

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 9

Thursday, August 13, 2020

PRESENT: Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Shane Brien
Mark Fisher
Judy Greenaway
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Sarrah Storey

Directors Absent Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake
Brad Layton, Village of Telkwa

Alternate Directors Darrell Hill, Village of Burns Lake
Frank Wray, Town of Smithers

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief – arrived at 1:00 p.m., left at 1:05 p.m.
Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator – left at 1:25 p.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Monty Belcher, Smithers – arrived at 11:24 a.m., left at 11:49 a.m.
Tanya Belcher, Smithers – arrived at 11:24 a.m., left at 11:49 a.m.
Dan Buffet, CEO, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation – Via Zoom – left at 11:42 a.m.
Clay Hunting, Smithers – arrived at 11:24 a.m., left at 11:49 a.m.
Steve Kozuki, Executive Director, Forest Enhancement Society of BC – left at 11:42 a.m.
Sylvia Rautter, Smithers – arrived at 11:24 a.m., left at 11:49 a.m.

Media Priyanka Ketkar, Lakes District News

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Brien

2020-9-1

“That the Board Meeting Agenda of August 13, 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 **-July 16, 2020**

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Storey

2020-9-2

“That the Board Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2020 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Broadband Meeting Minutes **-July 16, 2020**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Parker

2020-9-3

“That the Broadband Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2020 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION – Forest Enhancement Society of BC and Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation – RE: FESBC Funded Projects Update – Dan Buffett, CEO, (HCTF) and Steve Kozuki, Executive Director (FESBC) – Via Zoom

Chair Thiessen welcomed Dan Buffett, CEO, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and Steve Kozuki, Executive Director, Forest Enhancement Society of BC.

HCTF & FESBC in Bulkley-Nechako

- Who We Are:
 - o Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
 - o Forest Enhancement Society of BC
- HCTF Background
- HCTF Projects and Education
- HCTF Fish & Wildlife Projects 2020-21
- FESBC Funding & Priorities
- FESBC Projects
- FESBC/HCTF Partnership
- Co-Funded Projects.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Benefit of FESBC projects to utilize fibre
- Impacts to other resource sectors wanting to sell fibre e.g. Agriculture sector
 - o Worked to mitigate impacts
 - o Harvesting prices and confirmed sales
- Babine Lake Community Forest Society – Granisle Wildfire Mitigation
 - o Mitigation work nearing completion
- Biomass utilization and BC Hydro
 - o Power Supply Agreements
- Applications for funding – length of time
 - o Funding commitment and criteria
 - o Majority of the available funding has been committed to projects.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING (All Directors)

Bylaws for 1st and 2nd Reading

1st and 2nd Reading Report
OCP Amendment & Rezoning
Application E-01-20 (Brewer)
Electoral Area "E"

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2020-9-4

1. "That the Board consider and approve the consultation identified in the consultation checklist attached as "Appendix A".
2. That Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1913, 2020 be given first and second reading this 13th day of August, 2020 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.
3. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1914, 2020 be given first and second reading this 13th day of August, 2020 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.
4. That the Public Hearing for Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1913, 2020 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1914, 2020 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area E."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1st and 2nd Reading Report
Rezoning Application C-01-20
(Willick) Electoral Area "C"

Moved by Director T. Greenaway
Seconded by Director McGuire

2020-9-5

1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1915, 2020 be given first and second reading this 13th day of August, 2020 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.
2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1915, 2020 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1st and 2nd Reading Report
Rezoning Application A-01-20
(Hunting) Electoral Area "A"

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

2020-9-6

1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1916, 2020 be given first and second reading this 13th day of August, 2020 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.
2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1916, 2020 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area A."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (All Directors)

ALR Application

ALR Non-Farm Use –(Removal of Soil) Application No. 1223 (Stephen) - Electoral Area “F” Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director T. Greenaway

2020-9-7 “That Agricultural Land Reserve Non-Farm Use Application No. 1223 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Crown Land Referrals

Crown Land Application Referral No. 0307706 (Hilman) Electoral Area “D” Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Storey

2020-9-8 “That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Application Referral No. 0307706 be provided to the Province.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUILDING INSPECTION

Second Quarter Building Permit Summary Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2020-9-9 “That the Board receive the Planner 1’s August 13, 2020 memo titled Second Quarter Building Permit Summary – 2020.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Director Riis-Christianson recused himself from the meeting at 11:50 a.m. due to a conflict of interest regarding Artifact Recovery – Imerson’s Beach and Hospital Point. His employer is the Lakes District Museum Society.

Artifact Recovery – Imerson’s Beach and Hospital Point Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Alternate Director Hill

2020-9-10 “That the Board authorize Lakes District Museum staff to conduct informal surveys of Hospital Point and Imerson’s Beach to find and retrieve artifacts.”

ADMINISTRATION REPORT (CONT'D)

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Storey

2020-9-11

“That Motion 2020-9-10 be amended as follows:

“That the Board direct staff to write a letter to First Nations within the areas of interest to advise them of the Lakes District Museum Society’s request to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in regard to Hospital Point and Imerson’s Beach.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

“That the question be called on Motion 2020-9-10 as amended.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Riis-Christianson returned to the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

Dungate Community Forest

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Wray

2020-9-12

“That the Board provide a letter to the District of Houston in support of its proposed expansion to the Dungate Community Forest.

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2020-9-13

“That Motion 2020-9-12 be amended to include

and further, that the Board recommend that an Advisory Committee be formed for the Proposed Dungate Comfor expansion with representation from area residents.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

“That the question be called on Motion 2020-9-12 as amended.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Previous logging practices and public consultations near the Buck Flats area
- Proposed expansion to Dungate Community Forest and Morice Mountain Recreation Area
 - Small scale logging
 - Monies received to be returned to the area for community recreation
- Working group including Buck Flats residents and those directly impacted by the proposed expansion
- Overview of Canfor’s harvesting of the current Dungate Comfor
 - Challenges of equity and small size of the Dungate Comfor
- FireSmart initiatives
- Dungate Comfor Board Structure.

Break for lunch at 12:19 p.m.

Reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT (CONT'D)

FireSmart BC Home Partners
Program Pilot 2.0

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director McGuire

2020-9-14

1. "That the Board direct staff to participate in the Home Partners Program Pilot 2.0 in 2021.
2. That the Board authorize the Board Chair and the Chief Administrative Officer to enter into an agreement with FireSmart Canada for \$10,000 grant funding."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Burns Lake Mountain Biking
Association NDI Application
-Community Halls and
Recreation Facilities

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Alternate Director Hill

2020-9-15

"That the Board support the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from the Burns Lake Mountain Biking Association for a grant of up to \$15,000 for the Village Connector and Utrack Project from the Northwest Regional Account."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant in Aid – LD Fair
Association

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2020-9-16

"That the Lakes District Fall Fair Association be given \$5,000 grant in aid monies – half (\$2,500) from Electoral Area "B" (Burns Lake Rural) and half (\$2,500) from Electoral Area "E" (Francois/Ootsa Rural) for costs associated with purchasing a new lawn tractor."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant in Aid – Fort St. James
Fire Department

Moved by Director T.Greenaway
Seconded by Director J. Greenaway

2020-9-17

"That the Fort St. James Fire Department be given \$10,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St James Rural) for costs associated with improving Road Rescue capabilities in their service area."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant in Aid Update - Months
of April to July 2020

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Lambert

2020-9-18

"That the Board receive the Regional Economic Development Coordinator's August 13, 2020 memo titled Grant in Aid Update – Months of April to July 2020."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORT (CONT'D)

Administration Reports

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Brienen

2020-9-19

“That the Board receive the following Administration Reports:
-Chief Financial Officer – Bulkley Valley Pool Update including memo on Supplementary Agenda
-Chief Financial Officer – Income Statements for Six Months Ending June 30, 2020
-Executive Assistant – Items to be Brought Forward to the Public Agenda from Special (In-Camera) Meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS

Eagle Creek Recreation Commission Meeting

Director Riis-Christianson and RDBN staff met with the Eagle Creek Recreation Commission to discuss potential possibilities in relation to the RDBN Parks and Outdoor Recreation Study and discussions.

Unveiling of the Village of Burns Lake Tourism Strategy

Director Riis-Christianson attended the unveiling of the Village of Burns Lake Tourism Strategy and indicated that it is an exciting strategy.

Conference Call with Telus -RE: Update Connectivity

Director Riis-Christianson, Chair, Broadband Committee asked Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator to give an update on the recent meeting with Telus regarding outstanding questions from the July 13 Broadband Committee Meeting:

- 1) Update from Telus Wireless Frequency Team regarding the lack of cell service in the Luck Bay and Stones Bay area near FSJ:
 - This area is included in long term plans for upgraded service (next 2-3 years)
- 2) Clarification regarding presence of fibre in the Buck Flats area:
 - There is approximately 1 km of old fibre as per the map provided at the July 13th meeting. This fibre is very old and encased in an old, different kind of sheath than Telus currently uses. It is not considered useable for fibre deployment purposes
- 3) Costing for Busk Flats Fibre:
 - KMZ files were provided to Telus. This request takes 2-3 weeks to process and information will be provided to the Board once a response is received
- 4) Information on the Perow Tower that was included in the CRTC application:
 - This tower installation is contingent on the funding application, then land location and approvals. All being well, the best-case scenario is installation in summer of 2021
 - The tower would be HSTA capable (Telus Hub), Telus is not able to predict specific speeds (likely similar to other Hub customer experiences)

VERBAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

- All towers have fibre backhaul, but it is specifically dedicated to the cellular network. In order to consider FTTP Telus would need to know well in advance and design a parallel fibre deployment
- 5) Information about advocacy regarding access to 5G spectrum:
- Telus offered to compose a letter for review and additions for the RDBN Board to consider
 - Telus is mainly interested in addressing the issue of fallow spectrum, or spectrum that has been allocated but not deployed. They would like advocacy for specific timelines associated with spectrum so that when it is allocated (or held back for new entrants), there is a required timeline for deployment, or it would go back to auction and be available to anyone
 - The CRTC has 3800 MHz coming available that they have not decided how to auction/allocate –can advocate for this spectrum
- Telus provided statistics for spectrum within the RDBN
- | TelCo | has (Mhz) | deployed | % |
|--------------|---|-----------------|----------|
| Telus | 209 | 150 | 78 |
| Rogers | Telus is confirming and will follow up. | | |
| Bell | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Shaw | 110 | 0 | 0 |
- 6) Clarification regarding presence of fibre between Burns Lake and Francois Lake:
- Telus confirmed extensive fibre in the area between Burns Lake and Francois Lake, but could not yet provide information on how much was dedicated cellular fibre
 - Could not easily answer capacity questions without a full review of type/other variables
 - Any investigation regarding transport projects would include any available fibre, but Telus will need polygons to derive the distribution costs for the area. Needs more investigation.

District of Fort St. James By-Election

Director J.Greenaway announced that there will be a By-Election held in Fort St. James with the nomination period opening August 11, 2020 and the Election to take place on September 26, 2020.

Salmon Fishing Opened on Babine Lake

Director McGuire mentioned that the salmon fishing on Babine Lake is open and there was an increase to the limit.

Absentee Landlords and Unightly Premises

Director McGuire commented that the Village of Granisle is addressing an unsightly premise issue in its community with an absentee landlord. It has been a very lengthy and challenging process.

Village of Fraser Lake -Learning Centre Renovations

Director Storey announced that the Village of Fraser Lake Learning Centre has undergone some renovations and has new siding on the outside of the building. She noted that there is interest from individuals to open businesses in the centre.

VERBAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Town of Smithers By-Election Alternate Director Wray reported that the By-Election for the Town of Smithers will take place October 17, 2020. Acting Mayor Gladys Atrill resigned in order to run in the By-Election. Councillor Thomas has been appointed Acting Mayor.
- Connectivity in Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural) Director Newell has been in conversations with area residents regarding connectivity in Electoral Area 'G' (Houston Rural) and he also spoke of the challenges of utilizing satellite for connectivity.
- Traffic and Fibre on Buck Flats Road Director Newell indicated he spoke with TC Energy in regard to traffic on Buck Flats Road from pipeline construction. He also discussed connectivity and lack of fibre with TC Energy.
- District of Houston Director Brienens spoke of the District of Houston being a forest dependent community and working to diversify. Houston is currently undergoing a Downtown Infrastructure Revitalization Project largely funded with the Northern Capital and Planning Grant.
- He noted the changes in market lumber prices currently and the challenges and impacts to the forest industry in the past. Director Brienens identified the importance of continuing to work to make forestry changes to ensure long term sustainability.
- Chair Thiessen noted the importance of forest companies making long term investments into communities.
- Village of Burns Lake Splash Park is Now Open Alternate Director Hill announced the opening of the Village of Burns Lake Splash Park.
- Receipt of Verbal Reports Moved by Director Brienens
Seconded by Director T.Greenaway
- 2020-8-20 "That the verbal reports of the various Board of Directors be received."
- (All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE & ACTION LIST

- Administration Correspondence Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Alternate Director Wray
- 2020-8-21 "That the following Administration Correspondence be received:
-Yinka Dene Economic Development Limited Partnership – Wet'suwet'en First Nation Interest in Developing a Business Relationship with the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
-Ministry of Agriculture – Information Update on Order in Council #353/2020 – Amendments to Regulations under the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* Regarding Application Fees, Soil Removal, and Fill Placement
-Community Energy Association – Charge North – July 2020 Update."
- (All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

2020 Virtual UBCM Convention - Sub-Regional Networking Meetings

Discussion took place regarding:

- Value in meeting with member municipalities to participate in 2020 Virtual UBCM Convention
- Value meeting at the RDBN to represent the RDBN
- Potential events at the RDBN
 - o During the week of Minister of Meetings
 - o Dinner and brainstorm session
- Week of UBCM sessions – host sub-regional events
 - o Utilize 2020 UBCM Budget
 - o Town of Smithers approved funding
- Value in travelling for singular Minister meetings due to the meetings being only 15 minutes in length in the past
- Schedule a sub-regional event on a day with less meetings
 - o Potential ideas
 - Tour of Hospital Point and Imerson's Beach
- Awaiting the final schedule and agenda from UBCM
- Staff will research options and determine final details.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING (All Directors) & ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Application Documents & Administration Correspondence

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director T. Greenaway

2020-9-22

"That the Board receive the following:

Application Documents

- Rezoning Application C-01-20 (Willick) - Additional Information
- Rezoning Application A-01-20 (Hunting) Additional Information

Administration Correspondence

-Northwest B.C. Resource Benefits Alliance RE: Northern BC Rail Analysis."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Pinnacle Renewable Holdings -Smithers, B.C. – Noise Concerns

Director Fisher brought forward concerns in regard to noise from Pinnacle Renewable Holdings Smithers, B.C. chippers operation. He noted that the Town of Smithers has worked with Pinnacle Renewable Holdings to develop a noise reduction plan for its chipper operations but due to the COVID-19 pandemic initiatives have yet to move forward. Director Fisher spoke of continuing to work with the Town of Smithers advocating for the noise reduction plan to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

Letter to Pinnacle Renewable Energy– Smithers, B.C.

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

2020-9-23

“That the Board write a letter to Pinnacle Renewable Energy, Smithers, B.C. in regard to noise concerns from the chipper at its operations and request information in regard to its mitigation plan; and further, that CAO Helgesen facilitate advocacy with the Town of Smithers in regard to Pinnacle Renewable Energy – Smithers noise reduction mitigation plan.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director McGuire

2020-9-24

“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 Section 90(1)(d) – the security of the property of the municipality, 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 (First Nations Agreements) may be closed to the public, and therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director J. Greenaway
Seconded by Director McGuire

2020-9-25

“That the meeting be adjourned at 1:55 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant