

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, January 14, 2021**

**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, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers  
Shane Brienen, District of Houston  
Sara Dent, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Young Agrarians  
Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake  
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle  
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James  
Jolene Swain, Land Matching Program, Young Agrarians

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2021-1-1

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for January 14, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Rural/Agriculture Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
-November 5, 2020

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2021-1-2

“That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of November 5, 2020 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DELEGATION**

### **YOUNG AGRARIANS – Sara Dent, Executive Director and Co-Founder and Jolene Swain, Land Matching Program RE: Update**

Chair Parker welcomed Sara Dent, Executive Director and Co-Founder, and Jolene Swain, Land Matching Program, Young Agrarians.

Mses. Dent and Swain provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Young Agrarians (YA)

- Context
- Primary Program Guide
  - o Online Engagement
  - o Educational Events
  - o Business Mentorships
  - o Land Access & Transition
  - o Apprentice Training
- Impact: Who YA worked with in 2020
- B.C. Business Mentorships
- B.C. Land Matching Program – Central & Northern B.C.
- B.C. Transition Toolkit for Non-Family Land & Farm Business Succession
- Thank you to YA Funders.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Relationships with groups such as 4H
  - o Some farmers have 4H experience
- Potential RDBN support of specific projects
  - o Fall of 2021
  - o Director Fisher to follow up moving forward
- Young Agrarians raised funding to offer 10 B.C. Business Mentorship programs
  - o More applicants than funding available
  - o Fraser Basin Council and VanCity provide funding
    - VanCity funding allocated to VanCity catchment area
- BC Crown Land process and land matching
  - o Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development oversight
  - o YA land matching does include utilization of some crown land grazing leases
- Work with schools, colleges, universities
- RDBN Agriculture Coordinator Position and exploring options for the RDBN and YA to work together.

Chair Parker thanked Mses. Dent and Swain for attending the meeting.

## **AGRICULTURE REPORT**

Food Hub Feasibility Study  
and Food Economy  
Assessment Update

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2021-1-3

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development’s Food Hub Feasibility Study and Food Economy Assessment Update memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENCE**

Agriculture Correspondence      Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2021-1-4      “That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the following Agriculture Correspondence:  
-Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser Fort George Regional Adaptation Strategies – Agricultural Water Supply Resilience Roadmap  
-Nechako Valley Ag-Partnership Meeting Minutes – November 2020.”

(All/Directors/Majority)      CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **RURAL REPORT**

Grant in Aid Update:  
October 14 – December  
31,2020      Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2021-1-5      “That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development’s Grant in Aid Update: October 14 – December 31, 2020 memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)      CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT (Rural Directors)**

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

#### **Crown Land Referrals**

Crown Land Application  
Referral No. 7410161  
– Electoral Area F      Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2021-1-7      “That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410161 be provided to the Province.”

(All/Directors/Majority)      CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **RCMP – Service Delivery in Rural Areas**

Discussion took place regarding:

- Policing from the rural perspective
- RCMP as a delegation at a future meeting
  - o Inviting Chief Superintendent Warren Brown, North District RCMP to a future meeting
    - Topics for discussion:
      - Opioid crisis
      - Mental health crisis
      - Grow operations
- Rural property Police Tax
  - o Distribution of taxation to local police detachments
  - o Staff will provide taxation information
- Municipal and rural policing.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Glen Dale Agra Services  
Ltd. Sells to Four Rivers  
Co-op in Vanderhoof

Director Thiessen mentioned that Glen Dale Agra Services Ltd. completed its sale to Four Rivers Co-op in Vanderhoof and spoke of potentially having Four Rivers Co-op attend a future meeting as a delegation. Chair Parker will contact Four Rivers Co-op.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2021-1-8

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:49 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant