

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Thursday, November 5, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill  
Shane Brienen  
Mark Fisher  
Dolores Funk  
Judy Greenaway  
Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Brad Layton – Via Teleconference  
Linda McGuire  
Chris Newell  
Mark Parker  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Sarrah Storey – Via Teleconference – left at 12:00 p.m.

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief – left at 12:30 p.m.  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Haley Jeffrey, Emergency Services Manager – left at 12:30 p.m.  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 11:04 a.m., left at 12:30 p.m.  
Sashka Macievich, Controller – arrived at 2:53 p.m., left at 3:08 p.m.  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Tyler Banick, Public Affairs, CN – Via Zoom – 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Kim Menounos, Manager, Northern and Interior Region, Fraser Basin Council – Via Zoom – 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
John Nicoletti, Dangerous Goods Officer, CN – Via Zoom – 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Media Priyanka Ketkar, Lakes District News – left at 12:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

**AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director T. Greenaway  
Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2020-9-1

“That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of November 5, 2020 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be received and dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **MINUTES**

Committee of the Whole  
Minutes – October 8, 2020

Moved by Director T. Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Parker

C.W.2020-9-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of October 8, 2020 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **OATH OF OFFICE**

CAO Helgesen administered the Oath of Office to Gladys Atrill, Director, Town of Smithers.

## **DELEGATIONS**

### **FRASER BASIN COUNCIL – Kim Menounos, Manager, Northern and Interior Region RE: Update – Via Zoom**

Chair Thiessen welcomed Kim Menounos, Manager, Northern and Interior Region, Fraser Basin Council.

Ms. Menounos provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

#### **Fraser Basin Council**

- What is the Fraser Basin Council (FBC)?
- Role of The FBC
- Some ways FBC works
- Three strategic priorities for 2016-2021
  - Regional Programs
- Northern Interior Regional Projects
  - PG (Prince George) Air Improvement Roundtable
  - AQ (Air Quality) Monitoring Working Group
  - Nechako Watershed Roundtable
- Fraser Basin Council in the Region
  - North Central Local Government Association
- Funding leveraged for the region (2020-2021)
- In Summary, the Fraser Basin Council.

The following was discussed:

- Plaza 400 site downtown Prince George is operated by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- How can FBC help communities with air quality concerns?
  - E.g. PG Air model – developed over 10-15 years
  - Communication and facilitate dialogue
  - Encourage meeting to discuss moving forward
- PurpleAir Monitoring Network in Prince George
  - Privately owned air samplers
  - Citizen science contributing network
  - 10-minute rotation
- Data collected from the AQ Monitoring Working Group provided to the Provincial data base
  - BCairquality.com
  - Network is owned by AQ Monitoring Working Group
  - Contractor updates and calibrates equipment to provincial standards
  - All permitted emitters in the Prince George area have a requirement to contribute to the AQ Monitoring Working Group
  - Administrative fee is provided to FBC
- Impact of new industry to air quality.

Chair Thiessen thanked Ms. Menounos for attending the meeting.

## **DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)**

### **CN- Tyler Banick, Public Affairs and John Nicoletti, Dangerous Goods Officer RE: Update – Via Zoom**

Chair Thiessen welcomed Tyler Banick, Public Affairs and John Nicoletti, Dangerous Goods Officer, CN.

Messrs Banick and Nicoletti provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

#### **Update from CN**

- Protection of CN Employees during COVID-19 Pandemic
- A leading North American transportation and logistics company
  - 2019 Highlights
- CN in British Columbia
- Global Reach
- CN Bulkley, Nechako, Stuart, Takla and Telkwa Subdivisions intersect the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- Port of Prince Rupert
- Capacity Enhancement 2020
- Environmental Benefits of Shipping by Rail
- CN Puts Safety First
- Improving Safety, Efficiency and Productivity Through Technology
- Autonomous Track Inspection Program
- Automated Inspection Portals
- Engaging with Communities
- Moving Dangerous Goods Safely and Efficiently
- Dangerous Goods
- AskRail
- TransCAER and Responsible Care
- Dangerous Goods Officer Responsibilities
- Moving Dangerous Goods Safely
- Key Route Risk Assessments.

Discussion took place regarding:

- CN map identifies rail line north of Fort St. James as active
  - Is CN Interested in revitalizing rail line north of Fort St. James
  - Line hasn't been utilized for approximately 30 years
    - Removal of rail ties and rail line for environmental consideration
  - Further discussion required
- Liquid Propane Gas (LPG)
  - Is the product offloaded at locations besides Prince Rupert?
    - One small supplier in Terrace
  - Increase in LPG if a second facility is completed in Prince Rupert
    - Those living in the area may be directly impacted
    - Level of emergency response training unknown to local governments
    - Level of emergency response not addressed adequately for area residents
- CN Lands
  - Trash clean up of CN lands
    - Can't access due to strict trespassing policies
  - Access to water where CN land runs along watercourses
  - Challenges for community groups developing trails near CN lands
  - Mr. Banick suggested contacting him and he would work with CN real estate team to determine solutions
- CN funding to Not-for-Profit Organizations

## **DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)**

### **CN- Tyler Banick, Public Affairs and John Nicoletti, Dangerous Goods Officer RE: Update – Via Zoom**

- Railway impacts to wildlife
  - CN indicated it does not track wildlife strikes outside of National Parks

RDBN Questions provided to CN:

1. In the event of an emergency (derailment) explain CN's response plan based on low, medium and high-risk cargo within and outside a Fire Protection Area?
  - CN doesn't utilize low, medium and high-risk categories
  - CN adjust's its response depending on product/commodity a train is carrying
  - Response is the same within/outside Fire Protection Areas
  - CN Response – bring everything and turn back equipment and manpower not required
  - Emergency response resources
    - CN Fire Trailer located in Prince George and Valemount
    - ERAC's (Emergency Response Assistance Canada) Fire Trailer located in Terrace
- a. As a further example, a high-risk derailment with a wide evacuation area right outside this office; i.e. Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, Village of Burns Lake, Burns Lake Fire Rescue all evacuated from our buildings.
  - CN doesn't initiate evacuations
  - Evacuation by jurisdiction having authority
  - Will assist and bring resources to first responders.
2. How many derailments have there been within the RDBN and from Prince George to Prince Rupert in the last 3 years?
  - Derailments are defined by Transport Canada
  - Derailment can be minor such as splitting a train in the rail yard, a wheel comes of the tracks to a more severe event
  - Derailment identified as dollar value similar to how a derailment is defined in the United States
  - CN noted the challenges defining a derailment
  - Prince George to Prince Rupert
    - 2015-2017
      - 3 derailments – severity unknown
      - 6 reportable to the Transportation Safety Board
        - Transportation Safety Board Website Identifies all reportable rail incidents
  - RDBN requested more information regarding derailments
    - Locations
    - Severity of derailments
    - Safety measures depending on product carried
    - Local government officials require communication to understand the necessary safety measures that need to take place
  - CN to provide communication
    - In the event of an incident CN contacts Transport Canada, and Federal and Provincial Ministerial contacts depending on the commodity
    - Mr. Banick spoke of improving communication
    - Further communication required with Fire Chiefs.

## **DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)**

### **CN- Tyler Banick, Public Affairs and John Nicoletti, Dangerous Goods Officer RE: Update – Via Zoom**

3. The RDBN has received a letter from concerned residents of Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural) regarding blocked driveways for up to 3-4 hours in the location of a double siding. It is the RDBN’s understanding that policy prohibits trains blocking crossings in excess of 30 minutes. Can CN clarify the policies and procedures in this regard?
  - CN is regulated by Transport Canada in regard to crossings
  - At a public crossing a standing train shouldn’t block the crossing for more than 5 minutes if there is traffic present
  - Private crossings are not included in Transport Canada regulations
  - CN requires specific information to identify why a train is across a public or private crossing for long periods of time
    - Contact CN Public Inquiry Line with date, time and mileage point
  - Splitting a train at public crossings
    - CN operator will contact the conductor by radio
  - What is/will CN do for the region to address the concerns and issues?
  - Mr. Banick recognized residents have to come and go
    - Work with residents to develop a plan
    - Review past communication to determine why the train is stopping for lengths of time
    - Determine road authority
      1. Municipal
      2. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
      3. Landowner
  - The issue for residents is escalating and delays are as long as 7 hours
    - Health and safety concerns
  - Mr. Banick requested information in an e-mail.
4. What are CN’s future upgrading plans with the RDBN and is more twinning planned between Prince George and Prince Rupert?
  - Investment into the corridor rail and infrastructure.
5. The RDBN received a letter from the Friends of the Morice Bulkley outlining concerns regarding the proposed increase of hazardous petroleum cargo on the northwest rail corridor. Advise of the plans and measures being taken in this regard?
  - CN is legally obligated to move product
  - Mr. Banick noted the concern and requirement for assurance in regard to rail safety and spoke of Mr. Nicoletti’s outreach to various Fire Departments in the region.
  - Currently there are approximately 15 trains travelling through the corridor daily and the anticipation is that there may be as many as 30 trains in the future.
  - Mr. Nicoletti provided an overview of steps taken by CN recently in regard to the proposed increase in rail traffic.
    - The following are now located in Prince George
      - Established the Dangerous Goods Officer role
      - CN LPG Response trailer
      - Access to ERAC’s LPG trailer
      - Contractor response team
      - Access to four emergency response trailers

## **DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)**

### **CN- Tyler Banick, Public Affairs and John Nicoletti, Dangerous Goods Officer RE: Update – Via Zoom**

- Other response locations
  - ERAC Fire Response trailer in Terrace
  - ERAC Response trailer in Prince Rupert
  - Contractors have resources located along rail corridor between Prince George and Prince Rupert
  - Access to CN Response experts from Edmonton and Vancouver
  - Increased manpower, equipment and outreach
  - CN Dangerous Goods Officer arrives on scene with a fully equipped team and necessary equipment in order to provide rapid response
  - Additional resources
    - Emergency Response Guidebook
      - Identifies hazards and provides critical information in regard to response
    - Canutec – Canadian Transportation Emergency Centre
      - 24/7 operations
  - Mr. Banick spoke of rail safety being a shared responsibility and the need to lobby government
  - Outreach in Prince Rupert, Terrace and Smithers
  - 2020 COVID Pandemic impacted outreach.

Chair Thiessen raised concerns in regard to the location of resources and length of time it will take to respond to a rail incident. He also brought forward the absence of CN resources within the RDBN. Mr. Banick mentioned that CN mechanics and technicians are located along the route and will be requested to attend on site incidents to gather facts and contact local fire departments. Chair Thiessen brought forward concerns in regard to the high risk to volunteer fire fighters within the RDBN being requested to respond to a CN incident.

Chair Thiessen identified Whistle cessation and vacant CN land as further items requiring discussion. He also spoke of the history of CN bringing families to the region and the importance for CN to be supportive of communities and local governments in its corporate role. The need for further collaboration was identified.

Chair Thiessen thanked Messrs. Banick and Nicoletti for attending the meeting.

### **Break for lunch, Broadband Committee and Broadband In-Camera Committee Meetings at 12:30 p.m.**

### **Returned at 2:52 p.m.**

## **REPORTS**

### **Purchasing Policy**

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director J. Greenaway

### **C.W.2020-9-3**

“That staff bring forward Bylaw 1926 for three readings and adoption at the next Board Meeting and that the Purchasing Policy be brought back for approval.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **REPORTS (CONT'D)**

### Chinook Community Forest Firewood Donation

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2020-9-4

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Board donate its logging truck load of firewood to the Burns Lake Men’s Breakfast Club.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### Taxation Options

Discussion took place regarding:

- Further conversation about land value taxation
- Agriculture Lands/Farm Status
- First Nations fee simple lands
- Each Electoral Area can choose its own taxation model
- Taxation options dependent on service
- Staff to schedule a time to discuss Taxation Options.

### Taxation Options

Moved by Director T. Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Brien

C.W.2020-9-5

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Chief Financial Officer’s Taxation Options memo.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### Correspondence

Moved by Director J. Greenaway  
Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2020-9-6

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the following correspondence:  
-Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions – UBCM Follow-Up  
-Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General/Emergency Management BC – UBCM Follow-Up  
-Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation – UBCM Follow-Up.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

### **REPORT**

### COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2020-9-7

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Administrative Services’ COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Brien  
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2020-9-8

“That the meeting be adjourned at 3:09 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Gerry Thiessen, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant