Committee of the Whole direct staff to bring back the Accounting of Administrative Overhead Policy (as amended) to the next Board meeting for approval."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CFO Illes provided an overview of the Accounting of Administrative Overhead memorandum. Discussion took place regarding Support Services allocation of each service's share and examples.

Break for Lunch at 12:06 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:48 p.m.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Accounting of Expenses and Remuneration

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Parker

C.W.2020-7-4

“That the Committee of the Whole direct staff to bring back the Policy for Director Remuneration and Expenses (as amended) to the next Board meeting for approval.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation - Core Advisory Council

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Layton

C.W.2020-7-5

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Board nominate Curtis Helgesen, CAO to the Core Advisory Council.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cow Moose and Calf Cull

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2020-7-6

“That, in preparation for the Minister of FLNRORD UBCM meeting regarding the Board’s opposition to the cow moose and calf cull, the Board request letters of support from First Nations and sportsman’s groups within the RDBN.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Directors Lambert and Riis-Christianson and Chair Thiessen attended the Provincial Caribou Recovery Program Update of September 2, 2020. Discussion during the meeting took place regarding:

- Cow moose and calf cull
- Finding a natural balance
- FLNRORD working on caribou habitat recovery since 2006 - results occurred when the wolf cull was implemented.

Director Lambert spoke of predator control and the impact of wolves, grizzly, black, brown bears and cougars to caribou, moose populations and livestock. Discussion took place regarding culling programs, the impact of railways on moose population and increase of predators and examples of moose reductions that have taken place.

Parks and Outdoor Recreation Service Implementation Strategy Update

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director J. Greenaway

C.W.2020-7-7

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Director of Planning’s September 3, 2020 Parks and Outdoor Recreation Service Implementation Strategy Update staff report.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Cheslatta Land Transfer

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Layton

C.W.2020-7-8

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Director of Planning’s September 3, 2020 Cheslatta Land Transfer staff report.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

REPORT

Director Newell recused himself from the meeting at 1:21 p.m. due to a conflict of interest in regard to Mount Milligan Environmental Assessment Certificate Amendment due to being employed by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Mount Milligan Environmental Assessment Certificate Amendment

Moved by Director T. Greenaway
Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2020-7-9

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Director of Planning’s September 3, 2020 Mount Milligan Environmental Assessment Certificate Amendment staff report.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Newell returned at 1:23 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 UBCM Meeting with Northern Health

Director McGuire brought forward the meeting with Northern Health on September 14, 2020 at the 2020 UBCM Convention. Discussion took place in regard to attending the virtual meeting from home or attending at the RDBN.

Staff will provide an update to the Board once meeting confirmations are received for the 2020 UBCM Virtual Convention.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director J. Greenaway

C.W.2020-7-10

“That the meeting be adjourned at 1:30 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

From: [Prime Minister/Premier Ministre](#)
To: [inquiries](#)
Cc: [Navdeep Bains](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Office of the Prime Minister / Cabinet du Premier ministre
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020 12:12:49 PM
Attachments: [Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Thiessen:

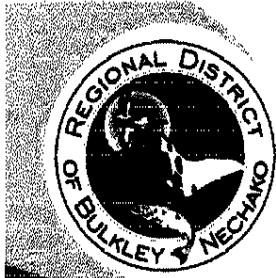
On behalf of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of September 17, 2020, regarding rural connectivity.

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Prime Minister. You may be assured that your correspondence, offered on behalf of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, has been carefully reviewed.

I note that you have also sent a copy of your correspondence to the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry. While the Prime Minister appreciates being made aware of your concerns, he will leave the matter you raise to be considered by Minister Bains.

Once again, thank you for writing.

R. Dix
Executive Correspondence Officer
for the Prime Minister's Office
Agent de correspondance
de la haute direction
pour le Cabinet du Premier ministre



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BURNS LAKE, BC
VOJ 1E0

REGIONAL DISTRICT
OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
"A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR REGION"

September 17, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) has prioritized **Connectivity** in our rural, northern communities for several years, and continues to advocate and collaborate with all levels of Government, First Nations, ISPs operating in our region, as well as industrial and public sector stakeholders to improve access to vital online services for our residents.

We are writing to ask that you **prioritize rural connectivity in the upcoming Speech from the Throne** on September 23. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the essential role connectivity services play in the daily lives of Canadians, not only to stay in touch with loved ones, but to telecommute, access virtual health care services, and enable remote learning. The abrupt transition to mandatory digital participation has moved the focus from the economic and social development disadvantages, to significant concerns for safety, health and well-being in rural communities, and particularly Northern BC.

As you prepare to lay out the Government of Canada's priorities in the Speech from the Throne, we urge you to prioritize policies that **revise how public funds can be more effectively allocated to ensure that rural, northern residents receive the essential service of reliable, affordable highspeed internet in a timely fashion**. The need for new or improved broadband connectivity in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and communities like ours is urgent.

To deliver better connectivity to our communities – and all of rural Canada – we ask that the federal government encourage rural network investment and deployment by:

1. Expediting the 3500 MHz and 3800 MHz spectrum auctions so that this spectrum can be put to use for all Canadians, sooner.
2. Imposing meaningful deployment conditions across accelerated timelines to all spectrum holders. For example, a “use it or lose it” spectrum policy that requires greater rural deployment within five years of a license grant, where failure to build results in forfeiture of that license.
3. Ending the use of spectrum set asides, particularly for rural areas, as set-aside eligible telecoms companies do not have a track record of deploying in rural Canada, and that spectrum goes unused.
4. Continuing to invest in rural connectivity programs by launching the Universal Broadband Fund, supporting the CRTC Broadband Fund, and identifying opportunities to match or coordinate funding programs with the provinces.
5. Considering affordable broadband connectivity an Essential Service.
6. Treating the Information Highway and the associated digital infrastructure the same as Canada’s public highway system, which is publicly owned and operated for the benefit of all Canadians.
7. Funding it accordingly by collaborating with Provinces and local governments to serve areas where a business case cannot be justified by a local ISP.

We can no longer afford delays to the roll out of broadband connectivity. We hope that you will include rural connectivity as a key priority in the Speech from the Throne. We ask that these commitments be reflected in new ministerial mandate letters, thereby demonstrating your government’s commitment to **revise how public funds can be more effectively allocated in the RDBN and all of rural Canada.**

I look forward to hearing from you on how your government is going to prioritize rural connectivity to ensure equal access for all Canadians to reliable wireless services and high-speed internet.

Sincerely,



Gerry Thiessen

Chair, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Cc

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance

Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry